

INSIGHT

— February 2024 —

DOING
ANYTHING
FOR LENT
THIS YEAR?

JUST THE
USUAL-
SOLEMNLY
OBSERVING
THE PIETY
OF OTHERS



February Worship

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

To economise on heating, Sunday services will be downstairs in the hall until Easter—but they will not all be café-style.

Our services for February are as below:

Sunday 4th February

10:30am - Jason Griffiths

Sunday 11th February

10:30am Hinton Court - Rev Betty Bell—Covenant Service

10:30am - Liz Chadwick—café service

Sunday 18th February

10:30am - LA

Sunday 25th February

10:30am Hinton Court - Lynne King

10:30am - Rev Paul Walker—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=WU9seVo4cUlnicEM2R2RBR3hjTDhkZz09>

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



From the Minister

sage." The Are you an evangelist? The words evangelism, evangelist and evangelical, all come from Greek word for "good mes-word Gospel means good news. In ancient times, people wanted to be an evangelist because these were the people brought good news/messages to the rulers and were rewarded, whereas those who did not bring good news often suffered an ill fate. Today, the words have

been abused by mean-spirited preachers and manipulative politicians to make our current culture sceptical of those who use these words. These people twist the good message of Jesus Christ, as the one who conquered sin and death, into their own agenda of something else of much lesser consequence, leaving people without a lasting life-changing experience. As Christians, we know that that we are to share the good news of Jesus Christ, the whole news, that includes Jesus' resurrection, not just his death on the cross. God has given us eternal life, a loving grace-filled life, that people can experience today and every day, because of Jesus. God's love, fully revealed in Jesus Christ, brings us into right relationship with God and others. Jesus can to heal the world, deliver us from sin and lead us to new life with God and each other. The ultimate purpose of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is not only reconciliation of individuals to God but also the reconciliation of "all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth" (Ephesians 1:10). God's love in Christ connects Christians to a common mission to redeem the world and restore all of humanity to the loving, saving, life-giving purpose of God that Jesus called the kingdom of God. The invitation to each of us is to recognize our deep need for realignment and healing, receive the grace that only God can give, and join with the church in participating in God's transformation of the world. Jesus told us to make disciples and transform the world (Matthew 28:19), but he did not tell us how to specifically do that. We do not have to share religious cliches and condemnations from bygone eras to tell the greatest story ever told. The good news of Jesus can be shared through own stories as well as the Gospel stories.

In previous months I have written about spiritual disciplines to help us grow in our faith: gift giving (financial and spiritual), prayer, and presence. The spiritual discipline I am sharing today is about being a 'witness.' There are many ways to bear witness through our actions and words. The Holy Spirit continues to work in and through us to help us experience wholeness of life and to share the good news, if we pay attention to it. Some are comfortable sharing their story of God's love for them, but other may believe that their story isn't dramatic enough to share it with others. Wherever you are, God doesn't intend for you to stay there. God can and will use your story if you are ready to share it. For many people, just your willingness to be vulnerable and share your life with them (good and bad) will be impactful.

In the Gospel of John, the first time we hear Jesus speak, he isn't preaching or praying, but simply asks a question of his would be disciples, "what are you looking for?" What is the deep longing of your heart, the hunger of your soul, in the darkness of the night? It could be something you didn't know you were looking for. John's Gospel then helps us realise the answer to that question, it is "life." Eternal life, which is defined as loving God and others with all we are and have, the way we are loved by God. This is not something we wait for, but something we get to experience every day, here on earth. It is a life of caring and healing (forgiving) others. What a testimony! What a witness! If only we could share this witness of the good news all the time. In John's Gospel the first example of evangelism is Andrew bringing Peter to Jesus, and Philip telling Nathaniel to "Come and see" (John 1:35-51). Often, our faithful witness is to tell others, to "come and see," see or experience for themselves, as Jesus has touched me, he will touch you too. Come and see Christ at work serving the poor or worshiping the Lord, through his body, the Church, through us. Witnessing is about building relationships and sharing our stories of what God has done for us in a genuine and natural way. It's often been said that sharing

Christ is like one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread. Yours may not seem very dramatic, compelling, or special. Maybe you don't feel that religion is something that ought to be brought up in conversation. It's too private, too personal, and too individual. But we have a story to tell, we have many stories to tell, and they are powerful, even if we don't think they are dramatic. Evangelism is sharing your story in whatever way God has uniquely wired you to do so. It's about doing the work of Christ and being his witness in the way you live your life. Regardless of how you do it, the important thing is that you do it. In the end, that's all Jesus calls each of us to do.

