



# PARKWOOD HERALD

**FEBRUARY  
2016**

**NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD METHODIST CHURCH  
PARKWOOD ROAD LONGWOOD HD3 4TT**

From the minister,

A man who was about to become the new head pastor of a successful church decided to find out what his new congregation were like at welcoming the stranger, by dressing up as a homeless person on the day he was to be inducted as the new pastor of the church. He walked around the outside of the building a number of times before entering the church and attempting to engage people in conversation. He was met with stares and avoided by many, and when he attempted to sit near the front of church was firmly but politely asked to move to somewhere near the back. The overall greeting he received was cold and when the service began and strangers to the church were welcomed he was not mentioned. Finally, the stewards announced that they wished to welcome the new head pastor, the congregation applauded loudly only to be stunned into silence as the man they had taken for a homeless man walked to the front of church and shared the following quote from Matthew's gospel: 'Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see a stranger and invite him in, or needing clothes and clothed him? When did we see you sick or in prison and go visit you?" The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." The new pastor then shared with the congregation all he had experienced at their hands that morning and many tears were shed as folk realised how poorly they had behaved. We all hope that given the same set of circumstances we would have behaved differently,

but the reality is that all too often we too make snap judgements about others and sometimes treat them in ways that are not gracious, loving or honouring to God. In Lent, as we remember Jesus's ministry on earth we are forcibly reminded that he spent his time reaching out to those whom others often marginalized. The so called upright, 'good' religious people were often scandalised by the company Jesus kept, be they old or young, respected or reviled, poor, outcast, sick or sinful, yet Jesus came to seek and save us all and meet each of us at our point of need, and he calls us, his disciples to follow his example and do the same. Sometimes that requires us to take a step back and examine our lives and our walk with God and one good way of doing that is by going along to a bible study group to share with others, be challenged by and help each other to live for God. This Lent there will be a joint bible study on, 'Back to Basics' looking at three important aspects of Christian life over the course of three fortnights. The sessions will be held at Mount Methodist on Friday mornings, Golcar Methodist on Monday evenings and Outlane Methodist on Thursday afternoons and folk are invited to come to whichever sessions they are able to attend, (see posters for more details). There will also be a joint section service at Lindley Methodist Church on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February which we hope folk will join together and share in as we celebrate God's love on Valentine's day. Finally as we enter February, Mount Methodist will be opening its doors to folk of all ages as it holds its first 'Messy Church' on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 4:30pm – 6:30pm. There will be crafts, games, stories and songs as well as a two course meal, all for just £2.50. The event is open to everyone so please share with friends and family and come and support this new venture.

Every Blessing,

Rev. Debbie Hopkinson

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

### Dates of 'Breakfasts' 2016

20th February

19th March

16th April

diaries etc., knitted goods and donations in lieu of cards and just donations and the Christmas Day collection.

Again many thanks. Barbara Rushforth

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> Barbara Rushforth.

4<sup>th</sup> Nora Beaumont

5<sup>th</sup> Betty Sykes,

11<sup>th</sup> Pat Gill

Action for Children News.

Now that Christmas is out of the way and life has returned to normal I should like to thank Action for Children supporters at Parkwood. You are always generous at this time of the year and I am very grateful.

Altogether I gave Clifford, our treasurer £121 on Dec 27<sup>th</sup>. This was from buying goods i.e. cards,

### DIARY FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016

### Obituary

I'm sorry to have to report the death of Mrs Enid Coulson on the 14th December 2015. Our thoughts are with her husband Ernest and all the Family.

also

Mrs Pauline Brook-Preston, suddenly, on 22nd December 2015 @ HRI. Our thoughts go to her husband, Arthur and all the family

### LENT BIBLESTUDY 2016

See Diary below & Poster

Saturday 6th	LVG Coffee Morning @ The Mechanics 10.00am to noon
Sunday 7th	10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service led by Mr Iain Spencer
Monday 8th	Church Council 7.30 Please try to attend
Tuesday 9th	Leadership/Focus meeting John & Elaine's 7.30 p.m.
Friday 12th	10am - 11:30am @ Mount Methodist Church See Poster
Saturday 13th	St Marks Coffee Morning 10.00am to 2.00pm. New venture @ Parish Centre
Sunday 14th	Joint Service @ Lindley
Monday 15th	7:30pm - 9pm @ Golcar Methodist Church See Poster
Thursday 18th	1:30pm - 3pm @ Outlane Methodist Church See Poster
Saturday 20th	Community Breakfast 9.30 - 12
Sunday 21st	10.45 Service led by Mr Barry Lee
Friday 26th	10am - 11:30am @ Mount Methodist Church See Poster
Sunday 28th	10.45 Communion Service led by Rev David Bidnell
Monday 29th	7:30pm - 9pm @ Parkwood Methodist Church See Poster

### MARCH

Wednesday 2nd	First Drop in Lunch 12.30pm
Thursday 3rd	1:30pm - 3pm @ Outlane Methodist Church See Poster
Saturday 5th	LVG Coffee Morning @ The Mechanics 10.00am to noon
Saturday 5th	Parkwood Old Folks Party
Sunday 6th	10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service led by Rev Debbie Hopkinson
Friday 11th	10am - 11:30am @ Mount Methodist Church See Poster
Saturday 12th	Spring Fair 10.00am 'til 2.00pm Needs: Chocolates, Sweets, Biscuits, Cake & HELP Thanks
Saturday 12th	St Marks Coffee Morning 10.00am to noon. Parish Centre
Sunday 13th	10.45 Service led by Rev Colin Vere
Monday 14th	7:30pm - 9pm @ Golcar Methodist Church See Poster
Wednesday 16th	Drop in Lunch 12.30pm
Thursday 17th	1:30pm - 3pm @ Outlane Methodist Church See Poster
Saturday 19th	Community Breakfast 9.30 - 12
Sunday 20th	10.45 Service led by Mrs Elaine Nixon
Sunday 27th	10.45 Communion Service led by Rev Colin Vere
Wednesday 30th	Drop in Lunch 12.30pm