



Methodist Post

Boston Spa • Clifford • Bramham

May 2019



Ideas and contributions for future editions of the Methodist Post are always welcome.

For the June issue, please send copy by 10th May to: jovernon1@gmail.com

Thank you.

Jo Vernon, Editor
(01937 360016)

Don't forget, the magazine is also available to read on our website: bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk



Cover photograph: Jo Vernon

Wednesday 22nd May
7.30pm

Boston Spa Methodist Church

Speaker: Michael Wardle
Anecdotes of an Actor

Michael has appeared in *I'm Alan Partridge*, *Withnail & I*, *Heartbeat* and many more going back to *Z Cars*

www.imdb.com/name/nm0912046/

All are welcome



Minister's Letter



Dear friends,

It never seems to amaze me how quickly the year turns around, and I'm not sure when this feeling of the seasons flashing by started to happen! Certainly, as a child, it seemed to take forever for winter to give way to spring and the longed-for lighter days and warmer weather.

This year whilst Easter has been almost as late as it could be*, the mild weather has appeared to have brought Spring itself forward, and the garden has been covered in fresh growth and Spring flowers since early March.

The cycle of the Church magazine means I am writing this at the high point of the church's year when we celebrate the two greatest days not only in the church's life but in the history of the world – namely Good Friday and Easter. Of course, it was not called 'Good' Friday at first. That Friday was the darkest day you could possibly think of; when the Lord of Glory was killed. But he didn't stay that way; the darkness of death was overcome in the resurrection of Jesus. *A bright light of hope, peace, forgiveness and reconciliation shining on all creation* John 1:9.

Looking back, and allowing that light to shine on Friday's darkness, we can see that the Cross was in fact God's Good News for all humankind. *'Jesus became sin for us who knew no sin, that we might become God's children'* 2 Corinthians 5:21.

But, just as we say that Good Friday was not the end of the story, we can also say that Easter day was not the end of the story either – certain things had to happen, things that Jesus had

promised, before the real effect of Good Friday and Easter could be released into the world. The disciples had been asked to wait in prayerful expectation, and they did not have to wait long; although it must have seemed like an eternity to them! Then two significant events occurred...

This year we celebrate Ascension Day at the end of May (30th) and Pentecost ten days later on 9th June. For the disciples, Ascension Day had all the hallmarks of a bereavement, a second one in the space of a few weeks. They experienced again the sadness of parting. They listened to Jesus' last words to them. They had the opportunity to let Jesus go as he ascended to his Father. Yet they continued faithfully in expectation of the fulfilment of a promise that Jesus had made (*'I will send you the Spirit who will lead you into all truth'* John 14: 25ff).

A few days later, the person of the Holy Spirit burst upon them, giving them the power to boldly continue Christ's ministry 'starting in Jerusalem...' Acts 1:8, and subsequently spreading all over the world; continuing to this day. In many ways the moods of Good Friday and Easter are reflected in the moods of Ascension and Pentecost respectively.

But the two seasons differ in one important respect.

Before Good Friday, the mood is of fear, foreboding, penitence, bewilderment, tragedy. Before Ascension, the mood is expectation, hope, excitement, promise of new power, new life and new opportunities.

Perhaps that is why, deep down, perhaps one of my favourite months is May; the natural world, emerging from the darkness of winter into the life and light of spring, provides a visual aid that resonates more strongly with the Christian story than at any other time during the year.

I pray that you will all be blessed this month, as you look forward to this new season with hope and expectation.

with every blessing,

Steve

* In 2038, Easter Sunday will be on April 25th; the latest possible date for us who use the Gregorian calendar. (Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon following the vernal equinox (March 21st)).



The first 'Bible Month' pilot project ran in 2015 involving two churches in London and two in the North East. The pilot itself, however, drew on a 'preaching series' model for encouraging biblical literacy, trialled in the Yorkshire Dales and which I was involved with, which itself emerged from a discussion that we had at Circuit level.

Bible Month is an opportunity for churches and circuits to spend 30 days focused on a single biblical book. The aim of a Bible Month is to help all in church engage more deeply with Scripture, this year focussing on Colossians.

During May and June Boston Spa and Clifford churches will be engaging in Bible Month over four weeks of themed sermons within our services.

