

Dear Friends

I was recently privileged to conduct a baptism service. During the service we gave the couple being baptised candles, with the words: 'You belong to Christ, the Light of the World. Christ is your Light and your Way'. It's a very special moment when we recognise that we are called to live as children of light and to share the light Christ gives us with others, through our words and prayers and actions. At this dark time of the year the light seems to be more important than ever. February 2nd marked the feast of Candlemas. Candlemas may not traditionally have been so well known in our Methodist churches, but it still has a message of hope for us in these dark times. Candlemas, or the feast of the presentation, takes place 40 days after we celebrate the birth of Jesus. It celebrates the day when Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple to be presented to God and blessed. You may remember the beautiful story in Luke 2: 22-38 which tells how the elderly Simeon took the baby in his arms and found himself looking into the very face of God. Simeon prophesied that Jesus would be 'a light to the Gentiles'. (That includes us!)

The name Candlemas comes from the Middle Ages, when, long before the advent of electricity, candles were the main source of light in homes and churches. Candlemas was the day when all the candles to be used in the churches during the year would be blessed and dedicated for use. Candlemas isn't just about candles though, it's a reminder to all of us that we belong to Christ, the light of the world and as followers of Jesus, we are called to let the light of God's love shine in and through us. Keeping a candle alight isn't always an easy task, especially if you are outside battling with the elements, but even a glowing wick can make a difference in the darkness and if just one person can keep their candle burning, others will be able to rekindle their flames from it. As we move on through the dark days of winter, remember Christ is the light of all the world and no matter what happens, his light cannot be put out. So, let's keep encouraging each other, keep the light of faith alive and do what we can to share the light of God's love in the world around us.

With every blessing Barbara

LENT EVENTS

Ash Wednesday Evening Service

A service to mark the beginning of Lent led my members of the staff a time of quiet reflection and lament as we enter into this Holy Season. February 17th at 7 pm on Zoom

Topic: The Ordinary things of Lent in extraordinary times – An evening act of worship during Lent

Based upon the book At Home in Lent by Gordon Giles an opportunity to worship together, reflect and discuss topics around everyday objects. All welcome why not invite a friend? Held on Zoom on February 21 and 28 and on March 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 6 pm.

Topic: Claire'Corp's s Housegroup – Silsden Methodist exploring Not a Tame Lion based on the writings of C.S Lewis. Open to all across the Circuit. Held on at 2.30 pm on 23 February and 2, 9, 16 and 23 March. On Zoom.

Glenda Coogan will be leading Bible Study 'Preparing the Way of the Lord - the Life and Ministry of John the Baptist'

At 7 pm at 23 February and 2, 9, 16 and 23 March on Zoom.

Details for access for all these events from your Minister or the Circuit Office.



FAMILY QUIZ OVER ZOOM

SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY AT 4 PM

Details from Jo Dolman 07904 883491

YOUTH EVENTS DURING FEBRUARY over Zoom

AWESOME KIDS (at 6.30 pm)

Monday 8th February and Monday 22nd February

GIFT (At 6.30 pm) Tuesday 9th February,

Tuesday 16th February and Tuesday 23rd February

Sarah Rose – Keighley Town Centre Worker

An Update on Prayers for the Graveyard area of Keighley Shared Church

I am going to start some weekly pray walking in the graveyard on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm. Anyone is welcome to join me, either from home, or in person - as long as we pray in twos. My focus will be to walk the perimeters in particular and to be proclaiming the Lord's name and protection over this land.

There are also ongoing plans (led by Rev Natasha Thomas, Curate) to install 5 art works leading up to Easter morning, starting on February 25th.

The artwork will be there to encourage people to reflect and think about the journey towards Easter

It will be part of our commitment to reclaiming the graveyard space for good and peaceful rest rather than just anti-social behaviour.



NEW CLUB FOR THE CIRCUIT—GAMES TOGETHER

Matthew Watson would like you all to join his club called Games Together. Due to the pandemic to begin with the club will be on zoom and he will run a lot of different games including bingo, scavenger hunt, role play games and more. Once we can eventually meet in person the club will be on an evening once a fortnight and more games will be available for example Uno, Monopoly, Connect 4 and more. Now this club isn't just for kids it is for everyone of all ages and all are welcome to join and have fun playing games, laughter and get to know each other more. Zoom details are available from Jo Dolman if you wish to join or are already signed up.

Dates in February are: 11th and 25th at 6.30 pm .

FOR FUN Identify the hymn – from Singing the Faith

1. He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned
2. Ev'ry member part of the Body; given his power, his will to seek and do
3. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech
4. Join with all nature in manifold witness
5. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting nor wasting, thou rulest in might
6. And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer and higher, and greater will be
7. Accept the gifts we offer for all your love imparts
8. Like the first dewfall on the first grass
9. But by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord
10. His heart with sorrow was torn
11. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all
12. For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting
13. From the lips of sinners unto whom he came
14. And makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness
15. I woke, the dungeon flamed with light
16. God's grace has brought me safe thus far
17. Bid my anxious fears subside
18. I feast on his pure delights
19. Never more thy temples leave
- 20.** Wine, my blood poured out to save you

If needed answers from Judith Hargreaves— judemfol@hotmail.co.uk or 01535 608214

Please send items for the March newsletter by the 26th February to Penny Moon, Circuit Administrator office@airedalemethodists.org . Please send email to Penny if you wish to receive the Newsletter by email.