



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

# **Parkwood Methodist Church**

# **The Herald**

## **August 2020**

Dear friends,

Over the past few months we have weathered lots of changes. One of the big changes for me is worshipping online, as I'm sure it has been for a lot of you. I have chatted with people online before, but it is really different from leading a service online. For one thing, I spent about a week thinking really hard about where to look. In some ways it's a bit like looking at yourself in a mirror, only instead you can't make eye contact with yourself very well. If you look at yourself and the screen isn't positioned correctly it looks like you're not looking at everyone else. Sometimes there's a bit of a time delay, so sometimes when we say the Lord's Prayer together, and not everyone has their mic turned off, it sounds like a wonderful chorus of voices even if we are not synchronised. At least that's how it sounds to me.

In some ways it's a bit like starting again, where when you stand in a pulpit you need to think about eye contact- too much? Not enough? About how you stand- trying to reduce talking with my hands has always been a challenge. How to pitch your voice- can people hear you given the different acoustics of every building? As much as online worship is digital, it does also involve the body and while body language- an underrated form of communication- is harder to

read, it still has a big place in the digital environment.

We are all worshipping in different places at the moment, but in many ways it has always been like this. There's a beautiful hymn by George Herbert, a Church of England priest and poet from Wales, called 'King of glory, King of peace', which reminds us that *'Seven whole days, not one in seven/I will praise Thee;/In my heart, though not in heaven,/I can raise Thee.'* As we look to the future of what we will do on a Sunday, and the last Herald which Joe Lloyd kindly produced for us gives an outline of the process we are following, one of the questions for us to think about together is how it fits into the pattern of a life of worship. The reminder that worship takes place as part of the whole tapestry of life is an important one.

The mechanics of worship- as in what we do and how- are a very important piece of the picture, but worshipping God goes beyond the mechanical. It is about our whole selves; body, mind and spirit. In John's gospel Jesus met with a Samaritan woman at a well. Two people from different walks of life, different cultures, meeting in a space that is transformed from a place to draw water to a place of learning, understanding and worship as Jesus and the woman talk through their different ways of worshipping. They connect in a new way that brings joy.

There may be unfamiliar ground to travel as we continue worshipping in our homes and, when the time comes, in buildings, but perhaps in these new roads to travel we can connect with God and each other in ways that bring us joy in a new way.

Rev Roz Page  
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**Sale of the Church Building - Update**  
It has been suggested that an update on our progress to sell the church would be of benefit, particularly as people from the Longwood area are frequently asking if the church has been 'sold'. Sadly, although the building has now been unoccupied for over 18 months, the building is 'NOT sold', nor is it formally on the market.

Some of you will recall that Farrah Balmforth Architects were contracted to supply plans and technical support for conversion of the building into 12 residential units. This necessitated the incorporation of a mezzanine floor to provide three levels within the structure. In turn, this also required provision of 18 car parking spaces, which could only be provided if a large area of the current Garden of Rest was converted for this purpose.

The first plans were submitted to Kirklees Planning late in 2019. Following public notice of the church's intention to re-develop the site in this way, several objections have been registered from descendants of interred family members and local residents. In addition, concern has been expressed by Historic England, the Kirklees Conservation Officer and the Highways Department. Revised plans are due to be submitted for Kirklees Planning consideration. This plan incorporates only 6/8 residential units, with an associated reduction in the provision of parking spaces.

Recently, at the instigation of the Circuit Superintendent Minister, we have been fortunate to obtain the services of an experienced, retired estate agent who is now leading the planning process and issues concerning the land on our behalf. Under his guidance, the upper graveyard has been cleared of overgrown vegetation by a local contractor. The lower Garden of Rest continues to be maintained by our friend, Derek Beeby, so those who have visited recently will have been pleased to see the improvements made. Our sincere

thanks go to Derek for his continued devotion to this task and to Raymond Butterworth for his generous assistance with the sale.

When further information regarding the Planning Department's assessment of the revised plans is received, another update will be provided.

G Beaumont  
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### Holiday Bags for Messy Church & Children's Club



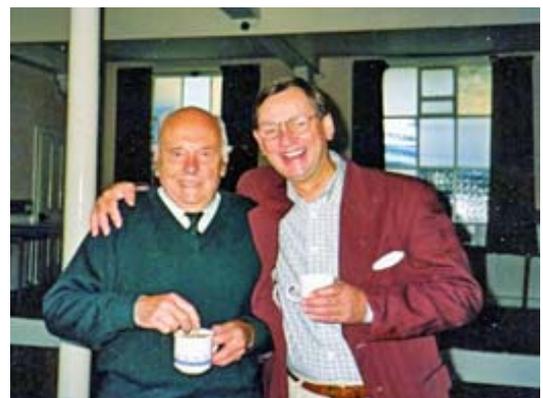
We were all saddened when we could not meet for Messy Church and we had to close our Parkwood Children's Club at the Drop By Centre due to the Coronavirus. We didn't know how to keep in touch with our young people. Then someone gave us the idea that we could deliver a 'Holiday Bag' to help them through the summer, and remind them that we were still thinking about them. So, a big thanks to the team that came together to make this happen:

- All those who donated items and ideas.
- For those who filled the bags
- For the delivery drivers

The first bags have been taken out. We are hoping to take some more out in the middle of August.