Rev Steve



May Diary Dates

Sunday 5	10.30am	Holy Communion Service – Bible Month, week 1 (<i>see p.3</i>), led by Revd Colin Cheeseman
	3.00pm	Plough Service at Tadcaster
Wednesday 8	7.00pm	Sacred Space – Reflective Worship
Friday 10	12 noon	Light lunches to be served prior to...
	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert (<i>see p.9</i>)
Sunday 12	10.30am	Christian Aid United (with St Mary's) Service led by Revd Steve Jakeman
	6.00pm	Circuit Service at Collingham (<i>see p.11</i>)
Tuesday 14	2.00pm	Women's Friendship Group – Show and Tell
Friday 17	7.30pm	An Evening with Paul Kerensa (<i>see p.10</i>)
Sunday 19	10.30am	Morning Worship – Bible Month, week 2 (<i>see p.3</i>), led by Revd Steve Jakeman
	6.00pm	Holy Communion Service, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
Tuesday 21	10.30am	Evergreens Luncheon Club
Wednesday 22	7.00pm	Sacred Space – Reflective Worship
	7.30pm	Men's Group (<i>see p.2</i>)
Sunday 26	10.30am	Morning Worship – Bible Month, week 3 (<i>see p.3</i>), led by Mr Donald Milne
Tuesday 28	2.00pm	Women's Friendship Group – Mrs Joan Dyer
Wednesday 29	3.30pm	Messy Church

Birthday Greetings

Women's Friendship Group: 1st – Mavis Nettleton

Children: 26th – Emily Rank

THANK YOU

Arthur, Jackie and Alison Faulkner – (Gaines) wish to thank all who prayed for Alison throughout her chemotherapy ordeal. She responded positively and with courage and has been shown to be free of the lymphoma tumour. If the regular MRI scans remain clear, she hopes to be back at work in July.

Thank you all and God Bless.

Arthur & Jackie Faulkner



Boston Spa Church Rotas – May

	Church Stewards	Welcome Stewards	Flowers	Coffee
5	Bob Hutchinson Heather Grant	Chris Mellor Diane Mellor	Barbara Parrott	Roger Tunnicliffe Chris Tunnicliffe
12	Barbara Hudson Arthur Faulkner	Jo Vernon Iain Vernon	Eva Mills	Julie Thompson Val Wodhams
19	J/K Grimditch Joan Dyer	Kathleen McGuire Graham McGuire	Jackie Faulkner	Bob Wade Wendy Wade
26	Val Woodhams Pauline O'Melia	Stephen Hough Tina Farr	Sheila Humphreys	Ursula Turner Eva Mills

Cleaning		Busy Bees	
Up to 12	Anne & David Hovell	1	Carmen Ashton
13-26	Jo & Iain Vernon	8	Jackie Faulkner
27 May to 9 June	Jackie & Arthur Faulkner	15	Judith Grimditch
		22	Wendy Wade
		29	HOLIDAY

Anyone for Croquet?

The new Croquet season commences Friday 3rd May at the Terrace Lawn Tennis and Croquet club in Boston Spa.

Croquet is a game that promotes health and well-being: no physical prowess is required; young, old, male or female play on equal terms.

We are now looking to expand our croquet membership having enjoyed a short but successful inaugural season in 2018. With the enlargement of our existing lawn, it has made it possible to offer a limited number of new memberships.

Club days Monday evenings (new members) Tuesdays and Fridays
Web site: www.bostonpalawntennis.com 07974089893 or 01937 845519



Optimism/pessimism

'Twixt optimist and pessimist, the difference is droll:
The optimist sees the doughnut, the pessimist sees the hole.

An optimist? The woman who slips her feet back into her shoes when the preacher says, 'And finally...'

Just because you occasionally feel fed up, don't despair. Remember that the sun has a 'sinking spell' every night but rises again in the morning.

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

Diary Dates – May

- 5th 10.30am Morning Worship, led by Mrs Heather Shipman
- 12th 10.30am Holy Communion Service, led by Revd Mark Stennett
6.00pm Circuit Service at Collingham
- 19th 10.00am Chapel Anniversary – Café Service, led by Revd Steve Barlow
- 26th 10.30am Morning Worship, led by Mr David Mountain

Weekly on Tuesdays, 9.30am-10am, Service of Holy Communion

	Door Stewards	Flowers	Vestry
5th	Ros McCall, Catherine Catton	Margaret Suggate	Alison Smith
12th	Sheila and Katy Biercamp	Catherine Catton	Michael Whaley
19th	Carol Smith, Margaret Suggate	Catherine Catton	Jason Turner
26th	Alison Smith, Julie Norman	Kathryn Whaley	David Barrow
Schoolroom cleaning – Jacky Turner			



Birthday Greetings

Joan Bartlett, Ron Rodgers, Alexis Ieronymakis
Sheila Biercamp, Kathryn Whaley

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Some days we amaze ourselves. Other days we put our keys in the fridge!

