

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



Parkwood Herald

**JULY
2016**

NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD METHODIST CHURCH
PARKWOOD ROAD LONGWOOD HD3 4TT

From the minister,

Sadly, this is the last Parkwood newsletter I shall be writing to you as your minister, as Andy, myself and the girls prepare to move on to work with new people and serve new churches in the Rochdale area. I will be looking after four churches in Rochdale, Norden, Brimrod, Castleton Moor and Spotland Methodist Churches, as from 1st September. Change is never easy and although I'm looking forward to meeting new people and taking on new challenges, I am also aware of the friends at Parkwood that we leave behind who have meant so much to us.

However, as I look back over the last 8 years here in Huddersfield and more specifically the last 3 years at Parkwood, despite feeling a sense of loss, I can't help but be reminded of all the good times we have shared together. You made Andy, Susanna and myself so welcome when I first took over from Rev. Pam Ward in 2013. That year was an eventful time for me and Andy as we became parents to our twins and Susanna became big sister to Abigail and Jennifer. Once again you welcomed our new arrivals and coped with both the fun as well as the disruption that little people inevitably bring to every occasion where they are present. Over the last three years we have been on a journey of discovery as we have come to terms with not having our services upstairs in the main church, but instead have embraced the flexibility of the school room as we've shared ideas and developed new ways of worshipping together. I cannot tell you how much it has warmed my heart to see folk of all ages having a go at new activities through the Messy Church services, as we have welcomed young families into a service and setting that is both welcoming and open to cope with the challenges those of us with small children face when we step out of the house. Our journey has of course seen us look beyond our current building and caused us to see the bigger picture and the bigger mission that God is calling us towards and after much deliberation, thought and prayer as well as much hard work from our Focus Team and Leadership team, and what we have discovered through our vision day in 2015, we voted this year to look for a new building with new mission opportunities. We are still on that journey of discovery and I look forward to finding out where

exactly God will lead the people of Parkwood in the next year as you bravely continue to step out in faith with Him and follow where He calls you to go. Besides the exciting changes on your horizons however, Andy and I particularly want to thank you for all the good things you've shared with us. We will particularly miss the community breakfasts, where the food has always been awesome. We have also enjoyed the Craft Fayres and Golcar Lily day, the singing of Messiah, the garden parties and the amazing evening with meals from around the world. Cheerful chat has given us opportunities to get to know folk better and the sharing of meals after the fifth Sunday in the month has helped us to really feel a part of Parkwood. Most of all however, as I hand over to Rev. Jo Brown the pastoral care of the church, I and the family want to say a huge thank you to you all for your friendship, love and care. We have cried together in the sad times for friends who are no longer with us, and laughed together in the good times as we've walked together on the paths God has laid before us, and I pray that as we continue on the paths God has for us, that we would all keep looking to God, listening to His call on our lives and have the faith and courage to keep on having a go at new things, stepping out with God in new ways and discovering the new paths and new gifts God has for us as we continue to serve Him and share His love with the world.

Every Blessing,
Rev. Debbie Hopkinson

PLEASE NOTE!

Cheerful Chat and Drop in Lunches will take a break during July and August. *We have a reprieve!* The Lunches and Cheerful chat re-start in September and will carry on at least until December. We still need more helpers!

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For those who don't know: This is a QR code and enables you to go to Parkwood website from your Smartphone. Or that's the theory, please try it and let me know.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

**26th Mary Eastwood
26th Audrey Holdsworth**

Dates of 'Breakfasts' 2016

**16th July
20th August
17th September**

Dear All

I know it's a few weeks ago and as I'm very unorganised; I'm only just getting round to emailing you :-) (27/05/2016. ed!)

In the next notices can you please thank everyone that helped make Freddie's Christening so lovely and a big thank you to John Oldham for Christening him , all the effort from everyone was very much appreciated and we had lots of very positive comments saying how brilliant the service was . Love from the Turner family X

DIARY FOR JULY/AUGUST 2016

Saturday 2nd	LVG Coffee Morning 10.00am - 3.00pm with Sale of Crafts
<u>Sunday 3rd</u>	<u>10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service with Rev Debbie, her last service at Parkwood followed by lunch.</u>
Saturday 9th	Coffee morning Lindley 10.00am - Noon MWiB event
Sunday 10th	10.45 Service led by Mr John Oldham also to discuss Parkwood Future
Thursday 14th	Commissioning service for new MWiB District President. St Paul's Dalton 7.30pm
Saturday 16th	Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30am – 12.00 noon
Sunday 17th	10.45 Service led by Mr Michael Tolson
Sunday 17th	Farewell service for Rev's Debbie, John Hayes and Deacon Gill Atkinson Mission 3.00pm
Sunday 24th	10.45 Service led by Mr Neil Ward
Mon/Tue 25/26	Joint Holiday Club/Messy Church at Providence 10.00am-12.30pm. <u>Need to book</u>
Saturday 30th	Freda & Joe's Garden Party 11.00am - 2.00pm
Sunday 31st	10.45 Communion Service led by Rev Helen Roberts followed by Faith Lunch
AUGUST	
Saturday 6th	LVG Coffee Morning 10.00am - Noon
Sunday 7th	10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service
Sunday 14th	10.45 Service @ Lindley. <u>No service at Parkwood</u>
Saturday 20th	Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30am – 12.00 noon
Sunday 21st	10.45 Service led by Mr David Brook
Sunday 28th	10.45 Service led by Mr Robert Booth

My thoughts on the Move!

Just because I am not with you all at present does not mean you are not in my thoughts. All the time and all of you. And by the time you read this I might be in church again. Fingers crossed.

There should be copies in church of a magazine called Connexions. Well worth a read. I arranged for it to come to me and thus to Parkwood.

Full of inspirational stories of churches who are facing the end of their useful life. Do you notice the connection?

But the thing which they have in abundance, and we don't appear to have at all, is a multitude of help. From young people, middle aged people. Older people we have but we come with baggage. Health problems, childminding problems and lacking in energy and ideas problems. We've been there; done that comes to mind. Please read the magazine. Take it home and return it. But look at the solutions other churches have found to a prospective move and see if you can think of a solution for Parkwood. Then share it.

Barbara Rushforth.