



Methodist Post

Boston Spa • Clifford • Bramham

November 2017

From the Editor...

I would like to thank all those who have contributed articles for this magazine, but a special thanks must go to Arthur who has contributed articles and photographs for many years. His recent series on Pilgrims Progress has, I know, been much enjoyed.

My grateful thanks, too, go to Ros from Clifford, as well as Dennis and Sue for their regular contributions, and all those who have been asked to write articles from time to time.

Don't forget that the Methodist Post can be read on our website:

www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk

Ideas and contributions for future issues are always welcome, but please let me know in good time. The deadline for the December issue is 10th November.

Jo Vernon, Editor

Telephone: 01937 360016

Email: governon1@gmail.com



Cover photo: Iain Vernon

On a recent visit to Anglesey Abbey, a National Trust property near Cambridge, I came across this stunning tree. Luckily I had my personal photographer, Iain, with me.

My research tells me it's a Prunus Serrula (Tibetan Cherry Tree). The tactile and polished mahogany bark peels in translucent cinnamon and honey coloured sheets to reveal a fresh new hue of bronze-red gloss beneath. Caught in the autumn sunlight, this tree almost glows. Aren't we just so lucky to live in this beautiful world?

*"Lord, we praise and thank you
for the beauty and goodness
of creation around us."*

Ed



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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Again, we come around to November, the month of Remembrance. On the first Sunday after All Souls' Day (2nd November) we will gather at Boston Spa Methodist Church to remember the faithful departed, and the families of all those whose funerals have been conducted at Boston Spa and Clifford over the past year have been invited to this special service on Sunday 5th November at 6pm. We shall be delighted to welcome anyone who wishes to come and remember a loved one and to join in our prayers and light a candle.

We come together during this month to remember the fallen of both world wars and the many conflicts that have followed them and are still ongoing today both within our own communities and as a nation.

War is a terrible thing; not only for our service men and women, but also the families left behind, and Remembrance Day is the nation's way of acknowledging the risks and sacrifices made by those who offer their services in places of war. So, we will join together within our communities on Remembrance Day to remember those who have lost their lives, both military and civilian, and acknowledge and pray for the safety of those who serve today.

But what does all this mean to us in our day-to-day life? Perhaps we can be more mindful of what we have. We live in a country that enjoys peace at home. Perhaps we can be thankful for the benefits that brings.

Perhaps too we can remember those who are, on a daily basis, affected by wars: those for whom the peace that we take so much for granted is but a dream that they can no longer comprehend. It matters not if people are Christian, Jew, or Muslim or

of any other faith or none, they are our brothers and sisters and, whilst we can support the aid efforts with clothing, money and food, please don't underestimate the power of prayer.

It is so easy to feel that nothing changes in this world, but it is only God who can ultimately bring about the changes in the hearts of those on all sides who are bound up in these conflicts; Colossians, chapter 4, verse 2 says *"devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful"*.

So as we move into the business of the Christmas Season, be thankful for those we have around us and for the sacrifice of the many who have given us the peace we enjoy today; be watchful for those both close to home and those far away who may need our help and pray without ceasing for peace in this troubled world of ours.



*"devote
yourself to
prayer,
being watchful
and thankful"*

Steve



Boston Spa Church Rotas – November



November Diary Dates

Sunday 5th	10.30am	Communion Service, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
	6.00pm	Memorial Service, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
Wednesday 8th	7.00pm	Sacred Space – Reflective Worship
	7.30pm	Men's Group (<i>see p.11</i>)
Friday 10th	12 noon	Light lunches to be served prior to...
	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert (<i>see p.11</i>)
Sunday 12th	10.30am	United Service for Remembrance Sunday, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
	10.55am	Civic Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
Tuesday 14th	2.00pm	WFG
Friday 17th	7.00pm	An Evening with Dana (<i>see p.17</i>)
Sunday 19th	10.30am	Morning Worship, led by Revd Uell Kennedy
	6.00pm	Communion Service, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
Tuesday 21st	10.30am	Evergreens Luncheon Club
Wednesday 22nd	7.00pm	Sacred Space – Reflective Worship
Saturday 25th	10-12 noon	Evergreens Coffee Morning (<i>see p.16</i>)
Sunday 26th	10.30am	Morning Worship, led by Revd Mark Stennett
Tuesday 28th	2.00pm	WFG
Wednesday 29th	3.30pm	Messy Church

Weekly Events

Monday	3.15pm	Ping Pong Club
	5.00pm	Senior Table Tennis
Wednesday	9.30-11.00	Busy Bees for pre-school children and their carers
Saturday	10am-Noon	'Drop In' for Tea or Coffee

For up-to-date information, see noticeboards/website:
www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk



Church rooms may be booked for private functions.

