



Methodist Post

Boston Spa • Clifford • Bramham
March 2020



Ideas and contributions for future editions of the Methodist Post are always welcome. For the April issue, please send copy by 10th March to: jovernon1@gmail.com
Jo Vernon, Editor (01937 360016)

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

Cover photograph: Jo Vernon – The beautiful blossom and banks of daffodils outside York city wall remind us of warmer days to come.

World Day of Prayer

The service this year will be held at St Edwards R. C. Church, Clifford on Friday 6th March at 2pm



Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards reconciliation.

World Day of Prayer is an international inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all

parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – throughout Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas – before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later.

Everyone is welcome women, men and children of all ages. Please come to the Day of Prayer: be part of the largest church congregation in the world!!

Joan Dyer



Holy Week

Wednesday, 8th April
7.00pm: **Tenebrae Service**
– Boston Spa Methodist Church (BSMC)

Maundy Thursday, 9th April
6.00pm: **Foot-washing & Messianic Passover Haggadah (Seder Meal)**
– Clifford Methodist Church

Good Friday, 10th April
12.00pm: **Ecumenical Walk of Witness from BSMC to St Mary's Church**
2.00pm: **Good Friday Liturgy – St Mary's Church**





Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

By the time that you read this letter Lent will have started and we will be in a season of contemplation and reflection on the suffering of Christ, His death and Resurrection.

As I write this letter, on the window-sill next to me is a vase of beautiful early daffodils. Not that it's in my nature to necessarily wax lyrical about flowers in general, but I think of all flowers the daffodil is one of my favourites. With their bright yellow colour and long trumpet, they are a perfect flower to announce the coming of spring. These 'yellow heralds' are just one part of God's visual aid to the truth of resurrection. To look at them in any weather lifts my spirit.

Daffodils are a sign of things to come; of warmer weather and sunnier days, but not here yet. A sign that winter will eventually end, even though, at the beginning of March,

it may not seem like it. The days are drawing out but cold nights and days, even if the sun is shining, can appear never ending.

The daffodil bulb, which has lain dormant in the cold dark earth through the winter, somehow through the miracle of Creation, senses a change that spring is on its way, so it responds by pushing its way to the surface. As such it is not too difficult to draw parallels with the events of Easter, which we shall be celebrating next month; that, after the darkness of the tomb, Jesus breaks the power of death and brings the spring of new life.

For now, the days may still be cold and dark. Yet the daffodils in the vase next to me tell me that the warmer weather is on its way. They sense a change is in the air, and so there is. But the daffodil also challenges me to do something about it and to respond in some way, as it has done, to move towards the light and welcome it, when it comes.

For some life itself can sometimes feel more like the cold dark days of winter rather than the warm and bright days of spring and summer. But like the daffodil the season of Lent tells us change is in the air, new life is on its way. It also challenges us to do something about it. To stir ourselves, not to be indifferent from what is going on around us, to seek the light and the new life offered to us in Jesus.

Every Blessing

Revd Steve



All We Can, the Methodist relief and development agency, is working around the world to enable people to see their potential fulfilled, to see them become all that they can. However, in many of these places, the effects of climate change are already destroying livelihoods, damaging farmland and claiming lives. We know that in order to change this story, we are going to have to take radical action. This Lent, you could go beyond giving up chocolate again, and radically change the story. Journey with All We Can in a devotional resource that will help you reflect on how Jesus' storytelling can motivate us to take that action. You will pray; read; reflect; learn; be challenged by the stories of others; share together; and – most importantly – act.

