



# Methodist Post

Boston Spa • Clifford • Bramham

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July 2016



Jesus said: "Where two or three meet in my name,  
I shall be there with them."



### Cover Picture

The picture, taken by Iain Vernon, shows the communion table arrangement for the services currently being held in the Village Hall. The room being used is light and airy with comfortable chairs and an adjacent kitchen for after-worship coffee.

We would be delighted to welcome anyone to share with us on this “neutral ground” on Sunday mornings at 10.30.

AWF

Ideas and contributions for future issues of the Methodist Post always welcome. For the August issue, please send copy to: govnon1@gmail.com by 10th July.

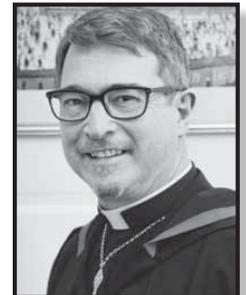
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### Minister's Letter



#### Dear Friends

On July 3rd I will be accepted into full Connexion within the Methodist Church, I will no longer be a Probationer, but an Ordained Minister. For me that day will be the culmination of a journey that began more years ago than I care to remember; a day which I am looking forward to with great excitement mixed with trepidation. A day which is going to be made extra special by being able to share it with so many friends and family members, and I cannot thank you all enough for the support and love that you have given me over the past two years as we have taken the last part of my journey towards Ordination together.

Over the past month I have been reflecting deeply on my calling as I have prepared for the final steps toward Ordination, and have been reminded of verse from 1 Peter 2:9 which brings to mind the fact that we are all called as God's chosen people, whether ordained or non-ordained. We are all part of a royal priesthood, for me, the relevance of being this royal priesthood is all about being in a relationship, being with God, being in fellowship with his church and the community in which we exist to serve, work and love.

It is a relational journey that begins through faith and lasts a life time where paths of righteousness and paths of humanness, collide, confuse and entangle one another in the pursuit of truth and destiny. However, it is not a journey we should travel alone, or set off on without due care and consideration. It is a journey in which we enter into a binding covenant with God, where willingly our lives are given to him, and his church, as a living spiritual sacrifice (or offering) of ourselves – 1 Peter 2:5 (Good News Bible)

*Come as living stones, and let yourselves be used in building the spiritual temple, where you will serve as holy priests to offer spiritual and acceptable sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ.*

So we become God's gift, a beneficiary asset, to the building up of his church whether we are comfortable with this or not, and God will empower and equip us with the gifts necessary to achieve this through his Holy Spirit. Yet the depth of that call; the anticipation in the gift, and the responsibility that comes with empowerment and expectations, the journey can suddenly seem all that more daunting. Whatever we think about our royal priesthood from our initial preconceptions, it is about a journey, in which every corner we turn, every field we wander and every path we tread, leads to new challenges and experiences that no matter how amazing, or how soul destroying, reveal the very nature of humanness, and the very nature of God. In all these circumstances we must learn to grow with roots deep in scripture, and with branches that span as wide as we can love

The idea of *being* in fellowship with one another is that we can help and learn from each other enormously to shake free the sins we carry, or even our lack of knowledge, that can falter against clearer realities as we serve and minister alongside each other to see Jesus and his church in the bigger picture.

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I ask you all to ponder what it is you have learned about your faith, about your life since coming to church, since becoming a Christian, since becoming a royal priesthood. For all of us, there are unanswered questions where God remains a mystery, but a mystery that demands our life to search him out and live by our discoveries.

It is very difficult to journey alone and no doubt it can also be complex journeying with others, but progress can and should be exciting, and in doing this together, we share together in that journey; in all the challenges, the encouragements and the discoveries.

It is a blessing to be a human *being*, how much more then to be God-*being*? – That is God's special possession!

