

Newsletter and Plan

June to August 2020



Photograph of Rutter Falls near Appleby taken by Caroline Shaw

**KIRKBY STEPHEN, APPLEBY
& TEBAY METHODIST CIRCUIT**



Cumbria District (09/07)

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

From the Manse

Before reading this, I invite you to read Psalm 137.

This is one of the most distressing psalms in the psalter, not only because of the terrible image given to us at the end of the psalm, but because we also encounter a nation displaced from their own land, freedom, and way of life. They sit at a river, as the water gushes by them their tears join the current and yet unlike their tears they remain in the same place, with their grief which seemingly doesn't leave them, causing the psalmist to cry in pain 'How could we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?

There is no way of getting away from the situation, they cannot go back, because what they had has been destroyed and no longer exists. The feeling of powerlessness only adds to their distress, and yet the very next verses do not lead to this nation to accept the bleakness of their reality, but instead the psalmist insists his community do not forget Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is significant to Israel not because the land was there home, but because it was where temple dwelt. There is a whole story about the significance of the temple in what are often termed the history books of the Bible. The temple becomes for this nation rescued by God the place in which God's presence dwells amongst them; the place where heaven and earth overlap. We find the psalmist disciplining himself to make his highest joy Jerusalem, especially since it seems that when the Israelites dwelt in the land, they often forgot all this including those who built it in the first place. It seems that the psalmist values the memory more than life itself.

The ending of the psalm should make us uncomfortable. In some ways you might feel that the verses ruin a perfectly good psalm and make it unreadable. Many are led to miss the final verses out altogether, and pretend they are not there. To do this however makes the scripture into something we want rather than allowing scripture to be what it is. This is not to justify it, but we may find in it new ways of reading, new depths of understanding, and new workings of the Spirit speaking through these ancient words.

I will offer one suggestion to approaching this difficult text, which is to recognise this psalm as written by a human being in anguish, with unbearable anger and in the presence of a just and righteous God expresses his feelings with an honesty and rawness that only God can bear. As these feelings are given to God, they are seemingly left there. Thankfully, there are no accounts in scripture of this coming to pass.

God is just; God is loving; God is able to bear our anger and grief and sorrow and take the burden and renew us. Was it ever shown more than in the death of Christ on the cross, taking the evils of this world, the pains and injustices onto himself, taking them to death and then being raised to life triumphant over it all.

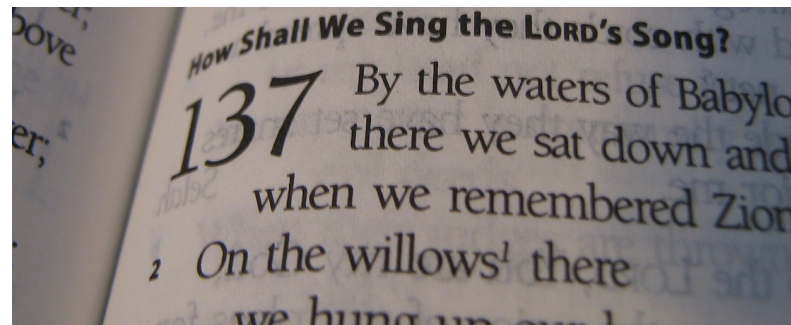
As we leave this Easter season, we do not necessarily leave this strange new world that has forced itself upon us over the last months. This plan serves as an example of the impact the virus has had on all of us personally, and as a church. The fundamental aspect of meeting together has become increasingly difficult in isolation. In many ways we have found ourselves exiled in our own homes.

It is too easy for us to say we are fine and we are coping in this situation, but I want to suggest that this psalm helps us in remembering that what is happening means things are not ok. We might not be fairing well despite what we say to others, but in front of God there is no hiding. In being honest with God we also reveal the state of our souls to ourselves, which can be the most scary thing of all. But doing it with God allows us to remember that we are covered with grace, that we are held in the palm of God's hand in the midst of our weakness. Being vulnerable in front of God then becomes our greatest strength, as we allow the Holy Spirit to transform us, comfort us and bring us peace. How great is the love God has for us!

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

Bianco da Siena (d.1434) translated by Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)

Rev Andrew



Pastoral Letter for the June to August Plan

What unusual and challenging times we are living through! Though we worship in individual homes, we are the body of Christ joined together by God's Holy Spirit. We gather in each and every place to praise and glorify God, to give thanks to God for Jesus Christ and for our salvation and to pray that our fellowship will be a living witness in the world at this time of trouble. We know that, "even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death", Christ Jesus – our Good Shepherd – is with us; He assures us that "I will never leave you or forsake you"; He has walked this way before and He is "the Way, the Truth and the Life" that leads us along the pathway of life! At Pentecost Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be our comforter, our strength and our wisdom.



Jesus our risen Lord and Saviour is with us!

