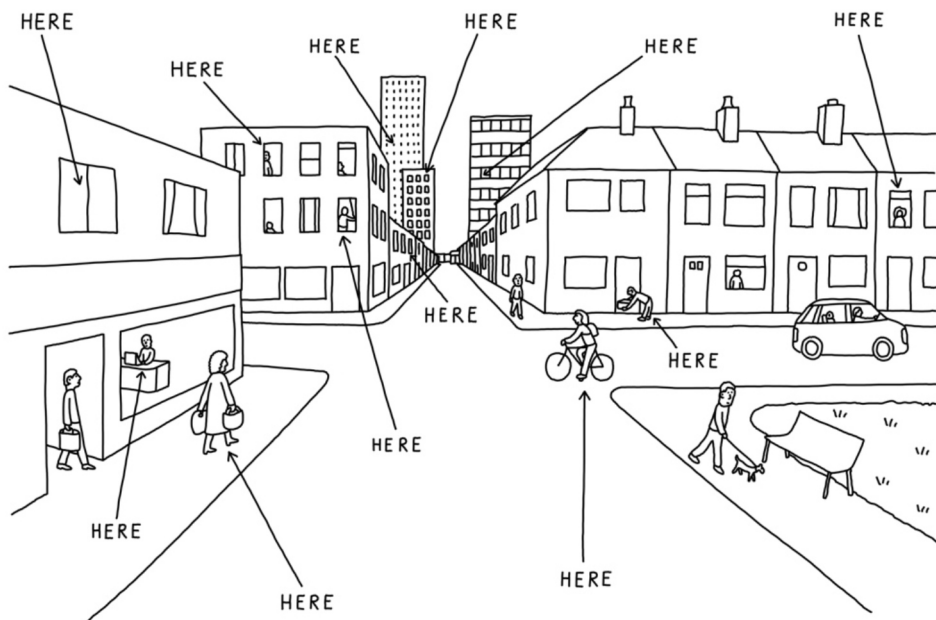


# INSIGHT

OCTOBER 2023

## WHERE THE CHURCH IS



**INSIDE**  
**Insight**

- Meet our new superintendent Richard Sharples
- Sally's "Book of the Month" from Tom Wright
- The Story of "May the mind of Christ my Saviour"
- 10 things you might not know about Michaelmas
- Want to join the New GMC Book Club?

**THE MAGAZINE OF GUISBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH**

# KEVIN WRITES



## Monthly Musings From Our Minister

**“Ask the Lord of the harvest,...to send out workers into his harvest field” (Matthew 9:38, NIV)**

Spiritual practices bring us closer to God and help us to become more like Jesus Christ.

Last month I mentioned the practice of financial generosity, and this month I want to talk about the spiritual practice of “service.”

John Wesley taught the way in which God gives us grace includes acts of mercy or service. Wesley refers to Matthew 25:31-46, in verse 40 Jesus says when you did these things (feed, clothe, visit) for the least, you did it for me. God’s grace is present in the act of service, they are a means of grace.

Service is one of the twelve spiritual practices or spiritual disciplines that make up the Methodist Way of Life. Service to God through self-giving actions of love for other people is a key component of “sanctification” which is becoming whole and holy like Christ. It is a primary way to experience the presence of God.

Not only is it God’s grace for us, but for the world to see and to know the kingdom of God here on earth. We are bringing the kingdom here through our acts of service. What is amazing grace is that God chooses to bring the kingdom to reality through ordinary people like you and me. We are gifted by the Holy Spirit with the means by which God will transform the world.

After Jesus’ resurrection and ascension, God, through the Holy Spirit breathed life into Jesus’ followers who became the church, the body of Christ working on earth.

James Harnish reminds us that the church is more than another helping agency in the community, more than a body of like-minded people doing good things in this world.

The church is also intended by God to be the tangible expression of God presence in this world as a

*“divinely formed community of disciples, called into being by the spirit of God and energized by that same Spirit to accomplish God’s work through God’s own power” (in The Disciple’s Path: Deepening your relationship with Christ and the Church).*

To experience the fullness of life that God intends for us, we as disciples need to move from being receivers of God’s grace to being channels of grace to others. We don’t hold God’s love within ourselves but find ways to share it with others, participating in God’s transformation of the world.

