

Dear friends

As I write, the news is full of what is happening in Israel and Gaza. There is pain on both sides of the conflict. 150 people have been taken hostage in Gaza. There are 1000 Israelis dead, and over 800 Palestinians dead. There are families waiting for news, or mourning loved ones. There are people running for their lives, hiding from soldiers, hiding under furniture from bombs.

There are innocent victims on all sides. People have been killed at a festival, with others running for their lives, and some, including children, being kidnapped. Other people have been affected by the setting up of a siege that does not allow any movement in or out of Gaza, not even of food. People in this country are waiting for news of their loved ones. People who were visiting family in Gaza are now trapped in the situation. All of these people are human beings. All need our prayers.

I was encouraged to read a message online asking people to pray for both sides, not just one. We are one, God tells us, one human race, one human family. What hurts one of us hurts us all. When the war in Ukraine was beginning, we saw something of how interdependent we all are, as although we in this country were and are far from the fighting, our food supplies were affected by the blockades of grain transport. So it is with this conflict in the Middle East. How is it affecting your family, your friends, your neighbours?

How will we respond when people ask us for our opinions? This is an opportunity for us to share our faith as we talk about what is happening, and how we pray for all people involved, and all on the edges, because God has made us all and loves us all.

And we pray for the will to find a peaceful end to this, one that recognises the humanity of all concerned.

with love,

Christine



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Hello Friends, I'm Deacon Joy, and am looking forward to being with you from January 2024. At present I live in Tamworth and have served the local Churches here since 2020. I entered into circuit ministry in 2011, serving in Catterick Garrison, then working with South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area and the Sunderland Methodist Circuit. Prior to entering ministry I was a children's and family worker in 2 north east circuits. I am passionate about bringing Christ into local communities, walking with those who don't come to Church in there joys and sadness of life, sitting alongside people as they discern what God is calling them to do next and exploring opportunities to worship outside our traditional formats and times.



I come with 2 lively Jack Russells, 2 bikes, some running shoes and a wetsuit. I'm very active as this maintains my mental health as well as my physical health. You will find me at a local parkrun on a Saturday.

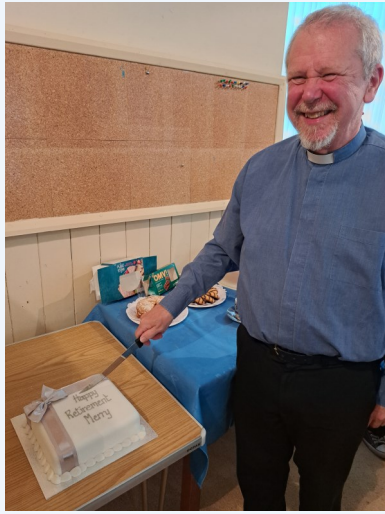
My elderly father lives in a care home in Newcastle, and is a supernumerary minister, my brother and his family live in Easingwold. I have extended family that lives in Bradford but more about that when I arrive.

I look forward to meeting you all soon.

Keeping people informed across the Bradford North Methodist Circuit

A Circuit Farewell

On the afternoon of Sunday 16th July, at a special service held at Crag Road, we said a circuit farewell to Deacon Merry Evans. In the service, Merry offered reflection on the whole of his ministry, Deacon Liz Day led us in an address on the theme of 'community', and gifts were presented. Afterwards, there were refreshments, including an iced retirement cake as the occasion also marked Merry's 'sitting down' from active ministry.



Merry came to us in the summer of 2020 at a very challenging time for the circuit, during the period of the first pandemic lockdown. Much of his early involvement was either on Zoom or over the phone, which made for a frustrating introduction to Bradford North. It was felt that Merry's skills would be best employed in the church and community at Crag Road and he worked patiently making new connections. In his second year with us, all of this came to a sudden stop when Merry was taken seriously ill, with a long stay in hospital. During his third year, Merry's efforts began to come to fruition. Although mixed up with the sadness of the Crag Road congregation making the decision to cease worship, Merry continued to explore and encourage new shoots as the circuit looked at the possibility of developing a project based in the Crag area. His work has paved the way for a new Deacon who will be arriving in January 2024.



Merry sent this card to the circuit with heartfelt thanks to everyone.



Dear Friends,
I just want to thank you all at Bradford North for contributing to your retirement gift to me. It was an unexpected gift and your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you so much.
Although my time in the circuit has been relatively brief and punctuated first by Covid and the lockdowns and secondly by my own health issues I have appreciated the friendship and fellowship offered during our time here by various individuals and churches. In so many ways it is only as my time here draws to a close that I strongly feel to be part of Bradford North. I wish I could have sound it

within me to have been able to continue in ministry here for a few more years, however I have to face my limitations and recognise that I am less able than I was to do things. A few people have had the courage to ask how old I am and have been surprised to learn just how old I am!

