

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



# Parkwood Methodist Church The Herald

## APRIL #2-2020



St. Mark's Parish Centre  
53 Thornhill Road  
Longwood HD3 4UL

This header letter is a reminder that even in those early days there were frightening diseases around. Stay safe good people.

### The Story of Anne Bronte



Anne Bronte portrait by Charlotte Bronte  
This year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Anne. It marks the end of a period of celebration of the births of Charlotte, Emily, Branwell and now Anne.

Anne was the baby of the Family and she was born in Thornton, just west of Bradford, on January 17, 1820. The Reverend Patrick Brontë and his wife, Maria (née Branwell) and six children had moved to the parsonage at nearby Haworth soon after Anne's birth. While still an infant, she lost her mother to cancer, and in early childhood she also lost her two eldest sisters to tuberculosis.

Aunt Branwell came up from Penzance in May 1821 to nurse her sister, and stayed on to care for the children. She was the only mother Anne would remember, and the two formed a close bond. Through Aunt Branwell Anne was exposed to a brand of Wesleyan Methodism. This gave her a hidden core of strength and a passion for the social gospel which shone through her poems, hymns and novels.



Anne (left), Emily (centre) and Charlotte (right) portrait by Branwell Bronte

Anne and her sisters all were required to work as governesses as the result of their father's blindness. Victorian governesses were often mistreated. They were outsiders within the household and ostracised by other servants, so their life could be lonely. She was a governess at Blake Hall in Mirfield and with the Robinson family at Thorp Green Hall.

The lives of the Bronte sisters became blighted by their brother's downward spiral into drug taking, heavy drinking and debt. It was the latter that ruined their chance of opening a school in the parsonage.

It was in 1848 that The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, Anne's second and final novel was first published under the pseudonym Acton Bell. The sisters did not believe they had a chance of their novels being published as a woman. 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' was the story of Helen, a young woman suffering Domestic Abuse who escaped from her husband, which was

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illegal, and it shocked Victorian society. At that time women could not own property and effectively became the property of her husband.

Anne's' faith and passion for the social gospel, which she had inherited from the Methodist influence of Aunt Branwell, shone through strongly in this novel. It caused such a scandal that after Anne's death Charlotte would not authorise a second printing. For so long Anne has been under the shadow of her sisters. She has previously been dismissed as 'Charlotte's understudy' and a 'younger sister to Jane Eyre; but inferior to her in every way.

As we celebrate the anniversary of her 200th anniversary she is emerging from these shadows and finding her new fans at last – and many of them.

Three of her hymns appeared in one of the early Methodist Hymn Books and one hymn appeared in the 1932 Methodist Hymn Book. This was published to celebrate the joining together of several of the different factions that had split Methodism.

Here's the hymn that survived into the 1932 Methodist Hymn Book. I often used this about fifty years ago when taking my services as a local preacher. The words may seem old-fashioned and over-pious, yet there's a steely resolve here and maybe they have some resonance with our own Coronavirus crisis today:

Believe not those who say  
The upward path is smooth,  
Lest thou should stumble in the way,  
And faint before the truth.  
It is the only road  
Unto the realms of joy;  
But he who seeks that blest abode  
Must all his powers employ.  
To labour and to love,  
To pardon and endure,  
To lift thy heart to God above,  
And keep thy conscience pure.

Be this thy constant aim,  
Thy hope, thy chief delight,  
What matter who should whisper blame  
Or who should scorn or slight.  
What matters—if God approve,  
And if within thy breast,  
Thou feel the comfort of His love,  
The earnest of His rest?



Anne Brontë's grave, St Mary's Church, Scarborough

Anne Brontë died when she was 29 and is the only member of her immediate family whose grave is not at Haworth. She had moved to Scarborough in May 1849 as a final attempt to rid herself of TB, one of the most deadly of diseases.

On the Scarborough cliffs she laboured her last breath and muttered two words to her surviving sister, Charlotte: "take courage".

