



Methodist Post

Boston Spa • Clifford • Bramham

June 2018



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Ideas and contributions for future editions of the Methodist Post are always welcome. For the next issue, which will cover July and August, please send copy, by 10th June, to:
jovernon1@gmail.com

Thank you.

Jo Vernon, Editor
(telephone 01937 360016)

Don't forget, the magazine is also available to read on our website:
www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk



Cover photo: Jo Vernon

"Nature is one of God's love letters – another way He proves His existence."
This photograph was taken in the gardens at Sheffield Park – a National Trust property in East Sussex, where the rhododendrons and azaleas are always a riot of colour, but never more so than this year.

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

We were made for each other, so our friends tell us and as, at the end of May, Sue and I celebrated our Silver Wedding Anniversary perhaps they are right. I guess this is no mean feat in today's modern world where relationships, like everything else, have become disposable. We would have celebrated our anniversary, in the same way that we have for at least the last 17 years, with our grandchildren and our friend Jenny in Seahouses, but this year the children were all tied up doing different activities.

These celebrations have been nothing spectacular, just time spent enjoying each other's company, building friendship and relationships which we hope will remain constant in the years ahead. But it's not easy bringing people together, not easy if it's just one age group let alone a group spanning across almost six decades!

As human beings God made us to be relational creatures living in, and being part of, communities – working together, supporting, loving and caring for each other. In our heart of hearts, we know that this is right, but making those relationships work let alone flourish is often incredibly difficult.

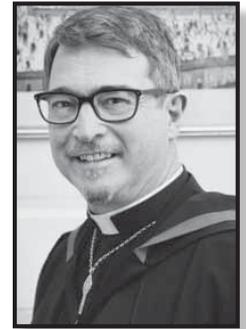
For all of us in the many relationships that we find ourselves in, there are times when we may be tempted to slam the door and go off into the night by ourselves, feeling that we don't belong. But as N T Wright points out in a new devotional called *'Faith that Matters'*: *'we really want someone to take pity on us, to come to the rescue and comfort us'*. He goes on to say *'we all know we belong in relationships, but we can't quite work out how to get them right. The voice we hear echoing in our heads and our hearts keeps reminding us of both parts of this paradox, and it's worth pondering why'*.

The words, "We were made for each other" is a profound statement of reality, echoed in Proverbs 27:17; *As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another*.

For it's in community, as we live as people of faith, that we are shaped and find our sharpened selves, as we struggle to put into practice the ideals that we live with, but it's also a signpost of a deeper reality that is telling us there is a road ahead that leads to goodness.

So let us thank God for those communities that we move in, and for those who move around us, sharpening us to make us more like Him.

**'Faith that Matters'*
by Eugene H. Peterson, Brennan Manning, A. W. Tozer, Frederick Buechner, Henri Nouwen, Bryan W. Smith, Dallas Willard, and N. T. Wright – © HarperOne



Marriage Blessing at Kirkstall Abbey

Pictured at Thwaite Mills, where the Reception was held, are (l to r) Colin Kemp, Penny Talbot, Amy Talbot, Tom Coates, Revd Steve

On Friday May the Fourth 2018, to those in some circles known as "Star Wars" day, Revd Steve led a very special service at Kirkstall Abbey to Bless the Marriage of Amy Talbot and Tom Coates.

Amy is the granddaughter of Colin and, the late, Brenda Kemp; they, with the rest of the family, have long-standing connections with Boston Spa Methodist Church.



Boston Spa Methodist Church Men's Group

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 13th June, 7.30pm

All welcome

Speaker: Jackie Depelle "Our House and its Contents"



Diary Dates for June – (Bible Month – see p.14)

Saturday 2nd	9am-1.30pm	Spring Fayre, Wetherby Town Hall (<i>see p.14</i>)
Sunday 3rd	10.30am	Chapel Anniversary with Holy Communion led by Revd Gary Ridley <i>NO EVENING SERVICE</i>
Sunday 10th	10.30am	Morning Worship, led by Revd Steve Barlow
	4.30pm	Appleton Roebuck – 200th anniversary celebrations
Tuesday 12th	2.00pm	WFG – Fun Afternoon
Wednesday 13th	7.00pm	Sacred Space – Reflective Worship
	7.30pm	Men's Group (<i>see p.3</i>)
Sunday 17th	10.30am	Morning Worship, led by Revd Ken Marshall
	6.00pm	Communion Service, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
Tuesday 19th	10.30am	Evergreens Luncheon Club
Sunday 24th	10.30am	Morning Worship, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
	6.00pm	United Service at Wetherby
Tuesday 26th	2.00pm	WFG – Strawberry Tea
Wednesday 27th	3.30pm	Messy Church
	7.00pm	Sacred Space – Reflective Worship