God will not make this world what God wants it to become without God’s people, and the people of God cannot become the church without the presence, power, and direction of the Holy Spirit with us and in us. We are not alone, and we are becoming more than we could be on our own. (John14:15-17).

The Holy Spirit energises our spiritual gifts allowing us to serve others with self-sacrificing love. Eugene Peterson said,

*“Each gift is an invitation and provides the means to participate in the work of Jesus... . We are being invited into a working relationship in the operations of the Trinity” (in Practice Resurrection)*

What are your spiritual gifts? Right now? Spiritual gifts are not given to us once for all time, but the Spirit continues to bless us with different ones throughout our lives.

As we get older perhaps we are given new gifts of discernment, prayer, or storytelling. No one has all the gifts, so we have to work together as a body of many parts, and Christ as the head.

God invites us to participate in the new kingdom, and disciples must accept that invitation to use the gifts, knowledge and abilities given to us. We become God’s agents as baptised believers to do the will of God in and through our lives.

In Ephesians 4:1-16, we see that every follower of Christ is united with every other follower of Christ in the one mission of the church *“to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”* (Ephesians 4:3).

Even though we are one body each of us is given unique and essential gifts, making each of us diverse yet equally worthy of dignity and worth (Ephesians 4:7).

Every individual disciple will then grow to maturity (be sanctified) in the likeness of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:11-15).

By the use of our gifts, we become a part in God's answer to the prayer that God's kingdom will come and God's will, will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Do you ever wonder whether the little acts of service that you offer make any difference at all? Perhaps "*this little light of mine*" is not much help? You should know that there is great joy in heaven and in the body of Christ when disciples are faithful in using their talents, resources, and gifts to make a difference in the lives of people we serve. We need to trust that the Spirit of God will become a part of the transformation through our small contribution, using us in ways beyond our imagination.

How would anyone hear the stories of Jesus if there was no teaching? How would people experience the love of God, find a spiritual anchor, if no one shares the good news? How would someone find their way into a church if there was no hospitality? How would someone find healing in their broken lives without someone praying for them? How would lonely people find a community unless the gift of mercy is extended to care for them? How would issues of justice and peace be confronted if people are not aware of them?

God has work to be done in this world that will not get done until we offer ourselves to do it. Have we not been created, called, and gifted for such a time as this? Accept the invitation of your gifts with passion and commitment to serve others

Grace and peace,

Reverend Kevin Highfield

If you need help discerning your spiritual gifts, pray and read Romans 12:1-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, Ephesians 4:1-16 for examples; or, take this survey of spiritual gifts:

<https://www.adultbiblestudies.com/spiritual-gifts-survey> or contact me.

# WHAT NEXT? Reflections from our recent Vision Meeting

Several of us have been involved for a number of months (actually years) in thinking about the use of our church building and its future.

Described by David Donnison years ago as “a grand old lady”, has our building run its course?

We have spent many years looking at suggestions as to how we can make our building more attractive, more accessible, open to greater community use, whilst retaining the aspects of the building which make it a unique place for Methodist worship.

Those of us who love the historic nature of the building love the barrelled ceiling, the pews etc., but we realise the amount of work that goes on all the time to keep the building in its present state and how much it costs to maintain.

It was built in 1907 to accommodate a much larger congregation and especially a rapidly increasing Sunday school, which rendered the old chapel in Chapel Street (now occupied by the Conservative Club) too small.

- Is it now time to really look at what we might do to the building?
- Should we knock down and re-build on the same site?
- Should we sell and build elsewhere?
- Should we sell and rent somewhere?
- Should we sell part of the building for flats for the growing number of people who can't find accommodation?
- Should we sell the lower floor for shops?
- Should we split the building in two vertically and sell off the back part?