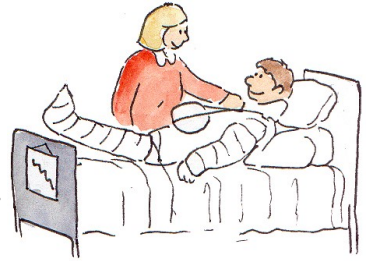
Practise the spiritual discipline of "witnessing." Tell the story of Christ this year, build relationships and tell your story, dramatic or not, perhaps it will touch someone, just one person, and change them forever!

Grace and peace,
Rev'd Kevin Highfield

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

Can we help you or someone you know ?

Our Good Neighbour Scheme is here to help anyone living in the Guisborough area, including our Church family members. Please give us a call if you feel we may be able to help. The main services we can provide are shown below, but if other needs arise that cannot otherwise be met, then we may be able to offer some practical help or advice.



Good Neighbour Scheme Services

Transport – lifts for those who would otherwise have difficulty making necessary journeys.

Such journeys include attending local doctors' and hospital appointments, visiting relatives in hospital, etc. Not intended as a general taxi service! No charge is made. Users who wish to make a contribution to the scheme may of course give a donation.

Hospital visiting – this is for those in local hospitals who would otherwise have few visitors. There is a link to Transport to provide lifts for relatives who have difficulty making the journeys for hospital visits.

Home visiting – this is for those who are sick, lonely or housebound and who are not receiving sufficient visits or offers of help. The service here includes visiting simply to offset loneliness or perhaps providing some practical help such as shopping. The service can involve either short term visiting, say for someone who has recently returned home from a stay in hospital, or longer term for someone with an ongoing need.

How to request help – Call in to see our receptionist in the Church Office between 10am and 12 noon on any Monday or Wednesday, or telephone and leave a message at any time on 01287 610349.

If you are interested in volunteering either as a driver, home visitor, hospital visitor, or Church receptionist then please contact Ken Darragh on 01287 633171. Thank you.

Book review

My book of the month is "The Life-A Portrait of Jesus" by J. John and Chris Walley. A great start in this book is the sentence "whatever background we come from, Jesus deserves our attention...the real authentic Jesus is a rather unsettling figure who both comforts those who are troubled and troubles those that are comfortable". The authors state that this "book is written both for those who would claim to have faith in Jesus but would like to know more about him and for those who are just looking".

The authors also state that in writing the book they have two aims. "First, it is a *guide* to who Jesus was, what he said, what he did and what he means for people today. Secondly, it is intended as a *defence* of the Jesus of the gospels...it is a restatement of the traditional, mainstream view of who he was." The book reminds the reader that the life of Jesus is "perhaps the best attested life in the ancient world...[with] firm evidence" in the Bible and outside of it to support this.

The book looks at the various elements that together contribute to the life of Jesus such as the role of the twelve disciples (Why were there twelve? Why were they important to Jesus? Why are they important to us?); the miracles that Jesus performed (their importance then and now) and the significance of Jesus's teaching using parables (Why did he do that?).

Although the book is easy to read it doesn't dodge the "tricky bits" that might arise around historical accuracy or some of the harsher elements of Jesus's teaching. I think this is a fabulous book and it is well worth buying a copy to read and re-read or as a gift to someone you know that is "looking". The book is well structured and clearly and carefully looks at the various aspects of Jesus's life from his birth, death, and resurrection. The book tackles head on arguments for and against Jesus being who he said he was. The chapter on "The Resurrection" is wonderfully written and carefully directed at non-believers and believers. The book shows that for those "who truly want to find the risen Jesus...as Saviour, King and Lord of their lives [they] can still find him" and as Bear Grylls says "if Jesus Christ really is risen from the dead, it changes everything...And if He is right here, right now-beside us, for us and within us-then our day really should be full of joy and assurance".

If you would like to read this book there is a copy on the church bookshelf.

God Bless,
Sally



Pilgrimage to the Holy City

A father and son were travelling on pilgrimage along the hilly, arduous road that led to the Holy City. They had already been travelling for several days, and both father and child were tired. It was dusk, the sun a fiery red ball slowly disappearing below the horizon.

"Are we walking much further today?" asked the boy.

"No my son, we will soon find a place to rest for the night."

After several hundred yards they reached a small hedgerow and unrolling their makeshift bed and coarse woollen blankets, they lay down together to sleep.

"I am so tired" said the boy. "I didn't know that the road to the Holy City would be so hard, and yet we still have much further to travel."

"I know my son, but although we have suffered many hardships, we must not forget the many joys we have experienced along the road, the strangers who have shared a simple smile; those who have offered up prayers and blessed us on our way; those who gave us food and drink, and often a warm bed for the night. All life is made up of such joys and hardship. It cannot be otherwise, for that is what makes us children of our Heavenly Father."

