

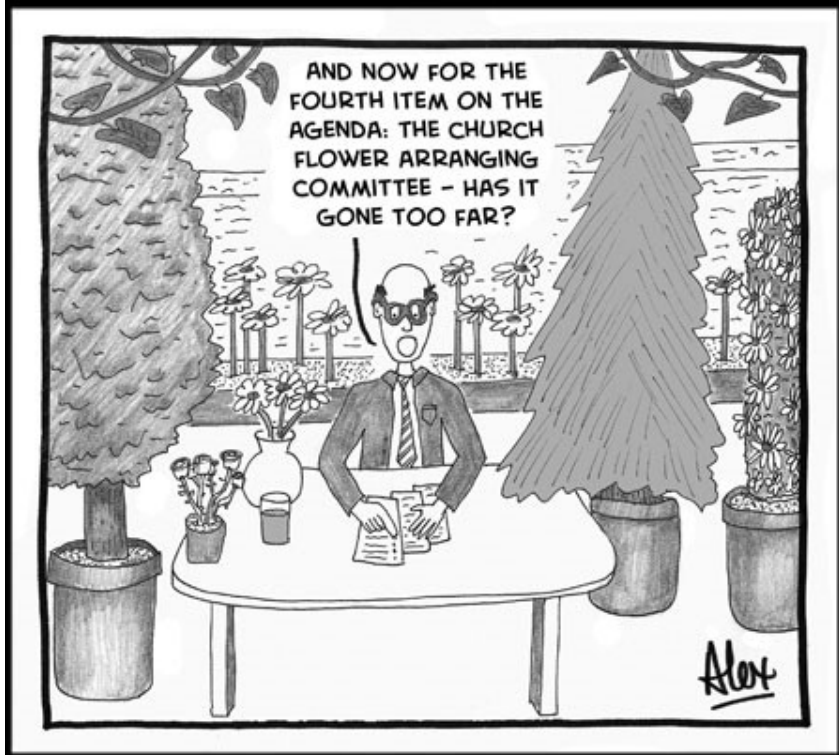
# INSIGHT

April 2024

The magazine of the Methodist Church at Guisborough

## CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker



"Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land." Song of Songs 2:12

# April Worship

*Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, Lord. (Psalm 81)*

*After Easter the 1st and 3rd week will be upstairs; 2nd and 4th downstairs.*

Our services for April are as below:

**Sunday 7th April**

**10:30am** - Local Arrangement

**Sunday 14th April**

**10:30am Hinton Court** - Pam Stenson  
**10:30am** - Rev Kevin Highfield—café service / Holy Communion

**Sunday 21st April**

**10:30am** - Rev Paul Walker

**Sunday 28th April**

**10:30am Hinton Court** - Rev Trevor Haigh—Holy Communion  
**10:30am** - Jenny Haigh—Café



On holiday or unable to leave home? We have you covered for worship at 10:30 on Sundays, by Zooming with the worship service at Zetland Park. Everyone and anyone is welcome to join. Weblink:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8227787318?pwd=WU9seVo4clNicEM2R2RBR3hjTDhkZz09>

Meeting ID: 822 778 7318

Passcode: 135791

You can use the above ID and code to call in on a phone to listen to the service as well. 0203 481 5237 or 0208 080 6592

You can also search Zetland Park Methodist on YouTube to find older services.

***Just for fun...***

A pastor went visiting one afternoon. He knocked on a door several times, but no-one answered. He could see through the window that the TV was on, so he took one of his cards and wrote "Rev.3:20—Behold I stand at the door and knock: if anyone will open I will come in" on it and stuck it in the door.

The following Sabbath, a woman handed him a card with her name on it and the following message, "Gen.3:20—I heard thy voice, and I was naked—so I hid myself."



## *From the Minister*

### **I am a tree hugger.**

Jesus said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." (Mark 4:30-2)

This spring we see many different colours of plants, flowers and even some trees. The trees seem to come alive again, growing new leaves that provide food, shelter, oxygen and shade. The trees themselves nourish new life into being. Trees can also communicate with each other via an underground network of soil fungi – they can send nutrients, water and unused carbon to each other! In Japan they do something called "forest bathing." Research has shown that breathing among trees in a forest can reduce stress and make us feel happier.

Damaging and destroying the Earth affects our relationship with God. The Earth is divinely created. It reveals God's character, God's goodness, and God intends us to relate to him through how we relate to other parts of his creation. We've been created to be in relationship with God, with each other, and with the wider natural world. Part of being human is taking care of what God made, what God loves, what God values, and that includes creation.

Climate change has upended our ecosystem, and will continue to do so. We are starting to do our part. Our church has been outfitted with LED lights, and we have been worshiping downstairs to cut our energy consumption significantly. There are other things we can do, individually and as a group, to make a difference, and be better stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Let's identify these things, perhaps we can even become an eco-church, known for our care of all of God's creation. We can be like the trees, giving life a chance, allowing God's light and living water to work through us to make a difference and give others space to breathe. Hug a tree! Be connected!

