

PRAYER POINTS



For some of us, we are able to worship again in our churches and chapels and what a blessing this is. Hopefully, the things we used to enjoy and indeed took for granted will return.

Prayer and fellowship groups, getting together with fellow Christians, is something which has been sorely missed.

God never changes though, He is a God of multifaceted love who meets all our human needs. He is infinite, indiscriminate, personal, forgiving, eternal.

Some difficult experiences we go through insinuate that these statements may not be true or do not apply to us. But these words come from God's word and reflect what God wants us to think about Him.

They are the thoughts about Him that we need to choose because they are true, noble, right, pure, lovely - the thoughts that will strengthen us through our most troubling times.

Dear Lord,

Thank you for seeing us as individuals, giving value to each one and you have plans for each of us.

We are made in your image, and you want us to develop into the people you made us to be.

Help us to discern the promptings of your Holy Spirit, who empowers us to be effective strong workers and witnesses under Your call and direction.

We pray this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

Newsletter and Plan

September to November 2020



Photograph taken by Joyce Worsfold, Brough Sowerby

KIRKBY STEPHEN, APPLEBY & TEBAY METHODIST CIRCUIT



Cumbria District (09/07)

‘Our mission is to know Jesus and make him known’

From the Manse

In recent days, a picture that has come to my mind is of trackless desert wastes and dunes, where the shifting windblown sand constantly transforms the scene and where every footstep takes you only half as far as you want to go (can you picture this?). And yet God is faithful, God is with us. Today, I received a word of prophecy from a friend, which has been both a blessing and an encouragement for Heather and me, and I would like to share some of it with you as an encouragement for all of us in these times. God still speaks, Christ Jesus still guides and the Holy Spirit still leads and inspires. The prophecy says:

"My child, the terrain has become hard, you are finding the going tough and getting tougher, I know! Remember, I trod it too, that is why I understand and am able to lead you through to victory – I am the way!"
Sheep don't tell the Shepherd which path to take. They trust and follow the Shepherd. Follow me!



Our present experience and the experience for many others in the Circuit and beyond, certainly feels like 'tough terrain'! The present situation in our county, our country and the world matches the picture of the trackless sand, with shifting advice and swirling guidance, seemingly clogging our feet up in the sand dune, every step an effort and progress seems hard - even as we seek to begin to worship together and reopen our churches.

I believe that God is asking each one of us to trust in Him. The Psalms frequently exhort us to "Trust....at all times" and the writer of Proverbs tells us to "trust in the Lord with **all** of your heart" but goes on to warn us, "and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov. 3v5). Both Old and New Testaments remind us that God says to us, "I am with you always". The psalmist also tells his listeners that God will hear them; "Pour out your heart to Him for God is our refuge" (Ps 62v8). God walks very close to His people – alongside us every step – always there to hear and support. God's closeness is illustrated in the opening words of The Lord's Prayer, when we address God as 'Our Father'. This relationship shapes our prayers. The word of prophecy continues, "I would not bring you this way if there was another, better, easier path". "I know the ground; watch where you put your feet and listen to my voice."

'If there was another way' reminds me of Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane, but God always knows best.

As a Circuit, we are planning for the future, as we discern our way out of Covid-19 and the many challenges that this brings; not only to the leaders but also to us all, as Christians, to be lights in the world – visible guides to the truth. Jesus calls us to stay close and attentive; watch, pray and stay alert.

Circuit Calendar

September

3rd	7.30 p.m.	Circuit Meeting at Kirkby Stephen
20th	7.30 p.m.	Local Preachers Meeting – Tebay section
28th	7.30 p.m.	Kings Meaburn– Harvest Service TBC

October

2nd	7.30 p.m.	Crosby Garrett – Harvest Supper TBC
12th	7.30 p.m.	Warcop–Harvest Festival TBC
24th	7.00 p.m.	Brough– Chapel Anniversary TBC

November

28th	12-1.30 p.m.	K Stephen—Soup and Sweet TBC
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Sadly most of the usual Harvest Suppers and events will not be able to take place this year due to the present Coronavirus situation.

A number of regular Coffee Mornings and Prayer Meetings have not been shown on the calendar but will be advertised nearer the time if they are going ahead.

All youth activities are on hold at the present time due to Coronavirus

"Hub Club" - Alternate Thursdays during term time, 7.30 p.m.-9.00 p.m. at Kirkby Stephen

"Ignite" – a Bible Study/Discussion Group held at the home of Jonny and Debra Capstick for Year 12 and upwards. For more details please contact Jonny and Debra 015396 23141

"Valley Youth" - Worship group and speaker, followed by toast, age 13+

4th Saturday monthly 7.30 p.m. (except July, August, December) at Crosby Ravensworth

Pray for school work in the present time, for "Open the Book", Rachel Milburn, Ruth Evans and all those who usually go into the schools to lead assemblies. Pray for schools as they return to a new normal and for all the adjustments that need to be made.