What do you think ? Please pass on your thoughts to the Stewards, Resources Committee members, Church Council members, the Building Improvement Team, or of course Kevin.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Sheila Crossman*



# WELCOME RICHARD!

## A MEET & GREET WITH OUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT, RICHARD SHARPLES

*"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

These words from the Prophet Micah (6v8) have inspired the Methodist Conference to re-commit the people called Methodists to becoming a justice-seeking Church.

Following a two-year consultation, the report proposes five priorities as we seek to 'walk with Micah' and thus embody the good news of Jesus.

As this is also an opportunity to introduce myself, I thought that I might introduce each of the priorities with a personal story from the journey in ministry which Bidy and I have made:

### **1. Tackling Inequality and Poverty – *seeking life in all its fulness.***

We've just come from Bristol where we opened up the Church at Victoria for some 'Calm, Create, Community' each Wednesday between 12noon and 2pm. Over a few years a small group of people has gathered, supported and enabled by some core members of the Church, but otherwise formed of those beyond or on the fringes of the Church, and each with particular needs. We managed to travel as a group up to Iona last May, finding ways to subsidize the cost of the trip for those who needed it.

### **2. Enabling a Flourishing Environment – *a right relationship between people, planet and God.***

In Wrexham, we had a small tin chapel with very elderly members at the gates of a large secondary school. It also had a large grassy area, in which I created two vegetable beds. We involved pupils from the school's Eco Champions Group, and enjoyed harvesting and eating produce at a Church Open Day. It brought new life and – although the Methodist congregation ultimately ceased to meet – it sowed the seeds for youth work which continues there to this day.

### **3. Seeking Justice for Refugees – *one people, one world.***

Bidy and I have both been involved in supporting refugees; Bidy through English teaching and me through chairing a local support group. At this year's Greenbelt festival, our girls (who are all in their mid-twenties) encouraged us to register to host a Ukrainian refugee, through a scheme run by Citizen's UK. We've since discovered that there is good support for Ukrainians in Saltburn.

#### 4. **Opposing Discrimination – all are made in the image of God.**

One of my Churches in Bristol was a mainly black congregation where we managed to re-start a small youth group. With support from a local trust, we were able to work with youth club members to bring about a huge mural. You can read the story in the latest edition of 'Connexion' which I've seen in one or two Churches.

#### 5. **Pursuing Peace – seeking justice and reconciliation.**

Our Membership of the Iona Community continues to disturb and inspire us both. In solidarity with other Members, I took part in Scotland's Long Walk for Peace, starting outside the gates of the Faslane Naval Base where Trident is based. I regularly pray for a world free of nuclear weapons, and also for justice in Israel-Palestine, seeking to introduce stories from charities like Christian Aid or the Amos Trust, especially towards Christmas as our thoughts turn to the Holy Land.

These stories are just tiny examples of how I have sought to 'walk with Micah' over the years. What might your circumstances suggest in terms of being a 'justice-seeking Church'? With whom might you work in partnership? Because often the way we go about working for justice is as important as the work itself.

And remember, this is about being good news. Those around us will notice that the Church is trying to make a difference. Not all with approval of course, but then it was the same for Jesus – and, no doubt, for Micah.

*With love and prayers, Richard*

## **SALE OF BOOKS, GAMES & CAKES**

**SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 9.30 am – 12 noon**

In aid of Church funds

Join us for a GIANT SALE of books—all in good condition—  
together with games and jigsaws.



Fill up with bacon sandwiches, soup and  
bread, coffee and your wonderful home  
baking.

*Offers of help and donations will be much  
appreciated. Please bring your donations to church  
or see one of the Stewards*



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A NEW BOOK CLUB?

Hey everyone, how would YOU like to be part of a book club reading stimulating and provocative Christian books together with others from the church?

I've been thinking about starting this for a while and with Kevin's encouragement, I'm now looking for people to join up...

The idea is to read a selected book - probably one book per term, so not exactly onerous in terms of time commitment.

We'd then meet together once per week to discuss the selected portion or chapter for that week.

The idea is for it to be relaxed and laid back, whilst also delving into some thoughtful and challenging spiritual topics. I don't see much point in reading books that simply restate what we already know and believe - I want us to challenge ourselves to think differently and stretch our minds. Keep that in mind before joining!

