

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



# PARKWOOD HERALD

**MARCH  
2016**

NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD METHODIST CHURCH  
PARKWOOD ROAD LONGWOOD HD3 4TT

## **From the minister,**

Springtime is special time of year for me, as all around we begin to see flowers blossom, animals wake up from their hibernation, birds return from other lands to build nests and begin new families and trees that once looked so lifeless and dead suddenly spring to life with new leaves and the promise of fruit to come. It's a time when the dark cold nights of winter are replaced by lighter evenings and the warmth of the sun as it gives life and energy to us all lifting our spirits as it touches our lives. Spring is a special time of year too for Christians as we remember that the terrible events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were followed by the incredible discovery and celebration of Easter day. For despite the horror of the arrest and unjust trial of Jesus, despite the betrayal of a friend, the desertion of the disciples, the false accusations and abuse at the hands of the authorities. Despite the pain and suffering of flogging and then the humiliation of the cross, death did not have the final word. On the third day God raised Jesus from the dead, once and for all breaking the power that sin has over us, setting us free from the prisons we make for ourselves, forgiving us for the past, healing us and offering us a fresh start in life now, and offering us hope for the future and new life with Christ for the life to come. For those first disciples mourning their friend and ashamed of their own actions the

resurrection of Jesus transforms everything as he meets with them in those post resurrection appearances, and gently restores them, moving them from the darkness of death and failure to the new life of hope, joy and even celebration, for all that God has done in Jesus and all he comes to do both for and through them. Even more amazing, this same Jesus who went looking for his broken disciples to restore them and give them new life is the same Jesus who comes searching for each of us to offer us forgiveness, healing, hope and new life too. As we at Parkwood look ahead to Easter we have much thank God for too. Over the past four years we have been on a journey of discovery, asking ourselves some searching and difficult questions and seeking God for His plans, purposes and way forward for the future. Over time we have come to realise that whilst God has plans and purposes for the people of Parkwood, the building in which we meet has become a stumbling block to us which has diverted our time, energy, enthusiasm and finances away from the mission we believe God has called us to. As a result on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February the following proposal was put to the church council: "That the building at Parkwood is no longer fit for purpose and is unsustainable. The Leadership Team recommend we no longer look to the Renewal option and we search for a new location and mission

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opportunities.” After a very open and honest time of sharing the church council voted and the motion was carried by 13 votes in favour, to 1 vote against! I know that this news may come as a shock to some, and we all feel some sadness that a move to a new place is necessary, as we recall precious memories associate with times we have shared together in this place. However, it is our firm belief that God is moving us onwards to new things together, new opportunities, new life and new hope and that as we bravely step out in faith with Him we will be able to celebrate new exciting ventures together. For more details of how this momentous decision was reached please see the report written for us by our senior steward Gareth Beaumont. As we begin this journey together the leadership team and myself will try to keep everyone informed of how things are progressing through the Herald and we ask that you will join us in prayer.

Please pray that: 1) God would give us wisdom as we look for a new building, 2) that He would help us in the task of working out where we will serve both God and our community, and 3) that we would discover how to be at the heart of the community God calls us to. God still has plans and purposes for us all and it is my prayer that this Easter as we celebrate God's gift to us of new life in Jesus we will also be able to hold onto His promises to walk alongside us and guide us to new pastures in the months and years to come.

Every Blessing,

Rev. Debbie Hopkinson

## Proposal - Parkwood Church Council – 8<sup>th</sup> Feb.2016

Four years ago, the community at Parkwood Methodist Church embarked on a journey. We didn't know where we were going and we didn't know what we would find when we got there! It was clear that we needed to find better ways of interacting with the wider community in our area. We knew we were fairly good at some things. We instigated an analysis by processing a questionnaire, and we confirmed there were some things we were not very good at!

We began to look at ways in which we could re-vitalize ourselves and four categories were considered, as models for future development. Of these, two in particular would best fit the perceived need to keep the church 'family' together. One was Partnership and the other was Renewal. Although we started to explore opportunities to work and worship with other churches in the area, Renewal was considered to be the way forward.

Through existing work to reach out to the local community – All Morning Breakfasts (Saturdays), Lunches (Wednesdays) and Messy Church (Sundays, with the worshipping community – Weekdays, with Uniformed Organisations) we realized we had some successes. To this was added Cheerful Chat (Tuesdays).

We introduced a 'strapline' at the head of committee meeting Minutes – “Seeking to be the People of Christ at the Heart of the Community”. We expected people to come to us. Some did, but we weren't able to reach out to others in the community who may be looking for guidance or friendship. Over time, we have learned that, despite our best endeavours, in some ways we are not at the heart of the community!

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Geographically, we are marginalized. As the Circuit struggles to staff its churches, we are now moving into a new area to work alongside three other churches in the Colne Valley. With an ageing congregation, unless we take radical steps, we will cease to function as an effective community.