Please pray for all of our children in the new school year, those who missed out on so much last year and those who are moving schools, for our children's activities, kids clubs, Brownies, Rainbows, Guides and toddler groups.

Please pray for our Sunday Schools, teachers and all our youth activities. May God's gracious love reach out to them and speak of the hope we have in Jesus Christ, bless parents and families and may we share our Christian faith with confidence in these "new times". Amen

Lectionary

6 Sep	Exodus 12: 1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18: 15-20
13 Sep	Exodus 14: 19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-35
20 Sep	Exodus 16: 2-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20: 1-16
27 Sep	Exodus 17: 1-7 Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2: 1-13 Matthew 21: 23-32
4 Oct	Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3: 4b -14 Matthew 21: 33-46
11 Oct	Exodus 32: 1-14 Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23 Philippians 4: 1-9 Matthew 22: 1-14
18 Oct	Exodus 33: 12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 Matthew 22: 15-22
25 Oct	Deut 34: 1-12 Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8 Matthew 22: 34-46
1 Nov	Joshua 3: 7-17 Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13 Matthew 23: 1-12
8 Nov	Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78: 1-7 1 Thess 4: 13-18 Matthew 25: 1-13
15 Nov	Judges 4: 1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 Matthew 25: 14-30
22 Nov	Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95: 1-7a Ephesians 1: 15-23 Matthew 25: 31-46
29 Nov	Isaiah 64: 1-9 Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 1 Cor 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24-37



“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119 verse 105

“Blessed is the one who meditates on the word of the Lord.” Psalm 1

I have been greatly encouraged, during lockdown, by the words of “The Blessing” (the YouTube video) – it’s words “He is with you! God is with you! God is for you!” Remember – God is **for you!** As Psalm 13 v 5-6 says “But I trust in your unfailing love, my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord for He has been good to me”.

The picture, in my mind, has now changed. I see two people walking confidently side-by-side; the terrain is rugged, but One guides, encourages, supports, strengthens and values the other. The words of the hymn “O for a closer walk with God” come to mind and William Cowper’s final verse: “So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame; so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb”

I am convinced that God is at work in our Circuit, in our lives and in these times. On Sunday at Ravenstonedale we were asked whether or not we had grown in our relationship with God during lockdown – had the silence, the time and the space changed us. Most of the people had grown during this time of adversity – Hallelujah!

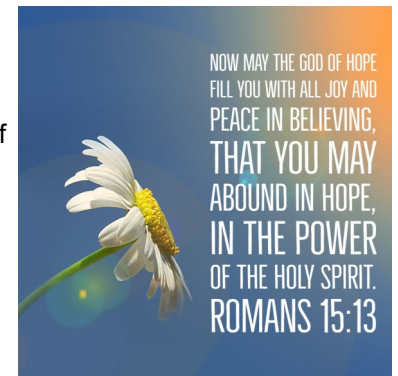
I believe that God is preparing us to be a people for Himself – alert, awake and ready to follow Christ, wherever He leads. In the words of the Circuit vision, “Our mission is to know Jesus and make Him known”.

As many of you know, Heather and I are, personally, walking some rough, dry and dusty roads, at the moment, which include my dad’s Alzheimer’s and mum’s heart condition – needing a pacemaker fitting. We are truly grateful for the prayerful, caring support we have received from so many of you.

When I searched for a closing word on ‘trust’ I found Romans 15v13 “May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.” And remember “Hope does not disappoint us” (Rom5v5). Hallelujah and Amen!

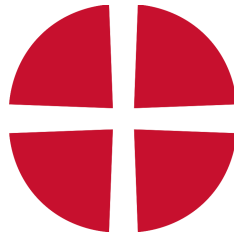
God bless and keep you

Stephen and Heather



PS. Please take time to look at the Circuit website(the Coronavirus page), at the inspiring reflections we have received and Rev John Morton’s alternative words to “All things Bright and Beautiful” and “What a friend we have in Jesus” for this time of Coronavirus.

A Methodist Way of Life



“The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission”

A ‘Methodist Way of Life’ is a Christian way of living our lives in response to God’s love made known to us in Jesus Christ. Like Christians in the early Church, seen in Acts chapter 2 verses 42 – 47 we are challenged to express and live out what it means to ‘Follow Jesus’ in the 21st-century. This is in regular practical ways of :- worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism (Our Calling from 2000) with three ‘actions’ suggested for each area.