Contact Anne Hovell:
01937 843445



BirthDay Greetings

Women's Friendship Group
13th – Shirley Hurren



	Door Stewards	Flowers	Church Stewards
5th	Roger & Chris Tunnicliffe	Ina Smart	Barbara Hudson Bob Hutchinson
12th		<i>Remembrance Day</i>	Jean Walne Pauline O'Melia
19th	David & Anne Hovell	Sheila Anderson	Heather Grant Joan Dyer
26th	Ken & Judith Grimditch	Angela Coleman	Pauline O'Melia Barbara Hudson

Saturday Coffee	
4th	Heather Grant
11th	Brian & Jackie Marsden
18th	Mike & Jean Walne
25th	Angela Coleman Barbara Hudson
2 Dec	Heather Grant

Sunday Coffee	
5th	Jean Walne, Sheila Anderson Jackie Marsden
12th	Men's Group
19th	John & Barbara Hudson Joy Ackroyd
26th	Graham & Kathleen McGuire
3 Dec	Dennis & Carmen Ashton

Busy Bees	
1st	Jackie Faulkner
8th	Judith Grimditch
15th	Wendy Wade
22nd	Christine Mitchell
29th	Jean Walne

Cleaning	
30th Oct -12th Nov	Jackie & Brian Marsden
13th-26th	Julie Thompson Val Woodhams
27th Nov	<i>Christmas Tree Festival</i>

A Note from our Treasurer

Harvest Collection

We sent a total of £314.10 to "All We Can" following our Harvest Service & Supper.

Caribbean Appeal

We sent £301.25 to the British Red Cross Hurricane Irma Appeal.

Many thanks for all the donations



Anne Hovell

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

Services in November

- 5th 10.30am Communion Service, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
- * 12th **9.30am** Remembrance Service, led by Mr David Mountain
- 19th 10.30am Café Style Worship, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
- 26th 10.30am Morning Worship, led by Mr Edward Blakey

* REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 12 November

Please note our morning service will commence at 9.30am and will be followed by an ecumenical service at the War Memorial at 10.50am with a minute's silence at 11am.

	Door Stewards	Flowers	Vestry
5th	Alison Smith & Margaret Suggate	Mavis Rodgers	Carol Smith
*12th	(9.30am) Catherine Catton	Catherine Catton	Alison Smith
19th	Sheila & Katy Biercamp	Hazel Greenwood	Michael Whaley
26th	Catherine Catton & Ros McCall	Ros McCall	David Barrow
Schoolroom cleaning – Kathryn Whaley			

**AN EVENING OF
MURDER AND
MYSTERY**

will take place in the Schoolroom, Clifford on Friday 12th November at 7.30pm. Ticket price of £8 includes a 2-course hot meal. There will be prizes for solving the 'murder' and a raffle. All proceeds are for chapel funds.

Hurry to get your ticket from Kathryn Whaley on 01937 845692.



**Birthday
Greetings**

Alison Smith
Michael Whaley
Yaris Salou

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Faith makes all things possible
– love makes all things easy.

Dwight L Moody



Following months of discussion and planning, an extensive advertising campaign and hours spent purchasing and cleaning toys, all was ready for the launch of Tots 'n' Toys, a new Baby & Toddler Group at Clifford Methodist Church.

On Friday September 8th, with balloons at the door and toys unpacked, we waited (with some trepidation) as the clock ticked... 'Would anyone come?' we wondered.

With a trickle of people safely through the door, we were both relieved and grateful to have a small number attend the first session. However, within minutes, more buggies of children were bursting through the door, one after the other, and soon the room was full of excited children at play, while Mums, Dads and minders chatted and got to know each other.

After some rousing rhymes, with an assortment of musical instruments to the fore, the session drew to a close with a song about 'God's Wonderful Love' and a short prayer.