As well as book discussion, there'll be plenty of coffee and cake, fun and laughter. We'll also worship and pray with some different styles of worship from Iona, Taize, Northumbria Community and the World Church, as well as engaging with prayer exercises, contemplation and meditations.

I hope that it will offer something a bit different to the (excellent) house group style of gathering. So, if you have never gelled with house groups or simply fancy something different, why not give it a try?

Interested? Contact me via email ([paulwalker71@me.com](mailto:paulwalker71@me.com)) or have a word with me at Church. If I get a few "takers" we can then consult on times and venue. I look forward to reading and discussing with you.

Paul and Sandy Walker



# The story behind the hymn May the mind of Christ my Saviour

Katie Wilkinson, who was born in 1859, wrote this hymn in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century., and sadly it was her only one. She was a member of the Church of England, and spent a lot of her married life ministering to the girls of London. She was also associated with the Keswick Convention. She died in London in 1928.



The tune , St Leonard, was written for this hymn by an Anglican priest, Rev. Barham Gould, (1891-1953), who was living at St. Leonard's- on - Sea at the time, though all his ministry was in London churches.

Interestingly, the St Leonard's name is linked with palliative care. The hymn is based on part of Paul's letter to the Philippians, chapter 2 v 5-8:

***'Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ'.....***

but it also embraces the idea of the Trinity, Father Son and Spirit. Here are the most common words to this hymn.

*May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day,  
By his love and power controlling all I do or say.*

*May the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all may see I triumph only through his power.*

*May the peace of God my Father in my life for ever reign;  
That I may be calm to comfort those in grief or pain.*

*May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea;  
Him exalting, self denying, this is victory.*

*May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,  
Drawing all my strength from Jesus, as I onward go.*

Jenny Bolton

# BOOK OF THE MONTH



My book of the month is *“What St Paul Really Said”* by Tom Wright, former Bishop of Durham. I have recently been studying Paul’s letters to the Romans, the Philippians and the Ephesians in house groups and I felt that I would like to know more about him.

Paul is a person who seems to provoke a strong response from his readers (perhaps when he was alive as well as afterwards).

Hence, according to the comments on the back cover of the book: *“Some people still regard Paul as a pestilent and dangerous fellow. Others think him the greatest teacher of Christianity since Jesus himself”*.

The book provides a context for Paul’s life before and after his conversion and this certainly helps to make him easier to understand as a person. It was apparently very important to him that Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus **after** his ascension.

He had ceased to appear in person to the apostles after his ascension. All of what Paul had previously thought/believed about God’s plan for the “Age to Come” had to be rethought and this gave him a completely different perspective.

Wright explains how *“The cross stands at the heart of Paul’s whole theology”*-“the crucified Jesus of Nazareth had been raised from the dead..he was thereby proved to be Israel’s Messiah...[and] he was thereby installed as Lord of the world”.

Paul taught that Jesus is the king of all, now and forever...and there is only one true king and no others. This teaching was perhaps one of the main reasons why Paul often ended up in prison.

Wright helpfully explains what monotheism meant to first century Jews: that God is always present and always active. Paul’s beliefs were built on and remained within the Jewish context and their relationship with God and what that meant-past, present, and future.

Their God had revealed himself in Jesus and what followed was all clearly part of God's plan to rescue his people, all of them, Jews and gentiles. Paul was not "ashamed" to preach this as and wherever God led him/sent him.

The book looks at a range of key questions such as "*What does Paul mean by "the gospel?"*"; "*What did he mean by "justification" etc.*

I do struggle to understand some of Wright's explanations, but I usually find that when I persevere a sentence at the end of a chapter makes it clearer and I think "why didn't he just say that in the first place?!".

I think it would be useful for Wright to have a glossary at the back of his books for readers like me who are not as academic as he is! He taught New Testament studies at Oxford and Cambridge Universities which explains a lot in how he writes his books.

If you would like to borrow the book, please let me know and I will happily lend it to you.