*But you are the chosen race, the King's priests, the holy nation, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his own marvelous light.*

1 Peter 2:9 (Good News Bible)

With every blessing

*Rev Steve*



## Boston Spa Festival (including Open Gardens) 15th-17th July

This year something new is happening in Boston Spa. You might not of heard about it yet, or you might not have seen the earlier article at the beginning of the year, but now, after all the talking and planning, the event is almost upon us.

The first signs that you might notice will be the scarecrow trail which will start to appear at the beginning of the week.

The Festival proper starts on the Friday with the Methodist Church Lunchtime Concert (*see page 13*). Prior to that of course our famous lunches will be served from mid-day in the Village Hall.

Being "on tour" has meant that instead of a Flower Festival within the church building, we will be presenting a Celebration of Boston Spa in Flowers, and will take place in the Lantern Room at the Village Hall (*see page 9*).

On Sunday we will be celebrating with a special Songs of Praise at 1030, surrounded by the beauty of the flower arrangements.

There are lots of events going on all over the three days of the Festival; something to suit everyone from Open Gardens on the Sunday to a conducted Heritage Walk, and classic cars. A variety of music is being performed throughout the weekend and there will be a wide variety of food on offer.

Look out for the programme, and come and sample the delights on offer; looking forward to seeing you there.

*Sue Jakeman*



### July Diary

*10.30am Sunday services will be held in the Lantern Room in the Village Hall*

<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	10.30am	Morning worship at either Tadcaster or Clifford No evening service
	3.00pm	<b>Ordination Service for Revd Steve Jakeman</b> St Marylebone Parish Church near Regent's Park, London
<b>Wednesday 6th</b>	7.30pm	Methodist Women in Britain AGM – Ulleskelf Methodist Church
<b>Sunday 10th</b>	10.30am	Mr Joseph Kwallah
<b>Tuesday 12th</b>	2.00pm	WFG Garden Meeting at the home of Mike & Jean Henzell – 9 Lee Orchards
<b>Friday 15th</b>	12 noon	Village Hall – Lunch, followed by:
	1.00pm	Village Hall – Lunchtime Concert ( <i>see page 13</i> )
<b>Fri 15th - Sun 17th</b>		Boston Spa Festival ( <i>see pages 4 &amp; 9</i> )
<b>Sunday 17th</b>	10.30am	Festival Songs of Praise No evening service
<b>Tuesday 19th</b>	10.30am	Evergreens Luncheon Club – St Mary's Church
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	10.30am	Revd Uell Kennedy – Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday 27th</b>	3.30pm	Messy Church – Jubilee Room, Village Hall
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	10.30am	Mr David Mountain
	1.00pm	Yorkshire (Sausage) Day – Fundraising Event ( <i>see page 9</i> )

### Other Regular Groups

<b>Monday</b>	5.00pm	Senior Table Tennis – Jubilee Room, Village Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	Evening	Brownies – St Mary's
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.15-11.15am	Busy Bees (Mums & Toddlers) – Clifford Methodist Church Hall
<b>Thursday</b>	Morning	Pilates – Lantern Room, Village Hall
<b>Saturday</b>	10am-Noon	'Drop In' for Tea or Coffee – Village Hall Café



## Boston Spa Church Rotas ~ July ~

	Door Stewards	Flowers	Church Stewards
3rd	<i>NO SERVICE</i>		
10th	Ina Smart	Eve Goodison	Barbara Hudson Jean Walne
17th	Carmen Ashton Dennis Ashton	FLORAL DISPLAY	Bob Hutchinson Pauline O'Melia
24th	Mary Ruston	Mary Ibbotson	Barbara Hudson Heather Grant
31st	Kathleen McGuire Graham McGuire	Frank Holliday	Jean Walne Joan Dyer

Saturday Coffee	
2nd	Angela Coleman Barbara Hudson
9th	Heather Grant
16th	Brian & Jackie Marsden
23rd	Mike & Jean Walne
30th	Angela Coleman Barbara Hudson

