

With Linthwaite Methodist Church

Website www.linthwaitemc.co.uk

Services	Feb	4	9.30am	Revd Sue Burton– including Holy Communion
		11	9.30am	Own Arrangement led by Sue Haigh & Linda Marshall
		18	9.30am	Mr Neil Ward
		25	9.30am	Mr Michael Richardson

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Dear Friends

When we were in Cumbria over the summer we went to a film at Rheged, the café/gallery/cinema near Penrith. Well worth a visit if you are in the area. When I enquired whether subtitles were available I was told not, but that the screen was the size of two double decker buses, with sound to match, so I shouldn't have any problems hearing! The film we went to see was 'Oppenheimer', which tells the story of a complex and defining moment in history and the man who led the Manhattan Project, developing the world's first atomic bomb.

There seems to be a recent trend for telling real life stories through drama, both on TV and in the cinema. I watched with some distaste the TV drama 'The Long Shadow' about the Yorkshire Ripper, recalling as I did so the years of looking over my shoulder when walking alone. I haven't been watching the drama based on the Post Office scandal, but this has received rave reviews so I hope to catch up with it at some point. And I want to see the new film about Nicholas Winton and the Kindertransport, of particular interest as I knew one of the children saved in this way, who escaped Prague just before the outbreak of war.

Of course, these stories are inevitably a blend of fact and fiction, with some dramatic licence employed. However much input into their making there might be from people who were a part of, or witnessed the actual events, recollections will vary and people, including the scriptwriters and directors, tell the story from their perspective, with a particular viewpoint to put across.

Currently in the period between Christmas and Easter we are between the birth, death and resurrection stories told about Jesus in the Gospels. Some of the stories we read about Jesus are so familiar that the challenge is to look beyond the words on the page or those we hear read to us in worship. To imagine, perhaps, that we are one of the characters in the story: a shepherd in the fields above Bethlehem, one of the cheering crowd waving palm branches as Jesus entered Jerusalem or one of the women around the cross, for example. What would we be thinking? What was important to us in that encounter with Jesus? How would we be feeling? What would we say to other people if we were to tell them about our experience?

Just as a good film or TV drama can give us more of an insight into a character or situation, reflecting on Biblical stories can do too. This month we enter the period of Lent, when we are invited to be reflective. Perhaps this year we could reflect on the Gospel stories we hear Sunday by Sunday in our worship: what can we learn from them about Jesus and about ourselves?

Best wishes
Sue

Welcomers in Vestibule

Feb	4	Pauline Davin & Margaret Thompson	18	Mairi MacKay & Sue Howard
	11	Adrian & Jackie Calverley	25	Margaret Moriarty & John Liversidge

Flower List

Feb	4	Flower Fund	18	Mairi MacKay
	11	Linda Marshall	25	Wendy Hallas

Cleaning Rota

Feb	4	Margaret Moriarty & Maureen Stead	18	Jennifer Hirst & Linda Nuttall
	11	Mairi MacKay & Sue Howard	25	Linda Marshall & Andrea Morley

Thursday Fellowship Please note meetings start at 2pm this winter

Feb	1	Steve Spooner	A Trek in the Himalayas
	15	Revd Roz Page	Art, Life and Happiness
	29	Richard Ryden	Shovelling Darkness

Community Coffee – every Tuesday

Everyone welcome to come along and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, biscuits (and often cakes!!) and have a chat, from 11.15am till 12.45pm. A suggested donation of £1.50 per person.

Warm Welcome Space

Church is open every Friday from 9.15am until 2.45pm for 'Warm Places'. Everyone welcome to spend time in the company of others and enjoy a soup lunch.

Transport can be arranged – please see Linda N or Mairi for details.

If you can help by making a pan of soup or cakes/traybakes (nothing too fancy and no cream cakes please), it would be appreciated. There is a list on the notice board and we have money for this and will reimburse you.

Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 28th 2024 at 7.30pm

Old Folk's Treat

The Annual Treat will be held on Saturday, March 2nd with the first sitting starting at 12.15pm. Invitations are extended to anyone aged 65 years and over who live in the Linthwaite area. Please ring 852300 for an invitation if you haven't received one in previous years or have just become eligible. To assist with catering, replies must be returned by Monday, February 19th.

Helpers (must be over 14 years of age) are requested to meet at the Church Centre at 11am on the day.

Thanks

Christmas card. Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Church Christmas card. After paying for the Christingle oranges, ribbon, cocktail sticks and sweets we donated £35 to church funds.

Christingle retiring collection for Crisis. Thanks to all who donated, £210 was sent to Crisis.

Keith and Janine send their thanks for the beautiful flowers they have received. The thoughts and best wishes that come with them are much appreciated.

Circuit requests

Superintendent Minister, Revd Peter Catford is arranging meetings in February to discuss the Ministerial staffing in the circuit. He would like around three people from each church to go to one of these meetings to focus on areas of church life that can be continued with less Ministerial input than they currently have. Any member of the congregation who would like to volunteer to be part of these discussions, can they please see Linda Marshall to arrange which of the dates in February would be suitable. Thank you.

Volunteers wanted

The circuit has been asked to host the next Presbyteral Synod on Tuesday, March 19th 2024. The venue will be St Paul's, Dalton and we are asking if anyone would volunteer with some of the stewarding requirements, including car park stewards, welcome stewards and refreshments. The event begins around 9am and will close around 3pm. Anyone who feels able to help please contact Shirley Burton on admin@huddersfieldmethodists.org.uk or ring 07851689005 for more details.

Hilary Baxter Memorial Walk

On Sunday 7th January a group of 23 people, 2 children and 4 dogs set off on the walk. We parked cars at the Wills o' Nats, and walked up and around Deer Hill reservoir. Some drove, whilst others walked, from the Will's back to Linthwaite, and to Roger and Gina Fielding's for lunch. More people joined us, and 28 people enjoyed an excellent lunch of homemade soup, cake and drinks.

Thanks to all who joined us and to those who gave donations. £200 was raised for church funds.



Stamps for RNIB

I am collecting stamps for RNIB and to help make a difference to blind and partially sighted people. They accept all stamps: new or used, first or second class, foreign, first day covers, presentation packs or albums. It is helpful if a good border of envelope is left around used stamps. (see example on poster in Church). Please place them in the bag provided on the notice board and I will sort them and post them off.
Sue Howard

Finance & Property

The windows in the Church Centre have now been completed and you many have noticed what a difference it has made. The downstairs corridor feels warm as you walk down it! All security bars have been put back and we just need the decorating finished off and curtaining / blinds put back. This has been a major job and we cannot thank certain members of the Church enough for their time and expertise to get this job done, from finding the money, overseeing the contractors and also keeping the building open for our users whilst the work has been carried out.

Thanks also to those who cleaned up after the contractors had left. Despite the best efforts by the workmen to clean up, there was a lot of air dust which continued to circulate for a few weeks.

We still have two major jobs to carry out on both sides of the gable end of the Sunday School building and scaffolding has gone up in the yard for repairs around the windows where water is getting in. Once this work is done we will need repairs to the plaster in the old 'Youth Room,' before the decorators come back to complete the decorating. At the time of writing, we don't know how much work is needed or indeed the cost as the damage can only be assessed from the top of the scaffolding.

The gable end in the graveyard needs repairs to the kneeling stone (which has moved), and surrounding area. This again will need scaffolding and it is anticipated this job alone will cost in the region of £14,000.

‘Recollections’ by Ian Baxter

Some local history, the Slaithwaite Spinning Company.

