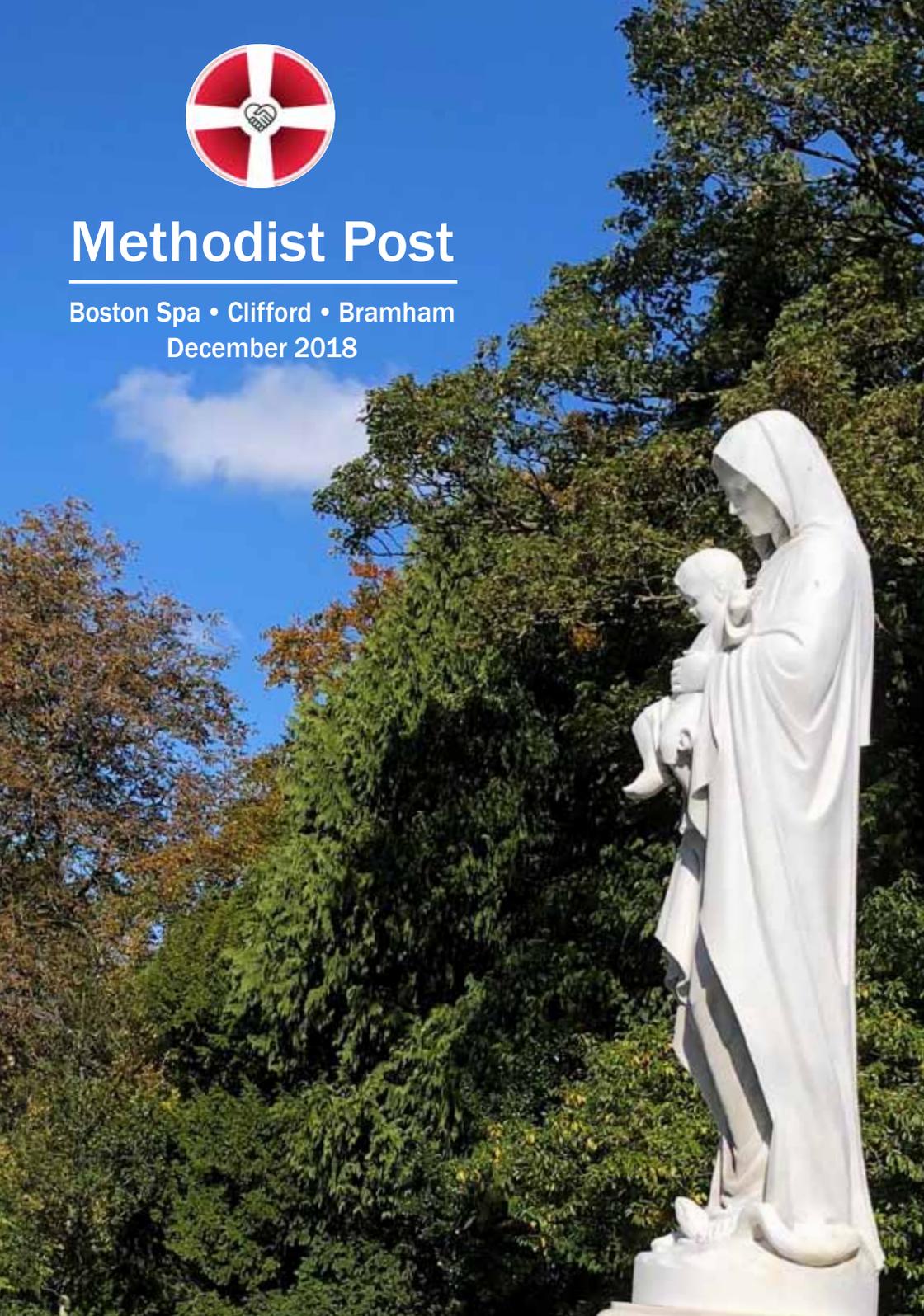


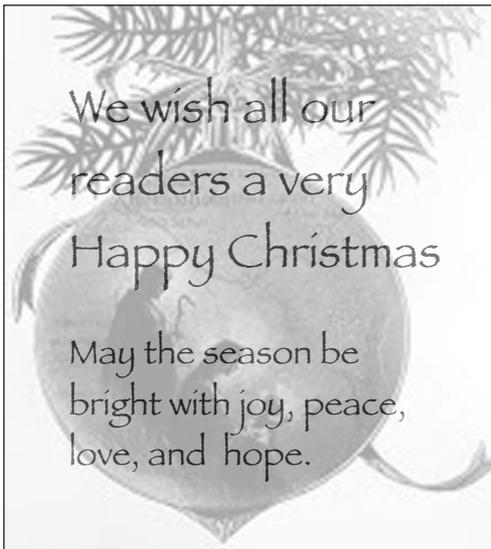


# Methodist Post

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Boston Spa • Clifford • Bramham  
December 2018