God Bless,

*Sally*

## LOVE IN A BOX

*We plan to send filled shoe boxes to the local Charity, **Children in Distress**, to reach their recipients in time for Christmas. This is a lovely way of offering a gift to a deprived child, or indeed a deprived elderly person, often to folk where this is their only Christmas gift.*

*Please take a leaflet from the back of the Church; it will explain how to wrap your box and indicate the age group your present is aimed for. There is advice on suitable contents.*

*When complete, please would you return the box to Church and hand it to a Steward for safekeeping until they are collected by the Charity - by Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October, at the latest.*

*Thank you all for your kind support. Christine Smith*

# 10 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT MICHAELMAS

It's 'Michaelmas' again...

'What's *that*?' I hear you ask. Good question—stick with me, and all will be explained...

'Michaelmas' is a day in our Christian calendar which celebrates the Feast of St Michael and All Angels and falls every year in the Christian calendar on September 29th

*So, in honour of St Michael—and we aren't talking about Marks & Spencer here—here are NINE things you might not have known about St Michael.*

1. The name Michael in Hebrew means "there is no one like God".
2. Michael is one of only three named angels in the bible. Can you name the other two? The answer is at the foot of this post.
3. Michael alone amongst the angels is styled "Archangel", which means that he is an Angel (which literally means "a messenger"), too—but he's one of the chief angels. The prefix "arch-" translates from the Ancient Greek as "chief, main".
4. Michael only says four words in the Bible. In the little New Testament letter of Jude, Michael says to Satan, "*The Lord rebuke you!*" (*Jude 9*)
5. Michael is a military commander of angels. In the book of Revelation, he sees a great war in heaven: Michael and his angels are battling with the dragon (Satan) and his angels. However, the devil and his forces are too weak to remain in heaven, so they are all thrown down to earth.



6. While St. Michael has the biblical role as a warrior, commander and protector, early Christians considered him to be a healer. The early Church prayed to St. Michael for the ill and injured. Tradition teaches that

Michael is not only our protector in this life—but in the next as well. He is seen as protecting souls on their final journey to heaven.

7. In art, Michael is almost always portrayed with a fiery sword or a spear in his hands, casting out or conquering the devil. He also sometimes holds scales in his other hand to symbolise his participation in the coming Judgment. Yesterday, I wrote a Medium story exploring one particular piece of art which depicts Michael—check it out.

8. St Michaels is the fourth most popular church dedication in the Church of England. There are 816 churches dedicated to St Michael – behind only St Mary, All Saints and St Peter.

9. Now, to explain my reference earlier to Marks and Spencer, which I'm sure puzzled everyone from outside the UK. Marks and Spencer is one of the most popular and well-loved retail brands in the UK and has used the "St Michael's" branding for their clothing since 1927. The name is an allusion to Michael Marks, the father of the founder of the brand, Simon Marks.

*Did you learn anything new about St Michael?*

Finally, let's explain how this day came to be called Michaelmas. The name Michaelmas comes from a shortening of "Michael's Mass" in the same style as Christmas (Christ's Mass).

It is one of the four "quarter days" along with Lady Day (March 25), Midsummer Day (June 24) and Christmas Day. Posh Universities like Oxford and Cambridge still refer to the autumn term as "Michaelmas Term", and the term is used in the upper echelons of the legal profession.

Nowadays, few people in the church pay much attention to Michaelmas or celebrate the feast of St Michael and All Angels—although it's still one of the principal Festivals in the Western Christian calendar.

**And, finally, the quiz answer: Gabriel and Satan are the other two named angels in the Bible...**



**GMC COFFEE MORNING**

*Come and join us for fellowship on*  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH 10.00-11.30

## "TAP HERE PLEASE..."

The church has recently bought a card machine which means that people can now give money/pay for items without the need for cash.

It has been used at recent coffee mornings with success and is also available at our church services. It will be particularly useful for donations at funerals where often mourners do not carry money.

Increasingly we are seeing more and more people paying for everything by means of cards and watches.

Before we bought the machine, we asked other local churches, whom we knew used the card machines, about the benefits or otherwise of their use, and all recommended them.