I wish you all the very best in the future, and ask God's blessing on you and all you seek to do in God's name,

Merry and Karen

Shared Interest: put your money where your heart is

With £100 or more, we can help change the lives of small farmers, who are often women, in poor countries by investing in Shared Interest. This organization lends money to enhance the work of Fairtrade farmers, enabling them to buy seeds and materials before they receive payment for their harvest. I have seen the transforming effect of this for coffee farmers in the forests of Ethiopia. Shared interest is not a charity. There is a very small rate of interest paid to you. The investment can be paid back to you at any time you need it. It is a Christian way of investing money.

Please go to www.shared-interest.com to see more, or contact me on 01274 590525, so that I may let you have faith-related material.

SHAREDINTEREST
INVESTING IN A FAIRER WORLD

Ruth Anderson

I recently sent a card of support to the King on his Coronation from the Circuit Meeting and received this back in response which I thought you may like to see.



Crag Update

As a circuit we have been exploring a continuing Methodist presence in the Crag area in the form of a circuit project. A Management and Development Group, which has been meeting every 4-6 weeks since January, has now been given formal approval by the Circuit Meeting and will continue to steer the project forward. We are grateful for the additional help given by Rev Malcolm Hendry from Christchurch.

- ◆ The project is developing under a 'Friends of Crag' branding, with a new sign, and a 'feather flag' which is put up outside when an activity is taking place.
- ◆ The group is commissioning a Feasibility Study on the building to see how it might best meet the needs of the community and as a centre for mission.
- ◆ Two Open Events have taken place which have been advertised locally and been attended by residents, officials (including the local Councillor and Ward Officer), and other interested people opinions and ideas were offered, and a local takeaway provided free food for the occasion.
- ◆ The Drop-In continues at the present time, thanks to the ongoing efforts of its volunteers and organisers. Additional activities have included a monthly 'Litter Pick' and a 'Food Share' staffed by Windhill Community Centre.
- ◆ Conversations with other groups and potential partners are ongoing, including with the Community Centres at Bolton Woods and Windhill, and HALE.



News From Northcliffe

4th Shipley Guides are currently creating a Community Garden in the side garden at Northcliffe Church and the girls have each written out to local companies asking for donations and help to fund the project. We were very pleased that Wickes at Baildon donated £200 of goods ranging from top soil, spades, hose pipes and gardening tools plus some chalk board paint and a board so we can put up a blackboard in the garden. We also received a £300 grant from Shipley Council which will go towards purchasing top soil. Formula One Tyres in Shipley donated 20 used tyres for us to create raised beds with and the girls are going to paint them. We have great plans for the garden and this all helps the community, embeds community spirit into the Guides and they also earned their Upcycling badge as a product of all their hard work.



We are meeting next week to make soup for our Harvest Festival meal at church where we are inviting the community to join us for worship and then for a meal afterwards.

We recently raised £250 for Macmillan holding a coffee morning, baking buns, biscuits and cakes for the event and then serving and helping run the coffee morning on the day.

We really enjoyed watching the Greatest Showman film at Saltaire Outdoor cinema at the start of September and we were even interviewed on Look North.

Busy girls doing great things.

Adele



Transforming Light

"God is light" (1 John 1:5) Baildon Methodist Church is transformed by light. The sanctuary is lit by the spiritual light of God in Christ; it is our spiritual powerhouse. Moreover God's light from the sun powers all our buildings from the photovoltaic (PV) electricity-generating panels on their roofs. The energy from light sustains our church in every way. As a triple-certificated Ecocongregation, since 2006 we have specifically celebrated, in many acts of worship, the Creator of all; we have reduced our carbon footprint and cherished God's earth.



In 2012 we first installed 4KW photovoltaic panels on the sanctuary; in 2019 we completed the Fold; and in 2023 the roof of the sanctuary needed replacing and so we installed 28 KW PV as the main part of the SW-facing roof. On the church hall, we installed 11.2 KW roofing on the SW-facing roof. We have fitted 4 KW panels on the SE-facing roof of the kitchen. The PV Panels on the Sanctuary and Hall roofs actually make up part of the roof; there are no roof tiles beneath them. The panels we chose have a better integrity against rain and wind than conventional roof tiles, along with several other advantages, one being no room for pigeons to nest underneath. Technology has moved forward between 2012, when we had our first PV panels installed, and today. It is now possible to get around 30% more electrical power from the same sized panels as those used originally.

If we lived in an exceptionally sunny climate, the cumulative output of all our solar panels would be 28KW (Sanctuary) + 11.2 KW (Hall) + 4KW (Kitchen) + 8 KW (Fold) = 51.2 KW. Of course, in Yorkshire weather, we are unlikely to reach this full potential. Moreover, the roofs are at different angles to the moving sun. But, since the arrays are activated by light, not just by bright sun, we do generate electricity every day. The cost of electricity is now less of a burden. In the two weeks before the PV Panels were installed (23rd August 2023), we consumed 602 KWh from the grid, costing £304. In the first two weeks after the installation, we consumed 36.1 KWh, costing us £18.05, in that time, we exported to the grid 1293.5KWh, which if we were getting paid a modest 8.5p/KWh, would have netted us £109.95. We see electricity as a bountiful gift of God, providing an opportunity to serve our community better.