BITS 'N' BOBS CRAFT GROUP

Fridays 7pm-9pm (term time only) in the Methodist Schoolroom.
£1 per evening including refreshments.
Everyone welcome.

**Clifford Methodist Church
BREAKFAST SPECIAL – Sunday May 19th**

"WHAT IS IT?".... you may ask.....

From 9.15am we will be serving a breakfast, followed at around 10.00am by an informal service of worship and praise led by Rev. Steve Barlow from Wetherby. Come and join us for BREAKFAST and WORSHIP...WITH A DIFFERENCE!

ALL ARE WELCOME



Tots 'n' Toys is our Baby & Toddler Group
9.30-11am every Friday (term-time)
The Schoolroom, Clifford Methodist Church

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

THIS IS A GROUP FOR THE COMMUNITY – EVERYONE IS WELCOME

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Friday, 10th May at 1pm

Concert admission £5 Light lunches from 12 noon

A very talented young organist, Adam Parrish, a graduate of York University, will give us a recital on the wonderful old Harrison & Harrison organ. It needs renovation but it is still a Rolls Royce of an instrument. Come and enjoy the music and fellowship. Please bring your friends. All welcome.

Judith England



Our next lunchtime concert will be on Friday, 14th June

Check our website for further details of all of our concerts:

www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk

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Methodist Women in Britain Easter Offering Service

On Sunday 12th May, Tadcaster Circuit's Easter Offering Service will be hosted by Collingham Methodist Church. We will meet at 4:30 for a 'Faith Tea', followed by a service at 6pm led by Mrs Sue Jakeman.

The Easter Offering Service is prepared by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund. This act of worship enables the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland to give towards the work of our 65 partner churches overseas. Envelopes for the Easter Offering Service have already been distributed around the churches to enable donations to be made in advance.

This year's theme, 'Longer Tables, Lower Fences' was inspired by these words:

*"When you have more than you need, build a longer table,
not a higher fence."* (anon)

During this act of worship, we shall dedicate the Easter Offering, and we will see pictures and hear stories of people throughout the world who are responding to God's call to radical hospitality and outrageous generosity. As we share these stories, we ask God to encourage, to challenge and to bless. We ask for the grace and humility to share our daily bread with others, to extend our tables and to break down the barriers that so often divide us.

Sue Jakeman, President MWiB, Tadcaster Circuit



Methodist Women in Britain – Yorkshire North And East District

Tuesday 21st May – Barlby & Osgodby

"Called to Proclaim – Sharing God's Blessings"

Quiet Day led by Deacon Denise Creed – Theme: Blessings

Boston Spa Festival Weekend

Over the past few years the Festival has been an outstanding success, bringing the community together in a very special way. We hope this year's Festival will be as successful, with a wide variety of events covering health and wellbeing, live music, literary lunch, heritage walk, children's activities, tennis, and bowls, open gardens, a Bake Off, as well as a Festival Songs of Praise and a Rock Mass. This list is not exhaustive, so look out for more information which will start to appear during June.

The theme of the Scarecrow Trail this year is 'Film and TV Characters', please speak to Steve or me if you have any ideas and can help build the scarecrow.

If you want tickets for the Literary Lunch, please speak to Sue Jakeman. The lunch will be £12 as last year, and the author is Imogen Clark who has written: Postcards from a Stranger, The Thing about Clare, and her third novel, Where the Story Starts will be published in May 2019.

You can find out more about her on the link below and download a free short story when you sign up for her newsletter. <https://imogenclark.com/>

Sue Jakeman



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From our Lay Pastor...

Who we are

A Police cadet had the following situation outlined to him:

You are out on your own, on foot patrol. As you turn a corner, you see a large crowd of football hooligans standing outside a house, which is on fire, with a woman screaming that her children are trapped inside. Just then a car careers around the corner and crashes into the house. You rush over and notice that the car is driven by your Chief Superintendent and that he reeks of alcohol and has a half emptied bottle of Scotch in his hand.

The cadet was asked how he would respond. Answer:

"I would remove my uniform and merge into the crowd!"

