

Parkwood Methodist Church

The Herald

June 2022



@ St. Mark's Parish Centre
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Aldersgate Sunday, celebrated on the closest Sunday to 24th May, is remembered in the Methodist Church as part of how we came into being as a denomination within the Church. Reverend John Wesley, an Anglican priest, was searching for a deeper sense of faith. He had been a member of a group at Oxford University with his brother Charles, and George Whitefield, that had been strong on a disciplined approach to a life of faith. They had been mocked and called 'Methodists'. The name stuck.

John had been to Savannah, Georgia, as a missionary, and it had been a disaster. He had been in a huge storm on the Atlantic Ocean and, terrified by the waves, he was impressed by the calm faith of the Moravians. In a difficult place personally, he decided to attend a Society meeting in Aldersgate Street in London. London in the 1700s was full of societies of people who came together to express belief, philosophy, ideas, and this is where the term 'The Society of Friends' comes from.

It was at a society when the preface to Martin Luther's commentary on the letter to the Romans was read and, in John Wesley's words in his journal, he felt his heart 'strangely warmed'. He felt a deepening in his faith, and this led to a sense of renewed purpose and belonging, experienced as a deeper connection with God through the Holy Spirit. Over time, this led to an expansion in field preaching, George Whitefield, who by then was also an Anglican priest, had started this

work off and is one of the founders of Methodism, the creation of Methodist Societies and travelling, or itinerant, preaching that formed the basis of what we now call the Methodist Church in Britain. I think that it is fair to say that John Wesley's experience in Aldersgate Street was a renewing of his love for God and humanity. It was a reminder to him that love was the best motivation for his actions, and that love, and knowing he was loved by God, brought him the peace and assurance in his faith that he had been searching for over so many years. The life of following Jesus is about ongoing work, a sense of formation that can test us, stretch us, encourage and uphold us as we seek to become more like Jesus. John Wesley is often looked towards as a giant in Methodist history, but it's important to remember the deep flaws that he had as a human being and the fact that he wasn't the sole founder of Methodism. His own formation in his early life, chiefly through the work of his mother, Susannah Wesley, fed into who he felt that he was and had an impact on his understanding of a practical as well as spiritual faith. In 2022, Methodists are still looking at ways in which we can respond to God's calling to us as a church and as individuals. Through wondering together about who we are as a Circuit, what we are and who we are as churches, and in a time of great social and economic uncertainty. How are we, as 21st century Methodists, responding to this deep well of human needs today? As we remember this Aldersgate experience, the passion and reasonable enthusiasm of

people committed to loving God and their neighbour as themselves, perhaps we may also remember who warms our hearts, too. To finish with co-founder of Methodism, John's brother Charles Wesley, *By your unerring Spirit led/We shall not in the desert stray;/we shall not full direction need,/nor miss our providential way;/As far from danger as from fear,/while love, almighty love, is near.*

Rev Ros

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[Thank You for the donations towards postage of The Herald. \(ed!\)](#)

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Memories of Whit Monday

The Whitsuntide procession always held an exciting prospect for a small Sunday School child. A brass band led the procession and a banner proclaimed where we were from. Seventy years ago, it was the custom to make the children feel special by giving them a satin sash to wear over their clothes – light blue for boys, yellow/gold for girls (the concept of sex discrimination didn't exist then!).

As we arrived at the church we passed through the 'cottage' area, where the old kitchen used to be (now the location of the toilets). I always looked for the huge earthenware urn used for brewing coffee which was served later, together with slices of large current teacakes, to all who had taken part in the procession (I don't think there was any butter, but it didn't matter – it was always delicious). I seem to recall Jim Green and Wilfred Crompton wearing large white aprons as they stirred the brew!

The banner, in those days, took the form of a large canvas sheet on which was painted the Parkwood legend (probably using lead-based paint!). We never gave a thought to how it was made when we were kids, but we certainly found out just how much it weighed when we became old enough to carry it!

In later years, a new banner was obtained (still using the old poles) which was much lighter – made of man-made fibre, throughout. A competition was arranged, and church members (including several Sunday School children) submitted designs. The winner was a young Adam Gibson and the lives of those tasked with carrying the banner were immediately made easier.

Even then, it was necessary to continue the practice of inserting a coin in the bottom of the cups, supporting the poles, in the harness worn by the bearers. This was essential, as it allowed the poles to rotate as the banner was manoeuvred around corners and beneath overhead wires.

As can be seen from the pictures displayed, there were guide ropes fastened to the tops of the vertical poles. They weren't just for decoration. Used properly, they made the life of those carrying the banner much easier, as they could be pulled to compensate for the effects of the wind. In practice, this only worked if those holding the ropes concentrated (which, from my experience, wasn't often). In later years, when support for the procession was declining and Sunday School children were allowed to hold them, it was fortunate that the weight of the banner had been significantly reduced.

Despite the hard work involved (particularly if there was a strong wind blowing) there was never a problem finding willing bearers. The following day there were several sore backs, but we all looked forward to the next procession.

When I was a child, the brass band that led the procession was always from Scapegoat Hill – indeed, they were with us for over 50 years. When, sadly, this band had to cease to exist, we were fortunate to secure the services of Lockwood Band as, at that time, they were in the First Division of the banding world! The attached photo, showing the drummer, clearly shows 'Lockwood Band' on the drum. I had no idea, then, that the drummer – Roy Singleton - worked at Shaw Valves in Lockwood (where I would later spend the whole of my working life) and who would become the adopted grandfather of our younger daughter – Claire.

Happy days!

Gareth Beaumont



SUNDAY 5th JUNE
Preceding this Jubilee Party is
a Joint Sunday Service starts
at 10.30am
In
St. Mark's CHURCH.



JUBILEE PARTY

Join us to celebrate the Queen's 70th Jubilee
 Sunday 5th June 2022
 12pm til 4pm

at St Mark's Church Longwood
 Fancy Dress Parade-Golcar Brass Band-Bouncy Castle
 Barbecue- Stalls-Raffle

NO SERVICE AT ST. MARK'S CENTRE.

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Another from Yesteryear.

PARKWOOD
 @ The Drop By Centre



COMMUNITY Breakfast

The Drop By Centre
 Sycamore Avenue
 Saturday 4th June, 2022
 9.30 am – 11.45 am
 Families Welcome
 No Charge
 Donations Appreciated



PARKWOOD BREAKFAST on Saturday 4th June @ The Drop By centre.

Many other Jubilee celebrations on as well on Sycamore Avenue. Come and join us!

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I seems the inclusion of the months diary was appreciated, so here is June's planned diary.

This is the latest version as due to serious illness the previous plan has been updated

5th June 10.30am - US @ St Marks CHURCH (10.30am)

See poster above

Following @ Parkwood @ St. Mark's Centre

12th June 10.45am @ The Centre - Rev Ros General Church Council Meeting after service

19th June 10.45am - Rev Tim Moore

26th June 10.45am Rev R Oldroyd Holy Communion