Weekly Events

Monday	
3.15pm	Ping Pong Club
5.00pm	Senior Table Tennis
Wednesday	
9.30-11.00	Busy Bees for pre-school children and their carers
Saturday	
10am-Noon	'Drop In' for Tea or Coffee

For up-to-date information, see noticeboards/website:
www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk

Church rooms may be booked for private functions.

Contact Anne Hovell: 01937 843445

Birthday Greetings

Women's Friendship Group – 23rd: Angela Coleman
Children – 2nd: Callum Green 19th: Arran Ingle

Boston Spa Church Rotas – June

	Welcome Stewards	Flowers	Church Stewards
3rd	Jo & Iain Vernon	Betty Aspinall	Joan Dyer Heather Grant
10th	Jackie & Brian Marsden	Flower team	Arthur Faulkner Val Woodhams
17th	Julie Thompson Val Woodhams	Mavis Nettleton	Arthur Faulkner Pauline O'Melia
24th	Heather and Claire Grant	Chris Tunnicliffe	Heather Grant Jean Walne

Saturday Coffee		Sunday Coffee	
2nd	Mike & Jean Walne	3rd	Ursula Turner, Eva Mills
9th	Angela Coleman, Barbara Hudson, Wendy Wade	10th	Ken & Judith Grimditch
16th	Heather Grant	17th	John & Barbara Hudson Joy Ackroyd
23rd	Brian & Jackie Marsden	24th	Men's Group
30th	Mike & Jean Walne	1 Jul	Graham & Kathleen McGuire

Busy Bees		Cleaning	
6th	Judith Grimditch	To 3rd	Arthur & Jackie Faulkner
13th	Christine Mitchell	4th-17th	Julie Thompson Val Woodhams
20th	Wendy Wade	18th-30th	Les Kellett, Sheila Anderson
27th	Jean Walne		

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CLIFFORD
METHODIST CHURCH



The church is a bit tucked away at the end of Nursery Way, or from the High Street, where a blue noticeboard points the way

Services in June (Bible Month – see p.14)

- 3rd 10.30am Morning Worship, led by Mr Donald Milne
- 10th 10.30am Communion Service, led by Revd Ken Marshall
- 17th 10.30am All Age Worship, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
- 24th 10.30am Morning Worship, led by Revd Steve Barlow

	Door Stewards	Flowers	Vestry
3rd	Carol Smith, Margaret Suggate	Mavis Rodgers	David Mountain
10th	Hazel Greenwood, Julie Norman	Catherine Catton	Alison Smith
17th	Catherine Catton, Ros McCall	Hazel Greenwood	Michael Whaley
24th	Sheila & Katy Biercamp	Ros McCall	Jason Turner
Schoolroom cleaning – Margaret Suggate			

STRAWBERRY TEA

This will take place on Sunday 24 June at 2pm in Clifford Methodist Schoolroom. Tickets are £5, available from Kathryn Whaley in Church or ring 01937 845692.

Let's hope for some lovely sunny weather for enjoying scones, strawberries and cream. See you there!



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Never be so busy as not to think of others. *Mother Teresa*



Birthday Greetings

Margaret Freeman, Dot Rawlins, Samuel Smith, Bethany Hayes, Dominic Ainstey

Baby Isaac

On Sunday 6th May, Clifford Chapel welcomed the family and friends of mum and dad, Charlotte and Steven, and big brother, Henry, as they brought Isaac Baxter to be Baptised by Revd Steve. The wonderful sunshine added to the occasion, which was full of love, laughter, happiness and joyful singing.

Isaac with Godparents, Revd Steve, Isaac, Charlotte, Steven and Henry



TABLE TOP SALE

Don't forget our Table Top Sale on Saturday 2 June, 10am-3pm. Refreshments will be served during the day so please give your support and see what is on offer!

