Dear Friends

Morning prayers at this year’s Conference were led by young people. On each occasion, someone shared a story of how God had been at work in his or her life. One spoke of an experience of forgiveness between her and her sister, another told of facing up to a difficult part of her childhood experience with God’s help, a third told of God’s presence in his work. The stories were simple, authentic and rooted in daily life. At the same time, they were fresh, inspiring, challenging and profound. It lifted our spirits and moved our hearts to hear them.

The Methodist Church has a long tradition of testimony - giving a personal account of God’s love at work among us. Such witness has been a way of encouraging each other and a means of evangelism, through which some have come to faith. Yet it seems to have almost disappeared from our worship and fellowship meetings and many have lost the art of putting their story of faith into words. It isn’t that the stories are not there, for in my experience, every Christian has a story to tell. It is rather that we are not creating opportunities for such testimony and not prompting one another to tell. Perhaps we are also afraid that our story isn’t dramatic or as spectacular as St. Paul on the Damascus road. Most are not. To share what we have, small as it may seem, may have far-reaching effects. Look at what happened with five small loaves and two fishes!

We need to rediscovery testimony. The young people of Methodism came to the Conference with a challenge that we have a ‘Year of Testimony’ for the whole church in 2019-20 and that we find many and various ways of sharing openly our experience of God. That is still a year away, but there is no reason why we can’t make a start now. How might you encourage people old and young to share what they know of their God in your church?

Professor Frances Young described the New Testament as the ‘greatest testimony meeting ever held’. The one thing that holds all those diverse writers together is that their lives have been changed by the love of God in Jesus and they want to tell others. We belong in that cloud of witnesses.

Yours in Christ

Revd Dr Roger Walton
(Chair of District)

DISTRICT PRAYER HANDBOOK 2018 - 2019

Copies of the District Prayer Handbook are available in circuits now or you can purchase one by post from the District Office.

Please send a cheque for £1.70 payable to Yorkshire West Methodist District to:
19 Wentworth Court, Rastrick, Brighouse, HD6 3XD.
MEET THE PEOPLE

MEET
THE
PEOPLE

LET’S EAT CAKE!

A new initiative this year for Brighouse Central is a calendar. This is part of our ongoing ‘Open to God/Open to All’ project, which has been set up to enable the church as a whole to provide more social activities. The aim of the project is to see the church become more involved with the local community.

The calendar consists of seasonal cake and biscuit recipes (with photographs) supplied by the different groups within the church community.

The calendar costs just £6 (if postage required add £1) and is an ideal gift for Christmas or the New Year, please support us in our efforts.

Calendars are available from Brighouse Central or from Anne and Philip Ainley 01484 521747.

EVENTS AROUND THE DISTRICT

CHRISTCHURCH 5TH ANNUAL JIGSAW FESTIVAL

1-3 NOVEMBER 2018
10:00AM – 4:00PM

Our Jigsaw Festival is back! Come and see hundreds of completed jigsaws on display and for sale.

Proceeds in aid of:

MELVYN KELLY

Role Title: Methodist Chaplain to the Universities’ Chaplaincy in Leeds and Presbyteral Synod Secretary from September 2018.

What does your role involve? I bring a Methodist perspective to the Ecumenical Chaplaincy team in Leeds. We offer pastoral support to the staff and students of University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University (where I am lead chaplain), the University of Law, and Leeds Arts University. We also encourage them to explore faith, spirituality and worship. Chaplaincy offers a perfect setting for building relationships between people of different faith traditions or none, and exploring unity, peace, justice and love. More details at unichaplaincy.org.uk

I am delighted to be invited to serve the District in the role of Secretary of the Presbyteral Synod from September 2018. This is a role that I have some years’ experience of in the Liverpool District and I am glad to bring that experience to the service of the Yorkshire West District. I look forward to getting to know more of my Presbyteral colleagues across the District.

How can you be contacted? I can be contacted about District matters at the Manse on 0113 278 9791 and by email: melvyn@themanse.org.uk

Which church do you attend? We live in Headingley and so we attend Headingley Methodist Church which is nearest to us.

Tell us a bit about yourself: Originally a solicitor in private practice and later with the Crown Prosecution Service, I joined the church, was ordained and moved to the seaside town of Bridlington. For 21 years, I was the minister of churches in Bridlington, then Ormskirk and I served in the Multifaith Chaplaincy at Edge Hill University.

I am married to Karen, have three grown up children and five grandchildren (and another on the way) and am kept busy by my twelve year-old daughter Naomi.

Tell us something that few people know about you: I love to do origami and am a card-carrying member of the British Origami Society. Not many people know that – until now!!

Community Support Project
Can You Help Us?

Could you:

- Make a positive difference to combat and prevent loneliness amongst older people?
- Provide short term support for 1 or 2 hours each week?
- Become a valuable link in connecting people back to their community?
- Help reduce the risk of re-admission to hospital?

Come and join our community of Specialist Volunteer Befrienders

Our Community Support Project is a new initiative in West Leeds working closely with the MHA Live at Home Schemes in Horsforth, Pudsey and Pudsey. We are now recruiting enthusiastic and dedicated Specialist Volunteer Befrienders who will work with older people, who may be recovering from a period of ill health, a hospital stay or have experienced a breakdown in their social networks, and help them rebuild their confidence to go out and reconnect with their community.

Enquire today:
Community Support Project
Volunteer Co-ordinator
Tel: 0113 25427/7
Email: sue.silver@mha.org.uk

Events around the District

Proceeds in support of Central Methodist Church’s ‘Open to God/Open to all’ project which has been set up to enable the church as a whole to provide more social activities. The objective of this project is to see the church becoming more involved with the local community.

MHA Community Support Project
Pudsey Lane at Home Scheme, 53 Ridgeway Lane, Pudsey, LS28 7NB
Tel: 0113 25427/7
www.mha.org.uk/liveathome
A PLEA FROM FOODBANKS

As I write this article we are in the Summer school holidays and this is a period of great demand on foodbanks as schoolchildren who qualify for free school meals are not getting them, so families look to foodbanks to feed their children. There is, at the moment, the Universal Credit rollout by the Government which is also creating demand on foodbanks as families lose some of their benefits or have to wait a while before getting their benefit.

I volunteer for the Leeds South & East Foodbank and have done so since May 2017 and saw stock levels drop in the warehouse during the Summer school holidays.

In September and October churches celebrate their Harvest Festivals so it would be good if foodbanks could be remembered at this time as stock levels of most tinned and long life products will be at their lowest.

On behalf of all foodbanks across West Yorkshire, THANK YOU.

Andrew Hartley

SPECIAL DAYS

9 September:
   Education Sunday
16 September:
   Peacemaking Sunday
16 - 23 September:
   World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel
14 October:
   Prisons Sunday
1 November:
   All Saints Day
11 November:
   Remembrance Sunday
11 - 18 November:
   Interfaith Week
18 November:
   World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
25 November:
   Women Against Violence Sunday
1 December:
   World AIDS Day
2 December:
   Advent Sunday

Items for inclusion in the Winter 2018 issue of the District Newsletter should reach us by 12 noon on 15 November 2018

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