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Double trouble.



## **THANK YOU - your support means everything**

**During lockdown it has been greatly appreciated that additional members of the congregation have transferred money to the Parkwood bank account (both for one-off payments and as regular giving). Other donations of cash and cheques have also been gratefully received over the past few months.**

**Thank you for your continued support.**

**Anne (Treasurer)**

## **Letters to the Editor**

One of my favourite bits of Methodist whimsy is the story of the 3 ladies turning up at the Pearly Gates. The Catholic has her rosary, the Baptist her bible but the Methodist has a casserole. Rightly or wrongly, we place a lot of emphasis on hospitality and the fellowship of sharing a meal. We love our faith lunches but are currently unable to share food and fellowship in this way. On the other hand, more family meals are being prepared and shared at home, children are baking with Mum and, in some cases, some of the ingredients are even being grown as an educational activity for children unable to attend school. Many of us are, sadly, seeing our waistlines expand, despite our daily walk and perhaps online workout, and sales of crisps and chocolate have increased substantially not to mention those cakes we're all baking causing demand for flour to soar. I can see Weight Watchers share price rocketing when all this is over (other weight loss programmes are available!). Whether this is comfort eating, boredom or a combination of the two is an interesting question. My daughter could be forgiven for thinking that she's living with a family of bears the rate at which her cupboards and fridge empty. The children are learning that, to some extent, when it's gone it's gone - at least until next week - but are in the fortunate position that there's always an alternative. As we know, many families are not so fortunate with parents cutting back on their own food to ensure children don't go without.

We are, of course, missing the comfort of a hug from extended family (my excuse), schoolchildren are at home and probably bored at least some of the time and, now that our gardens all resemble a Chelsea exhibit and our lofts and cupboards cleared of detritus, perhaps so are we. Seeking comfort seems to be seen as a failure to grow as an individual nowadays and we are constantly urged to "get out of our comfort zone" but if this period of lockdown has taught us anything, it is to re-examine who and what is important in our lives. We are still in the season of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit is sometimes said to have been sent as Comforter which seems particularly relevant to our current situation. We have come to value the comforters in our society - the care workers - more highly than ever before and many Thursday evenings have seen us expressing that appreciation with the "Clap for Carers". In the Beatitudes Jesus promises comfort for all those who suffer and seeking comfort in God gives us all strength to be more compassionate and become comforters ourselves, sometimes going beyond our own strength as demonstrated by Captain Tom and those who were inspired by him to similar efforts.

**Sheila Whittam**

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## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grace Ritchie**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Margaret Brook**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Janet Oakley**

**28<sup>th</sup> Jean Johnson**

**28<sup>th</sup> Alex Ivey**

**31<sup>st</sup> Anne Ivey**

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**If you have internet access and would like to join in the "Zoom" on line service on a Sunday morning @ 11.00am, or the Parkwood Catch-up on a Tuesday @ 4.30pm. Please email me for details and I will pass your mail to the relevant person.**

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**Obituary.**

**Rev. William Farrell was our minister from 1960 to 1965. He left Huddersfield to take up a post in Whaley Bridge. He passed away in a Care Home in Cheltenham, where he spent the last few months of his life, on 8th April aged 101 years. He leaves behind sons Geoffrey and Carlton and daughters Miriam and Susan.**



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**I was given this medal some years ago. I've cleaned it as it was in a very poor state It is dated 1880. Thought you may like to see it. (Ed!)**

**Robert Raikes was an English philanthropist and Anglican layman, noted for his promotion of Sunday schools. He was educated at The Crypt School Gloucester. Pre-dating state schooling and by 1831 schooling 1,250,000 children, they are seen as the first precursor schools of the English state school system.**

**Wikipedia**

**Born: 14 September 1735, Gloucester  
Died: 5 April 1811, Gloucester  
Spouse: Anne Trigge (m. 1767)  
Education: The Crypt School**

**A very interesting read!.**



**Lockdown has taught me patience in many ways. There is no longer the urgency to get a job done, so have begun to take time and enjoy it more. Even chores have taken on a new meaning. I've developed many new skills & talents during this time. One thing I just can't get used to is the isolation. Like everybody else; I'll just have to grin and bear it. (Ed!)**

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**Below are a couple of Screenshots of Feedback from recipients of the Holiday Bags.**



Like Comment Share

**Alicia Watson · 5 h**  
Thank you so much for this little surprise bag, my 2 loved the activities inside, they have made a start...



Like Reply 2

**If you have received a holiday bag then please do let us know if we got everything right.  
Have fun but: Do Stay Safe.**