Sunday Coffee	
3rd	<i>NO SERVICE</i>
10th	John & Barbara Hudson Joy Ackroyd
17th	Bob & Wendy Wade Gerald Payling
24th	Ursula Turner, Eva Mills
31st	David & Barbara Parrott

Busy Bees	
6th	Carmen Ashton
13th	Judith Grimditch BREAK FOR SUMMER



## Birthday Greetings

### Women's Friendship Group

3rd – Heather Grant    23rd – Doreen Briggs  
24th – Jean Henzell    27th – Marian Laird

### Children

30th – Hugh Williams



## CLIFFORD METHODIST CHURCH



The church is a bit tucked away at the end of Nursery Way, or from the High Street, where a blue noticeboard points the way

### July – Sunday Worship at 10.30am

3rd    Mr Terry Smart – United Service  
10th    Revd Steve Jakeman  
17th    Mrs Linda Smith  
24th    Revd Gordon Shaw – Holy Communion  
31st    Revd Ken Marshall

	Door Stewards	Flowers	Vestry
3rd	Hazel Greenwood/Ros McCall	Margaret Suggate	Carol Smith
10th	Carol Smith/Margaret Suggate	Mavis Rodgers	Alison Smith
17th	Sheila & Katy Biercamp	Catherine Catton	David Barrow
24th	Catherine Catton/Julie Batchelor	Hazel Greenwood	Jason Turner
31st	Ros McCall/Alison Smith	Ros McCall	David Mountain
<b>Schoolroom cleaning – David Barrow</b>			



## Happy Birthday

Catherine Catton, Sheila Kew, Gordon Shaw  
Mike Suggate, David Ainstey, Irene Haigh



*“Love sought is good, but given unsought is better.”*

*William Shakespeare*

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## Floral Display for Boston Spa Festival

For the Boston Spa Festival on July 15th, 16th and 17th our church had volunteered to put on a Flower Festival, but, now that the alterations have begun, our plans have had to be altered.

We are now arranging a Floral Display, with the theme "Boston Spa", in the Lantern Room in the Village Hall. This is a very pleasant room and we are fortunate to be able to use it for this event.

We shall set up the display on the morning of Friday 15th, after which there will be a Lunchtime Concert by Steve Hastings (Tenor) and Carole Cox in the Main Hall, with the usual lunchtime refreshments.

The Floral Display will then be opened to the public at 2pm, and light refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon and on Saturday. Details of times will follow.

We also plan to have a cake stall on Friday and Saturday and a plant stall outside, so contributions of cakes and plants will be very welcome.

The whole weekend should be very enjoyable and we are looking forward to being part of it.

*Judith Grimditch*

## YOUR INVITATION YORKSHIRE (SAUSAGE) DAY



Sunday 31st July 2016  
from 1pm  
Lowstones, Clifford Road  
Boston Spa

### THE SMALL PRINT!

- ◆ Yorkshire Day is actually on the Monday!
- ◆ David & Anne Hovell are organising a fund raising event for the building enhancements to Boston Spa Methodist Church
- ◆ The cost is £5 per person for food and soft drinks—but please bring wine or beer etc to suit your taste!
- ◆ Glasses available at Lowstones
- ◆ Please e-mail (annehovell2011@gmail.com) or call (01937 843445) to confirm prior to 20th July in order for us to organise catering.
- ◆ Please bring good weather and a chair!



## Building Project Update

After weeks of removing pews, floorboards and walls, the contractors have now begun to put everything back together again. Heating and electrics are being replaced. New doorways and storage space are being formed. Work is progressing really well and it is as though all the pieces of the jigsaw are coming together.



The Reference Group has met and folk from Church have also had the opportunity to look at carpet samples and chair fabrics as well as sitting in some chairs to decide which suits them best. These are difficult decisions to make but we all have had a chance to make our opinions known. By the time you read this report, the consultation process will be over and

no doubt decisions will have been made so that chairs, carpets and fabrics may be ordered. Thank you to all those who took part in this consultation process.

