

'Seeking to be the People of Christ at the Heart of the Community'.



Parkwood Herald

December
2016

NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD METHODIST CHURCH
PARKWOOD ROAD LONGWOOD HD3 4TT

It's nearly time to start planning and preparing for Christmas – if you haven't already!

Presents to buy and wrap, food to prepare and decorations galore... We put a lot of effort to prepare for something that comes and goes very quickly.

Something that doesn't come and go quickly is our commitment to what we believe. For those of us who are church members we make a commitment to worship, to learn and grow in prayer and faith together. It is something very special.

Bring up church membership and watch some people squirm. It isn't that people in culture are against membership as an idea. Perhaps it is because church membership is not often defined well. It's one of those things that when misunderstood seems a bit like eating your spinach—"at least try it before you decide you don't like it."

Makes you want to sign right up, doesn't it? But in the New Testament, people in churches are recognized as being in some sort of community. It's just that the reality is how community is expressed in Scripture has fallen on hard times over the last couple of thousand years.

Membership is often misunderstood, misapplied or not applied at all. The reality is we have often thought of membership like belonging to a select club.

That is not the way the Bible refers to membership. In fact, in 1 Corinthians Paul doesn't say the church is *like* a body. He says the church *is* a body. The phrase he uses to describe the individual connectedness is we are "members of the body."

Many churches or Christian gatherings look like piles of dismembered body parts, not a body knit together as God's agent, his body, his kingdom, at work in the world. To reject the value of membership is to deny what God has already established in fact.

A healthy body needs all its available and healthy parts to function and work together

with the rest of the body. This way those parts that take on many functions have the support and help of other parts of the body.

The structure within the Methodist church is one that means as members we all have a part to play. Offering to help lead the church community on the church council, being a church steward, property steward, pastoral visitor and in many other ways you can exercise gifts you often don't know you have. When more members help it makes the strain less for others and there are some members who do take a lot of the strain – something that can often be seen in many churches

Membership enables us to grow and become spiritually mature in Christ. Not only should we be members of the body, each of us should also be able to express the value of membership. Hopefully, then people will stop squirming when we bring up the topic, but instead passionately embrace the biblical nature of church membership.

When we think of the Christ child this Christmas – remember his parents, those members of his family who nurtured, fed and watered him. Picked him up when he fell and helped take the strains of life. In our membership we do that for him and each other.

Have a Happy Christmas everyone!

Rev Jo Brown

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4th Margaret Fairclough

11th Gill Ritchie

20th Wendy Eastwood

25th ? ----- ?

26th Muriel Sheard

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Dates of 'Breakfasts' 2016/17

17th December
21st January
18th February

Christmas Drop in Lunch.

Dec 14th 12.30. £4. Please tell someone from Parkwood if you intend to be there. Or not. The lunch is open to anyone even if you don't usually come to the lunch.

Thank you to all who bought a knitted poppy in aid of the Royal British Legion. I have sent a donation of £42 to the charity.

Barbara Rushforth

Thank you all who responded to the Shoebox appeal. Parkwood sent 22 boxes and one carrier bag! Renee

News update!

All looks serene on top here, like the proverbial swan. There's a lot going on in the background, but as with all committee led jobs it takes time. We unfortunately have about ten committees to deal with. There's not a lot for us to report at this time

as we are awaiting confirmation from a number of different sources. >>>>

DIARY FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY 2016/2017

Sunday 4th	10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service with Rev Jo Brown
Tuesday 6th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to Noon All Welcome
Wednesday 7th	Flower Demonstration with Karen @ Parkwood 7.30pm.
Friday 9th	MWiB Carols 10.30am @ Huddersfield Mission
Sunday 11th	10.45 Service led by Mr Barry Lee
Tuesday 13th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to Noon All Welcome. Last one this session.
Wednesday 14th	Christmas Drop in Lunch 12.30pm All Welcome. Last one this session.
Saturday 17th	Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30am – 12.00 noon
Sunday 18th	10.45 Band Service and Concert @ Parkwood Own Arrangement
Sunday 25th	<u>10.30</u> Christmas Day Service led by Rev Jo Brown (Note the time)

JANUARY

Sunday 1st	10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service
Sunday 8th	10.45 Service led by TBA
Sunday 15th	10.45 Service led by TBA
Saturday 21st	Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30am – 12.00 noon
Sunday 22nd	10.45 Service led by TBA
Sunday 29th	10.45 Service led by TBA followed by Faith Lunch

We are working on the process towards closure, this will happen once we have gained all the permissions necessary to move out of the premises (only then can we cease to meet on the premises for worship).

Should you want a marriage or baptism in the lovely upstairs church body then think about it now.

We are looking to hold a "Special" anniversary weekend and service on 29/30th April 2017; so get your thinking caps on so we can come up with a super plan.

Tell everybody, past and present members and friends, people who were married/baptised at Parkwood. Let's make it a weekend to remember!

We are only looking to close this building! You are the church and we want to move all, intact, to a new more suitable, sustainable venue.

HAVE FAITH.

The January edition of the Herald should be more informative, when we hopefully have more definite news. However should anything important come to light beforehand, then we will bring it to you either electronically, letter or word of mouth.