John A. Oldham

**A gentle reminder to all Parkwood Supporters.**

**We may not be meeting but the bills are still coming in and other standing orders have to be met. Please help your treasurer by paying your collection directly into the bank.**

**The bank account details are:**

**Account No: 81329006**

**Sort Code: 40-25-10.**

**Reference "Your Name "**

**Please include your name so Anne knows where it's from. Cheques can be accepted but at the moment it is difficult to get them to the bank. To Anne please. (Ed!)**

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

### Bible Easter Quiz Answers

1. When Jesus died, which of the following things did NOT happen? (Matthew 27:51-53)
  - there was a flood that covered the earth
2. Who asked Pilate for Jesus' corpse and put it in his own tomb? (Matthew 27:57-58)
  - Joseph of Arimathea
3. What was placed in front of the door of the tomb to close it? (Matthew 27:60)
  - a stone
4. On what day was Jesus' resurrection? (Matthew 27:63)
  - the third day
5. What moved the object in front of the tomb door? (Matthew 28:2)
  - an angel
6. Who did not see the empty tomb? (John 20:1-3)
  - Joseph
7. What was found in the tomb? (John 20:6-7)
  - Jesus' burial clothes
8. Who did Mary Magdalene think Jesus was when she first saw Him after He had risen? (John 20:15)
  - the gardener
9. Which of these things did Jesus NOT say to Mary? (John 20:16-17)
  - "Blessed art thou among women"
10. Which of the Twelve Apostles did not believe that Jesus was risen? (John 20:24)
  - Thomas

**Come on folks. Let's start a "Letters to the Editor" page. I'm sure you all have hobbies, pastimes and interests. Now's the time to contact whilst we are in almost total lockdown. Photo's as well please. Share your day's events. What about your favourite poem/hymn and why!**

### James Berry: "Benediction"

Thanks to the ear  
that someone may hear

Thanks to seeing  
that someone may see

Thanks to feeling  
that someone may feel

Thanks to touch  
that one may be touched

Thanks to flowering of white moon  
and spreading shawl of black night  
holding villages and cities together.

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### A message from Germany

Hello Joe, hello Members of Parkwood Church,

it's so good to hear from you in these trying times. This virus holds every country in its grip and scares us all in pretty much the same way. But just for that reason, to reduce the fear and to put it into perspective, it's good to hear from you. Parkwood used to be a part of my life, I worshipped there and shared many events and good company. This pandemic disease highlights what really matters in life: friendship, sympathy, understanding, love and caring for each other.

I'm touched by the fact that my birthday is still mentioned in this 'Herald'. Nobody can predict how well we will get through this crisis, but it is a dearly held hope I will be able to come and see you again.

Stay healthy and safe, God bless you all  
Bernd

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A P G B U D S V Z Z X T A C N M L O Z E E T H J  
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D B T T H O N E B T M U I K H D S X W U I P L K  
B G J O P S G H B J G E N N E S A R E T J E D S  
W E G Y B K U G B J L C N M K L G V X X E R F R  
G J H N F S I M I C O N I U M Q U G Y J F A S G  
T H A E F F H K C K D X Z S W R H J Y N S A E V  
K F M M S E T J N D J K T I M O T H Y F H F S R  
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D D R Y J V J K I E B L A S P H E M Y K R A M Y  
A S A M D G G D R B Y R T B C H R J H J D B I J

Brain fodder whilst you're in isolation.

e&oe

Thirty words/names found in the bible. No prize, just your sanity, or insanity after this.

Answers in the next issue. Don't try and Google it, it's unique. Should you get all thirty then please email me YOUR answers and I will verify.

Please submit articles for this magazine whilst this scary pandemic is around. Just do as the government and boffins ask and all should be well. The longer you keep safe, the more likely a vaccine/cure may be discovered.

Are you happy to receive this newsletter as and when I have enough to complete. All submissions will be welcome. You can post me an article if you receive a printed copy and are not on line. Don't hold back. As usual if you don't want to receive the newsletter please tell me and I will remove your contact details. Ed1