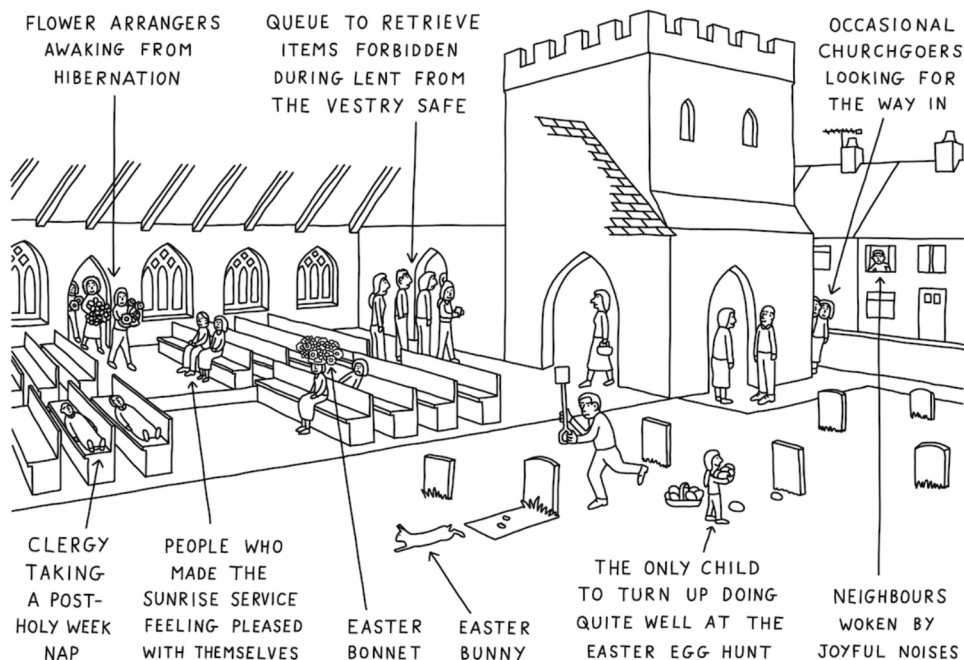


INSIGHT

MARCH 2024

THE EASTER SERVICE



INSIDE
Insight

- Lent Reflections from our Minister
- Introducing The Methodist Way of Life
- The most saint you've NEVER heard of...
- All the Holy Week and Easter Services

THE MAGAZINE OF GUISBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

KEVIN WRITES

Monthly Musings From Our Minister



Preparing yourself for new life, a fresh start

Snowdrops are here, so Spring is here (kind of). Lent (which comes from the word for Spring) began on Ash Wednesday, remembering we are dust without God's Spirit breathed into us.

It is a time to reconnect to nature, all our fellow creations made of ash, but also be receptive to God's Spirit that gives everything life.

Pancake Tuesday (Shrove Tuesday) proceeds Ash Wednesday in order to empty the food cupboard (of the good stuff), so you can fast (at least that is how it started). "Shrove" means to confess to God and rid yourself of things that might hold you back, like regret or shame. Repenting or confessing allows you to start fresh.

We will spend all of March in Lent, but at end the month saying "HE IS RISEN," as we will be.

Lent is 40 Days.

Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted (Luke 4:1-13). Many Christians try to be like Christ and do the same. The 40 days before Easter was a time for preparing yourself through study and cleansing rituals in order to die with Christ and rise with him, becoming a new person.

There are three main activities during the 40 days of Lent, and they are: Praying, Giving Alms, and Fasting.

PRAYING: spending more time with God by talking to God, listening to God, reading about God.

GIVING – “alms” is giving help to others, being generous, especially the poor as Jesus was poor too. There are many ways to give others, not just giving money. For example, you could do one of the following things on each of the days of Lent:

1. Do someone else’s chore
2. Give someone a hug
3. Smile at as many people as you can
4. Help someone
5. Do something nice for family, friends
6. Say something kind to a family member or friend
7. Invite someone different to coffee/tea or to go on a walk with them
8. Set aside some of your own money for giving to a charity or food for the foodbank
9. Tell someone one thing you like about them
10. Make a card or craft for someone

Fasting – giving up something to have more time to spend with God (Pray) and spend time with others (Give alms or help). Some Christians give up eating a meal or meals on a particular day. Others give up eating sweets or using electronic devices. Fasting is about making more time for God and others in your life.

