

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



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

# Parkwood Methodist Church

# The Herald

## OCTOBER 2019



Listening is a skill that doesn't come to all of us naturally. It doesn't necessarily mean hearing, but it can be a form of paying attention. Looking at the body language of the person sitting next to us, reading what they have written with care and attention, giving space and time without thinking about the next job or the next person we would like to see. Seeking to understand the other person without rushing to reply. Being truly able to understand the needs of others is an important part of being a human being and of being Church.

The future of the Church and Christianity has been featured in many news reports in recent months. There is a sense that the Christian faith is facing a gradual sense of marginalisation. This perception of Christianity being pushed to the edges can create a view of the Church as in a spiral of decline that Christians often take at face value. The problem with this is that we can behave as though being on the margins of society is a bad thing. The question for me is whether this is actually bad?

I don't think that it necessarily is a bad thing for the church to be at the edge. Sometimes it is at that point that we come back to thinking about what is important, about what we want to be. It is at the edge that we can see people that fall through the cracks, where we can speak into situations from a position of different understanding than if we were at the centre. Jesus' ministry was marked by this apparent paradox- strength from supposed weakness, and a voice that rings through the years from one whose life was lived in humility and service; not one of the

rich and powerful.

The German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, said this in his book *Life Together*: 'Many people are looking for an ear that will listen. They do not find it among Christians, because these Christians are talking where they should be listening.' Perhaps, as we reassess where we are in society we need to remember to listen, to pay attention, to understand. This is something that the Church has not always got right. But if we are on the margins, maybe we can listen in a new way to the stories that people want to tell us.

Lamentations is, as its title suggests, a book of the Bible that expresses grief and sorrow, so much that it can make uncomfortable reading. However, within this sadness and confusion are words of profound hope, based in the steadfastness of God's love and faithfulness that shine through, even in times of change and turmoil. As we look to our future, although we live in such times of change, we can be confident in our God whose mercies never come to an end. We can have faith in our God of new beginnings, and celebrate in anticipation of a good and strong future as God brings us into a new season of the church's story.

Rev Ros Paige

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2<sup>nd</sup> Sheila Whittam  
17<sup>th</sup> Christine Noble-Doyle

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

The Hymns selected from the submitted list:-

1. Great is Thy Faithfulness  
The only hymn to get more than one nomination.
2. Holy, Holy, Holy
3. Teach Me To Dance
4. All Things Bright & Beautiful
5. And Can It Be
6. All over the World
7. Be Still for the Presence of the Lord.

Were the final selection.

Thank You all for your contributions.

A big THANK YOU to Gareth for making it so enjoyable.

## **BUTTIES FOR BREAKFAST**

*The Drop By Centre  
Sycamore Avenue*

**SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

**9.30 am – 11.45 am**

***Bacon, Sausage or Egg Butties***

***Donations Welcome***

***First Saturday every Month***

**PARKWOOD METHODIST CHURCH  
AT THE DROP BY CENTRE**



**HARVEST COLOURS RAINBOW SERVICE**  
Photo on the left is discussion of theme and service for Sunday 22 September Harvest Festival Service. Led by Mr John Oldham A joint Service with St. Mark's Church, Parkwood Methodist Church and Parkwood Uniformed Organisations.

A very well attended and informative service

### **PARKWOOD OCTOBER SERVICES AT ST. MARK'S CENTRE**

- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Parkwood Breakfast at the DROP BY Centre, Sycamore Avenue. All Welcome**  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> L V G Coffee Morning @ Longwood Mechanics 10.00 am to Noon**  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 10.45 am Messy Church and All Age Service.**  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 10.45 am Communion Service led by Rev Roz Page**  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 10.45 am Service led by Mr Adrian Burton**  
**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 10.45 am Service led by Mr Ieuan Jones >>> followed by Faith Lunch**

### **NOVEMBER**

- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Parkwood Breakfast at the DROP BY Centre, Sycamore Avenue. All Welcome**  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> L V G Coffee Morning @ Longwood Mechanics 10.00 am to Noon**  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.45 am Messy Church and All Age Service.**  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 10.45 am Communion Service led by Rev Roz Page**  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 10.45 am Service led by Mr Byron Lockwood**  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 10.45 am Service led by Mr Granville Dews >>> followed by Faith Lunch**