A huge thank you as well to all those who most generously pledged their financial support on Gift Day. An amazing £32,000 was raised. This



is a magnificent sum and really helps us on the way to reaching our shortfall. Thanks to those who baked cakes and helped with the refreshments which raised £40.

Another thank you to everyone who worked so tirelessly for the day at St Crux. Over £1,500 was raised to be shared among Water Aid, Church funds and the Building Development project.

We hope that you are enjoying our worship in the Lantern Room. It is a lovely welcoming space for us. We really feel we are worshipping together as a body.

There is still a need to continue our fundraising events to meet the ongoing costs involved in running our Church as well as renovating the cottage.



The list of events planned so far is printed below.

**26 June 2016 – Strawberry tea, 2:30pm-5pm**  
at "The Cottage", Leys Lane Boston Spa

**15-17 July 2016 – Floral Display**  
(our part of the wider Boston Spa Weekend Festival)

**15 July – Lunchtime concert**

**31 July 2016 – Yorkshire Sausage Day, 1pm-3pm**  
at "Lowstones", Clifford Road, Boston Spa

**25 February 2017 – Evening Concert** – Knottingley Concert Brass Band, 7pm  
Church (*more information from Judith England*)

As always we ask you continue to support our building project with your prayers. Your ongoing support and prayers are invaluable.

Jackie Marsden  
Photos: Steve Jakeman

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A. J. Morgan, B.Sc., M.C.Optom.



There will be a special Methodist Lunchtime Concert at Boston Spa Village Hall on Friday, July 15th at 1 pm. Light lunches will be served from 12 noon and concert admission is £5.

Steve Hastings (tenor) will entertain with a variety of well-loved songs accompanied on the piano by Carole Cox. Carole and Steve are extremely popular with the audiences and this promises to be a very special occasion.

The event has been arranged to tie in with the Boston Spa Festival and it will coincide with the Floral Display which the Methodist Church are putting on in the Lantern Room of the Village Hall. So please come and enjoy both the Floral Display and the Concert. It will be a lovely day out.



Judith England

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## Footprints in the sands of time.....

This has been a painful week as a result of – don't laugh – arthritis in my right thumb. So many everyday activities have hurt – holding a pen, a knife, a spoon, lifting the kettle or a cup, tying a shoelace, shaving. You'll get the idea. I believe that it dates back decades to a schooldays incident. The orthopaedic doctor said then that he'd dealt with the injury to the thumb but that I could expect arthritis in later life. It's come.

Take a much more significant example. One of the most popular pieces of classical music on request programmes is Albinoni's "Adagio for organ and strings", usually dated 1708. Tomaso Albinoni himself didn't compose it as we hear it; it was reconstructed by the twentieth-century musicologist and biographer of Albinoni, Remo Giazotto, from a fragment found in the remains of the Saxon State Library in Dresden at the end of World War 2. It was only published in 1958. Albinoni could never have realised that his fragment – if indeed it was his work – would only come to light after the destruction of Dresden, or that it would inspire someone else in another time and place to bring it to fruition.

It's easy to forget that we all leave footprints in the sands of time and we can never know when someone else will put their feet into those prints, for good or for ill. We have all benefited from the good done by others at some time in the past. By the same token we have all been affected by the bad things done by others in the past. We in our turn contribute by what we say and do, and by what we leave unsaid or undone, to the overall good or ill of others in the world of which are part. Any of us may be the inspiration or the stumbling-block for someone else in the future.



Thank God that we are offered the daily presence and strength of the Holy Spirit, and the daily forgiveness that we so much need, by the one who is beyond time and everywhere.

*Dennis*





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**Fundraising Day at St Crux**

**~ 1st June ~**

Cakes, bric-à-brac, books, gazebos, dishcloths – you name it – was packed into cars at Clifford Methodist Church at 7am, Wednesday 1st June, to travel to St Crux in York.