As Stuart Townend's version of Psalm 23 says, "I will trust in you alone". We **can** trust Him – at all times and in all situations – for He is totally faithful!

May God bless you and our fellowship in Jesus Christ and may the peace of God be yours in the coming months.

The Plan for this quarter has been put together in consultation with the churches, recognising the current situation with Coronavirus. Many of our local preachers and ministers are in self-isolation or shielding at this time – please pray for everyone. We have not met as fellowships since early March, so please hold in prayer all the people in your fellowship. Hopefully, by the time you read this, a strategy will have emerged and we pray for our country and its spiritual life.

The Plan for June has been set up with the knowledge that many of our members and local preachers are in shielding or self-isolation. We may or may not be allowed to meet and we await further directions from Government and the Methodist Church. We have, however, identified possible central locations where we could safely hold services (if allowed to), meeting the restrictions for social-distancing and hand-cleansing.

We pray for those who have journeyed with God for three months – isolated in their homes – for peace, strength and God’s love to fill them. Amen

The Plan for July follows further conversations with churches and indicates those who have expressed the desire to meet in their local fellowship, if and when they are able to. Each church will decide on the dates they will meet and we will produce an updated July Plan as the situation unfolds.

We pray for an outpouring of God’s grace on our towns and villages, and on our fellowships as we praise and thank God ‘together’ for His love. Amen

On the Plan for August we will show things as near to a normal Plan as possible, with those ministers and local preachers who are able to offer services in their “local”/ “home” church. We pray that we will be able to gather in fellowship after many months apart – but we will have to wait and see!

Lord God, for Your grace so full and free, we praise You; for our fellowship here below and the joy of heaven above, we praise You. Blessed be Your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Plan reflects each church making local choices about the worship times. A unique situation, but one I pray God will bless.

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose”
Romans 8 v 28*

When we are allowed to meet in fellowship fully – we plan to hold celebration services – to praise God and give thanks for His ceaseless love and grace. It will be a chance to invite the local community to give thanks for the selfless giving of all, especially the front-line workers, the NHS and those in community. It will be a time to remember and reflect – in worship to God.

Yours in Jesus Christ,
Stephen

Chairman of the District

REV DR JAMES N TEBBUTT
14 Monnington Way, Penrith, CA11 8QJ Tel: 01768 866342
Email james.tebbutt@methodist.org.uk

Circuit Ministers

REV. STEPHEN RADFORD
50 South Road, Kirkby Stephen, CA17 4SN Tel: 017683 71202
Email: stephen.radford@methodist.org.uk

REV. ANDREW STERLING
The Wraes, Garbridge Lane, Appleby, CA16 6HZ Tel: 017683 51244
Email: andrew.sterling@methodist.org.uk

Lay Baptist Pastor

MR DONALD MARSTON
Easegill Head, Wharton, Kirkby Stephen, CA17 4LQ Tel: 017683 71649
Email: donaldmarston01@btinternet.com

Supernumerary Ministers

REV. B. ANTHONY DENT, BA
'Westleigh', Warcop, Appleby, CA16 6PE Tel: 017683 42556
Email: tony@stonelands.plus.com

REV. PHILIP RIGBY, MA, BA
Beckside Barn, Orton, Penrith, CA10 3RX Tel: 015396 24020
Email: aandprigby62@gmail.com

REV. DR. MIKE HARRISON
Brant Howe, Riverside, Kirkby Stephen, CA17 4SA Tel: 017683 72811
Email: harrisonme811@gmail.com

REV. JACKIE BETTS
Failte ,17 Quarry Close, Kirkby Stephen, CA17 4SS Tel: 017683 71598
Email: j.betts321@btinternet.com

Circuit Stewards

MRS SHIRLEY MILLER
Brunt Hill, Ravenstonedale, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria CA17 4LL Tel : 07815 300075
Email: sam7578@hotmail.co.uk

MR ROWLAND WOOF
2 West End Road, Orton, Penrith, CA10 3RT Tel: 015396 24372
Email randrwoof@talktalk.net

MRS GLENDA BURTON
41 Glebe Road, Appleby, CA16 6RT Tel: 017683 98067
Email : Cotehouse@aol.com

Circuit Administrator

MRS AVRIL SWINBANK

13 Long Marton Road, Appleby, CA16 6XX Tel:017683 53102

Email ksatcircuit@gmail.com

Circuit Treasurer

MR DAVID BARKER

9 Frankland Park, Orton, CA10 3RP Tel: 015396 24835

Email dt.barker075@gmail.com

Circuit Property Steward

MR BERNARD THORNBORROW

Bentling, Mount Pleasant, Tebay CA10 3TH Tel: 015396 24272

Email thornborrowtebay@talktalk.net

Staff Rest Days**Ministers**

Rev Stephen Radford

Friday

Rev Andrew Sterling

Monday (Rest day)

Wednesday (Study day)

Circuit Administrator

Mrs Avril Swinbank

Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Circuit Connexion Services

There will be no Connexion services held in June, July or August.

