

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



PARKWOOD HERALD

APRIL
2016

NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD METHODIST CHURCH
PARKWOOD ROAD LONGWOOD HD3 4TT

From the minister,

As we celebrate Easter with friends and family, it can be very easy to lose sight of what all the fuss is about. The shops which have been full of cards and chocolate eggs, bunnies and chicks have once again obscured the real meaning of Easter and lured us into buying things for each other that we don't really need, and certainly aren't good for the waist line. Not that my girls are complaining, chocoholics that they are, they are just glad to be surrounded once more by yet another mountain of chocolate. It does worry me though, that they and so many others are growing up thinking that Easter is just about giving and receiving chocolate eggs rather than understanding why we even celebrate Easter in the first place. So why do we celebrate Easter, and why use an egg as the symbol of Easter? Well, the church has used the symbol of an egg over the centuries to remember firstly that just as a bird's egg when you look at it from the outside can look like a stone, lifeless and dead, so we remember the stone that was rolled over the opening of the tomb that Jesus was laid in after being taken down, lifeless and dead from the cross. On that terrible Friday that we call 'Good' Friday, Jesus had been sentenced and executed by crucifixion, possibly the most tortuous form of execution ever devised by man. He'd been verified as dead by the Romans and then laid in a tomb until the Sabbath was over. His disciples had scattered, run away, hidden and even outright denied knowing him, and were now in fear that they might be killed too. They were also grieving for their friend and ashamed of their cowardly actions. Yet, on the Sunday, the first day after the Sabbath when the women go down to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body for burial, what they find is that the heavy tombstone had been rolled aside, the grave clothes were empty, the body was gone and in a miraculous encounter Mary actually meets the risen Christ, alive and raised from the dead. This new life, is the second reason that eggs are used as a symbol for Easter, for from within

something that on the outside looks so dead and lifeless, can come the birth of new life, as a baby chick emerges from the shell that surrounds it. It is this new life more than anything else, the resurrection of Jesus and his triumph over death itself that we celebrate at Easter, for his resurrection signals for us all that he accomplished the mission given to him by his Father and has opened the way for us all to receive God's forgiveness for the past, His healing for the present and His hope for the future as we too are offered new life in God. Of course not all of Jesus' disciples believed immediately that he had risen from the dead, some did doubt, and most famously Thomas was among the doubters. He refused to believe unless he could see Jesus and touch him for himself, until he had proof that what the others said wasn't just wishful thinking or a cruel delusion. Thomas isn't alone in his search for proof, or in his doubts, most of us if we're honest will say that seeing is believing, that we want proof in order to believe. Thomas thankfully is offered that proof as Jesus meets with him and offers him the proof he needs in order to follow Jesus once more. But what about us, can we too receive assurance that the resurrection really happened? Well, although we cannot see Jesus and meet him in quite the way Thomas did, the reality is that Jesus still comes looking for each one of us, and if we will let him, we can experience his presence with us. That encounter does require a step of faith on our part, but if we are willing to open ourselves up to him, Jesus will meet with us, speak with us and by his Holy Spirit help and guide us through our life here on earth, as he offers to us what he offered to those first disciples the greatest gift of all, new life as a result of his sacrifice on the cross, his act of true love for all of us. Easter is about so much more than eggs, let's not just enjoy the chocolate but instead receive the best gift of all, new life and friendship with God this year. Every Blessing, Rev. Debbie Hopkinson

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Parkwood's Life & Work goes on

Have you ever noticed how bad news travels faster than good news? The same also happens when change is advertised! The change I refer to, of course, is our recent decision to look for more appropriate premises.

Contrary to 'popular opinion', Parkwood Methodist Church is NOT closing. There is nothing structurally wrong with the building. Put simply, it no longer serves the needs of a church community seeking to witness for Christ in the Longwood and Golcar areas.

Nevertheless, the activities of the church are going on, as normal. You are quite safe to visit us, have lunch or breakfast with us, and worship with us at 10-45 am each Sunday morning. You don't need a hard hat, safety boots and a high-vis jacket!

What we do need is a new (or old) single-storey building that is in good condition, accessible, has parking facilities and, preferably, is on a bus route. A building that is safe for people of all ages to visit at all times of year. Until we find our new home, the church at Parkwood will be there to welcome you all.

The building may not be fit for purpose but the people are fit and well. The church is the people!

Come and join us and see for yourself.

Dates of 'Breakfasts' 2016

16th April

21st May

18th June

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3rd Bernd Heck

18th Marie Lloyd

DIARY FOR APRIL/MAY 2016

- Saturday 2nd LVG Coffee Morning @ The Mechanics 10.00am to noon
Sunday 3rd 10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service
Tuesday 5th Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Saturday 9th St Marks Coffee Morning 10.00am to noon. Parish Centre
Saturday 9th Coffee morning Gledholt 10-12. Bring & Buy and cakes, in aid of Dalit community. MWiB event
Sunday 10th 10.45 Communion Service led by Rev Debbie Hopkinson
Tuesday 12th Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Wednesday 13th Drop in Lunch 12.30pm
Saturday 16th Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30 – 12.00
Sunday 17th 10.45 Chapel Anniversary Service led by Mr John Oldham
Tuesday 19th Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Sunday 24th 10.45 Service led by Mr Adrian Burton
Sunday 24th Dedication of Easter offering envelopes Lindley 3 p.m.
Tuesday 26th Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Wednesday 27th Drop in Lunch 12.30pm
MAY
Sunday 1st 10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service: Also Baptism
Tuesday 3rd Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Sunday 8th 10.45 Service led Mr Peter Martin
Tuesday 10th Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Wednesday 11th Drop in Lunch 12.30pm
Saturday 14th Golcar Lily Day 10-4. Needed filled jars. Soft toys, helpers
Saturday 14th St Marks Coffee Morning 10.00am to noon. Parish Centre
Sunday 15th 10.45 Communion Service led by Rev Debbie Hopkinson
Sunday 15th Christian Aid walk sets off from Parkwood 1.00 after light lunch
Tuesday 17th Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Friday 20th Quiz Milnsbridge Baptist for Christian Aid
Saturday 21st Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30 – 12.00
Saturday 21st Garden Party St Thomas for Christian Aid
Sunday 22nd 10.45 Service led by Mr Michael Early
Tuesday 24th Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Wednesday 25th Drop in Lunch 12.30pm
Sunday 29th 10.45 Service led by Rev Debbie Hopkinson. General Church Meeting: Faith Lunch