***Now we need someone prepared to operate ours! Jason Griffiths is happy to give training. If this appeals to you, please contact one of the Stewards or a member of Resources. Thank you.***



## SANDY'S RECIPE CORNER

Why not turn those leftover apples from the garden or picked from orchards into delicious Apple Butter? Here are the ingredients you need:

- 5 medium apples cored and roughly chopped (no need to peel)
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 Tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 ½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- ¼ cup maple syrup or honey

Put everything in a slow cooker and cook on low overnight OR a medium-sized saucepan. Cover and cook on low heat, stirring occasionally, for 1-2 hours, until apples have softened and reduced. Turn off the heat, remove the lid, and let the apples cool for at least 15 minutes.

Blend the apple mixture with an immersion blender until smooth. If you want to thicken your apple butter, return it to the stove over low heat and let it cook down until it's reached your desired consistency.

Serve apple butter warm or let it cool and keep it in an airtight container in the fridge for up to a week. Or Pour into sterilised jars and seal while hot. Keeps for months in a cool place.

Add to pies, serve with roast pork or spread on toast. Yum!

# EVERY WEEK IN GMC

Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Sun	10.30am	Church service	Office - 610349
Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club for children	Juanita Osborne - personal
Mon	10am -12 noon	Good Neighbours – for a helping hand / lift to hospital etc / info about church activities	Office – 610349 Ken Darragh
Mon	9.30-12.45	Nurture Nest baby class	Becky
Mon	1.30-3.30pm	Women's Fellowship	Roma Ross
Mon	7-9pm	Guisborough Residents' Assembly	Michael Dakin
Tues	10am -12 noon	FoodStop - Bridge	Juanita Osborne - Bridge
Tues	1-2.30pm	Tuesday Toddlers (term-time)	Jenny Tyrie
Tues	12-3pm	Community shop - Bridge	Bridge - 638771
Tues	5-6.30pm	Gener8 youth group – 8-11 yrs	Mel Bradley or GMC Facebook
Tues	7-9pm	Credo youth group 11-14 yrs	Mel Bradley or GMC Facebook
Weds	10am -12 noon	Good Neighbours	Office – 610349
Weds	10-11am	Prayer Group	Isabel Stuart
Weds	10am – 12 noon	Bridge2Parents	Juanita Osborne – Bridge
Weds	11.30am – 2.30pm	Community shop and Drop-in - Bridge/GMC	Bridge – 638771 GMC - 610349
Weds	7-9pm	Trefoil (3 <sup>rd</sup> week of month)	Sue Thompson
Thurs	10am – 1pm	Hot drinks and bacon sandwiches from 10am; Soup and Roll lunch from 11am	Lorraine Nash
Thurs	10.30 – 12.30	FoodStop - Bridge	Juanita Osborne – Bridge
Thurs	2.30-4pm	U3A's Singing for Pleasure (fortnightly)	Wendy Milnes
Thurs	7-9.30pm	Guisborough Photo Group	Aileen Newcombe
Fri	6-7.30pm	Brownies (term-time)	Lisa Handley
Sat	10-11.30am	Saturday Coffee Morning (usually last Saturday of month)	Jenny Tyrie

# October



All Services begin at 10.30 am

Services @GMC are upstairs on the 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, and downstairs in the Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

## Worship

**1st**

**MORNING WORSHIP**

Led by Jason Griffiths

**8th**

**HARVEST FESTIVAL CAFE-STYLE**

Led by Revd. Kevin Highfield

Holy Communion @ Hinton Court

Led by Revd. Bill Middlemiss

**15th**

**MORNING WORSHIP**

Local Arrangement (tbc)

**22nd**

**HOLY COMMUNION CAFE-STYLE**

Led by Revd. Richard Sharples

Worship @ Hinton Court

Led by Christine Smith

**29th**

**MORNING WORSHIP**

Led by Revd. Isabelle Stuart

ZOOM WORSHIP LIVE from Zetland Park Methodist can be accessed EVERY Sunday Morning at 10.30 am.

<https://bit.ly/3rgrzom> (ID: 822 778 7318 Passcode: 135791)

Or ring 0203 4815237 and use above ID and passcode to listen via the phone.