We hope to resume them in September subject to Coronavirus guidelines.

Website Addresses**Circuit Website**

Methodist Church Website

Cumbria District Methodist Website

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

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





I kneel at Your Cross and Pray
As the sun goes down on the day
My saviour did die on Good Friday for me
A Sinner so lost and in need.

I kneel at this cross and pray
As the Son gave his all for me.
My sins were forgiven, on the cross that's for sure
I'm loved and saved by his Grace.

I kneel at the Cross and pray
As the sun keeps going down each day
So many are dying from Covid 19
I pray that this virus ain't here to stay.

I kneel at My Cross and Pray
As the sun is going down today
My daughters a nurse, seeing dying each day
Please protect, as they struggle in vain.

I kneel at Our Cross and Pray
As the sun has gone down today
For our NHS, Carers, sharers and All
Lord Save US, We all need your Grace

I cry at The Cross as I pray
The sun has gone out today
May the Rainbow return. giving hope to each life.
Lord I Love You, Please Save us again.

By Val Walton

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 Gods word daily and let it speak to us .

Lectionary

7 June	Gen 1: 1 – 2: 4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 Matthew 28: 16-20
14 June	Gen 18: 1-15 Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19 Romans 5: 1-8 Matthew 9: 35 – 10:8 (9-23)
21 June	Gen 21: 8-21 Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17 Romans 6: 1b-11 Matthew 10: 24-39
28 June	Gen 22: 1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6: 12-23 Matthew 10: 40-42
5 July	Gen 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45: 10-17 Romans 7: 15-25a Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30
12 July	Gen 25: 19-34 Psalm 119: 105-112 Romans 8: 1-11 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23
19 July	Gen 28: 10-19a Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24 Romans 8: 12-25 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
26 July	Gen 29: 15-28 Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b or Psalm 128 Romans 8: 26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
2 Aug	Gen 32: 22-31 Psalm 17: 1-7, 15 Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 13-21
9 Aug	Gen 37: 1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b Romans 10: 5-15 Matthew 14: 22-33
16 Aug	Gen 45: 1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28
23 Aug	Exodus 1:8 – 2:10 Psalm 124 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20
30 Aug	Exodus 3: 1-15 Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45c Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28



Circuit Calendar

June

July

18th	2.30	Tebay—Afternoon Teas
23rd	7.30	Local Preachers Meeting at Kirkby Stephen –TBC

August

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

Please pray for our young people who are not at schools at present, our youth and children’s work and those who lead it. For the Sunday Schools at Orton, Kirkby Stephen, Newbiggin on Lune, Appleby and Winton.

News from Upper Eden Food Bank

Upper Eden Food Bank would like to thank with huge gratitude the kindness and generosity of all those people and organisations who have offered food and finance to help keep UEFB up and running. It is heart-warming to know that when challenges arise, community pulls together to help one another, each offering their own gifts and talents.

Please know that volunteers are applying extra and stringent hygiene measures during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please also know that we are here to help any who find themselves in difficult financial circumstances. Either call Citizens Advice Bureau on 0330 056 3037, or alternatively Cumbria County Council on 0800 783 1966 who can supply local numbers to refer you to the Food Bank. Or they may offer alternative help.

The UEFB website is a good place to check the current situation and needs:
upperedenfoodbank.org.uk

Other UEFB contacts:
website URL: www.ksaandtcircuit.org.uk
Facebook [upperedenfoodbank](https://www.facebook.com/upperedenfoodbank)
Email upperedenfoodbank@gmail.com

PRAYER POINTS



We are all living in uncertain and testing times but what encouragement it is to see people helping each other from small acts of kindness, to front line workers.

The love shown is what Jesus asked us to do in John 13 v34
“That you love one another just as I have loved you...”

Dear Lord,

May we grow together through this time learning to support, encourage and be sensitive to other peoples’ feelings and help us to carry on being there for our friends and neighbours, when we get back to ‘normal’. You speak to us through the actions of others, Lord. Through all these acts of kindness you are there in the midst of everything that is happening. We must not forget that You promised never to leave us, You will be with us for ever. Thank you for that promise, it is what sustains, feeds and encourages us. Amen

The Lord God said:

That He is our Father and that He loves us even as He loved His son Jesus.
(John 17 v23)

I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. (2 Cor 1 3-4)

What a wonderful Saviour we have. Nothing can change that! Hallelujah!

Celtic Blessing

God’s blessing be yours, and well may it befall you.
Christ’s blessing be yours, and well be you entreated.
Spirit’s blessing be yours, and well spend you your lives.
Each day that you rise up, each night that you lie down.

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