

Parkwood Methodist Church



The Herald August 2021

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

Website www.parkwoodmethodistchurch.org.uk

**Church email: joe@parkwoodmethodistchurch.org.uk
email:- joe@yelho.co.uk**

A New Parable: The Story of the Fishing Community

Our Leadership Team recently invited Rachel McCallam to attend one of our Zoom meetings. Rachel is the Learning & Development Coordinator for the Methodist Yorkshire Plus region. One of her roles is to support churches and individuals to learn new skills to meet the needs of our changing world - a world that has been turned upside down with the Covid pandemic.

Rachel shared with us some new ideas that are emerging as to what our church may look like in the future. For example, there are such ideas as the 'Church on the Margins', which, Rachel explained to us, describes Parkwood in some ways after our move from our old chapel.

**Many people have tried to work out what our church may look like in the future. One writer who has shared some ideas with us is Steve Hollingworth. Here's a story from his book 'The Gospel in Contemporary Culture'.
*The Story of the fishing community***

Once upon a time there was a large lake, and on its shores lived a fishing community. They had become expert at fishing the lake and knew exactly the right kind of boat to use, the right nets to cast, and where and when to cast them. So, they thrived for many generations.

However, after a while they noticed that their catches began to dwindle, and then some days they caught nothing at all.

They began to be anxious and wondered what was going wrong, as they had kept faithfully to all they knew about fishing and worked hard to put it into practice. They decided to investigate.

Now earthquakes were not unknown in this area and indeed a large one had happened a few years before.

As they investigated, they found that the earthquake had thrown up a cliff, diverting a river that had fed the lake with fresh water several miles in a new direction.

They decided they would sail down it to find where it now went. Having navigated the river's new course, they found it opened out into a strange new lake they had never seen before.

Moreover, round this lake were some of the weirdest people, fishing in a way they had never seen before. Not one of them was fishing properly with a boat and a net; instead they were using all sorts of strange methods and were landing catches of the strangest fish. They decided to see if they, too, could catch some.

So they put their boat onto the lake, sailed out and lowered their nets but caught nothing. So, they tried the other side, and behind and

in front and every trick they knew, but they still caught nothing

Dejected, they went back home and called a meeting and the whole community discussed what to do. Some said that it was clear they would never get fish from the new lake and would simply have to keep fishing the old one; after all, there were more fish in it yet, perhaps still enough to last their lifetime.

Others suggested that if they waited long enough, perhaps another earthquake would divert the river back again and solve the problem.

However, others said they had to face the fact that the old lake would soon have no fish and they had to find a way to fish the new lake or the community had no future.

What were they to do?

What would you do, for indeed this is our story, the story of the church in Britain in the twenty-first century?

John

<<<<<>>>>>

Childrens holiday activity bags

Just completed the last of the activity bags ready for delivery. John delivers to the 12 Messy Church children and Roger the 15 to the Childrens' Thursday club. We make them up for every school holiday so of course the current ones need to be delivered as the children break up for the summer.

We wanted to keep in touch with our young people at Parkwood as we weren't seeing them with the Covid restrictions, hence the introduction of the Activity bags which have been very well received.

They have included various things over the time we have made them including bulbs and seeds to grow, games to both make and play , word searches, crosswords, word and number games, things to make, paint or colour, treats to eat and drink and a recipe, sometimes including the ingredients needed. to name a few. It is sometimes difficult to decide on the contents as the children range from 3 years old to 14!



The ones awaiting delivery this time have mythical creatures to colour and sheets of drawing paper. A packet of felt tips and a pair of 'fancy' craft scissors. A garden pot complete with compost and either edible Nasturtium or broad beans like Jack and the bean stalk to grow, all with instructions. A fidget toy to keep fingers busy and of course a drink and packets of sweets.

Parents have sent us photos of their children doing the activities or a picture of the finished results. All usually with happy faces! (Safeguarding respected).

At Christmas we did the same for a number of older people connected with Parkwood and we intend to make them a delivery in the autumn. Hopefully our deliveries will have kept us in touch with the young people and they won't have forgotten us when we can meet up again for Messy Church and the Thursday club. Happy, busy holidays!

<<<<<>>>>>



Do come and join us, we have seats available in all areas. 10.45 am Sunday Morning

<<<<<>>>>>

Food for thought!

Have you ever wondered why a windscreen is so much bigger than a rear view mirror or Back Light (rear window)?

Could it be that the future holds more than the past!

(Ed!)

<<<<>>>>

Note to all the people who were asking where God is during this lockdown!

Well I've been thinking:-

God was asked to help mend the earth and bring some sanity back into our lives.

He's been taken out of schools and everyday life. You mustn't wear a cross because it may offend someone. You mustn't put bibles in hotels or schools because it may offend someone. There's more places and things that you mustn't do, in case you offend someone. Yet the first time anything goes wrong people ask where is God in this and what is he doing about it.

Well: You told him you didn't need him!

He's done something about it:-

He's cut pollution and brought an eerie quiet and peace to this world.

What more do you want. Let God back into your life, He doesn't hold a grudge. (anon)

(Ed!)

<<<<>>>>

Guess Who!



As I didn't get any replies to last Month's Guess Who. I assume you didn't know or were you just not playing!

<<<<>>>>

What have you all been doing for the past eighteen months during the enforced lockdown?

Apart from the household chores; washing. Cooking, cleaning and washing up etc...

I've been gardening, playing in my workshop and just finding jobs to do to help me stay reasonably sane!

As we come to the end of official lockdown, I'm pleased to say that subject to the weather being kind the Garden Party is going ahead on Saturday the 31st July, 11.00am to 2.30pm.

Whilst the rules have been relaxed please take care and keep safe, bring your mask, just in case.

≤

≥

Saturday 31st July 2021.

Garden Party @ 3 Leaffield Avenue
Subject to whatever Government Covid Restrictions are in force. At the time of writing: Up to 30 people in the open air, hence Garden Party. Open Gazebo's will be in place, just in case.

Sorry no seating in the house, or any enclosed area.

No exceptions.

11.00am 'til 2.30pm.

Hot & Cold drinks, hot & cold food and cakes will be available to eat in or take away.

Donations (Generous!) will be accepted for Church Funds.

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

Remember the Scout Meal



The "Boys" front of house!

Just a few reminisces.



Rev F W Steward, Parkwood Minister 1925-1930 who is also buried, along with his wife, Mary in the churchyard



The very important ladies



<<<<<>>>>

STAY SAFE FOLKS:
THE RULES MAYBE
RELAXING BUT THAT
DOESN'T MEAN ALL IS
CLEAR AND WELL