Order your copies of the devotional; find out about other Lent resources; and radically change your story here: www.allwecan.eu



Church Rotas

Church Stewards

- 1 Joan Dyer, Heather Grant
- 8 Barbara Hudson, Pauline O'Melia
- 15 Val Woodhams, K/J Grimditch
- 22 Heather Grant, Barbara Hudson
- 29 Arthur Faulkner, Heather Grant

Welcome Stewards

- 1 Stephen Hough, Tina Farr
- 8 Angela Coleman, Pat Winstanley
- 15 Joy & Les Ackroyd
- 22 Ken & Judith Grimditch
- 29 Heather Grant, Claire Grant

Flowers

- 1 Mary Ibbotson
- 8 Sandra Barton
- 15 Wendy Wade
- 22 Barbara Hudson
- 29 Judith Grimditch

Coffee

- 1 Julie Thompson, Val Woodhams
- 8 Graham & Kathleen McGuire
- 15 Bob & Wendy Wade
- 22 Ursula Turner, Eva Mills
- 29 David & Barbara Parrott

Busy Bees

- 4 Judith Grimditch
- 11 Wendy Wade
- 18 Barbara Hudson
- 25 Carmen Ashton

Cleaning

- 2-15 Roger & Chris Tunncliffe
- 16-29 Arthur & Jackie Faulkner
- 30 to 12 Apr Julie Thompson, Val Woodhams

Diary Dates

Sunday 1st March – First Sunday in Lent

- 10.30am Morning Worship
led by Dr Alan Bell, with
Barbara Hudson, Worship Leader
- 6.00pm United Service at Wetherby MC

Sunday 8th March

- 10.30am Service of Holy Communion
led by Revd Colin Cheeseman
- 4.00pm Tea Time Church

Tuesday 10th March

- 2.00pm Women's Friendship Group
Speaker: Revd Don Tuttell

Wednesday 11th March

- 7.00pm Sacred Space – Reflective Worship
- 7.30pm Men's Group – MAF (*see below*)

Friday 13th March

- 12 noon Light lunches served prior to...
- 1.00pm Lunchtime concert (*see p.10*)

Sunday 15th March

- 10.30am Morning Worship – a Celebration
of the work of Rotary
led by Revd Uell Kennedy
- 6.00pm Service of Holy Communion
led by Revd Steve Jakeman

Monday 16th March

- 7.00pm Church Council meeting

Tuesday 17th March

- 10.30am Evergreens Luncheon Club

Sunday 22nd March – Mothering Sunday

- 10.30am Morning Worship
led by Mrs Heather Shipman

Tuesday 24th March

- 2.00pm Women's Friendship Group
Easter Cards with Pauline O'Melia

Wednesday 25th March

- 3.30pm Messy Church
- 7.00pm Sacred Space – Reflective Worship

Sunday 29th March

- 10.30am Café-style Worship
led by Revd Steve Jakeman

Regular Weekly Events

Mondays

- 3.15pm Ping Pong Group
- 5.00pm Senior Table Tennis

Wednesdays

- 9.30-11am Busy Bees – for pre-school
children and their carers



Boston Spa Methodist Church
Another Evening of Comedy & Magic with

Paul Kerensa

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Friday 1st May 2019

at 7.30pm

Tickets – Main Sanctuary or Gallery Circle - £12
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NB: non-specific seating within each price bracket

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Ruth Shackleton, a highly experienced pilot,
will be talking about the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship
7.30pm, Wednesday 11 March, Boston Spa Methodist Church

Come along and find out more about the amazing work of the organisation in
countries where often the only speedy access is via a hastily prepared strip of
ground upon which to land a light aircraft.

MAF collect all postcards, used, new or old. Please bring any which you don't want.
Thank you to all who have given recently. We now have about 1600 to hand over.

This is a Men's Group open meeting – all are welcome.

Arthur Faulkner



Happy Birthday

Women's Friendship Group : Betty Aspinall



Amanda Buch M.C.S.P., BSc(Hons)

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METHODIST CHURCH



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but you can also reach us through a gate at the top of Nursery Way

Diary Dates

Sunday 1st March – First Sunday in Lent

10.30am Morning Worship
led by Mr Andrew Marshall

Sunday 8th March

10.30am Service of Holy Communion
led by Revd Steve Jakeman

Sunday 15th March

10.30am All Age Worship
led by Mr Donald Milne

Sunday 22nd March – Mothering Sunday

10.30am Morning Worship
led by Revd Ruth Parry

Sunday 29th March

10.30am Morning Worship
led by Revd Gordon Shaw

Church Rotas

Vestry 1 Alison Smith
8 David Mountain
15 Michael Whaley
22 Jason Turner
29 David Barrow