As the 'twenty' children and their various carers left, Kathryn and I reflected in amazement at the morning's events, acknowledging that although Tots 'n' Toys had been a great 'LEAP of FAITH'...

...'OUR FAITH had been REWARDED!'

Alison Smith



Tots 'n' Toys

is our new Baby & Toddler Group

9.30–11am every Friday (term-time)

The school room, Clifford Methodist Church

£2 for 1 adult and 1 child, 50p per additional child (First visit is FREE!)

THIS IS A GROUP FOR THE COMMUNITY – EVERYONE IS WELCOME

For further details, please ring 01937 845511





Gerald Payling

11th July 1934 – 16th September 2017

On Friday 29th September 2017, following his death on Saturday 16th September, members of the church family and friends joined together with Gerald's family to celebrate his life in a Thanksgiving Service led by Revd Steve Jakeman.

Gerald was born in Goole on 11th July 1934, an auspicious date that he shared with his twin sister Jean; they joined three older brothers Roy, Bill and Bernard. Gerald was born into a loving and supportive family which also nurtured his love for music and amateur dramatics.

After having won a scholarship to attend Goole Grammar School, Gerald then went on to Hull University, graduating in 1956 with joint honours in English and Latin. This was the beginning of his lifelong love of English – reading, writing and spoken. Gerald passionately shared his many years of reading and studies, to bring English alive, to many people of all ages during his lifetime.

Gerald's staunch belief in carrying out his duties led him to undertake his two year's National Service with the Royal Navy; it was whilst he was at home on leave, that he met his future wife Shirley at a dance in Wetherby.

They were married in Staithes Methodist Church and, having now completed National Service, Gerald moved with Shirley to Leicester to take up his first teaching position. It was in Leicester that their first two sons were born; Andrew and Stephen. During this time lifelong friendships were forged with Jean and Tony Nelson, and their children.

The family moved from Leicester to North Ferriby, where their youngest son Nick was born. Gerald's next career move brought the family to live at Boston Spa. Gerald proudly took up his teaching post at Wetherby grammar school (Wetherby High School); where he eventually became Acting Head Teacher on the retirement of his great friend and highly respected colleague, Harry Fitton.

Gerald answered the call on his life to become a Local Preacher and was accredited in 1976. He continued to preach until 2016, whilst also undertaking the training and support of new Local Preachers.

Gerald's great passion for life and wanting to help all in the community led him to commit himself, in many ways, to sharing his strong faith, and to help and support many organisations; for example Oxford Place, which he did with Shirley, and also Churches Together, the wider Tadcaster Methodist Circuit, and the Gideons.

Sadly, Shirley died in 2006 having been cared for throughout her illness by Gerald, who was firm in the belief that she had been called back by her Saviour and that they would be reunited in the future.

Gerald loved his family and was very proud of all their achievements; from those of his sons and their wives, to his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was always willing to drop everything to help them out.

Gerald was an active member of Boston Spa Methodist Church. He was always actively supporting whatever was going on and, often quietly in the background and without any fuss, making sure chairs were in place, tables put up, people had lifts to church and bins were dragged up to the High Street. Gerald was always there with an encouraging word; his deep love for his fellow man and his Saviour radiating from his face.

Indeed, it was that deep faith that carried Gerald through his terminal illness; refusing treatment and opting instead for quality of life, entrusting himself to Christ.

So, it was that with a mixture of sadness for having lost a friend but with gladness for him that he is now at peace with his beloved wife Shirley. We give thanks to God for his life and the love of our friend Gerald Payling.

To paraphrase his own words as we say goodbye, we say to Gerald:

*'you can go now, thank you for sharing your light with us,
but it's time for you to go home'.*

Sue Jakeman

Ronald Winstanley (Ron)

1940-2017

On Wednesday 4th October, following his death on Friday 22nd September, members of the church family and friends joined together with Ron's family to celebrate his life at Harrogate Crematorium led by Revd Steve Jakeman.

Ron Winstanley was born one of twins on 25th November 1940, to Florence and Thomas Winstanley. He had an elder sister, and his twin brother, who beat him into this world by five minutes!

Following schooling at Heworth Primary School and Heburn Central School he entered the printing trade, along with Alan, as a linotype operator – a lengthy career beckoned which saw him travelling all over the UK and parts of Europe.

