

# Parkwood Methodist Church



## The Herald JULY 2021

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Here's an update from Gareth on what is happening at our old chapel building:



### Sale of the Church

I'm sure there will be many friends of Parkwood who have been wondering what the reason has been for the delay in selling the church. It is now almost 3 years since we appointed a local architect to design a scheme to convert the building into a group of residential units. As trustees, we have a responsibility to try to sell the property for the best possible profit, whilst also ensuring that the graveyards and their contents are protected from abuse, and reasonable access is maintained.

Sadly, our attempt to obtain Outline Planning Consent from the local authority (Kirklees), using the scheme referred to above, has come

to nought. Following receipt of several objections (particularly, from National and Regional Historical and Environmental organisations), it was decided to withdraw our application. The process had also been delayed by the effects of restrictions imposed by the Government, to combat the spread of the Covid virus. Consequently, we have decided to pursue the sale without 'planning', resulting in a significantly lower financial expectation.

With approval to proceed now received from TMCP (Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes), and with the help of Raymond Butterworth (on behalf of the Circuit), the church and the larger part of the Garden of Rest has recently been advertised for sale by Boultons (Estate Agents). Happily, there would appear to be interest in the sale as, of the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, we were aware of at least three 'viewings'. All bids must be received by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

The property is being sold 'freehold' and it comprises the church building, the walls, railings and gates bordering Parkwood Road, the Scout Hut and the land on which it stands, together with the rest of the Garden of Rest, but excluding the area adjacent to the dwelling – The Stables – and the land up to Parkwood Road in the south-east corner, where about 20 grave headstones were erected when the Garden was created in 1964. It is intended that this area be retained and cared for by the Circuit, so that it can be used as a memorial for all who wish to visit, to remember their loved-ones (either buried or

interred) in the Garden of Rest area. The upper graveyard is similarly to be retained and cared for by the Circuit, with continued access from the road.

Once an acceptable offer has been approved, safeguards will be put in place to secure the site and ensure visitor's rights. At last, we are hopeful that a buyer can be found who will be able to look after the site and that much needed funds can find their way into the Methodist Church, generally, and support the future work of the Parkwood community, in particular.

Gareth Beaumont  
Property Steward

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Now this next contribution proved to be somewhat of a challenge. It came through with an "I DARE YOU". Attached; Please note I did not write or instigate this. Now you know the kind of "friends" I have. (Ed!),

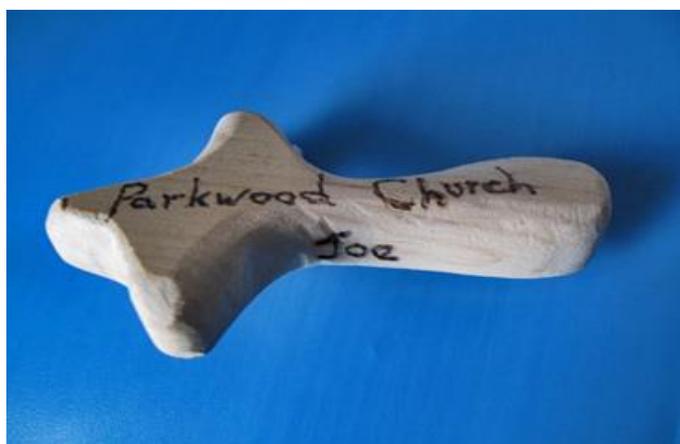
#### One Man and his Crosses

I didn't know whether our dear editor would actually put this into the Herald – I'll let you know why later!

For quite a while now I've 'collected' Christian crosses – and there are scores and scores of them.

I discovered a 'new' one recently which I can add to my collection. I didn't have to look very far for it – as it appeared as a gift from someone within Parkwood.

Here's a picture of it – and you'll notice someone's name engraved into it. Yes, it is our very own Joe who has been quietly supporting people with what I call 'A Ministry of Holding Crosses' – because that's what Joe calls his Crosses.



One of Joe's 'Holding Crosses'

Joe won't take credit for the actual shape of the cross, which has a most unusual design

and I can't find anything amongst my collection that gets anywhere near to it. It's a sort of combination of a fattened up 'Byzantine Cross' and a stone 'High Cross' – let's just say it's quite unique.

Joe calls these 'Holding Crosses' because they slip very easily and smoothly into your hand, and they can be quite addictive to hold and caress – I prefer to call them 'Caressing Crosses'.

They have been made by Joe from the discarded wood that was left after the pews were taken out of the old Parkwood Chapel building.

I think, though, we need to embarrass him and give due acknowledgement and our grateful thanks for a 'ministry' that he has been doing for quite a while now. In fact, he has already given away over one hundred of these crosses. (That's why I thought he may not put this article into the Herald being the shrinking violet that he is!)