In the ‘Link’ in November 2023 I wrote about our debt to Volunteers in many fields. During one of Lesley and my times at the C.V. Museum, another member came in and said “Does anyone know anything about this book? I have no idea what it is”. Several others looked at it before it reached me, a paper backed book with ‘Cotton Industry Act 1936 a catalogue of Slaithwaite Mills’ on the front. When I saw the date, May 1938, I realised that it was the sale catalogue of the Slaithwaite Spinning Company machinery and equipment. Few people today will have heard of the Slaithwaite Spinning Company, probably the largest enterprise in the Colne Valley in the early twentieth century. It operated four big mills in Slaithwaite spinning COTTON yarn, and with approximately 400,000 spindles was probably the largest cotton spinner in Yorkshire. You may ask why, in an area famed for Woollen fabric manufacture, a cotton spinner thrived, but in those days many mills in the valley made cloths by putting woollen weft yarns across a cotton warp and with clever finishing made a cloth that looked to be all wool. In times when transport was not as easy as it was later, spinning the yarn near the eventual users made sense.

The Slaithwaite Spinning Company was founded in 1876 by a consortium of local businessmen and built a mill next to the Civic Hall. This No.1 mill site later became the parade ground on which was later built the Medical Centre. Other mills followed, No.2 Mill was where Shaw Pallets now operate from and No.3 was where the Leisure Centre is now. The offices of the company were in Cross Street and eventually became the Council Offices, and the area behind that the warehouse which is now a car park. The No.4 mill, named Spa, built in 1907 is the only one remaining, and since closing in 1937 has had many uses. During WW2 it was an Ordnance Supply Depot and in the 1950’s a distribution centre for Renault cars, but is now a spinning mill again, operated by Spectrum Yarns Ltd.

It will not surprise you that I found that catalogue fascinating and have studied it carefully. It lists the machinery in all four mills at the time of closure and the prices realised in 1938, low prices indicating that much went for scrap. Almost all the machinery in No.4 mill built in 1907 was made between 1906 and 1908 by the biggest Lancashire textile machine makers, and remained there until closure. When these mills were built, textile machinery was not driven by individual electric motors so each mill had a steam engine. No.1 mill an 800 HP Tandem Compound named ‘Dauntless’ built in 1911, to replace the original engine of 1876, and an auxiliary 40 HP engine ‘Ceaseless’. No.2 mill had an unnamed and undated 1000 HP triple expansion engine and No.3 mill a 1000 HP tandem compound ‘Peerless’ made in 1887, probably the year before the mill opened. No.4 mill had a 1400 HP triple expansion engine named ‘Matchless’ made in Oldham in 1906. The company closed in 1937 and mills 1 and 2 were demolished in 1939, the other two served their country during WW2, No.3 as a barracks for Royal Engineers and Royal Corps of Signals, who would exercise on the parade ground on the site of the former No.1 mill. No.4 was an Ordnance Depot and this mill, the last to be built by the SSC, is still standing and spinning yarn under the Spectrum Yarns banner.

More History!!

A booklet entitled ‘The Story of Gledholt Circuit 1888 – 1948’ tells the history of Methodism in the area. A chapter titled ‘Linthwaite’ records the following details of the beginning of worship in Linthwaite. Methodism first set foot in Linthwaite in 1798 when a Society with 21 members acquired for its use the top storey of the cottage of a Mr Mellor at Lane Top. Here encouraging progress was made and it was decided to build a Chapel, and “gladly did the members offer time, sinew and gold!”

In 1806, the Chapel at Clough was opened and portions of the old walls may be seen in the supporting wall of the burial ground. With varying results the Society worshipped here until 1867 when, at a cost of £3000, Mr George Mallinson built a new Chapel. A new Sunday School was built in 1873 adjoining the old chapel. In the late 1890’s so large was the number of scholars that the work was carried on under great difficulties and it was decided to build the Assembly Hall. Again the Mallinson family were our benefactors, for Mr Eli Mallinson JP generously gave the required land, and Foundation Stones were laid on June 10th 1899.

If anyone has any item they would like to be included in the next Link please e mail to me at

hirst.avondale@btinternet.com. or phone 654288

Thanks, Jennifer