

North Kirklees & Morley Circuit February 2019



Dear friends,

I'd like to begin with two quotations (1st bold type, 2nd italics)

"Hundreds of chapels, which are certainly redundant in the light of modern needs, are kept open by a handful of tired people who often display an astonishing repugnance that they should worship with their Methodist neighbours across the road." *This statement, with a little updating, could have been written today by any one of us, yet it was written in 1938 by WE Sangster (Methodism Can Rise Again). The only real change that would need to be made would be, "they should worship with their Methodist neighbours at a nearby Methodist Church."*

A wise man once said that those who fail to learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat the mistakes.

When are we finally going to have the courage to close our redundant chapels kept open by a handful of tired people?

The words above appeared on my screen via a Facebook group for Methodist ministers on January 3rd this year and they sounded deeply resonant.

As we begin this calendar year, we are facing change, as the new connexional year will mean we have 2 fewer ministers than now. We may have other possibilities for help, but even so the likelihood is that at the very best, the following year could see us with 5 rather than the current six ministers (2 years ago we had 7½).

Sangster again:

"The maintenance of the institution saps the life of the best people and leaves many, even of those who have the inclination, too weary for the real work that Methodism exists to do."

When the circuit last fully met in Drighlington last summer some were fearful we would lose what we have (our own churches and way of doing things). We were also challenged with the possibility of letting go and letting God; of pooling the resources we have in new and radical ways to create something vibrant, not merely viable, that would glorify God and draw people to Jesus.

When Sangster wrote his words just before WWII the church had been declining year on year since its peak in 1898. During WWII he was minister at Westminster Central often to congregations 3000+ in number. He preached typically for 30-45 minutes and when air raid warnings came he would say "Those of a nervous disposition may leave now."; few did.

I wonder again, how are we prepared to let go and let God in order to release his blessing? What are we prepared to risk despite the attrition surrounding us and answer the questions Sangster is still asking?

Tek Care,



Thornhill: The next **Family Film** morning will be on Saturday 9th February 2019 at 10.30am, showing **"Cracking Contraption"** – a Wallace and Gromit film. This is a free event, but donations towards refreshments would be appreciated. Children to be accompanied by an adult. *If using a SatNav to get to Thornhill Methodist Church, please use WF12 0RB (Rowlands Pharmacy). The car park and church is in the Savile Centre, behind the chemists, and is signposted from the main road.*

Batley Central: Christian Coffee Break: This will resume in February 2019.

Friday Coffee Morning 9.30am-11.30am All welcome! **Fellowship Lunch:** 3rd Sunday of each month, 12.30pm £4 adults £2 children for a two-course meal. Phone Bev on 07733150203 to book a place.

Daffodil Rally at Batley Central Methodist Church, Tuesday 5th March 2019 at 2pm.

Speaker to be announced, Leader, Rev John Santry, Soloist Mrs Pam Jagger, Organist Mr Keith Webster. Tea and biscuits served after the service at 60p

Westborough:

Monday-9.30am, Painting group. Tuesday-2pm, Fellowship. All welcome. Tuesday-7.30pm, Hobbies & Craft Group. Wednesday- 1.30pm, Drawing Class. Wednesday- 6.30pm, Cubs- 7.30pm Scouts. Thursday-1.30pm, Nimble Fingers craft group. Friday-10am, Coffee Morning, 1st & 3rd Friday. Friday- 5pm, Disco and Games night for adults with learning difficulties.

St. Andrew's Liversedge: Thursday afternoon Fellowship group "Soup for the Soul". Meet alternate Thursdays. Soup lunch served at 12.30, with Fellowship group finishing at 3pm. If you fancy some fantastic soup and wonderful fellowship, why not join us? Contact Rev'd Ray Borrett.

Cleckheaton: Bible Study groups on Tuesday evening and Saturday morning, meet fortnightly. Contact Rev'd Ray Borrett for more information.

West Ardsley : Messy church: Thursday 12th February and 12th March 2019 for young children & carers from 4 to 6 pm (doors open 3.30pm) for crafts, song and afternoon tea.

Prayer Breakfast will resume at Easter **Coffee Morning** 9th February 2019 & 9th March 2019 10-12 noon.

Trinity Mirfield :Shrove Tuesday 5th March 2019 Pancake Lunch from 12-1pm.

Jumble Sale Friday 15th March 2019 6pm.

Tingley: The Friends Café -Good company, good food, good fun Monthly café, open to everyone. Food and drinks are provided free of charge. However, if you feel able, we will be more than happy to accept a donation. All are welcome, please come and join us at our next café



At the Circuit Resource Centre....