The boy felt his father's arms pull him close and knew in that embrace how deep was his father's love for him. He felt a tear on his cheek and knew that his father was weeping for him.

"Don't cry father," said the boy. "I am strong enough to bear these hardships, knowing that you love me and are always with me. And that we will walk together until we reach the Holy City.

From a St. Paulinus parishioner



Shrove Tuesday Funnies

It was Shrove Tuesday and Mrs Thomas was making pancakes for her sons, Michael 6, and Eddie 8.

As usual, the brothers began to argue over who should get the first pancake.

Their mother saw a wonderful opportunity for a moral lesson.

'If Jesus were sitting at the table, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake".'

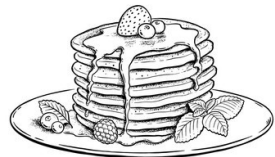
Quick as a flash Eddie turned to Michael and said, 'Michael, today you can be Jesus!'

Last Shrove Tuesday, I messed up the pancake mix.

I'm hoping to do batter this year.

I can't believe it's Pancake Tuesday again.

Honestly, it just crêped up on me.



News from the Bridge



We welcome Alex Jackson to the staff team in an administrative role: she will be working for one to two hours each day and is already settling in. Alex was already familiar with some of our projects through volunteering in the FoodStop, but she has a real aptitude for computing/ ICT so this will be very valuable behind the scenes.

We have already had our first Music and Memories and Elderly Luncheon at Kempalah. For the foreseeable future Music and Memories will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. If you love singing and a cuppa – we even go as far as biscuits – do come along and bring a friend. Trish McLean is a wonderful musician and plays and sings a wider array of styles. There really is something for everyone. She is our version of Kate Rusby / Ciara Dillon but with a NE accent. She is ably assisted with harmonies by Bridge volunteer, Ngaire.

Last week, I met with a landscaper/ groundsperson and Bridge volunteer, Jon, to firm up (make plans more concrete, pun intended) plans for a central path; footing for a shed large enough to allow potting up in inclement weather; compost heaps and raised beds. Hopefully by March/April there can be a progress report.

Current 'Top Ten' Wish List for the Foodstop:

In, at number 10, is Full Fat UHT milk, 9. Instant Mash, 8. Hot choc, 7. Curry / stir fry sauce, 6. Small laundry liquids, 5. Toiletries, 4. Jam, 3. Tinned carrots, 2. custard...and still at number 1. Tinned meats!

We have plenty of baked beans & plenty of bags of pasta!

Thank you to all who support & donate. Your donations small or large really do make a difference!

You can email:- staff@guisboroughbridge.org.uk for any information; or phone the Bridge office on 638771; manager Lorraine Nash's mobile is 07890 228851.

Health and Safety

In case of fire
The Fire alarm will sound
In chuRch.
so Evacuate the building
and
wait on Westgate.

Elaine Brough



MWiB Tues@2 Programme Feb-March 2024

Tues 6th February: meal to be arranged

Tues 20th February: guest speaker June McCleave with her book "Just a village kid" about her childhood in Great Broughton in aid of Blood Cancer Research



Tues 5th March: meal to be arranged

Fri 16th & Sat 16th March: District MWiB Residential Overnighter with Tricia Mitchell "He is not here He is risen!"

Tues 19th March: 2pm at GMC follow-up from Feb meeting All our own 20th Century Sunday School & Church recollections!

Tues 26th March: Easter Communion - venue & leader to be confirmed

All are welcome.

Pam Stenson

Women's Fellowship: Feb 5th at St. Nicholas Church

Feb 12th Jenny Bolton 'Golden Age of Popular Song' Part 1

Feb 19th Rev Marian Gardner

Feb 26th Rev Bill Middlemiss

March 4th to be confirmed Pam Stenson

March 11th to be confirmed Rev Kevin Highfield Communion

All at 1.30pm - contact Roma Ross for details

World Day of Prayer: Fri 1st March 2pm, venue to be confirmed. Prepared by Christian Women of Palestine "I beg you bear with one another in love."

Where do Christians count the highest cost for following Jesus?

Around the world, 365 million Christians count the cost of following Jesus. For some, it means always being treated unfairly and fighting for justice. For others, the price is paid in bruises and beatings; in prison sentences and pain. Some have to give up their home, their family, their security, even their lives.

On 17th January, the new Open Doors World Watch List 2024 was launched. Read it to see where our courageous church family are paying the highest price for their faith – so you can stand alongside them in prayer, support and speaking out. Their inspiring testimonies and crucial prayer requests can help us unite as one global church, boldly living for Christ. Copies of the new booklet will be in church soon: opendoorsuk.org

The 12 days of Christmas

The song originated in France, first appearing in this country in translation in 1780, in a book for children called 'Mirth without Mischief'.