NEPAL EVENING AND CURRY

Also, please remember this event, in aid of our circuit charity, on Friday 8 June at 7pm in Clifford Methodist Schoolroom. The evening will begin with a curry meal, kindly provided by Rev'd Gordon Shaw, and followed by a talk and a short film from some of our friends in Wetherby who visited Nepal last year. Please book your £10 ticket from Kathryn Whaley on 01937 845692 or ask a Church steward. The Nepal Project is a really worthwhile charity and your support is greatly appreciated.



Tots 'n' Toys is our Baby & Toddler Group

9.30-11am every Friday (term-time)

The Schoolroom, Clifford Methodist Church

£2 for 1 adult and 1 child, 50p for each additional child (First visit is FREE!)

THIS IS A GROUP FOR THE COMMUNITY - EVERYONE IS WELCOME

We do more helpers! If interested, or for more details about the group, please ring 01937 845511.



TOTS 'N' TOYS: Alison and her current helpers are doing a great job with the little ones but extra help is always needed so if you can spare a little time on a Friday morning (term time only) then please ring Alison on 01937 845511.

Also, if you know anyone with pre school children, please tell them about Tots 'n' Toys – Friday 9.30-11am.

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Getting to know you...

This month, we feature
Gail and David Bowen



Gail was born and educated in York, and graduated as a mature student from Bradford University, where she read History. She followed this with a Post Graduate Certificate in Education at Leeds University. David was born and educated in Hull. His parents were Welsh, and David is inordinately proud of the fact that he is qualified to play Rugby for Wales! He read Modern History at Oxford, and went on also there to a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. They both taught History for a while before branching into the management side of education, becoming Education Officers.

They have two children and four grandchildren.

As they worked in Darlington and Wakefield respectively, Boston Spa was a suitable choice, midway between the two towns. They found our village small enough to have a village atmosphere but yet to have plenty of facilities. It linked also with family commitments in the area.

They have many hobbies. They enjoy walking, gardening and history. This links with their love of Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal, where they are both guides. They find pleasure in singing, and are both members of The Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir. Gail was the first Chairman of Trustees of the Lower Wharfedale Food Bank which later became known as the Wetherby and District Foodbank.

With their many skills, early retirement beckoned, and they both started their own companies. Gail works mainly in retirement planning, and David works, with two colleagues, in governor training for schools.

They had both attended church as children, David at the chapel where his father was the organist.

In later life, family responsibilities at first prevented their attending morning services, so they chose to attend Wetherby Methodist Church which held a regular Sunday evening service. As their circumstances changed, they came to our Methodist church.

They found our church welcoming, and received a warm reception. Now they are regular worshippers with us when they are not working or attending to family duties. We are delighted that they are part of our congregation and have been pleased to welcome them to our Bible Study Group.

Interviewed by Carmen



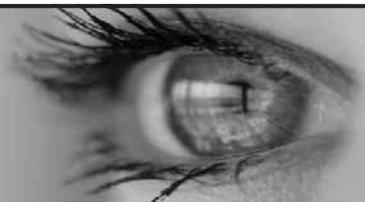
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LUNCHTIME CONCERTS AT BOSTON SPA

The Lunchtime Concert will take place on Friday, 8 June at 1 pm.
Concert admission is £5. Light lunches are served from 12 noon.

Emma James will entertain us with many much loved songs. Emma lights up the room with the warmth of her personality and her wonderful voice. She is a true professional and has performed with many of the great entertainers of our time such as the late Ken Dodd.

It has always been our tradition to have a small party outside after the concert with a celebration cake and soft drinks.

Please come and join us.

Judith England



Our next lunchtime concert will be held on Friday, 13 July
The Saltmarsh Duo – Steven Goulden, tenor and Amy Butler, piano

Check our website for further details of all of our concerts:
www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk



Methodist Women in Britain – Yorkshire North and East District

Friday 22nd June – District Summer Event at Boston Spa
“Called to Proclaim – Sing a New Song”. Buffet from 5pm.



'Another' Evening with Rick Wakeman

Confusion reigned at the beginning of the show, as Rev Steve came on stage and started to play the piano. Is it Steve Wakeman... or Rick Jakeman? Can there really have been a typing error on the publicity? Luckily, all became clear as Steve welcomed onto the stage the one and only **Rick Wakeman**. And he didn't disappoint.



The one-man show "An Evening with Rick Wakeman" pretty much came about by accident. Quite simply, his gear didn't arrive for a show and all there was available was a piano. The audience was given the choice of their money back or an evening with Rick performing on the piano and telling ludicrously and funny anecdotes. Only three people (out of just over 2,000) took up the offer of their money back and "An Evening with Rick Wakeman" was born.