When Joe finally explained to me what he had been doing with what I call his 'Ministry of Holding Crosses', I don't know why, but a text came to my mind that an old Sunday school teacher kept reciting to us in Sunday School:

'Cast your bread on the waters.'

To be frank I didn't have a clue what it meant at the time as a lad, but the 'text' has always stuck with me.

It was only later that I found out that this text is from the book of Ecclesiastes, Chapt. 11 v 1:

'Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days'.

One commentary interprets the meaning of this as:

'To cast one's bread upon the waters' is an expression that means to give generously without worrying about what you will gain from it or what the people will do with what you give them'.

I thought this describes perfectly the ministry that Joe has been quietly sharing with so many others over the past few years. I wondered what those Holding Crosses had meant to the hundred or so people that have held them, because we shall never know how they have helped people especially in this pandemic.

Thank you Joe for 'Casting your bread on the waters' with your gifts of 'Holding Crosses'.

**You will never know the comfort, peace, strength and courage that they have brought to so many people, and that is probably the most caring gift you can give to anyone.**

**John**

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**Wow! Well; I did ask for contributions to the Herald and say I would publish as long it wasn't controversial and was in keeping with the spirit of the Herald. But!!! I'm amazed.**

**How did it start?**

**Going back over about twenty five years Freda and me were looking around a cathedral and looking in their gifts section we saw these crosses and they were an exorbitant price.**

**Freda later came across some nearer home in Halifax and we bought a couple.**

**Over the following years I realised how much comfort just holding it gave and even more so when she started becoming ill. It was then I realised I could make some and pass them on to anyone who may benefit from it. The early ones were made from any suitable piece of wood I could find.**

**When Parkwood closed and the pews were removed it left a fair amount of "scrap" wood. I just thought I'd make a few and put Parkwood Chapel on to show where they had come from. I then vainly added my name and kept a log of whom I'd given one to. SO:-**

**What started as therapy for me in one of the darkest periods of my life, seems to have proven beneficial to many, judging by the replies I've had after sending out the little holding cross. (I don't claim originality for the design).**

**What was done for my benefit has obviously hit the spot with others, I'm so pleased. I've got to thank my many friends at Parkwood who have helped me through my trauma and I will be eternally grateful for this true friendship.**

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**If you know of anyone who may need a little uplift and solace in their life and think a cross may help, just let me have a name and address and I'll send them one. I have enough wood to make them, just hope I'm given the time!!!!???? Cheers. (Ed!)**

**Something a little frivolous:**

**SILENCE MATTERS**

Jock was out working the field when a barnstormer landed nearby. "I'll give you an aeroplane ride for £5" said the pilot. "Sorry can't afford it" replied Jock. "I'll tell you what " said the pilot, "I'll give you and your wife a free ride if you promise not to yell otherwise it will be £10". So up they went and the pilot rolled, looped, stalled and did all the things he could to scare Jock. Nothing caused the farmer to yell and the defeated pilot finally landed the plane. Turning to the rear seat he said "Got to hand it to you. For country folk you're sure brave!" "Aye," said Jock. "But ye nearly had me there when the wife fell out!"

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**Is there anything you would like to see published in your Herald?**

**Is there anything "missing" that would make you smile and more importantly look forward to receiving your next copy.**

**I always feel that if left to the same few contributors it is in danger of becoming one sided and a bit stale.**

**Please let me have your views, email, letter, text whatever medium you wish to use: even a phone call! I don't need to publish your name if you don't want me to. If something in the Herald pleases you, let me know.**

**I know the photos are well received even the ones showing people we have lost; sometimes it can bring back fond memories.**

**This Newsletter goes all over the world to people who have moved on in life either through employment or just seeking a different lifestyle. They all want to keep in touch: As they say once a Parkwooder, always a Parkwooder.**

**All I ask is that it's not controversial or defamatory.**

**More contributors may even encourage "my friends" to stop picking on me!**



**Please help your harassed editor out!**

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The photos seem to be well liked so to finish off here's a few:-



Meet my Proof Reader and PA.



A picture sent in to "Guess Who"!



Remember when we could display the banners in church: soon to be seen again we hope.

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To end on something to ponder:-

I said a prayer for you today and I know  
God must have heard,  
I felt the answer in my heart although  
He spoke no word.  
I didn't ask for wealth or fame, I knew  
you wouldn't mind,  
I asked Him to send you treasures of a  
far more lasting kind.  
I asked that He'd be near you at the  
start of each new day,  
To grant you health and blessings and  
friends to share the way.  
I asked for happiness for you in all  
things great and small,  
But it was for His loving care I asked for  
most of all.                    -Frank Zamboni

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Stay Safe Folks, we need the readers.  
With a bit of luck we'll soon be back  
together.