### Hug a Tree



Grace and peace,  
Rev. Kevin Highfield

# Book review

My book of the month is "Saturated with God. A cry for nation-changing revival" by Malcolm Macdonald. I decided to read this book after reading a 5\* review about it in the Premier Christianity magazine. The author has apparently "lived for, prayed for, and looked for revival for over thirty years." Gavin and Anne Calver have commented that this book presents a "realistic assessment of where we are and a hopeful portrayal of where we could be". In the opening pages the author asks the reader to consider "How much of God can we *have*? How much of God do we *want*?" He says "I want to stir up your hunger for God to do something more than we have ever seen before. But what does that really mean and what would it look like?"

The author asks the question: "Why are we not seeing more revival today?" Where revival has happened (such as on the Isle of Lewis in 1959-63) Macdonald examines the context and the impact of each one. He explains what we can learn and apply from these. The book considers the problems facing the church today, the need for revival and why we haven't seen revival in the UK yet. He asks "Is expecting revival too far-fetched or simply too difficult?" What do we need to do for it to happen here and now? He provides some very persuasive answers to this question.

I like this book because I like a book that challenges me to think, to take stock and to take action. Hence, some questions posed in this book include: I am not as close to God as I would like to be. Why not? Are we happy/content to just not "let the spiritual desert around us bother us too much?" Over the years [have] we down-played and minimised sin? Have we "become over-sensitised to the world and de-sensitised to the Spirit?" "Have we become too casual with a holy God we barely know?". The author provides lots to think about and consider. He says "There is a choice here about the level of encounter [with God] you and I are going to settle with," Do we want to be saturated with God or just ankle, knee, waist deep? The author asks the reader to think about whether you are satisfied with where you are in your walk with God and if you would like to experience more of God on your journey. He suggests pathways that can lead us to a closer encounter with God.

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

God Bless,  
Sally



## **Guisborough Methodist Church activities**

***For further information about any activity please phone the church office on 610349 and they can give you the contact details of the person you need to speak to. If nobody is in the office, please leave your name and a contact number on the answerphone, and someone will get back to you. For House groups, see previous Insight issues.***

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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 Elsdon
Mon	10am – 12 (1 <sup>st</sup> wk)	Bridge2Parents	Juanita Osborne – Bridge
Mon	1.30-3.30pm	Women’s Fellowship	Roma Ross
Mon	7-9pm some weeks	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 page
Tues	7-9pm	Credo youth group 11-14 yrs	Mel Bradley or GMC Facebook page
Weds	10am -12 noon	Good Neighbours	Office – 610349
Weds	10-11am	Prayer Group	Isabel Stuart
Weds	10am – 12 (3 <sup>rd</sup> wk)	Bridge2Parents	Juanita Osborne – Bridge
Weds	11.30am – 2.30pm	Community shop and Drop-in - Bridge/GMC	Bridge – 638771 GMC - 610349
Weds	7-9pm (3 <sup>rd</sup> wk)	Trefoil	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	Bill Heppell
Fri	6-7.30pm	Brownies (term-time)	Lisa Handley
Sat	10-11.30am	Saturday Coffee Morning	Jenny Tyrie

## MWiB Tues@2 Programme

Advance notice: the District MWiB Ascension Day of Praise and Reflection on Thurs 9th May 10.15am at Peterlee Memorial Methodist Church.

18<sup>th</sup> July President's Summer Evening at Great Ayton MC at 6-30pm.



### **Easter Offering 2024: Let Justice Roll**

**"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"**

(Amos 5:24, NIV)

This year's MWiB Easter Offering service tells stories of people standing for justice, persisting in the face of setbacks and taking up the challenge anew as circumstances change. Some stories show how people now have hope because justice has 'rolled' into their lives.

**Let Justice Roll** offers a celebration of God's just purposes across the wider world. It includes the dedication of the Easter Offering, all of which goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain, supporting and working with over 100 Partner Churches and organisations around the world.

***Our Circuit Easter Offering Service will take place in Lealholm Church at 6pm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May; envelopes are available in all Circuit Churches at Easter.***

***We look forward to seeing you all there, everyone is welcome.***

**About Easter Offering:** each year, the Methodist Church holds an Easter Offering dedication service. This tradition dates back to 1883, when women in Manchester collected £32 for missionary work overseas from 'Christmas pennies' at family gatherings on Christmas Day. In March 1884, the London Districts distributed Easter envelopes and collecting bags asking for a penny a head, and collected around £100. In 1900 Women's Work raised £1,655 for the work of overseas missions.

Since then, each successive Methodist women's movement has encouraged donations in support of God's mission. Recently, Methodist Women in Britain (supported by the Global Relationships team) have produced an annual service of dedication, often used widely around the Connexion as a circuit service.