These performances are very much "one-offs" and are never done as a tour. The stories change on a regular basis, as does the music. If this show were in a cookery book, the instructions would simple read...

1. Take a grand piano and seat Rick Wakeman in front of the keys.
2. After the first piece of music, liberally sprinkle in a ludicrous and funny anecdote.
3. Repeat 1 and 2 for approximately 2 hours.

Rick first performed at Boston Spa Methodist Church in January 2017 – our first event in our newly-refurbished premises. We were thrilled to invite him back last month, this time for two performances. Both evenings were completely sold out and we were delighted to have raised over £2,000 for church funds



Photos: Mike Coleman, Steve Jakeman



Afternoon Tea

What an amazing spread! And how pretty all the tables looked. Comments such as "Better than the Ritz" were to be heard. We were also treated to musical accompaniment from Peter Fallone.

A big thank you to Carmen and her team: as a result £658.45 was raised for the building fund.

Café Worship Sunday 29th April

Well this was a 'first', for me anyway, but a great success. Steve, together with Wendy as Worship Leader, delivered a very relaxed service, with coffee being served throughout – as well as croissants and

buns on each table – yet another example of how our versatile sanctuary space can be put to use.



The theme for the service was 'Happiness', as can be seen from the photos. Our thanks to all who assisted in any way. We look forward to something different at the next 'fifth Sunday of the month'.

Jo

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have." Hebrews 13v5



'I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.'
(Jonah 4:2)

Bible Month is an opportunity for Churches and Circuits to spend 30 days focused on a single biblical book. In 2018, Bible Month will focus on the book of Jonah.

Bible Month involves two key elements:

1. Preachers preparing and preaching a series of sermons on Jonah over four Sundays.
2. A Take Home Sheet, for each 'Bible Month' Sunday, as a follow up to the teaching in the service, enabling people to focus, and engage deeper with the text in their own time.

For Clifford and Boston Spa churches our 'Bible Month' will take the form of four consecutive Sunday morning services as follows:

Boston Spa		Clifford	
10th June	Revd Steve Barlow	3rd June	Revd Uell Kennedy
17th June	Revd Ken Marshall	10th June	Revd Ken Marshall
24th June	Revd Steve Jakeman	17th June	Revd Steve Jakeman
1st July	Revd Mark Stennett	24th June	Revd Steve Barlow

By focusing on a single biblical book, the aim of a Bible Month is to help all in church engage more deeply with Scripture. A pilot project, trialled by The Methodist Church last year, showed that the Bible Month model could be effective in raising biblical literacy, and the majority of those who took part were keen to hold another Bible Month in the future!



You can find out more about Bible Month at www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/the-bible/bible-month/

SPRING FAYRE
Saturday June 2nd, 9am-1.30pm, in Wetherby Town Hall
 Refreshments including light lunches
 ❖ Books ❖ Cakes ❖ Craft ❖ Bling (scarves and jewellery)
 ❖ Plants ❖ Tombola ❖ Raffle

“The peace of the Lord be always with you”

Today is May 8th, and to people of our older generations that's an important day. May 8th 1945 was VE Day, Victory in Europe Day, the public holiday marking the formal acceptance by the Allies of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces. (The formal surrender of the German troops in the Channel Islands did not occur until the following day.) In the UK, thousands of people celebrated in the streets to mark the end of the war in Europe. In London, crowds massed in Trafalgar Square and up the Mall to Buckingham Palace, where King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, appeared on the balcony of the palace before the cheering crowds.

But that was neither the end of war nor the beginning of peace. Japan did not surrender until August 15th, and then only after the appalling loss of life, immediate and delayed, in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Again there was a public holiday and much celebration. It's right that we give thanks for peace; but what about the price of peace? What we mean by "peace" in this context surely depends on what we mean by "war", because since 1945 there have been over 250 different wars in different parts of the world. Some of them are still going on and show no signs of stopping. Members of our armed forces have died in action in almost every year since 1945.

As Christians understand and experience it, peace is far more than the absence of conflict. It's positive, not negative. It's real. It's something we can experience and wish to others and share, as we do in our Communion service. It's the peace that comes from the knowledge that God still loves and forgives and accepts us as we are, with all our faults and failures. It's the peace that comes from the love and caring and fellowship we share with each other in the church, the body of Christ. It's real peace. It's everyday peace. It's lasting peace.