Elijah called down the electrical power of God in his great battle with the prophets of Baal who could not ignite the offering to their god. For Elijah in 1 Kings 18:38 'The fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering' by lightning. Now we use God's electricity less destructively - and almost as dramatically. Baildon Methodist church is one of the rare nonconformist churches higher in its setting than the local Anglican Church! So we have carefully fitted three new lightning conductors to avoid an Elijah event.

We are renewing the energy of the church. Inspired by divine light, Baildon Methodist Church faces the future with joy, faith and hope. John D Anderson: Member. Contact: dumelama2000@yahoo.co.uk.

Gary Picken: Treasurer and Engineer. Contact: garyp@baildonmethodists.com.

We are very grateful to Ros Crosland for all the photographs.

Harvest At Allerton

Allerton held their Harvest Service on Sunday 17th September 2023. It was led by Rev Phil and included Holy Communion.

Members and friends were invited to bring donations of food and toiletries which we then forwarded to the Bradford Metropolitan Food Bank on the Monday morning. As you can see from the photo, we did have rather a lot of items donated!!!

We collect donations throughout the year for them, but especially at Harvest and Christmas. Their local base is at Girlington Community Centre (formerly Girlington Methodist Church) and their contact, Julie Woodhurst, expressed her gratitude to our members for their continued kindness and generosity.



Blessings
Helen Hoyle

News from St Andrews

The Brownies wildlife garden is blooming at the moment. It's the small piece of land next to the wet room steps. The seeds were put down mid July after Clive Grimshaw had dug it over for them. The Brownies have been looking at the environment and ways they can help which ties in with the Methodist Church's current focus on climate change.

Amanda Grimshaw
(Brown Owl)



Thornton Methodist Church

It is so good to share our news again and would like to say a very 'BIG THANK YOU' to Martin for his hard work in organising The Link for all this time and also to Clair who has now taken over the work.

Since the last edition we have been busy at Thornton and we decided to hold a Poems & Pancakes evening and what a very entertaining evening it turned out to be, with delicious sweet & savoury pancakes to enjoy and some very wonderful poems were recited. All proceeds were given to The Bronte Birthplace Trust.



We got together with local churches to celebrate Easter. On Good Friday we held an outdoor service on the village green and prayers were said and hymns were sung and we invited everyone back here for refreshments. On Easter Sunday the cross was transformed by covering it with flowers.

In May we gathered in Church for a Fish, Chips & Pics Evening. This was an opportunity to look at old albums of newsletters, scripts and photographs from Church events in years gone by. It was good to see old friends and familiar faces and to reminisce about the good old days, plus the fish supper was scrumptious.



Our Sunday School Anniversary was led and arranged by Alun Griffiths with support from Anthea who both did a marvellous job. They involved the children by having a party with games, singing & dancing and Cake. The children also did readings and were very good at 'I SPY'. Of course it would not be a party without presents and each child received their goody bag and couldn't wait to open them.

It was our Harvest Festival on the 1st October and we invited Rev. Keith Hunt to lead the service. It was great to see Keith again and welcome him back. His children's address was about 'Time' and how long it takes to do things and how fast it can go by. He set a task for the children by throwing a bucket of plastic balls into the air and they had to work together to collect them in the quickest time. Well what fun they had and think the children could have played this game for ever. Everyone enjoyed this activity and also the wonderful harvest hymns that were sung.

The food which were donated by the congregation went to St. James Church Pantry to add to their food bank.



God Bless all the Churches in the Circuit
Elaine Briggs

A Celebration of Preaching!

On Sunday 5th November we gathered for a Circuit Service held at Baildon for a Celebration of Preaching. In the service we admitted Claire Nott as a fully-accredited Local Preacher, and presented Martin Bashforth, Peter Jackson and Roy Lorrain-Smith with 40 year long-service certificates. Local Preachers in the congregation were invited to stand to reaffirm their calling as preachers in the year ahead. Rev Rob Drost, Chaplain at Woodhouse Grove School (where Claire also works as a member of staff) gave the sermon on the theme of discovering and sharing God's word in the scriptures. Following the service, the congregation continued to enjoy fellowship with refreshments served in Wesley's Café. It was an uplifting occasion with heartfelt praise and thanksgiving offered to God.

The Link Magazine

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to The Link this time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin Bashforth, Jennifer Conroy and Brenda Duckworth for their long service in producing The Link for many years, I hope that I can do the job as well as they have and look forward to the challenge. It would be lovely to see something from all our churches in the next edition so if you have something that you would like to share please let me have your articles along with any pictures (500 words or half a page)

We plan to produce a link once a quarter so the next one will be coming out in March. Please can you send your articles to me by Monday 5th February to thelink@bradfordnorth.org

The **Methodist** Conference
LEEDS 2024



Taking place @ Royal Armories, Leeds

27th June – 3rd July 2024

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

An exciting opportunity to support

The **METHODIST** Conference

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Please make initial contact with Wendy Bentley

[email pa@ywmethodist.org.uk](mailto:pa@ywmethodist.org.uk)

Be part of the team that makes The Methodist Conference work!

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