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### Minister's Letter



Dear Friends,

Waiting – Waiting and Hoping... As we enter into the season of Advent, we are asked to do just that; to wait. But what is it we are waiting for during these four weeks leading up to Christmas? Do we wait for our Christmas tree to go up, all decorated with sparkling lights? Do we wait in queues, one after another, to get the best deals on Christmas gifts? Do we wait for the turkey and all the trimmings on Christmas Day?

Somehow our culture has sped Christmas up so fast that we don't even need to wait for Christmas any more. It is already here, staring us in the face whenever we go out. So, what do we wait for in this season of Advent? The simple answer is, we just wait.

Eagerly, hopefully, with over-joyous expectation, we wait for a future into which hope breaks into our lives.

Advent is that time. The time of waiting in that moment of expectant tension, knowing, believing, hoping, that something new is coming; that the saving work of God is coming. Advent is the faith that there are truly new possibilities for the world. This moment of waiting transforms who we are now. We are called to live out that hope in the present, in the light of, and because of, God's coming into our world. Advent faith, though, does not mean that we stay at home, waiting for something to show up outside our door. It is to be like Abraham, Isaiah, or John the Baptist; to dream a dream, to get up and go. Only then do we discover that the presence of the one we wait for is here with us already. The Advent hope, is hope in God. That is a powerful thing to hold onto in the world today.

Over the next few weeks, I want to encourage you to find time to wait. Try (as hard as you can) not to rush into Christmas. I promise you, December 25th will come; it will come to us all, in time... but this is Advent – this is the time to wait.

This is the time to pause, in the madness of the Christmas rush, so that we might be able to hear the good news calling out to us; and as we do, let us ponder once more the meaning of it all and the God, all powerful and mighty, that came to us in Jesus Christ: not as a conquering hero, but as a tiny, vulnerable baby; born, in circumstances that were far from ideal, in that stable long ago in Bethlehem.

Think about the significance of the vulnerability that took Jesus to the Cross but overcame death in order to show us a different path; a path leading to hope and resurrection life. What does it mean to be vulnerable? Are we vulnerable? Surely not! And yet, we too know fear and pain, sorrow and hardship; loss of jobs, status, health and loved ones...

Is it not in this very vulnerability that we discover courage and achievement, pleasure and desire, love and freedom? Even the freedom to be the people that God made us to be?

We may try to protect ourselves in many ways – through material goods and consumerism, through insurance policies and control, through busyness and yes, even though our church activities... but in the end, one way or another, we will discover that this is not enough.

Then, we too may find reason to celebrate the coming of our Saviour to live among us – as one of us. We too may discover that ours is a God who hasn't left us, to make our own way in the world, but is with us – every step of the way – when we are open to receive him.

My prayer for you all is that, this year, you will meet with Christ in a very special way, and that your Christmases will be filled with Joy, Peace and Grace.

With every Blessing

*Steve*

Ideas and contributions for future editions of the Methodist Post are always welcome.



For the January issue, please send copy by 10 December to: [governor1@gmail.com](mailto:governor1@gmail.com)

Thank you.

*Jo Vernon, Editor (01937 360016)*

Don't forget, the magazine is also available to read on our website: [www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk)



Cover photograph: Jo Vernon

Does anyone know where the photo was taken? It is in the grounds of St John's Catholic School for the Deaf, which is between Boston Spa and Clifford. It is a residential and day school for pupils aged 3 to 19 years of age. Their mission is to recognise and develop the entire potential of every person and they welcome young people and their families of all faiths and of none.

### Foodbank appeal

Now that Boston Spa has its own Foodbank Distribution Centre at Deepdale, there is an even greater demand for food.

This Christmas the appeal is for any of the following items:-

- Christmas treats, Chocolates etc**
- Gravy, Stuffing, Cranberry sauce**
- Small Christmas puddings**
- Tinned sponge puddings**
- Custard, Rice puddings**
- Rice, Pot noodles, UHT milk**
- Squash, Long life fruit juice**
- Tinned meat pies, Meat and Fish**
- Toiletries**

Please give generously.

There is a Foodbank collection point in both our churches.