Dennis

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Table Tennis News



B Team (l to r): Ian Gomerson, John Baker, Earl Williams (Captain)

The winter season of matches in the Harrogate League is now finished with BSMC entering two teams for the first time. The "B" team finished seventh in Division 4, which is lower than previous years due mainly to two of the strongest players now playing for the "A" team.

The "A" team finished a very creditable fourth place in Division 3, this is a great success for a small club with only 12 players.

Both teams played well in the knock-out competition with the "B" team reaching the semi-finals. One of our players, John Baker (son of Laurie Baker of the former Bramham Church) achieved over 90% success in his games and went on to win the Individual Division 3 Knock-Out competition

Club nights continue throughout the summer in preparation for the next season of competition.

David Hovell

May the road rise up to meet you; may the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face; may the rain fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, may God hold you.
Until we meet again, may God hold you.
Until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

Traditional Irish blessing (StF 772)



Thirteenth Boston Spa Festival Weekend 13th to 15th July 2018

This year the Festival will be slightly different as there will be no Open Gardens, but there will be plenty to do and see despite that.

Over the three days there will be a musical feast covering all different types of genres; from our own Lunchtime Concert featuring the Saltmarsh Duo to jazz, rock, and Brass Bands. There will be street buskers to entertain you, theatre performers and choirs.

On the Saturday we will be hosting a Literary Lunch (see book review facing page); serving refreshments throughout the day from 10am until 4pm. There will be a cake stall, home made jam and marmalade and other things for sale.

Our Sunday morning Worship at 10:30 am will take the form of a Festival Songs of Praise, led by our Worship Leaders.

Over the three-day event there will be Art Displays, Street Art, Classic Cars, Glider Competition, Plant Stall, Street Food, Gardeners' Question Time' and many more events taking place.

There will also be the wonderful Scarecrow Trail; this year's theme is 'Musical Legends'. Who knows what creativity will be displayed this year

The full programme will be out shortly; but do make a note of the date in your diaries, and if you can help with any of the events at church either on the days, preparing food for the Literary Lunch or baking cakes please speak to Sue Jakeman or Jackie Faulkner.

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Literary Lunch

This year we will once again be hosting the Literary Lunch on Saturday 14 July at Boston Spa Methodist Church. Tickets (£12) will be available soon at Yeadon's or through Sue Jakeman, and will include lunch, with proceeds going to Yorkshire Rows' chosen charities. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment though, seating is limited.

Our author this year will be Frances Davies, one of the amazing group of four friends who rowed over 3000 miles, broke a world record and learnt a lot about life along the way, and on returning wrote "Four Mums in a Boat", with her other three companions Helen Butters, Janette Benaddi and Niki Doeg

To whet your appetite, Anne Watts has written the following review of the book, which I hope you enjoy, and like me look forward to welcoming them here at Boston Spa.

Sue Jakeman

Four Mums in a Boat: What would possess four Yorkshire women, all of them on the far side of forty, to contemplate rowing across the Atlantic Ocean?

They are in fact four very different women, each of them married with two children, but what brought them together initially was "something to do on a Saturday morning" – which turned out to be rowing. They were brought together by a love of adventure (and biscuits) and joined a rowing club in York.

They are described as follows. "Janette is the go-getter with a very dry sense of humour. Helen is always the cheerful one – gossipy, full of stories and tall tales of angels, feathers and the universe. Frances is very laid-back, sanguine and calm; it takes a lot to rile her. And then there's Niki, the serious, dependable one, who is never knowingly out of wet wipes, with a handbag to rival Mary Poppins', right down to the hat stand."

The Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge involves rowing 3,000 miles from La Gomera to Antigua. So... why? They say if you have to ask the question you won't understand the answer, but reading about these women's adventure will certainly give you a fair idea. It was Frances' idea, and while getting her team of four together – they called themselves "Yorkshire Rows" – was relatively easy, convincing the husbands that putting their lives on hold for three months to row the Atlantic was a good idea took a bit more doing.

Once they had crossed that hurdle, there was fund-raising – and the acquisition of a boat. This is when their dream started to turn real, and many training outings on the "Rose" followed, including a harrowing practice run across the North Sea, one of the busiest shipping seas in the world. They nearly had a close encounter with a fishing vessel, but they made it. Some kind of practice run!