The Methodist Way of Life seeks to build on what John Wesley instilled in the Christians called “Methodist” as the early Methodist church grew. It is a call to personal discipleship, to grow in knowledge, faith and love for Jesus Christ and become more fruitful in our service in His kingdom.

Many of the ‘actions’ are ones we already do, praying daily, worshipping regularly, studying Scripture, showing care for ourselves and our families, fellowship and communities. Others may need to be grown, perhaps to challenge injustice and speak of the love of God to others.

When the membership tickets are distributed you will receive a commitment card and an A6 booklet on “The Way of Life”. As the Methodist church commits itself to a year of prayer in preparation for Mission in “God for All” may we be inspired to serve God and ‘love God with all of our Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength and love our neighbours as ourselves’.

“May we be a blessing within and beyond God’s church for the transformation of the world”

God bless you

Stephen and Andrew

All these groups are on hold at present and will restart as soon as possible

Bible Study/House Groups take place in a number of our churches.

We have listed a few of these below, if you would like more details then please contact the person named for each church.

Appleby housegroup – every other Thursday at 7.30pm – contact Linda 017683 53448

Appleby housegroup – weekly on Thursday at 10 am – contact Jean or Tony 017683 51706

Brough Sowerby – We meet on alternate Tuesday evenings during the winter months. Details are available from David 017683 41223

Crosby Garrett/Soulby – there is an interdenominational monthly group which meets on the first Tuesday of the month in Soulby Village Hall.

Dufton – for details of the Bible Studies please contact Avril 017683 53102 or Wendy 017683 52865

Great Asby – Fellowship Group meeting fortnightly for ecumenical Bible study/discussion on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm in term time. Contact Pat or John Bevan 017683 53433 for details/programme.

Kirkby Stephen – fortnightly on Tuesday mornings at 50 South Road and fortnightly on Wednesday evenings at KS chapel. More details from Heather Radford 017683 71202.

Newbiggin on Lune – Tuesday at 7.30 pm. The venues each week will be shared amongst those willing and able to host them. They will be held fortnightly. All are very welcome.

Orton – a Bible study is held fortnightly on a Thursday in the Autumn/Winter months. Please contact Rowland for further details 015396 24372

John Ch 17 v 17 ‘Sanctify them by the Truth your word is truth.’

2 Tim 3 v 16 & 17 ‘All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.’

We are encouraged to read God’s word daily and let it speak to us .

Methodist Conference 2020 Digest for Churches

The Methodist Conference 2020 took place by Zoom, the Conference services can be seen at www.methodist.org.uk/conference2020. Rev Richard Teal was inducted as the new President of Conference alongside Mrs Carolyn Lawrence as Vice President. Their sermons are available online and their theme for this year is “Best of all is God is with us”.

The Conference dealt with a number of important issues which will impact on Circuits and Churches. The Evangelism and Growth strategy “God for All” will launch in September with a year of prayer with discipleship and evangelism as its main foci. The two areas of work in “Equality, Diversity and Inclusion” will be a reflective forum at Circuit level and Unconscious Bias training. Oversight and Trusteeship at Church level is to be reviewed at the Circuit meeting.

3 Generate has asked every Church Council to include the “Eco-church Challenge” on its agenda which sits alongside the disinvestment from oil and gas companies not aligned with the Paris agreement., a challenge to care for our environment and part of Our Calling in Caring and Learning.

Methodist Conference 2021 will meet in Birmingham from 24th June to 1st July.



Rev Richard Teal, President of Conference and
Mrs Carolyn Lawrence, Vice President of Conference

A Methodist Way of Life

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

As far as we are able, with God's help:

Worship

We will pray daily.

We will worship with others regularly.

We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.

Learning and Caring

We will care for ourselves and those around us.

We will learn more about our faith.

We will practise hospitality and generosity.

Service

We will help people in our communities and beyond.

We will care for creation and all God's gifts.

We will challenge injustice.

Evangelism

We will speak of the love of God.

We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.

We will share our faith with others.

May we be a blessing within and beyond God's Church, for the transformation of the world.

Chairman of the District

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Staff Rest Days**Ministers**

Rev Stephen Radford

Friday

Rev Andrew Sterling

Monday

Circuit Administrator

Mrs Avril Swinbank

Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Circuit Connexion Services

There will be 6:30 p.m. Connexion services held online in September, October and November with coffee chat rooms afterwards. The Zoom details for these will be sent out by an email link nearer the time.

Website Addresses**Circuit Website**

Methodist Church Website

Cumbria District Methodist Website

www.ksaandtcircuit.org.ukwww.methodist.org.ukwww.cumbriamethodistdistrict.org.uk

Please look at the website for latest news and also reflections from lockdown.

If you are on Facebook please "Like" our Kirkby Stephen, Appleby & Tebay Methodist Circuit page and keep up to date with our latest news!

