



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

Parkwood Methodist Church The Herald



2 Parkwood Road Longwood Huddersfield HD3 4TT

SEPTEMBER 2018

I hope you have all had a wonderfully relaxing and revitalising summer break. Over the last month I have been thinking about Surprise Encounters...

Charlotte and I love going to the same place for our summer holiday. We obviously are not the only ones... each year several others also make that return journey.

This year we got chatting to new and old friends. There was Maggie from Sweden, Gita and Hemant from the UK who were new to the place so we spent some time sharing some of the places worth going to see and experience. There were two other couples who we have seen before, one couple started going there about 18 years ago, the other couple have been going for about 5 years. We had several nights together enjoying the entertainment - tribute bands.

Once they found out what we did, we ended up having some interesting conversation!

Maggie had no particular faith, Gita and Hemant were Hindu, the other two couples were open to Christian faith but not practicing. So our conversations were broad ranging, with a lot of laughter.

Andrew and his wife Paula were a lovely couple, friendly, down to earth and very chatty. During our second week we found that Andrew, while having a quiet belief in God had never been christened. One day down on the beach, as he passed us, he asked could he be Baptised there in the sea. It's not the sort of question that's asked every day! To be fair though, it was a beautiful setting for such an occasion.

Charlotte, said yes (before I had the chance) and we left the issue for a few days. A couple of days later they were asking when we were heading home. Andrew still hoped we would Baptise him in the sea. On our final morning, we called him over and said 'are we doing this

then?' He was so excited, it was so lovely. After the Baptism, before we even got out of the sea, his wife had disappeared. She came back with drinks so we could celebrate together because she had seen the impact it had had on Andrew, he had been talking about it for days, hoping it would happen.

It was a wonderful occasion, one that would never have happened if we hadn't told them who we were - we normally like to stay fairly anonymous when we are away because you just don't know what sort of conversations you are going to get involved in and we see it as our time to relax.

I hope and pray as we start this final year together, that we are all open to the moving of the Holy Spirit, not just within Us and our churches but within those around us who are searching for that something special - that moment or realisation that there IS something more to life. For that to happen we need to be open to every possible encounter, like Jesus as he travelled the countryside meeting so many people and changing so many lives, and Jesus himself had plenty of surprise encounters.

We are his people, and with that we have the greatest gift to share - his love for all people. We do that through sharing our own faith, our own stories as well as the stories we find in the bible. Take lots of moments this coming year to share your own stories with someone you would never normally think to share them with. Maybe a life long friend or a stranger, the more we share those things that make our hearts sing - the more we share the love of Christ.

Blessings,

Rev Jo Brown

Sorry Folks! There is a photo to go with this, unfortunately I can't get it to print.

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BIRTHDAYS for September

18th John Oldham



I have always been intrigued by the name "Shell" Chapel. I have

recently been given the reason for the name. Simple! They spent all the money on the ornate exterior and had nothing left to do the inside. Feasible! Or they were so keen to hold services that the first services were taken before the inside was finished. Take your pick

**Joe & Freda's Garden Day raised:-
£150 for Parkwood Funds and £50 for
British Heart Foundation.**

Thank You all for the support.

**THANK YOU Bags are available for
donation to World Mission. Please
see Freda**

**SORRY! No Messy Church in
SEPTEMBER.**

Diary for September correct at time of printing. October tentative 2018

Saturday 1 st	L V G Coffee Morning @ Mechanics 10.00am-12noon
Sunday 2 nd	10.45 Service led by Rev Charlotte Truman <u>NO MESSY CHURCH.</u>
Sunday 9 th	10.45 Communion Service led by Rev Jo Brown
Saturday 15 th	Parkwood Breakfast at the DROP BY CENTRE 9.30am - 11.45am
Sunday 16 th	10.45 Service led by Rev David Bidnell
Sunday 23 rd	10.45 Service led by Rev Jo Brown
Sunday 30 th	10.45 Service led by Mr Robert Booth followed by Faith Lunch

OCTOBER

The following is a tentative diary only and subject to change

Saturday 6th	TABLE TOP "CAR BOOT" SALE 10.00am 'til 3.00pm @ Parkwood
Saturday 6th	L V G Coffee Morning @ Mechanics 10.00am-12noon
Sunday 7th	10.45 Service led by POSSIBLE MESSY CHURCH ?
Saturday 20 th	Parkwood Breakfast at the DROP BY CENTRE 9.30am - 11.45am
Sunday 14 th	10.45 Service led by TBA
Sunday 21 st	10.45 Service led by TBA
Sunday 28 th	10.45 Service led by TBA

I will update the October diary, on the website as soon as I know, so you can plan your diary.

NOTE: 122 days to Christmas. You can stock up now in most stores as they all have Christmas stocks. Just thought you may like to know!

A CONUNDRUM!

I received a note on Parkwood website about a Parkwood anniversary plate, from Mrs Robina Ellis in Western Australia. A plate her late father had bought in England and which she has inherited, this was followed by a photo. Now the conundrum; not a bit like my anniversary plate: why two plates for the same anniversary?



There was no answer from the congregation as none of the present congregation were around at the time. The only answers we could conclude with are:-

1. One plate is to commemorate Parkwood's 50th Anniversary
2. One plate to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Methodism and the Free Church.
3. Both of which happened same month, same year.

I doubt we will ever know which plate for which. Unless of course you know different! Thank you Robina, it was a pleasure to meet you and Goff a big THANK YOU for the gift. Hope to meet again next time you are in the UK.

Note:- +++{U M F C = United Methodist Free Church}+++

A REFLECTION:

WHAT IS MAN?

Man comes into this world without his consent and leaves it against his will. On earth he is always misjudged and misunderstood. In infancy he is an angel, in boyhood he is a devil, in manhood he is a fool. If he has a wife and family he is a chump; if he stays a bachelor he is inhuman. If he enters a public house he is a drunkard; if he stays out he is a miser. If he is a poor man he has no brains; if he is rich and has brains he is considered smart but dishonest.

If he goes to church he is a hypocrite; if he stays away he is a sinful man. Should he subscribe to charity it is for advertisement and if not he is a stingy man.

When he comes into this world everybody wants to kiss him; before he goes out everybody wants to kick him. If he dies young they say there was a great future for him; if he lives to a ripe old age everybody hopes he has made a will.

Unknown.

Do check out the Parkwood website, I try to keep it up to the minute with news. Is there anything you would like to see in the Herald or on the website? We will consider all suggestions.

www.parkwoodmethodistchurch.org.uk



Be nice to me, I'm just a hard working editor!