Door 1 Catherine Catton, Ros McCall
8 Sheila & Katy Biercamp
15 Alison Smith, Julie Norman
22 Hazel Greenwood, Catherine Catton
29 Carol Smith, Margaret Suggate

Flowers

1 & 8 Ros McCall
15 & 22 Catherine Catton
29 Kathryn Whaley

Schoolroom Cleaning – Margaret Suggate

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – Please remember our Church Council Meeting on Wednesday 11 March at 7pm in chapel. EVERYONE is welcome so please come along and have your say about your chapel.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

I suppose the best kind of spring morning
is the best weather God has to offer.

Dodge Smith



Happy Birthday

Doreen Darley, David Mountain
Megan Turner, Naomi Barrow
Ess Salou



Tots 'n' Toys Baby & Toddler Group

Fridays (term-time only) 9.30am–11am

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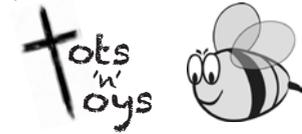
It's church, but not as we know it!

The face of worship in churches has been changing for many years, with most congregations expressing concern over the decline in falling numbers of families and children attending on a Sunday morning. The reasons behind this are many, and much research has gone into this knotty question. In 2015 the Methodist church produced a report called 'We are Family'. https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/3291/final_waf_a4_research_findings.pdf



On the 2nd Sunday of the month at 4pm we now have 'Tea-Time Church', a short time of worship which includes learning, singing, prayer, a craft, and fun and we end with a cup of tea and

cake. This was started after conversations with parents at both Busy Bees and Tots'n'Toys, as not everyone can make Messy Church.



One of the main ideas that came from this report was that of 'Intergenerational Worship', which is a journey into trying to find out what it means truly to be a church for everyone. It has led to some stepping outside the Sunday box with its expectations to try things like Messy Church and other fresh expressions of church, experimenting with a new format and new opportunities to break down the silos between the generations.

We have two very strong groups, Busy Bees and Tots'n'Toys, which cater for pre-school children and their carers, which help us to not only serve a need in the community, but to get to know people, and be available to come alongside them when needed.

Here at Boston Spa we have two different types of intergenerational worship, the first being Messy Church which meets generally on the last Wednesday of every month.



Whilst not strictly intergenerational worship, for those who want something mid-week at Clifford every Tuesday morning there is a short Communion service at 9:30 leading

into Open House at 10am, although you don't need to go to both!

Whilst at Boston Spa, a quiet reflective service takes place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month



in the Prayer room. It last about half an hour and gives respite from the busyness of the world.

You are very welcome to come along to either Messy Church or Tea-Time Church to enjoy the worship, and if you could help in any way please speak to Sue Jakeman.



This is not a midweek Sunday School, it is Church, a Church built on learning and sharing together, having fun, and sharing food. People come from various places, we have people who help from both Boston Spa and Clifford, and its amazing how quickly the two and a half hours goes!



Lunchtime concerts at Boston Spa



Friday, 13th March, 1pm

Light lunches are served from 12 noon Concert admission £5

We are delighted to introduce the Elmet Ensemble with Katherine Galloway on the bassoon (Kate is the daughter of our organist Malcolm Galloway), Melanie Dvorak (flute) and Michelle Lindsay (cello). These young women are all excellent musicians and this is the first bassoon player we have had in 11 years !! Please come and enjoy their concert.

All are welcome

Judith England

Our next lunchtime concert will be Friday 3rd April, with Emma James

40 days and 40 nights

In the last month, our church year as expressed in our own church calendar of services and in our lectionary of Bible readings for those services, has actually gained 30 years. Herod has died, Joseph and Mary have returned to Israel with Jesus and have settled in Nazareth. Jesus has grown up through childhood and adolescence to manhood with Mary and Joseph, and has younger brothers and sisters. Church tradition has it that Joseph has died, and as the oldest son Jesus has worked to provide for the family. But he is keenly aware of the events surrounding his birth. Has the time now come for him to leave home and to take up the ministry he was born to follow?