It was Ron's work which brought the family to Boston Spa in 1984.

One of Ron's main passions in life, apart from Pat, who he had met when she was 14, were motorcycles, and he enjoyed nothing more than tinkering with his bikes, and stripping them down – even building at least five from scratch.

In later life, Ron discovered another passion – his allotment – which he only stopped working on as his illness took hold.

Ron was very much a family man, and was intensely proud of his own children, his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Lasting memories for all the family will be of all the wonderful times that they had with him.

So, it was holding onto that love which he had so generously shared, that the family and all the friends there said goodbye to Ron, missing him, but glad that he is now at peace. We give thanks to God for the life and love of husband, Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather and friend Ron Winstanley.

Sue Jakeman



Andrew Morgan

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On Friday, 10th November at 1pm we welcome Richard Hinsley, a pianist and composer from Nottingham.



Richard began to be classically trained as a pianist from the age of seven. He currently plays the guitar in a local jazz ensemble and has played in pop and jazz bands over the years. He has provided music for library music CDs and has had his music used in media outlets around the world, most notably being used in BBC 2's Ray Mears' Wild Food.

In 2014, he recorded his debut album of solo piano work, 'A Dance at Twilight' and since then he has also been admitted as an artist on the roster of composers for the US-based Whisperings solo piano radio transmission, with music for the station being drawn from over 270 artists worldwide.

Three tracks from 'A Dance at Twilight' have been added to the current playlist (streamable from www.solopianoradio.com). He has recently been recording his follow-up album 'Stain on Sunset'.

When Richard is not composing or playing piano, he is the boss of the family building firm. In his words, "Building is a creative process and so is music. So for me, there's not as much difference as you might think."

Concert admission is £5 and light lunches will be served from 12 noon.
All are most welcome.



Our next lunchtime concert will be held during the Christmas Tree Festival on Friday 8th December, when we welcome Steve Hastings tenor, Carole Cox piano and Ken Stamp trombone.

*Check our website for further details of all of our concerts:
www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk*



Boston Spa Methodist Church Men's Group

Wednesday 8th November, 7.30pm: OPEN MEETING – all welcome
Speaker: Trevor Moody – Northumbrian Heritage Coast

Tony Barker and Sons

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Harvest Supper at Boston Spa – 2nd October



Some happy diners enjoying good food and good company

With faith that the harvest was safely gathered in, twenty-four of us met to appreciate the fruits of the earth. We were welcomed by a working lift and the most delicious aroma of our meal cooking. With the convivial company we always find on these social occasions, we settled to appreciate a meal caringly prepared and served by Barbara, Heather, Pauline, Bob and Kathy. They are the true heroes of the evening. Thank you all.

The chicken stew was served in the style of The Stew & Oyster, and was mouth-wateringly tasty. Followed by fruit pie and cheese and biscuits, the meal was really satisfying.

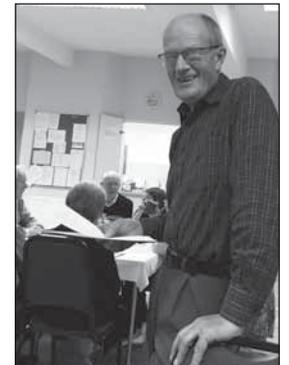
We may not have ploughed and scattered, but we certainly ate and enjoyed.

Once we were really replete, Bob tempted us with a quiz. Amazed by the number of Royal palaces, we went on to jump from Argentina to Blackpool Illuminations, and from Queen Victoria to Shakespeare. A wide-ranging selection of questions and, to my relief, not too many on sport or 'pop' music. Thank goodness we worked in teams. I don't think any single person could have coped with them all. I'm not going to tell you the winners; I'll just say that the scores were so close we were discussing whether a table of five beat a table of six when they both had the same score!

It was a really enjoyable evening: thanks to all those who worked so hard to make it go smoothly. Everything was certainly appreciated.

Thank you Lord for all your gifts.

Sandra Barton



Bob, our question-master

Have we trials and temptations,
 is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged:
 take it to the Lord in prayer.

*"What a friend we have in Jesus"
 Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819-1886)*



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Harvest Festival Service and Baptism

Boston Spa – Sunday 1st October

As these photos show, the church looked absolutely beautiful for our Harvest Festival Service, and we thank our talented group of flower arrangers for their creative decorations. It was especially good to share this wonderful service with the family of Claire and James for Jessica's baptism...