Our contact details:

The Circuit Resource Centre,
Batley Methodist Church
Commercial Street
Batley WF17 5DS
01924 442535

email address: admin@nkandmccircuit.org.uk

Our opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am – 1pm

Thursday 9am – 3pm, Friday 9am – 1pm

We are currently having a major 'sort out' of our resources, to make it easier to find materials to help you with Own Arrangement Services, materials for Junior Church and group studies. Why not pop in and have a look?

Morley: Film Nights: February 13th, "Mamma Mia" "March 20th, "Viceroy's House". Films start at 7pm, Free entry all profits from refreshments split between Church and Church charity.

Messy Church: 3rd February & 3rd March 2019 at 3.30pm.

March 1st, World Day of Prayer 10.30am.

Hanging Heaton : Messy Church, Wednesday 13th February 2019 at 3.30pm.

Hanging Heaton Community Luncheon Club:

This club has provided a welcome service to the local community for 18 years. We are now in need of more volunteers. If you are able to spare a few hours every six weeks on Tuesday mornings to help, at St. Paul's Church hall, Hanging Heaton, please contact Margaret Brooke 01924 454332 or Sandra Barnes 01924 401753. This is a joint venture organised by Ebenezer Methodist Church and St. Paul's Anglican Church.

Birkenshaw & East Bierley: Welcome in Coffee Morning every Friday 10- 11.30am.

Birstall: Community Coffee Morning: Thursdays 9.30-11am. **Cell Church group:** Meets on Monday evenings 7.30-9pm.

Baby Coffee and Play: Coffee morning for Mums, Dads, Grandparents and their babies/toddlers, 9.30-11.30am Friday 8th & 22nd February 2019, for more info contact Julie 01924-442324.

Drighlington: IT drop in centre every Thursday 10am-1pm. Call and have all your laptop, iPad, mobile phone questions and queries answered by experts "free of charge". **Coffee Pot** - Every 2nd Friday of the Month 1.30pm – 3.30pm for people living with Dementia but all are welcome! Details from Trevor Martin, 01132854165 trevorjmartin@yahoo.com Deacon Jan Miles is taking the **Good Friday** service at 2pm.

West Ardsley: Quiz night, Saturday 16th Feb. 7.0pm, Pie & Pea supper. Quiz master - Neil Macbeth, Adults £5, children free. Visiting teams welcome, please advise Stephen Stokes, 01924 477534 for catering

Church events

February

3 rd , 3.30pm	Messy Church	Morley
6 th , 11.45-12.45	Soup Lunch & CAMEO club	Trinity
8 th , 9.30-11.30	Baby Coffee & Play	Birstall
9 th , 10-12	Coffee Morning	West Ardsley
12 th , 4-6pm	Messy Church	West Ardsley
13 th , 3.30pm	Messy Church	Hanging Heaton
20 th , 11.45-12.45	Soup Lunch & CAMEO club	Trinity
22 nd , 9.30-11.30	Baby Coffee & Play	Birstall

March

3 rd , 3.30pm	Messy Church	Morley
5 th , 2pm	Daffodil rally	Batley
9 th , 10-12	Coffee Morning	West Ardsley
12 th , 3.30pm	Messy Church	West Ardsley

The Circuit is looking to appoint a **Circuit Safeguarding Officer**

This is a volunteer post.

If you are interested in taking on this role, please write to the Circuit Resource Centre giving details of why you think you would be suitable – the gifts and experience that you would bring to this role.

Methodist Church 'Safer Recruiting' procedures will apply to this position.

Contact the Circuit Resource Centre for further information.

First Aid Training: Congratulations to Caroline, Jenny, Peter, Jacob, Barbara and June on completing their first aid course. Spaces are still available on the dates below.

•16th March 2019 – Venue to be confirmed

•4th May 2019 – Venue to be confirmed. For further details please contact: Rev Ray Borrett

07400353212 or email him on

ray.borrett@outlook.com

Rev. Andy Halstead is "doing" a blog whilst on sabbatical, if anyone is interested, here's the link: <https://almostchristianlife.wordpress.com>

Wesley Playhouse:

New Saturday opening: 1st Saturday of every month from 6th April 2019. Open 10am to 4pm. For directions and more information visit www.thisisit.me.uk or Tel: 07511868836

Staff days off:

Monday – Nigel Rodgers, Imran Malik, Andrew Halstead; Wednesday Ray Borrett; Thursday – Alison Crookes; Saturday - Paul Martin.

Rev'd Andy Halstead is on sabbatical from 26th December 2018- 25th March 2019.

The March edition of Connect will be in churches on Sunday 3rd March 2019.

Connect deadline: 10am Friday 22nd February 2019