

Parkwood Methodist Church



The Herald October 2021

**St. Mark's Parish Centre
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Dear friends,

In August I took my first train journey in nearly 18 months. Before the pandemic I would often hop on the train to go to Leeds, Harrogate, or Manchester for meetings or for days out. It was often crowded, people were pretty quiet on the whole, and I took it for granted that I could take a train somewhere. I have been fortunate to have been able to avoid using trains through these past months, while so many people haven't had a choice if they were to get to work. All the same, I felt a mixture of anticipation and worry as I stepped onto the Blackpool train.

It was very busy! It was a hot bank holiday weekend and people were flocking to Blackpool to get a late holiday before school started again. People were excited, talkative, and ready to go out after such a long time of staying, if not home, then close to home. Apart from wearing a face covering, and using hand sanitizer, it felt almost like being back to normal. Almost, because it was still different from what getting a train was like before the pandemic.

The train continued along its route and people got on the train and a small amount of people got off the train. Each of us in our carriage going about life, and travelling to our own destinations, but for that short amount of time on the train, we travelled that route together. As we, hopefully, head away from lockdowns, for many people life has begun to take on a shape that feels more familiar. From empty streets to people sitting outside enjoying the

sunshine to people enjoying getting out and about, we have glimpses of the familiar. Travelling together as a church means that sometimes we go at different paces; what feels comfortable for one person simply isn't for another. While some people are very happy about moving on, others are still being cautious. Our community gives us routes to travel that we are invited to share in together, as we all seek to be followers of Jesus. His pathway wasn't smooth at all. Born into a time of change and bringing change in his ministry, his life of love, challenge and self-giving give us ways to travel that bring us life. And that is what we may be seeking, still, even as we move into a much more opened up world.

Moving into the autumn and winter may still bring changes with them that we will all need to consider. There is still the unknown in front of us, and that can be a scary part of our journey together. All the same, God is with us as we travel on- maybe not to Blackpool, but together, wherever God may lead us.

**Rev Ros
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**An unknown author wrote these words:
The Gospel according to Matthew, Mark,
Luke and John,
are read by more than a few,
but the one that is most read and commented
on, is the Gospel according to you.
For we write a Gospel, a chapter each day,
By the things we do and the things we say.**

Parkwood Children's Club.....

....is open again!

Last term the club opened for several weeks, but attendance was limited and strict covid guidelines were in place. Over the summer 9 children were able to go on a trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park (as described in last month's Herald).

Parkwood and Primetime were excited to be able to open the doors again at the start of the Autumn term, with some covid restrictions in place, but feeling a lot more like "normal". Some of the children have moved onto secondary school, so we awaited the first session with a bit of trepidation – how many would turn up? In the end we had 5 children, who loved the myriad of games that Matthew and Nikita had set up for them. Who could build the tallest Lego tower, who could complete their colouring fastest and who would win the game of battleships? Parkwood provides volunteers to help Matthew and Nikita. As well as joining in with the activities our job includes making toast and drinks for the children. I had forgotten how hungry children can be after a day at school! We did try to limit their intake (after all we didn't want to spoil their tea), but a loaf soon disappeared! It was also the first time we had used the newly decorated and refurbished Drop By Centre for the Children's Club, and it worked so well. There seemed to be so much more room, and it was easy to clean both before and afterwards.

The second week was just as much fun, but the children all decided to colour for the full hour. That gave us an excellent (and interesting) opportunity to join in their conversations and hear about their school day and the things which they enjoy.

The children all agreed that they loved coming to the children's club and couldn't wait for next week.

Young Leaders Course

Matthew was also keen to let me know that a Young Leaders course was starting at Moor End Academy before the end of September. This is being organised by Primetime and the school, with the school determining the

children who will be involved. The course will provide the young people with some new skills, including working with younger children – hopefully as additional helpers at our Parkwood Children's Club. Matthew will give us updates as the course progresses.

Anne

Want to join them and share your skills! Maybe just want more information before you commit! Email me and I will pass on your details. (Ed!)

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Saturday 2nd October

9.30am – 11.30am

Drop-By Café

Sycamore Avenue

Parkwood Methodist Church

BREAKFAST

Plated or Sandwich.

Do come and join us.

No set charge, donations welcome.

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Cuppa and Cards

Open House at

3 Leaffield Avenue, HD3 4TW

on

16th October 2021 1.30pm till 3pm

- *Greeting Cards
 - *Giftwrap and Tags
 - *Notecards
 - *Charity Christmas Cards
 - *Giftwrap and Tags
 - *Advent Calendars and Advent Calendar
- Cards and lots more**

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