Since 1699, many Sikhs have followed the teaching of Guru Gobind Singh and worn a turban. This is partly for practical reasons, as Sikh men don't cut their hair but also partly as a way of identifying their faith – unlike a Police uniform, a turban cannot easily be removed! Even in a hostile environment, they are easily identified.

What about us? Outside of Church, would we be identified as Christians? We don't have a uniform and unless we wear a cross, or similar, no identifying marks. When I'm in the car, I have a Methodist sticker on the window and that has moderated my behaviour – I'm less likely to mouth rude words or gesticulate (I know, you probably didn't think I was capable of such things – but, sadly I am!).

Wouldn't it be great if people looked at us and knew that we were Christians – because we stand up for injustice, we stand up for the environment, we care for others, irrespective of who they are. Sorry to get all religious on you – but in Isaiah 61 we read:

The Lord says "I love justice and I hate oppression and crime. I will faithfully reward my people and make an eternal covenant with them.

They will be famous among the nations. Everyone who sees them will know that they are a people whom I have blessed" (GNB)

Recognised, not because of what we look like but because of what we do and who we are. Now that's the best type of uniform.

Donald

~ Forthcoming events at St Mary's Church, Boston Spa ~

- 7th May St Mary's Justice and Peace Group presents a talk by Terry Doyle: "Two Doves on the Chalice – Inner healing for Compassionate Outreach", 7.30pm, St Mary's Church Room
- 18th May Christian Aid Coffee Morning, 10am-12 noon at St Mary's. Cakes, produce stall, children's games, raffle. Entrance £2.50 to include coffee/tea and cake.

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Getting to know you...

This month, we feature Roy Pritchard

Although Roy has spent most of his life in the Leeds area, he was born in Walsall in the Midlands but moved north as a baby. He has five sisters and nine brothers, and they all meet on occasions. Roy has a son and a daughter from an earlier marriage.

Roy attended Blenheim Secondary School and followed his father into the building trade. He was proficient in tiling, scaffolding and several other skills in the construction field. Unfortunately, when working for a contractor at Drax Power Station, he developed asbestosis, which has left him with chest problems. However, his health is now stable. Roy was also badly affected by the death of his parents in 2011 and lost the power of speech.

As a child in Leeds he attended All Saints' Church, then later Blenheim Street Church, and after that Bridge Street Church, where he met his present wife Jacqueline.

Roy had many varied hobbies. He enjoyed keeping pigeons, fishing and playing the piano. His current interests are Sudoku puzzles, Nintendo, watching old films, cooking, the music of Elvis Presley, and the Rock and Roll period. Together with Jacqueline, Roy enjoys travelling and has cruised the Mediterranean.

Eventually, on moving to Boston Spa they found a village that met all their needs. They found friendly people, a convenient bus service and all the necessary amenities. They joined our Methodist Church. Similarly, they found our church a welcoming place, with warm-hearted people. They find the variety of services interesting and challenging, and are pleased to have found many new friends.

(Interviewed by Carmen)



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“Don't dwell on the past"”

By the time this item appears in print, the position of the United Kingdom in relation to 27 other countries will have changed significantly. Indeed, it may have changed significantly by this time tomorrow as a result of the European Union Summit dinner meeting this evening, April 10. As things stand at this moment, we are due to leave the EU (with or without a withdrawal agreement) in 2 days' time.

Here at home too, there is a new situation to face. Our Parliament has not accepted the Government's proposals for that withdrawal agreement. This raises important constitutional issues. Unlike, for example, the USA, France or Germany, here in the UK we have no written constitution document setting out the inter-relationships between the executive (the government), the legislature, (Parliament) and the judiciary (the courts). Those inter-relationships depend to a large extent on convention, what has developed historically. Of course, the Queen is head of all three, they function in her name, but she does not intervene. So what is it that holds us together, gives us a structure, as a nation?

In the Methodist Church in Britain we **do** have a written constitution. We have the two volumes of “The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church”, based on the Methodist Church Act 1976, running to hundreds of pages and setting out the powers and duties, structure and inter-relationships, of the various levels – society, circuit, District and Conference.

But it's not CPD that holds us together and gives us our meaning as a church. It's our personal experience and celebration of the love of God, the self-giving of Jesus, and the enabling presence and power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life. It's not holding on to past structure and influence. It's rediscovering the ministry of the whole people of God. It's not clinging on to a privileged position. It's showing the world the love of God through what we say and do. As the world changes, so do the challenges we face.

Is it coincidence that last Sunday's lectionary lessons included Isaiah 43 verses 18 and 19?

Dennis

Andrew Morgan

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