The actual journey, which began in December 2015, was fraught with problems, ranging from Helen's terrible sea sickness to equipment failure, storms, and injuries. But they stuck to it, rowing for two hours and then resting for two hours, day after day, week after week. It is an incredible story of what you can accomplish if your set your mind to it – it is nothing short of inspirational.

The book has recently been re-released in paperback, with an epilogue written two years after they completed their amazing feat, talking about the aftermath. There is also a documentary about them that was shown on the National Geographic Channel.

As I write, Frances and Niki are on their next adventure, participating in the Marathon des Sables, the 142-mile, 6-day event in the Sahara Desert. Books will be on sale.

Anne Watts, April 2018

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Can you help support Boston Spa Methodist Church?

We are looking to fill the following three voluntary roles which are vital to the smooth running of the church. Please consider prayerfully if you would be able to take on any of these roles:

Church Council Secretary

You will need good administration skills, be computer literate and will need to be able to fulfil the following tasks:-

To prepare agendas, attendance lists, and papers for meetings of the Church Council and Annual General Church Meeting.

To prepare and distribute minutes from meetings of the Church Council, and Annual General Church Meeting.

To keep lists of members of Church Council up to date.

To collect and collate information to produce the Annual Report in consultation with the Minister.

Church Notices Secretary

You will need good administration skills, be computer literate, able to use email, and be able to create a notice sheet.

Collect and collate information on a weekly basis from various sources to produce weekly notice sheet.

Print off weekly sheets and deliver to church on Saturday in time for Sunday morning worship.

Church Booking Secretary

You will need good administration skills, be computer literate and will need to be able to fulfil the following tasks:-

Assume the responsibility for the hiring Church premises;

Responsible for the Church Room Hire Agreement ('terms and conditions') document. This includes a biennial review of the said document and/or following a meaningful change;

Responsible for the invoicing of persons wishing to hire rooms.

Setting of electronic doors opening system and produce electronic key fobs for long term bookings.

Ensure organisations booking the rooms have their own public liability insurance and safeguarding policy

Maintain clear records always.

Responsible for the safe-keeping of all church booking related documents held on their own property. This includes adherence to the requirements of the Data Protection Act;

Answerable to: The Property Coordinator / The Church Treasurer

Required to produce: A short annual report on the position with Bookings activity and any concerns, to the Property and Finance Committee no later than March each year. The findings from this report would inform the Property and Finance Committee's report into the church A.G.M.

Other requirements of the role: The Bookings Secretary will need to meet with those booking rooms for the first time and be available to show people around the building.



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Beware of telephone scams

Just recently, there has been a big increase in scams locally. Don't be caught out. Fraudsters are cunning in their phone-scam tactics and it's not always easy or obvious to tell straight away whether or not it's a scam.

Cold-call scams typically involve fraudsters deceiving people into believing they are speaking to a police officer, a member of bank staff or a representative of another trusted company or agency such as a government department. Usually they will try to convince an individual that they have been a victim of fraud and will ask for personal and financial information in order to gain access to their account.

Another variation of a phone scam involves the fraudster persuading people to transfer money to other accounts or to hand over cash directly to a courier. The fraudsters are known to encourage people to hang up and call their bank to verify the legitimacy of the call. However, a phone line can stay open for up to two minutes, so the fraudster remains on the line and plays a dialling tone to trick the individual into thinking they're calling their bank. In fact, the fraudsters are still connected and the individual is not speaking to their bank, but is still connected to the scammers.

Remember, in no circumstances would your bank or police ask you to take such action, so don't fall victim to these scammers. If you feel you need to verify a caller, DO SO FROM ANOTHER PHONE.

The missed-call scam: This is where fraudsters would call your mobile, but hang up as soon as it starts ringing. This then shows up on the phone as a missed call. Many people will call back, in case it's urgent. In fact the number used by the criminals incurs premium-rate charges that can be as high as £15 a call. These payments can be applied simply for connecting the call, but in some cases you will also hear a long recorded message to keep you on the phone for as long as possible so that charges mount up. So, never call a number back just because it called you: if a phone call is genuinely important, the caller would leave you a voicemail message.

And remember, if you feel uneasy about an unknown caller, politely hang up.

Amanda Buch M.C.S.P., BSc(Hons)

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