

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



PARKWOOD HERALD

**MAY
2016**

NEWSLETTER OF PARKWOOD METHODIST CHURCH
PARKWOOD ROAD LONGWOOD HD3 4TT

From the minister,

As I write, today was a special day, Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 90th birthday and up and down the country in different ways people have been celebrating her special day. Some people have had or are planning to have special events to commemorate this occasion whilst others were content to put up some bunting and a few Union flags. It seems we all like to celebrate good news and join in with the party. One birthday party that all too often gets under celebrated or even completely dismissed however, is the birthday of the Church. We are all happy to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and the resurrection of Jesus at Easter, but all too often the celebration of Pentecost passes us by. In years gone by the Pentecost or Whitsun celebrations were a big thing, in many places walks of witness with the procession of carnival floats were held in public places and for many folk it was the day they got to wear new clothes, bought specially for the occasion. It's a tradition that unfortunately seems to have died out, but why did people go to such lengths in the past to celebrate this day, what is so special about Pentecost?

Well put simply, Pentecost is the day when we remember the coming of God's Holy Spirit upon those first disciples. It's the day that the promise Jesus made to his disciples that he would send his Holy Spirit to them to help them, lead and guide them, teach and challenge them and give them new life was fulfilled. As the disciples gathered together in an upper room the Spirit of God descended upon them in the form of tongues of fire and transformed this group of followers from those who were content to hide their faith away behind locked doors to those who boldly and bravely went out into the world to share with anyone and everyone the good news of all Jesus had done for them through his life, death and resurrection and the subsequent gift God offers to all who wish to receive it of new life, forgiveness, healing and hope. It is a very special

celebration because this same Holy Spirit that transformed those first disciples and gave them the strength and courage to share the gospel, is the one who continues to transform lives now, for it is as we allow God into our lives through His Holy Spirit that we too can know the gift of a fresh start in life and eternal life with Him as He welcomes us into His family. It is also the Holy Spirit that teaches, guides and helps us now, giving us the courage to share our faith with others, just as He has done for others down the centuries.

As we face the challenges that life presents us with both as individuals and as a church, it is God's Holy Spirit who will lead and guide us. It is He who has challenged us to look beyond the present building we meet in, to see the needs of the community around us, and He who has helped us to catch sight again of the vision to be the people of God at the heart of the Community serving those around us in God's name and for His glory. We've been encouraged by God's Spirit to be brave and step out with Him, and it is that same Spirit who will continue to lead and guide us, going ahead of us to prepare the way and giving us the strength and courage to keep following our Lord on the path He has called us as a church to walk. So is Pentecost important? Absolutely! For this is the day that we celebrate that God fulfilled His promise to us all to be with us and walk with us always, carrying us through the difficult times and leading and helping us daily. So this year on the 15th May, let's not let Pentecost pass us by but let's celebrate the coming of the Spirit and the birth of the church and praise our Lord for keeping His promises to us.

Every Blessing, Rev. Debbie Hopkinson

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Taken by Gill Ritchie in 2007

MAY BIRTHDAYS
5th Janette Lloyd
18th Liam Johnson
19th Sheila Armitage

Dates of 'Breakfasts' 2016
21st May
18th June
16th July

DIARY FOR MAY/JUNE 2016

Sunday 1st	10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service: with Baptism of Freddie Turner.
Tuesday 3rd	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Saturday 7th	Ordinand's Testimony service - Jo Brown, Sue Burton and Deacon Maggie Patchett 2p.m. Southgate, Elland
Sunday 8th	10.45 Service led Mr Peter Martin
Tuesday 10th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Wednesday 11th	Drop in Lunch 12.30pm
Thursday 12th	Coffee morning Paddock for Christian Aid 10-12.
Saturday 14th	Golcar Lily Day 10-4. <u>Needed filled jars. Soft toys, helpers</u>
Sunday 15th	10.45 Communion Service led by Rev Debbie Hopkinson
Sunday 15th	Christian Aid walk sets off from Parkwood 1.00 after light lunch
Tuesday 17th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Friday 20th	Quiz: Milnsbridge Baptist for Christian Aid
Saturday 21st	Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30 – 12.00
Saturday 21st	St Mary's Spring Fayre 10.00am - 2.00pm
Sunday 22nd	10.45 Service led by Mr Michael Early
Tuesday 24th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Wednesday 25th	Drop in Lunch 12.30pm
Sunday 29th	10.45 Service led by Rev Debbie Hopkinson. General Church Meeting: Faith Lunch

JUNE

Sunday 5th	10.45 Messy Church/All Age Worship Service Own Arrangement
Tuesday 7th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Wednesday 8th	Drop in Lunch 12.30pm
Wednesday 8th	Worship Leaders and Preachers meeting 7.30pm
Saturday 11th	St Marks Parish Centre Coffee morning 10.00am - Noon
Sunday 12th	10.45 Service led by Mrs Wendy Blackburn
Tuesday 14th	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Saturday 18th	Parkwood Community Breakfast 9.30 – 12.00
Saturday 18th	Wedding @ Parkwood Mark Rushworth & Alicen Robinson
Sunday 19th	10.45 Communion Service led by Rev David Bidnell
Sunday 19th	LP Recognition service Adrian Burton and Sue Taylor Netherton 3.00 p.m.
Tuesday 21st	Cheerful Chat 10.00am to noon
Wednesday 22nd	Drop in Lunch 12.30pm
Saturday 25th	Gareth and Charmaine's Garden Party
Sunday 26th	10.45 Service led by Mr Arthur Preston
Thursday 30th	Churches Together Lower Colne Valley meeting Parkwood 7.30