The signal that it has, and that Jesus really is the one who will fulfil God's plan for the world, will be the emergence of someone who will prepare the way for Jesus to go public. You can read about this in Isaiah chapter 40. That someone is Jesus'

cousin John, who went out into the desert preaching and baptising. People flocked to go and hear him.

John's message was uncompromising. Recognise and confess how far short you have fallen from what God wants of you. Be baptised in recognition of your change of life. Follow the one who will come after – he is the chosen one of God. Jesus heard what John was doing and knew that his time had come. Jesus left home, went out into the desert, insisted on being baptised by John, and spent the next weeks in solitude and self-denial, preparing for his own public ministry – wherever that might take him and whatever it might involve.

And so we enter the period the church calls Lent. Traditionally some Christians have recognised it by fasting, others by self-denial, giving up something. How do you recognise it? How do I? How do we respond to John's preaching and to Jesus' call to us?

Dennis

From our Lay Pastor...

I was reading an article in the latest "Connexion" magazine and it referred to "The Romero Prayer". Eh? Never heard of it! So I looked it up and have reproduced it below, because it seems to me that it says something to the position we are in as Churches, both in Boston Spa and Clifford. Lots of good things going on, lots of good people, with good ideas – but a cloudy picture when we try and look ahead, even just for 5 or 10 years. I hope you find it helpful, like I have.

The Romero Prayer – "Prophets of a future not our own"

It helps, now and then, to take a step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness on its own.

No programme accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that will one day grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and to do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Fr. Ken Untener

Stew and Oyster sessions

Last year, a number of us attended the "Talking Jesus" sessions, exploring how to share our faith. It seemed like a good idea to carry on getting together, informally, to carry on sharing our hopes, successes, failures and plans – and so the "Stew and Oyster" sessions were born, meeting up once a week for a coffee and a chat.

What we've found is that the chat is much more wide-ranging – anything and everything to do with Church but also pretty much every other aspect of life. And they're good fun! So, if you've read this, that's all you need for automatic attendance rights. Turn up when you can (dates and times in the Notices), contribute to the craic if you want to or just to stay quiet and enjoy your coffee. Either way, you'll be performing a public good by helping to keep Donald from wandering the streets, or looking like "Billy No-mates"!

Donald

Holocaust Memorial Service Sunday 26 January 2020

How lovely it is to see our church full of worshippers! This was the case on 26 January, thanks to a united service with Wetherby Methodist Church. This special Holocaust Memorial service was led by Steve and Sue Jakeman and, as you would expect, was full of interest with a strong emotional pull. There was a small amount of Hebrew included and we coped with that! The children who were present worked on producing a 'flame' picture during the service and the lovely result was displayed towards the end.

As someone who has visited Auschwitz/Birkenau death camp, I have a deep revulsion to genocide in all its forms – including the forced exile of whole ethnic



groups (something that we are facing even today) – and this service reminded me of our Christian duty to stand up for the oppressed throughout the world.

Iain Vernon

Living Lent



An alternative perspective?

Many of us use Lent as a period of self-sacrifice, reflecting

upon the temptation of Jesus for 40 days and nights and what that means for us. Many commit to giving something up. Last year I read about a different kind of challenge for Lent, to change our lifestyle, and why being a Christian means that we should be committed to helping change the climate for the better.

“Living Lent” is a campaign supported by the churches, responding to the urgent call for change by making a personal commitment to changing our lifestyle, and during Lent doing something that will stretch you. The campaign offers six options:

- Could you buy nothing new for the whole of Lent?
- Could you commit to living locally this Lent?
- Could you commit to finding alternative modes of transport this Lent?
- Could you go meat-free for Lent?
- Could you reduce your electricity use by 10% during Lent?
- Could you give up single use plastics for Lent?