Baptismal Service – Jessica Rose Rank

At the end of what had been a few days filled with emotions following the Thanksgiving Service for her Great Grandfather Gerald Payling, Boston Spa Methodist Church, welcomed Jessica Rose, her parents Claire and James, older sister Emily, Grandparents, God Parents and the wider family to a Harvest Celebration which included Jessica Rose's Baptism.

As we gave thanks for 'all good gifts around us' we gave thanks too for Jessica Rose, welcoming her into the wider church family and celebrating with her own family the joy of new life.



EVERGREENS COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 25th November
10am -12.00 noon

BOSTON SPA METHODIST CHURCH

Admission £2.00 to include Coffee/Tea & Mince Pies

Bacon Sandwiches will also be available!

RAFFLE & CAKE STALL

Offers of cakes and raffle prizes
would be much appreciated.

THANK YOU.



The Wedding at Cana

John 2:1-11

When a family friend was getting married in the nearby village of Cana, among those invited to the wedding were Jesus, his disciples and his mother Mary.

During the wedding feast, Mary noticed that the wine had run out, so she told Jesus; and she told the serving people to do whatever Jesus asked. Jesus noticed six stone water jars and asked the servers to fill them with water, which they did. Then Jesus told them to pour some out and take it to the chief steward who tasted it. Then the chief steward said to the bridegroom that most people served the best wine first and then served the cheaper wine, but that he appeared to have kept the best wine for last.

This turning of water into wine was the first of the signs that Jesus really was the Son of God, for it was a miracle.

*The Knitted Bible Exhibition – 32 Old and New Testament scenes
created by Hartlepool United Reformed Church – has travelled all over Britain.*

An interesting testimony

Of course, we all remember Manfred Mann, and many, like me, will know of Paul Jones, the lead singer with the group. I, however, had never heard of Fiona Hendley. So, I was rather looking forward to seeing her and of learning how she and Paul were linked together in their Christianity.

In the end, of course, it was a fairly straightforward story: boy meets girl, they act together, fall in love, marry and then become fervent Christians.

Actually, it took an hour and a half for the story to be told – involving some meandering down side streets; some very good mouth-organ playing by Paul; and a few songs to boot.

I now know that Fiona has a lovely clear speaking voice, an even better singing voice and a pleasantly theatrical way of exposing her Christian beliefs. Paul was as I expected him to be. Well, I figured that they were “an item” fairly early on, but they managed not to mention the fact until later on in their story.

That they are both very sincere in their Christianity is obvious, and it was easy to spend a relaxing evening in their company. If I was doubting, my doubts were dispelled when, at the end, they handed out paper for us to write what we wanted them to pray for – they collected them and promised to pray for all of them during the following week. A bit “twee”? Maybe so, but when I handed in my prayer slip, Fiona’s response was genuine and kind. I believe they did send my prayer to God – and I am sure he listened.

Iain Vernon



Boston Spa Methodist Church in association with C.M.G proudly presents

“All Kinds of Everything”

An Evening with **Dana**
featuring St Mary’s School Choir

Friday 17th November, 7pm

Tickets – Main Sanctuary or Gallery Circle - £10
Rear Sanctuary or Gallery - £8
NB: non-specific seating within each price bracket

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or contact Rev Steve 01937 842156

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Church and community

This week, as I write, the Jewish people are celebrating Succoth, the Feast of Tabernacles. (You can read about it in Leviticus 23.) It celebrates the harvest but it is also a metaphor for the Jewish sense of community, togetherness and belonging. The Chief Rabbi spoke about it on "Thought for the day" this very morning.

In spite of the prevalence of instant electronic communication – or perhaps because of it – recent research has shown that here in the United Kingdom we live in an age of loneliness and disconnection from others. How many of us really know our neighbours? For many people, particularly old people, their only company is the television.

At Boston Spa our strapline is "where church and community meet". Of course "The church" – represented by our church – and the community meet in various ways and at various levels. Individuals are involved in village activities. Our premises are used by various groups. We have representatives on the Village Hall Management Committee. Our ladies are helping later this very week by running the café on one of the days of the village's Art & Crafts Festival. We are involved in our community.