Instead of playing games/reading, watching TV, spend some time with God by praying or giving help to someone. Let’s pray now,

*Dear God,
Thank You that You are loving and forgiving.
Help us to love people in the same way as You have loved us.
Help us to pray and do good things for others during Lent because we love You. Amen.*

Grace and peace,

Rev'd Kevin Highfield

THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN

The author of this hymn was known as Jan Struther (1901-1953). She was actually Joyce Anstruther, a journalist and writer, and she famously created Mrs Miniver (which was made into a film in the 1940's).

She spent the war years as a lecturer in America, but her final years were marked by depression and later cancer, from which she died.

She is remembered, however, for several hymns, some of which were for children, but this is widely used and popular as an 'all-day' prayer.

The glimpses of Christ's life as recorded in the Gospels are delicate here and skilfully embody the person of Christ himself. Perhaps an echo of the author's depression was uttered by another person in depression who called it - 'Lord of all hopelessness'!!

The tune usually used for these words is known as 'Slane', and is an Irish folk tune (also associated with *Be Thou my Vision*)

*Lord of all helpfulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust ever childlike no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.*

*Lord of all eagerness, lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts Lord, at the noon of the day.*

*Lord of all kindness, lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts Lord, at the eve of the day.*

*Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts Lord, at the end of the day.*

Jenny Balton



NEWS & DATES

MWiB

From Methodist Women in Britain

World Day of Prayer: Friday 1st March *"Bear with one another in love"* prepared by Christian women in Palestine in challenging times. Our local service is at 2.00pm in St Nicholas Church.

District MWiB Overnighter at Minsteracres: 15th & 16th March *"He is not here He is Risen!"* with Tricia Mitchell, North East Learning & Development Coordinator, as our Leader; there are still places available - please contact Pamela Stenson

Tuesday 19th March 2pm (Upstairs at GMC) "20th Century Memories of Church & Sunday School, MAYC & Youth"

Tuesday 26th March 2pm (Upstairs at GMC) Easter Communion with Reverend Isabel Stuart

Connexional MWiB Residential at Swanwick: 19th-21st March: *"What's in a word?"* with Rev Jenny Pathmarajah and Becca Byass; Contact Pamela Stenson for a free place if you've not been before and would like to give it a try.

HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE

When you come to Saturday Coffee Mornings or other church events, you'll now be able to ask if any cake you buy contains common allergens. A chart will be available indicating the presence—or otherwise—of most allergens.

Please ask the server if this is a concern for you. Obviously we cannot guarantee that any of our delicious homemade items have been baked in allergen free kitchens.

Elaine Brough.



A Methodist Way of Life

the journey of a lifetime

The Bible is packed with incredible journeys—The Exodus, The Exile, The return to Jerusalem, Paul's exciting missionary trips—just to name a few.

And we often talk about journeys as a picture of our faith today.

We say stuff like, "God has shown me so much about trusting him through different situations on the journey." We talk about God being with us during tough times, and we might reflect on how "I've learned a lot in my faith journey since my dad passed away."

These phrases help us think of faith as a journey. When we say "journey," we see faith as a lifelong process—not just a destination where we "arrive" and then the journey ends.

When my kids were little, we tried to make the journey part of the holiday from when we started packing. Partly, it was an attempt to stop the constant question, "Are we nearly there yet..."

It didn't always work—but it often made the journey itself fun!

It's just the same with our faith in Jesus. We're not simply marking time before eternity; we are living an adventure—growing closer to who we are meant to be.

So, when we use the word "journey," we're all about growth. It's a journey with changes, transitions, challenges, and adventures.

So what if there was a way to explore my faith as a journey? Welcome to The Methodist Way of Life

Here is a fresh take on the journey of faith, firmly rooted in the spiritual writings of John Wesley. Picking up the theme of the faith journey, we are encouraged to alight at 12 “stations”—to explore and encounter Jesus for ourselves. Let’s have a quick recap of the 12 “stopping-off” points along the way.

- Pray: We pray daily
- Worship: We worship with others regularly
- Notice: We notice God in the Bible and the world
- Challenge: We challenge injustice
- Flourish: We care for creation and all God’s gifts
- Service: We help people in our communities and beyond
- Tell: We tell of the love of God
- Live: We live in a way that draws people to God
- Share: We share our faith
- Care: We care for ourselves and those around us
- Learn: We learn more about our faith
- Open: We practice hospitality and generosity



The Cleveland and Danby Circuit has asked me to work with the Circuit Leadership Team to promote and provide resources for The Methodist Way of Life across our circuit. I will be overseen by the Superintendent Minister, Richard Sharples and work alongside Kevin in his role as our local minister and leader.