We arrived in good time to unload and ‘set up shop’. It was very cold with grey skies and we were all hoping the rain would stay away (it actually did until we had packed up at the end of the day).



*Above: some of the hardworking kitchen team*



Customers queued at the entrance eager to get to the bric-à-brac stall. Pauline and her helpers were ready for the rush as the gates were opened.

The cake stall (*pictured left*) was soon doing a roaring trade. There was a vast selection of homemade buns,

biscuits, fruit loaves, cakes and preserves. Could we possibly sell this huge array of delicious produce kindly donated for our stall? Of course we could.

Avid readers surrounded the book stall (*right*) who found lots of books to buy.

Teas, coffees and sandwiches sold like hot cakes as well as all the delicious cakes (numerous complimentary comments).



The day at St Crux takes a lot of planning and organisation and hard work by many people. This year many more volunteers came forward to help on the day and we experienced lots of fun and fellowship together.

A HUGE THANK YOU goes to all the members and friends of Boston Spa Methodist Church who helped in any way before and on the day. Many hands made the work a lot lighter.

A fantastic £1,541 was raised and has been divided equally between BSMC, the Building Project at Church and Water Aid.

*Sheila Humphries, on behalf of the St Crux Committee*

## A bible, a tandem and a rusty nail

~ *Recollections of a Local Preacher 7* ~

Fully Equipped...

... or so I thought!

Having passed the examinations in the New and in the Old Testament studies along with Christian Doctrine I was required to read Wesley's 44 Sermons and to answer questions upon them. At the time I was a Company sponsored student reading Mechanical Engineering on a Sandwich Course. This was a four year intense course comprising 6 months' study followed by 6 months' training in the Company each year. I must confess that these studies took up much of my time and left little space for the '44'. For 5 days I studied long and hard and always had the weekend free. If my recollection is correct, one was expected to answer questions on Sermon No 1 "Salvation by Faith" and a choice of two others which, for me, was a question of determining which had the most quotes from the Bible. The reason for this seemingly odd thinking was that we were allowed to take a Bible into the examination and hence I could use the subject headings and quote the most obvious verses of Scripture as these, or so I thought, were bound to have been used by Wesley.

Much to my surprise I passed the exam, probably by a narrow margin, but a pass is a pass and so I proceeded to the final stage of my 'on trial' training. This took the form of an oral examination in which the ministers and Local Preachers were to question me on my 'Call to Preach'. The first question posed no problem as I was asked to give an account of my own calling. The second was "can you explain the difference between 'Eternal' and 'Everlasting' Life?" The short answer was – NO! but I struggled through some sort of explanation. The minister who posed the question, then explained that 'Eternal' was a matter of quality whilst 'Everlasting' was merely quantitative. After a further cross examination, mainly on John Wesley's 'Salvation by Faith' sermon, I was sent out of the room whilst my fate was determined. This took some time so I conclude that the vote must have been nearer to 60/40% in favour rather than unanimous.

Throughout the course there had been a fellow Local Preacher 'On trial' and sometimes we would work together. She was a very conscientious and studious young lady who had read all of the 44 sermons. To my surprise, they told her to do some more studying and her oral exam was extended to the next quarter. I still consider this to be rather unjust, as it seemed to me that she knew far more than did I about the subject; so it was with a slightly troubled conscience that I became a fully fledged Local Preacher whilst she later became a Deaconess.

---

"Let us always meet each other with smile,  
for the smile is the beginning of love."

Mother Teresa

During my training period I had been required to preach in every church in the circuit which included my own church. Beckminster had a morning and an evening service the former having the smaller congregation. Accordingly I was planned for a morning service in August when presumably the superintendent minister thought that I could do the least damage. I remember choosing the first hymn – "O for a thousand tongues to sing, my great redeemers praise". I requested the popular tune 'Lydia' and the professional organist said that I could not have it as he considered it to be musically unacceptable. With considerable arrogance, I insisted in the knowledge that the preacher has the ultimate choice. To his credit, he played it and afterwards I thanked him; and after this I made a point of thanking the organist each time I preached. Sadly this does not always happen today and regular organists are often taken for granted.