But what of "church" and "community" in a deeper and more personal sense? St. Paul wrote of the church as a body in which every part depends on and supports the other parts, so that the whole body can make the love and caring of God real in daily living to anyone in need, in the church or in the outside world. As a fellowship we have recently gone through times of great sadness and need. Some members have gone on before us, and we shall miss them greatly. Some have had accidents, some have been ill, and some have family anxieties. But there has been real love and caring, prayer and support – practical support, emotional support, spiritual support. We have felt the reality of community in the church. Let's thank God for it. Can we make it real to others through our living outside the church?

Dennis

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or contact Rev Steve 01937 842156

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Healthy Connections

Boston Spa Methodist Church present our 4th Annual

Community

Christmas Tree



Wednesday 6th December: 2.30pm - 8pm

3.00pm: St Mary's C of E School Choir opens the Festival

Thursday 7th December: 10am – 5.30pm

2.30 and 3.15pm: Collingham Lady Singers.

Friday 8th December: 10am – 5.30pm

12 noon: Our renowned pre-Concert Lunches

1pm: Lunchtime Concert

(Christmas with Steve Hastings - tenor, Carole Cox - pianoforte, Ken Stamp - trombone)

Tickets **£5** (available on the door)

3pm: John Townend entertains on our fabulous Harrison & Harrison organ

Saturday 9th December: 10am – 5.30pm

10.30am: Collingham Band **3pm:** Wetherby Folk Chorale

Sunday 10th December: 12 noon – 4.30pm

10.30am: A 'Messy Christmas' - a Christmas worship experience for all

3pm: Festival Raffle Draw.

6.00pm: Festival Carol Service

further attractions to be announced!

Live
Music!

Even
more
trees!

Delicious
Food!

ENTRY to the FESTIVAL is FREE (except for the Friday Lunchtime Concert)

Please see our website for further details: www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk

or



www.facebook.com/bostonspamethodistchurch?fref=ts

Boston Spa Methodist Church... where Church and Community meet!

Getting to know you



Peter

Peter was born in Leeds, was educated in Leeds and graduated there. He had always wanted to teach and his first teaching post was at Pudsey Grammar School teaching chemistry.

He decided to have a year completing a PGCE at Carnegie College after which he became Head of Chemistry at King's School, Pontefract. He moved on to Leeds Grammar School where he rose rapidly through the ranks to become

Second Deputy Head, in charge of the Oxbridge candidates. He had great success with some 25 students each year gaining places at Oxford or Cambridge.

Peter has been an all-round dedicated sportsman as his many trophies indicate. He was a rugby player and coach, had a single-figure handicap at golf and also played table-tennis in the first division in Leeds. In his younger days he represented his university at gymnastics. He even added time trial cycling to his activities.

While working at Leeds Grammar School Peter met his wife, to whom he was married for over 40 years. She was a widow with two sons, and Peter became father to the boys. They often visit him. Peter and his wife lived at Clifford but sadly she died two years ago. The house was too big for him so Peter moved to Boston Spa. He finds it an ideal place to live, with plenty of village amenities; and it is on the level.

Peter had not been able to leave his wife for any length of time and had ceased to go to church. He had been thinking about going to church again, our Methodist chapel was the nearest place of worship, so although a Church of England man he decided to try it. "God is the same God in both". Peter instantly felt welcome; he found "fantastic fellowship – the people could not have been kinder to a stranger". He enjoys the variety of ministry and welcomes the lay members taking part in the services. He looks forward to going to church.

Peter was interviewed by Carmen

Bible Study

Dennis and Arthur invite you to join the Bible Study group on the first and third Thursdays of each month for bible reading and discussion. Each meeting starts at 7.30pm and discussion finishes at 9pm sharp. This is followed by coffee or tea.

The November meetings, 2nd and 16th, will be held at the home of Dennis and Carmen Ashton, The Mistal, Church Street, Boston Spa.

Transport can easily be arranged should you need it, particularly if you have not been to either house before.

Please speak to Arthur or Jackie, Dennis or Carmen if you would like to know more about the study.

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Methodist Women in Britain

Recently, in the York & Hull District, a new President, Janice Clark, has begun her 2 years in office. Each president suggests two projects, one at home and one abroad for the women in our District to support. (Some of you may recall that I went with six others (at our own expense) to Serbia in order to take £10,000 in cash to enable the building of some residential facilities for the young people who wanted to join the Methodist Church there.)