This is not a quick fix—the journey will take several years as we want to dig deep and take our time to explore meaningfully. Remember—it’s not about getting to the destination; the journey itself will be lots of fun! Are you ready to jump on board and start the journey?

Where do I get started?

We’ll be getting started with our first “station” in the Autumn when we’ll be thinking about PRAYER– in all it’s rich diversity. In the meantime you can sign up for updates from the Circuit MwoL Email List. You’ll get a fortnightly email packed with prayers, though starters, links, ideas and resources.

Find out more on the webpage or point your phone camera at the QR code on the right.

guisboroughmethodist.online/mwol

You’ll find links there to our exciting NEW Facebook Group and evolving YouTube page. Bookmark this website as we are only just get started here...



The Most Inspiring Christian Saint You've NEVER Heard About...



On March 8th, 1929, a sickly 45-year-old man died in Liverpool. His name was Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy. Most people have never heard of him, but he was one of the most inspiring figures in the first half of the twentieth century.

But who was Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy? And, after all these years, what is it about this man that makes him worth remembering?

Let's be inspired by FOUR True Facts about Geoffrey Studdart Kennedy.

1. He came from humble beginnings

He was born in Leeds' Quarry Hill neighbourhood in 1883. It's an impoverished urban district east of the city centre notorious for its overcrowded streets and deprivation,

I lived in Leeds for a few years, and it was hard to appreciate any of this. In 1978, that whole area was razed to the ground. Today, the local council have repurposed the area into a clutch of art, culture, and education institutions.

He became a vicar, following in his father's footsteps as an Anglican priest. He might have lived and ministered—and been lost in the mists of time—had not the cruel events of the First World War interrupted.

2. He was a Chaplain in the Trenches in WW1

When War broke out in 1914, Geoffrey volunteered to be an Army Chaplain, but he had no expectations of being treated differently than any other soldier. Arthur Savage recalls Studdert-Kennedy in a subsequent book meant to document the experiences of those in the trenches.

He'd come down into the trenches and say prayers with the men, have a cuppa out of a dirty tin mug and tell a joke as good as any of us. He was a chain smoker and always carried a packet of Woodbine cigarettes that he would give out in handfuls to us lads. Woodbine Willie, a moniker he gained because of his habit of passing out cigarettes, was a chain smoker himself. Estimates suggest he handed out as many as 865,000 cigarettes during the war—all at his own expense.

Woodbine cigarettes, for those who aren't familiar, had no filter and were, as a result, potent. During War, the unfiltered, high-tar Woodbines—dubbed "gaspers" due to the difficulties inexperienced smokers had in inhaling—were popular with soldiers.

3. He became a social activist after the war

When he returned after the war, he became a vicar in London. The war exposed him to Christian Socialism, and he became a staunch pacifist. He also travelled the country as a speaker for the Industrial Christian Fellowship.

An article in the New York Times said in 1928 that his sermons were so powerful that “*women sobbed and men broke down.*” He was a scathing critic of trite religious practices and prayers filled with flowery platitudes. In his 1921 book, *Democracy and the Dog Collar*, the chapter headings include these gems:

The church is a dog with a bad name. Hang it!
Organised religion is a failure.
The weakness of the Church has destroyed the power of the cross.

We observe a man on a mission on every page of these admittedly dated writings. They remain a biting mix of socialist political slogans, withering critiques of capitalism and savage attacks on the church establishment.

4. He died a young man

While in Liverpool, Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy became unwell and died on the 8th of March in 1929. He was shamefully refused burial in Westminster Cathedral because they branded him a ‘socialist’. Over 2,000 mourners lined the path of his funeral procession in Worcester, many throwing Woodbine packets onto the hearse.

Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy was a man out of his time. He fought for social change in an era when the church hierarchy was part of the establishment. He was preaching on soapboxes and chain-smoking when most bishops were sipping fine wines and hobnobbing with royalty. In the trenches of WW1, he was a perfect fit, but after the war, his ministry was derided. An unwavering devotion to his cause wore him out and broken—which undoubtedly played a role in his untimely demise.