**In 2023 collections from Easter Offering services raised over £190,000 thanks to the generosity of Methodists.**

*Pam Stenson*

### **Women's Fellowship:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> April NO MEETING
- 8<sup>th</sup> David Rae and his guitar
- 15<sup>th</sup> Members to share poems and stories
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Major Antony Mugford SA
- 29<sup>th</sup> Paul Well Lay Pastor
- All at 1.30pm - contact Roma Ross for details

## The odd one out

The service this year for the World Day of Prayer on March 1<sup>st</sup>, was poignant, to say the least. Its theme, 'bear with one another in love', was enhanced with a token fig leaf in the form of a green beribboned bookmark, which we were invited to swap with a neighbour during the 'peace'. Written by the Christians of Palestine, it was food for thought as I went home.

'There's always one', I had said once, on hearing a description of a failed olive leaf. Isn't it odd how you will often find just one person who agrees to differ in some way in a meeting of similar souls. It is noticeable in communities like a ladies fellowship or a choir, where you would look for, and expect, amicable relations and teamwork.

Preparing a musical 'Victorian' evening with a local Guild was a joy until one lady objected to dressing up as a man, with me!

I once led a choir attached to a church Guild. We were joined for a few weeks by a keen lady who brought us music to try – the 'Hebrews Chorus' – and we enjoyed it as a group. Then she suggested a version of 'Scarborough Fair', but it was really a solo piece, so I let her sing it as a solo. Sadly she thought that meant she would now be the lead singer, when we had a choir of many talented singers. So she left us.

In a church choir in England, I had the unenviable task of pleasing what the juniors called the 'lemon sisters'! They were a group of retired ladies who had been in the choir for longer than they would admit. One in particular seemed to have a grudge against me – probably because she thought I didn't vote her political colour! She was very good at pointing out any vagaries among the youngsters, especially what they wore, so I said that we were glad that they were here with us and not on the streets causing trouble. She was unaware that she was doing herself no favours at all in the eyes of the youngsters! So her intolerance was her loss.

But it was while we lived in Scotland that we became aware of tensions in the ministry itself.

Each area had a 'Moderator'. Our particular church was without a regular minister and we relied on locums, one of whom was a retired Baptist minister, and he was very well loved by us. But we had in the congregation a retired Baptist lady minister, who was ready to step in when needed. However, the new Moderator decided that Baptists were not approved, and neither were women, and our friend was banned from the pulpit: it was the Moderator's loss, because this lady still had a lot to offer, and it made staffing the church each Sunday more of a problem for him than it needed to be, apart from the fact that it seemed to us totally unchristian!

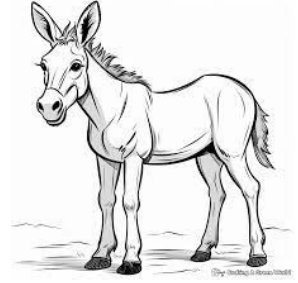
There was another fellowship group I knew. A lady from another district had been coming to the meetings, and after the summer break, she was invited to come back, but refused the invitation. She seemed to think that nobody talked to her, but only about her behind her back. She complained that she lived alone and looked forward to talking to people. It was pointed out that most of the ladies were in the same boat. Sadly the difference was that this one tried to dominate and found that she couldn't beat the indifference to her large person and large views. Her loss. If she only she had realized that talking also involved listening!

Then I had another thought: even Jesus had 'one' among his disciples!

*Jenny Bolton*

## The donkey's special day (JMB revised 2001)

Jesus chose the men for his travelling crew;  
 He strengthened their faith as their love for him grew;  
 They listened and taught as they traversed the land,  
 Healing by word, or a touch of the hand.  
 But one day temptation made one man deceive,  
 And Jesus just told him to get up and leave.  
 He gathered the others together to dine,  
 and told them the meaning of the bread and the wine.  
 'We're going to Jerusalem': so now they decide  
 How they will all travel, how Jesus must ride.  
 He answered his friends with a shake of his head,  
 'Go find me a donkey', was all that he said.  
 Poor humble donkey, all work and no joy,  
 Derided, but sturdy, and good to employ.  
 'It must be a donkey' the prophets did say,  
 'To bear the Messiah on this special day'.  
 People have gathered the leaves from the palms,  
 Then they start singing from King David's psalms.  
 Today is the donkey's great moment for man:  
 He was chosen to carry out God's great big plan.  
 He feels a great surging of joy in his heart:  
 He is carrying his King, he is playing his part.  
 Together they enter the gates of the town,  
 And mid palms and shouting, he earns his own crown. *Jenny Bolton*



**NEXT ISSUE** **The next issue of Insight is the May issue, to be edited by Paul Walker.** Please ensure items are e-mailed to insightmag@gmail.com by the 2nd Sunday in April (**14th**). Magazine packs for deliverers will be available to pick up from the back of church on the 4th Sunday (**28th**).

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[www.guisboroughmethodist.online](http://www.guisboroughmethodist.online)  
[www.clevelandanddanbymethodists.org.uk](http://www.clevelandanddanbymethodists.org.uk)

**Good Neighbour Scheme:**  
**Phone 610349 to leave a message - or call in between 10 and 12 on Mon and Weds.**

### PRAYER CHAIN

**Phone anytime on: 637455, 07843 006008 or 610456**