The global warming, climate change debate is a huge issue for society as a whole and

you may feel overwhelmed by it, but I suggest perhaps focussing on just one of the above. I have chosen ‘*living locally this Lent*’. The report I read highlights examples within the food supply chain:

- Food transport accounts for one quarter of all heavy-goods vehicle miles in the UK and estimates of the carbon emissions caused by food transportation range from 1.8% to 3.5% of the UK’s total greenhouse gas emissions.
- Over 50% of food we consume in the UK is imported from abroad. A staggering 95% of fruit consumed in Britain comes from overseas.
- We now travel further for our shopping and drive more to reach it. On average, we travel 135 miles annually to shop for food, adding further distance and impact to how we source our supplies.

I end with a prayer,

“Lord, may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes us more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. Guide us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way”.

[Footnote – much of the above is published by Living Lent and supported by the churches Joint Public Issues Team and you can read more at: www.livinglent.org.]

Jim Murison

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Methodist Women in Britain – Yorkshire North and East District

“Let there be light – Sharing Bread and Wine” District meeting

Friday 13th March at Haxby Methodist Church

Everyone welcome to a time of sharing and learning about what’s going on in MWiB.

Annual Communion Service led by Revd Ruth Parry



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I've never heard that before... lesser known stories from the Bible

Arthur Faulkner

Get your hair cut!

King David had one daughter and 19 sons amongst whom was one called Absalom. His long curly hair and good looks made him attractive to the ladies and such was his vanity that he only cut his hair once each year and then weighed the locks which usually came to about 5 pounds. (2 Sam 14v26)

However, his character did not accord with his good looks for Absalom was jealous of his father, the King. He gathered a band of discontents and together they devised a plan to set up a coup to displace his father. King David responded by mobilising an army of loyalist supporters to do battle with his beloved son's traitors.

The battle took place and it soon became apparent to Absalom and his tribe that they were no match for the King. Fearing for their lives, they fled the field in a bid to escape the wrath of the King. But neither Lady Luck nor the Lord were on their side and in his panic, Absalom rode his mule beneath the branch of a tree such that his long flowing locks got caught in the branches and the lad was torn from the saddle and left suspended.

When the King's cavalry arrived, they released Absalom from his unfortunate suspension and put him to the sword. The Commander Joab, then dispatched his servant Ahimaaz to ride like fury to tell the King the good news of the routing of

the rebels. But when David learned of the death of his son Absalom, his reaction was far from what was expected. Rather than being overjoyed at the defeat of his enemies, he rent his clothes and cried out in overwhelming grief, "Absalom, my son, my son; Absalom, my son!" (2 Samuel vv 18-33)



By and large few, if any of us, remember any details of a sermon but for me this is the exception. I vividly remember the preacher one Sunday wailing "Absalom, my Son, my Son" so many times throughout his sermon. I was in my early teens and had little idea as to why he kept repeating his agonising wail. Now perhaps I can surmise as to the truth of the message that the preacher was extolling.

Despite his son's act of immense evil towards his father, in attempting to kill him, the father was devastated, so strong and powerful was his love that even the utmost evil could not destroy it.

The account is not, therefore about long hair and conceit but is a clear demonstration that true love trumps all evil reminding us that if King David could show such love towards so great an adversary, how much greater is God's love to even the most sinful of us

GOD IS LOVE.

Lay Synod: For all lay people in the District to gather to worship, learn and share stories.

Where: Copmanthorpe Methodist Church, York **When:** Sunday, 3 May, 10.30-3.30.

Cost: free, bring your own lunch, drinks provided **Booking:** to Siân Henderson, District Administrator, admin@yorkshirenemethodist.org 07809 431871

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God In Love Unites Us

The Report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group 2019

The Connexion is inviting wide-spread discussions about this report and its proposals. The District Representative Spring Synod on Saturday 25th April 2020 will have a further discussion and then hold the necessary vote, prior to going back to Conference in June 2020.