It’s only fitting to end our tribute to this remarkable man with his most enduring poem. It posits that if Jesus showed up in our world today, we would ignore rather than kill him. It’s called, simply, Indifference.

*When Jesus came to Golgotha, they hanged Him on a tree,
They drove great nails through hands and feet and made a Calvary;
They crowned Him with a crown of thorns; red were His wounds, and deep,
For those were crude and cruel days, and human flesh was cheap.*

*When Jesus came to Birmingham, they simply passed Him by.
They would not hurt a hair of Him; they only let Him die;
For men had grown more tender, and they would not give Him pain.
They only just passed down the street and left Him in the rain.*

*Still, Jesus cried, “Forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
And still, it rained the winter rain that drenched Him through and through;
The crowds went home and left the streets without a soul to see,
And Jesus crouched against a wall and cried for Calvary.*

SANDY'S RECIPE CORNER

Simmel Cake has a long association with Mother's Day – which is on March 10th this year.

Why not try my recipe this year and make this traditional Mothering Sunday treat?

The word "simnel" is believed to have originated from the Latin word "simila," which means fine flour or bread. The cake has a rich history, dating back to medieval times when it was a popular treat during the Lenten period.

It was originally made by girls working in service to give to their mothers when they returned home on Mothering Sunday. It was often a way to honor and show appreciation for their mothers.

The cake itself is rich in symbolism. It is typically made with layers of fruitcake, filled with marzipan, and topped with another layer of marzipan, often decorated with eleven marzipan balls representing the eleven apostles (minus Judas Iscariot). Some variations of the cake also include a layer of marzipan baked in the middle of the cake.



INGREDIENTS

100g/4oz glacé cherries	100g/4oz currants
225g/8oz butter, softened	50g/2oz chopped candied peel
225g/8oz light muscovado sugar	2 lemons, grated zest only
4 large eggs	2 tsp ground mixed spice
225g/8oz self-raising flour	450g/1lb marzipan
225g/8oz sultanas	1-2 tbsp apricot jam, warmed

1. Preheat oven to 150C/280F/Gas 2. Grease and line a 20cm/ 8in cake tin.
2. Place the quartered and washed cherries in a bowl with the butter, sugar, eggs, self-raising flour, sultanas, currants, candied peel, lemon zest and mixed spice and beat well until thoroughly mixed. Pour half the mixture into the prepared tin.
3. Take one-third of the marzipan and roll it out to a circle the size of the tin and then place on top of the cake mixture. Spoon the remaining cake mixture on top and level the surface.
4. Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 2½ hours, or until well risen, evenly brown and firm to the touch. Cover with aluminium foil after one hour if the top is browning too quickly. Leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes then turn out, peel off the parchment and finish cooling on a wire rack.
5. When the cake is cool, brush the top with a little warmed apricot jam and roll out half the remaining marzipan to fit the top. Press firmly on the top and crimp the edges to decorate. Form the remaining marzipan into 11 balls.
6. Brush the marzipan with beaten egg and arrange the marzipan balls around the edge of the cake. Brush the tops of the balls with beaten egg and then carefully place the cake under a hot grill until the top is lightly toasted.

METHOD



PRAYER SPACES

Join us for a day to explore prayer spaces. How these can be used to support prayer within your church and beyond

Saturday 23rd March 10am till 2pm
Hope Church East Cleveland
Lunch provided
Free of charge (donations welcome)

Cleveland & Danby Circuit
The **Methodist** Church
Charity Registration: 1130868

Please book your spaces in advance via

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DCGV>

So bring along your teams and join us! God Bless

Emma

The NEXT Issue of **INSIGHT** will be the April issue, Please submit ALL your contributions to Jenny Tyrie no later than March 17th. Happy Easter!

MARCH



Worship

3rd

MORNING WORSHIP

Led by Bill Middlemiss

10th

MOTHERING SUNDAY CAFE SERVICE

Led by Revd. Keith Martin

Hinton Court Led by Kevin Highfield

17th

MORNING WORSHIP

Led by The Reverend Kevin Highfield

24th

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Led by members of GMC

Hinton Court Led by Bill Middlemiss

28th

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 7.00 pm

Led by the Reverend Isabel Stuart

29th

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP 7.00 pm

Led by the Reverend Kevin Highfield

31st

EASTER COMMUNION

Led by the Reverend Isabel Stuart