This is what the church said it meant, as a means of teaching the Catechism:

1. The partridge = Jesus The Tree = the fall of Adam and Eve
2. turtle doves = Old and New Testaments
3. French hens= Faith , Hope and Love
4. calling birds = the 4 Gospels
5. gold rings = 1st 5 books of the OT (the Torah)
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy
6. geese a-laying= the 6 days of creation
7. swans a-swimming= the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, counsel, understanding, fortitude, knowledge ,piety, and fear of the Lord
8. maids a-milking= the 8 beatitudes
9. ladies dancing= the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self –control
10. Lords a-leaping = the 10 commandments
11. Pipers piping = the 11 faithful disciples
12. Drummers drumming = the 12 points of belief as set out in the Apostle's Creed.

Our calendar

We take the calendar very much for granted nowadays, but for well over 2000 years it has been regulated from the birth of Christ. Any time before the Birth of Christ is known simply as years 'BC', (Before Common Era to Jews and Muslims) and from then it is known as AD (Anno Domini) the year of our Lord, thanks to the Romans (or Common Era) Now that places Jesus as the most important person in all of history!

The ancients who wrote the Old Testament wrote that the world was built in 7 days, or stages as we would see it now, and that was influenced by the Babylonian establishment of 7 days in a week, with the 7th being the day to worship the Sun.

The names of all the weekdays linger in our modern calendar, all named after other 'gods'. SUNDAY, MOON day, TIWSDAY, WODENSDAY, THORs day, FREYASDAY, and SATURNSDAY.

The Roman calendar originally had 9 days to a week, but the widespread 7 day tradition used by the Jews won over the Romans and the Greeks as well.

The first Roman calendar had only 10 months, all of 30 or 31 days, the remaining days regarded as 'Winter'. But influenced by various religious festivals, the Romans settled eventually on 12 months, calling the winter months after Janus, (January) the god with two faces, and Februa. The year started at Mars (March) followed by Aprilis, Maius and Juno. Then came Quintilis (5th month) later named Julius (July) after Julius Caesar, and Sextilis (6th)later called Au-

gustus after another Caesar. Sept (7), Oct (8), Nov (9) and Dec (10) were the remaining months according to the Latin numbers.

The Romans celebrated their winter festival on December 25th, and the church converted it to our Christmas Day !

Jenny Bolton



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.

House Groups:

Monday house group meets weekly at 19:30 at the home of Jason and Karen Griffiths. We have sung worship, Bible study and prayers – contact Jason Griffiths

Nurture group meet weekly on a Thursday at 19:30 on Zoom. This is a Bible study and hopefully a time when people can share and grow in confidence. The main theme of this group is people don't need to say or do anything so no pressure - contact Jason Griffiths

Monday house group meets fortnightly at 7.30pm for prayer and Bible study at Gill McCleave's

Thursday house group meets weekly in different homes at 7.30pm for light supper and Bible study – contact Isabel Stuart or Trevor Hume

Thursday morning house Group 9.15 for a cuppa; aim to finish at 11am - contact Roma Ross

MWiB group meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons (once a month in the Community Room at GMC) – contact Pam Stenson

Activities in church building

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 Elsdon
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 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 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 rd 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

Gift Aid

This is the easy way for tax payers to increase your regular giving to our church which is FREE.

As we struggle to improve our church finances, I encourage you to complete a simple Gift Aid declaration form. This will allow our church to reclaim the standard rate of tax you pay for the current tax year on the amount of your giving.

For every £1 you donate we can claim a tax refund of 25p.

You can Gift Aid your giving over the past 4 years and all future giving by completing one simple form.

If you change your name or address then you must complete a new declaration form and if you no longer pay tax you must cancel your declaration.

Please let me know if you would like to receive a Gift Aid declaration form, or if you have any Gift Aid queries.

Thank you.

Ken Darragh, Gift Aid Secretary

NEXT ISSUE **The next issue of Insight is the March issue, to be edited by Paul Walker.** Please ensure items are e-mailed to insightmag@gmail.com by the 2nd Sunday in February (**11th**). Magazine packs for deliverers will be available to pick up from the back of church on the 4th Sunday (**25th**).

Minister:

Rev Kevin Highfield 01642 483111

Senior Steward: Isabel Stuart 07827 316704

Church bookings T: 07778 437785

E: jm.tyrie@ntlworld.com (Jenny Tyrie)
Church telephone number: 610349

Insight Editors: Jenny Tyrie 610937
Paul Walker 07907 802135

Insight email: insightmag@gmail.com

Church & Circuit Websites:

www.guisboroughmethodist.online
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