Our financial reserves, although better than many churches in the area, will be used up if we have to restore the church fabric to the standard expected by the Quinquennial Inspection. Whilst the church building has served us well over the years, it is now old, tired, out-of-touch with current Technical and Health and Safety requirements and 'no longer fit for purpose'! Despite this, there is still a strong desire to stay together as a strong community. However we know that leaving these premises presents us with other challenges.

We see this scenario as an opportunity. If we stay we are likely to run out of energy, manpower, money and effectiveness. If we move to more appropriate premises, we may be able to witness more effectively. We are a worshipping, serving Christian Community. That is our primary purpose!

We should not feel downcast. What this church has achieved is written in the archives of the town and wider community of Christian souls. We should be proud of what we have been able to do for Christ – for the positive way we have been able to serve our God and his people and we should celebrate that, as we move forward. At the last Leadership Team Meeting, it was proposed and seconded that we recommend to the Church Council that we actively begin the process of finding another, more suitable, building.

The motion put to the Church Council, on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, was –

**“That the building at Parkwood is no longer fit for purpose and is unsustainable. The Leadership Team recommend we no longer look to the Renewal option and we search for a new location and mission opportunities.”**

**The motion was carried by 13 votes in favour, to 1 vote against!**

Gareth Beaumont, Chief Steward.

**Dates of 'Breakfasts' 2016**

**19th March**

**16th April**

**21st May**

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

**29<sup>th</sup> Phil McSweeney**

**30<sup>th</sup> Freda Lloyd**

**31<sup>st</sup> Andrea Hirst**

**Barbara would like to thank everyone for the beautiful cards, flowers and gifts she received in February on the occasion of her 80th birthday.**

**Spring Fair**

**Our Charity Spring Fair is to be  
March 12<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm.**

**We need chocolate, items of bric a  
brac and home made cakes, buns and  
biscuits for stalls and catering.**

**Please support us and the charities.**

**Help needed on stalls and kitchen.**

**Refreshments all day.**

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## DIARY FOR MARCH/APRIL 2016

Tuesday 1st	First of Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Wednesday 2nd	First Drop in Lunch 12.30pm
Wednesday 2nd	Parkwood Church Council 7.30pm Please try to attend
Thursday 3rd	1:30pm – 3pm @ Outlane Methodist Church. Lent Meeting
Saturday 5th	LVG Coffee Morning @ The Mechanics 10.00am to noon
Saturday 5th	Parkwood Old Folks Party
Sunday 6th	10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Mothering Sunday Service led by Rev Debbie Hopkinson
Tuesday 8th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Friday 11th	10am – 11:30am @ Mount Methodist Church. Lent Meeting
Saturday 12th	Spring Fair 10.00am 'til 2.00pm Needs: Chocolates, Sweets, Biscuits, Cake &HELP Thanks
Saturday 12th	St Marks Coffee Morning 10.00am to noon. Parish Centre
Sunday 13th	10.45 Service led by Rev Colin Vere
Monday 14th	7:30pm – 9pm @ Golcar Methodist Church. Lent Meeting
Tuesday 15th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Wednesday 16th	Drop in Lunch 12.30pm
Thursday 17th	1:30pm – 3pm @ Outlane Methodist Church. Lent Meeting
Saturday 19th	Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30 – 12.00
Sunday 20th	10.45 Palm Sunday Service led by Mrs Elaine Nixon
Tuesday 22nd	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Sunday 27th	10.45 Easter Communion Service led by Rev Colin Vere
Tuesday 29th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Wednesday 30th	Drop in Lunch 12.30pm

## **APRIL**

Saturday 2nd	LVG Coffee Morning @ The Mechanics 10.00am to noon
Sunday 3rd	10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service
Tuesday 5th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Saturday 9th	St Marks Coffee Morning 10.00am to noon. Parish Centre
Sunday 10th	10.45 Service led TBA
Tuesday 12th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Wednesday 13th	Drop in Lunch 12.30pm
Saturday 16th	Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30 – 12.00
Sunday 17th	10.45 Service led TBA
Tuesday 19th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Sunday 24th	10.45 Service led TBA
Tuesday 26th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Wednesday 27th	Drop in Lunch 12.30pm

## FUTURE ACTIVITIES

MARCH 12th SPRING FAIR  
MAY 14th GOLCAR LILY DAY  
JULY 30th FRED & JOE GARDEN PARTY  
SEPTEMBER 24th BEETLE DRIVE  
OCTOBER 15th INTERNATIONAL FEAST OF FLAVOURS  
NOVEMBER 19th CRAFT FAIR  
DECEMBER 18th BAND SERVICE/CONCERT  
Flower Arranging, Murder/Mystery and Quiz to be arranged