



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

# Parkwood Methodist Church The Herald



MARCH 2018

2 Parkwood Road Longwood Huddersfield HD3 4TT

Over the last few weeks in our circuit lectionary, the readings from Mark's gospel have followed Jesus wandering from place to place. The thing that has struck me most is that he has been going to a lot of places to get away from either the crowds or the Pharisees. Each time encountering people who had either followed him or heard about him and needed his help in some way for themselves or someone they cared about. A few of these encounters have been outside of Jewish areas, going away from familiar places, taking needed time out away from the pestering crowds wanting to hear what he had to teach them. We take this journey with Jesus every year as we follow him on his way to his final destination, Jerusalem, where we arrive on Palm Sunday.

As we move through lent, like Jesus there is a need to take time out. To explore our relationship with Him and each other. Like Jesus, the desert mothers and fathers who spent years living a life of prayer and fasting in an attempt to gain a deeper relationship with God. It would be easy to think going into an environment like that would be too harsh, open to the elements of the desert. The heat of the sun during the day and the long cold nights. What we often don't realise is that they were on the edge, the edge of communities that would bring them food and water to feed their physical bodies. They were revered as holy people, and bringing food and water was a part of their faith life, just like people would bring offerings to the temple here they were bringing offerings to the desert mystics who would pray and intercede on their behalf to God. There is a part of me that would love to go and spend some time in the desert, to firstly see if I could cope with the extremes of the environment, but also to have that time of quiet contemplation with no distractions of modern life.

We move through this time of self examination, often giving something up, something that is more luxury than necessary to life. It's also a good time to add something in, something that adds to your spiritual life.

*As I write this newsletter, the season of Lent begins tomorrow which begins on Ash Wednesday; 14th February 2018.*

*The opening words for the Ash Wednesday service in the Methodist Worship Book sets a Lenten context explaining:*

*'At first, this season of Lent was observed by those being prepared for Baptism at Easter and by those seeking restoration to the Church's fellowship. In the course of time, all Christians were invited to keep these days carefully, to take heart the call to repentance, to receive the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel, and so to grow in faith and devotion to our Lord.'*  
*This year what will be your approach to Lent? Whether you enter a desert environment or make some time where you can have some solitary space, whether it's 5 minutes or an hour I want to encourage you to have some form of encounter that will grow your faith and relationship with Jesus. I'll close with a prayer from 'Keep it simple' from All We Can:*

*Loving God,  
We come to you, knowing that you care deeply for everything you have made. We thank you for the joy, freedom and justice that are found in your Kingdom. We pray for your Kingdom to come and for your will to be done - in our lives, in the lives of the people we hold in our hearts, and for people around the world struggling with poverty and injustice. Help us to be your witnesses as we seek your Kingdom first. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Rev Jo Brown

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**BIRTHDAYS for MARCH**

8<sup>th</sup> Ailsa Ritchie  
13<sup>th</sup> Vanessa Ivey  
29<sup>th</sup> Phil McSweeney  
30<sup>th</sup> Freda Lloyd  
31<sup>st</sup> Andrea Hirst

**PLEASE NOTE THE VENUES FOR SOME OF THE SERVICES OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.**

**WE ARE TRYING A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT PLACES TO SEE WHICH WILL SUIT US BEST IN THE LONG TERM. SHOULD YOU REQUIRE A LIFT TO ANY OF THEM PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK**

**APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday**

**9.30am Communion followed by:-**

**Breakfast:- then**

**10.45am Easter Sunday Service.**

**PLEASE NOTE**

**March 18<sup>th</sup> At St. Mark's Parish Centre**

**April 29<sup>th</sup> At Pickford Street,  
Milnsbridge Scout Venue.**

I have been coming to Parkwood for more than 50 years and consider myself blessed to be able to do so. I never cease to be amazed at the amount of talent we have there. Not mine I hasten to add. I don't have any talents except for the "gift of the gab" as my dad would say. But one of the talents in the congregation are the number of good singers we have. Sometimes I sit back and keep quiet (yes really!) and listen to the "choir." I can remember the days when we had a choir and they sang an anthem every Sunday as part of the service under the eagle eyes and ears of Gareth and Ken. But in a way we still have a choir. They may not sing an anthem anymore but the talent is still there and I for one sit back and enjoy it on Sunday mornings.

Barbara R

**SPRING FAIR NEEDED:  
Chocolate for Tombola, Cakes  
for the stall and your help on  
the day**

**Diary for March/April 2018**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>**

**L V G Coffee Morning @ Mechanics 10.00am-12noon**

**Parkwood Old Folks Party see Janet for further details.**

**10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service Led by Rev Jo Brown**

**First Drop in Lunch 12.30pm @ PARKWOOD**

**10.45 Mother's Day Service led by Mr Phil McSweeney**

**Parkwood Spring Fair 10.00am 'til 2.00pm @ Parkwood**

**10.45 Communion Service led by Rev Jo Brown @ St Mark's Parish Centre**

**A Church Council Meeting will follow this Service. Do try to attend.**

**Drop in Lunch 12.30pm @ PARKWOOD**

**10.45 Service led by Mr Paul Bussey**

**APRIL**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>**

**9.30am Communion followed by Breakfast 10.45 Easter Sunday Service**

**Drop in Lunch 12.30pm @ PARKWOOD**

**L V G Coffee Morning @ Mechanics 10.00am-12noon**

**10.45 Service led by TBA**

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**Drop in Lunch 12.30pm @ PARKWOOD**

**Parkwood Breakfast at the DROP BY CENTRE 9.30am - 11.45am**

**10.45 Service led by TBA**

**10.45 Service led by Rev Jo Brown @ Pickford Street Scout Venue**