Janice's project abroad is "Cricket without Boundaries" which operates in 5 sub-Saharan African countries to encourage cricket development alongside health and social messages. They work on the principle that health and sport is inclusive and accessible to all by supporting communities to deliver cricket sessions which are fun and at the same time they give information about AIDS (Human Immune deficiency Virus) and FGM (Female Genital Mutilation).

HIV: 69% (24.7 million) of all people with HIV live in this part of the continent and whilst real progress has been made, the vast majority there are infected or affected by this disease.

FGM (our Home Project) is practised in 29 countries across Africa, SE Asia, as well as in countries to which migrants have spread and this includes the UK. It is mostly carried out on young girls aged between infancy and 15 years, has no benefits and is a violation of Human Rights.

Over 200 million women and girls alive today have been cut; 3 million girls annually are at risk including 60,000 in the UK.

This year "Cricket without Boundaries" has entered into partnership with the LCCC Foundation, supporting their work in Trafford, Manchester where 2,000 girls are currently at risk of FGM.

Nearer to home, IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Service) which started life as Women's Aid (York) and supported by Women's Work at that time in this church, is still providing support to victims and survivors of sexual violence and abuse in Yorkshire.

A recent coffee morning at Clifford raised £60 for the project. If you would like to know more about events which are advertised in the weekly notices and the Methodist Post, please speak to either Sue Jakeman or to Jackie Faulkner.

The proceeds from Sunshine Money will go to these projects.

Jackie Faulkner



Methodist Women in Britain, Tadcaster Circuit
Thursday 30th November, 2pm
Advent Service, Wetherby Methodist Church
led by Janice Clarke, District President



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Reformation 500

This year marks the 500th anniversary of an event generally taken to mark the start of the **Protestant Reformation**, **Martin Luther's action** in nailing up 95 theses attacking some of the practices and doctrines of the late Medieval Catholic church on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg. Luther was Professor of Theology at the University of Wittenberg.

We should note 31st October, as it marks the date that signalled the start of the Protestant Reformation. Luther was not out to divide the Church but reform it. The theses were him protesting against something which he was convinced needed reforming. Martin Luther was the leading figure of the movement, insisting that each and every Christian had a direct relationship to God. There was no need for a large church organisation to administer the grace of God.

The Catholic Church had become a parallel state in society, an organisation with its own laws and many social and ethical duties. The Reformation removed the church as an autonomous social and secular power. In its place, Lutheran churches emerged where kings and their administrations assumed responsibility for the support and promotion of the religious lives of their subjects, and provided a framework for moral behaviour. Areas like care of the elderly and poor relief, which had previously been provided by the church, became the responsibility of secular society.

Recently I watched an interesting historical perspective to this on television by David Starkey, entitled '*Reformation – Europe's Holy War*', which highlighted the spread of the Lutheran Church throughout Germany. This came about largely because the printing press had been invented and copies of Luther's work was widely circulated. An understanding of God came from the words of the Bible, so it became possible for the Bible to be made accessible to everyone through translation into their mother tongue. David Starkey's account also concentrated on how King Henry VIII changed the course of history with the break-up of the Catholic Church in England.

The idea behind marking the anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 was to promote an understanding of the significance of the Reformation for British society, the church and identity and consciousness of Lutheran heritage.

The Reformation marked the beginning of almost 500 years of development and impossible to summarise in a few paragraphs here, but simply to raise awareness of the seismic consequences it had for the Christian Church particularly in Europe.

Footnote: The Church of Scotland in particular, ultimately drew more in terms of theology, doctrines and forms of church government and politics from the other great founding father of the European Reformation, **Jean Calvin**, than it did from the more conservative figure of Luther.

John Wesley wrestled with difficult feelings on his journey of faith and inspired by **Luther's** 'Preface to the Epistle to the Romans' and quoted,

'about a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change that God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt that I did trust in Christ.' (Aldersgate, 1738).

Jim Murison

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 many are hungry.
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 many still thirst.
 Make us your bread,
 broken for others,
 shared until all are fed.

*Words from the hymn
 "Christ, be our light!"
 Bernadette Farrell
 (b.1957)*

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