I recall little of the Service for the 'Recognition of a Local Preacher' when I was presented with an Authorised (King James) Bible; except that Jackie and my parents came along and the learned Rev'd Dr Douglas Bebb, of whom I have already spoken, officiated.

So, God had greatly blessed me, helping me through the studies and inspiring me through His Spirit and although there was little call upon my services due to the surfeit of preachers in the circuit, life was about to change in more ways than one.

*Arthur Faulkner*

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- ❖ The togetherness out of family life
- ❖ The learning out of education
- ❖ The service out of community
- ❖ The nativity out of Christmas
- ❖ The dedication out of employment
- ❖ The prudence out of spending
- ❖ The ambition out of achievement
- ❖ Or God from government and schools

*Submitted by Jackie Faulkner*

*Reprinted from the magazine for Cymer Area Churches*

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## Faith, foraging and flight

Rev Azariah France-Williams is a tutor at Westminster Theological Centre, a priest within the Church of England, and a storyteller and podcaster.



White storks are usually migratory birds. European birds typically travel to Africa or the Indian sub-continent for the winter months returning in the spring. The white stork has a diet which comprises of insects, small mammals, amphibians, and small birds which they hunt and kill.

Recent research in the 'Movement Ecology' journal describes how over the last 30 years the birds have become increasingly settled as they are learning to feed on junk food from landfill sites.

They are becoming less of a movement and more of a settlement. The landfill sites are filled with leftover burgers and sandwiches. The storks are choosing this easily-found food source and in some cases showing signs of addiction.

Might it be that in many generations' time the hunter instinct may be somewhat dulled and the navigational impulse diminished? Could a white stork grandchild hear tales of adventurous travel to the other side of the world and find itself nostalgic for an era it never knew?

How will the change in diet and the lack of distance flying change the storks' appearance over time? Might our imaginary grandchild waddle happily along with small wings and hop most places as flight becomes unnecessary.

If the large supermarket chains are successful in cutting waste food, landfill sites will be reduced. How will hop-along grandchild stork be able to get food and fight to survive against the competition over a diminishing food source? Could a narrow focus of obtaining the next juicy morsel of burger or liberating a slice of gherkin from the Big Mac bun become what life is all about?

Travel becomes for the few elite stork who still retain the skills to adventure and hunt, explorers who blog, upload and of course tweet.

How many times have we been to a conference and, having checked out a keynote speaker, purchased their books and downloaded their sermon filled with exciting encounters of daring faith? How many times have we felt happy for them but sad for ourselves?

Our lives of school pick-ups, cramped commutes, Facebook browsing, sitting in libraries, and queuing in supermarkets feel dreary in comparison. Perhaps we have

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*"When one door closes, another opens, but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us."*

*Alexander Graham Bell*

forgotten that we too have a journey to take, a distance to travel, landscapes to be traversed, and rivers to be crossed.

Might we have lost a sense of the ultimate for the immediate?

Augustine said: "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you."

One might say all the white storks are designed to fly far but the seduction of the short journey and precooked meal is appealing. The restlessness and yearning goes and new moments become old monuments.

Do we forage for faith and research reality for ourselves or do we mainly rely on secondhand information? Might God by His spirit want to call us to find the Spirit's thermal currents and soar in search of truth, in search of truth embodied, a truth which brings freedom.

Isaiah 40 reminds us that hoping in the Lord leads to renewal, and flight. May God be the one we seek to satisfy our desires for life and truth. May we not live on less than the best food for our souls and minds. May we not feel less than the best by simply admiring influential Christians.

May we all find our appetites, our wings, and take flight to find true rest and the best in God.

*Article submitted by Gerald Payling  
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– a weekly reflection on a news event*

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