You are all encouraged to read the report/study guide and attend a District gathering prior to attending the Circuit discussion.

A limited number of printed copies of the report and study guide are available from our churches, please speak to a Steward. Or you can access copies via the Methodist Church website via these links:

www.methodist.org.uk/media/12606/3240-10-amended-marriage-and-relationships-report.pdf

www.methodist.org.uk/media/14704/marriage-and-relationships-study-guide-colour.pdf

The four District led gatherings will be held in various locations:

Masham Methodist Church, Ripon & Lower Dales Circuit (HG4 4HN)
10.30am Saturday 29th February 2020

Copmanthorpe Methodist Church, York Circuit (YO23 3SU)
2.00pm Wednesday 4th March 2020

Toll Gavel Methodist Church, Beverley Circuit (HU17 9AA)
7.30pm Thursday 12th March 2020

Pickering Methodist Church, Ryedale Circuit (YO18 8AA)
7.30pm Tuesday 17th March 2020

Following on from the District discussions a Circuit event will be held at:

Wetherby Methodist Church on Wednesday 18th March, 7.30 – 9.00 pm

when you will be given the opportunity to share and confer sensitively on the comments you wish to make. For more information, please speak to Rev Steve or Donald Milne.

A Prayer:

‘This is one of the most important decisions that the Methodist Church in Britain has faced in many a year. I encourage you all to take part in the discussions, and to share your views.’

Rev Steve

Merciful God,
Help us to speak in love what is in our minds,
And to hear in love what is said by others;
To feel in love what is in our hearts,
And to sense in love what is in the hearts of others;
To confer in love to discern your truth,
And to be open in love to your guiding Spirit.
Through our disagreements guide us; in our agreements direct us.
Together may we share the mind of Christ, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Spa Surgery – A further brief update

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Medical Team

Dr Shaikh left in August. Dr Ashton is working 3 days per week and Dr Edstam will leave at the end of February. Dr Boyle has returned from maternity leave and Dr Bond's part-time contract has been made permanent. An additional GP has been appointed to do home visits to housebound patients on Mondays and Fridays. Nurse Sarah Rushforth is leaving and a new nurse prescriber has been recruited.

Appointments

Patients are becoming more relaxed in providing information when booking an appointment as this enables the receptionist to direct the request to the correct clinician. This cooperation is greatly appreciated by the surgery team. Please note when medication reviews are due. These dates are printed on prescription lists up to 2 months in advance to give patients plenty of time to book an appointment with the pharmacist. A Healthy Minds service pilot has been run in Wetherby covering areas including stress, anxiety and post-natal depression. This pilot has been a success and the service is being rolled out across the Leeds area.

A reminder that new musculoskeletal problems can be helped by telephone appointments with a physiotherapist. These appointments are booked through the Surgery.

Additional Services

Limited access remains available for GP, Nurse and Healthcare assistant appointments on Saturday mornings at Wetherby Health Centre. All these

bookings are to be made through the Surgery.

Housebound patients may receive phlebotomy services at home. This is a trial service.

Connect Well – this is a social prescriber service available to patients who need help with issues such as debt, housing, food bank vouchers etc. Patients should contact the surgery to arrange an appointment with Andrea who works in the surgery on Tuesdays. Andrea is not a GP.

Patient Online Services

The patient online service is now used by a third of all patients and it is hoped that many more will sign up for this easy to use system for booking appointments with a doctor or with a nurse for a blood test. Through this online service, patients are also able to email their requests instead of telephoning and in so doing they will perhaps be more comfortable in giving the required information regarding the requested appointment. Do sign up for this easy to use online service via the surgery.. I can do it so I am sure you can!

Communicating with patients

The Practice prefers to communicate wherever possible via text message which is highly efficient and cost effective. Of course those without mobiles or who decline to receive texts will continue to receive letters. For those who do have mobiles, please let the surgery have your mobile number.

Summary

We are fortunate to have an excellent GP Surgery in our village and we should do everything we can to support it.

*David Coates
Patient Participation Group Member*



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