[www.wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk)



### December Diary Dates

<b>Sunday 2nd</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion Service, led by Revd Colin Cheeseman
	6.00pm	Reflections Service, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
Wed 5th–Sun 9th		<del>Christmas Tree Festival</del> (see p.9)
Friday 7th	12 noon	Light lunches to be served prior to...
	1.00pm	Festival Lunchtime Concert
<b>Sunday 9th</b>	10.30am	“A Messy Christingle”, led by Revd Steve Jakeman and Sue Jakeman
	6.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival Carol Service
Tuesday 11th	2.00pm	Women’s Friendship Group Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 12th	7.00pm	Sacred Space – Reflective Worship
Thursday 13th	7.30pm	Men’s Group Christmas Dinner – Wetherby Golf Club
<b>Sunday 16th</b>	10.30am	Morning Worship, led by Mr Joseph Kwallah
	6.00pm	Holy Communion United Service led by Revd Steve Jakeman
Tuesday 18th	10.30am	Evergreens Luncheon Club
<b>Sunday 23rd</b>	10.30am	Morning Worship, led by Dr Alan Bell with Mrs Heather Grant as Worship Leader
Monday 24th	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Communion Service, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
Tuesday 25th	<b>11.00am</b>	Christmas Day Service, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
<b>Sunday 30th</b>	10.30am	United Service – Café Style Worship led by Revd Steve Jakeman

### Other Weekly Events

**Mondays:** 3.15pm Ping Pong Club 5.00pm Senior Table Tennis

**Wednesdays:** 9.30-11am Busy Bees for pre-school children and their carers

For up-to-date information, see noticeboards/website:

[www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk)

Church rooms may be booked for private functions. Contact Anne Hovell: 01937 843445

## Birthday Greetings

6th: Hazel Greenwood	7th: Ina Smart
17th: Molly Stares	18th: Joan Dyer

### Boston Spa Church Rotas – December

	Church Stewards	Welcome Stewards	Flowers	Coffee
2	Barbara Hudson Heather Grant	Mike Henzell Jean Henzell	Joan Dyer	Bob Wade Wendy Wade
9	Bob Hutchinson Arthur Faulkner	Stephen Hough Tina Farr	Frank Hollday	Dennis Ashton Carmen Ashton
16	Val Woodhams K/J Grimditch	Ken Grimditch Judith Grimditch	Kath Mountain	Roger Tunnicliffe Chris Tunnicliffe
23	Arthur Faulkner Pauline O’Melia	Bob Humphries Sheila Humphries	Kath Mountain	Julie Thompson Val Woodhams
24	Barbara Hudson Heather Grant			
25	Pauline O’Melia Joan Dyer			
30	Val Woodhams Bob Hutchison	Carmen Ashton Dennis Ashton	Judith Grimditch	Ken Grimditch Judith Grimditch

Cleaning		Busy Bees	
Up to 9	Jo and Iain Vernon	5	Judith Grimditch
10-30	Jackie and Arthur Faulkner	12	Wendy Wade
31-6 Jan	Heather and Claire Grant	19	Christine Mitchell – PARTY all welcome

**Flower Rota 2019:** I am currently preparing the rota for providing flowers for the communion table, and find that we have at least 10 weeks blank. I would be grateful for offers to supply flowers for those slots. If you are unable to put the flowers in the vases yourself, one of the flower group will be able to help. Please contact me if you are able to fill in a gap.

*Judith Grimditch 844904*

### RECENT APPEALS...

Harvest Appeal to All We Can raised £508.75.

Indonesia Appeal raised £438.13.

Our recent coffee morning raised £240 for St Gemma’s. Barbara would like to thank everyone for their generous support.

With many thanks for your support for all of these worthy causes.

### THANKS...

Barbara Hudson would like to thank everyone for their cards and lovely flowers, support and prayers after John’s illness and death.

We were overwhelmed with everyone’s kindness, as was John. I always passed on everyone’s concern.

*Barbara, Michael, Chris Hudson*

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

**Diary Dates – December**

Sunday 2nd	10.30am	Morning Worship, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
Sunday 9th	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion, led by Revd Don Tuttell
Sunday 16th	10.30am	All Age Worship, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
Sunday 23rd	10.30am	Morning Worship, led by Revd Steve Barlow
	6.00pm	Carol Service, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
Monday 24th	10.00pm	Christmas Eve Communion, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
	3.00pm	Crib Service
Tuesday 25th	<b>10.00am</b>	Christmas Day Service, led by Revd Steve Jakeman
Sunday 30th	10.30am	United Service at Boston Spa

PLEASE NOTE:

Dates and times of all services in December. The 10pm service on 24 December is Holy Communion. The 6pm service on 23 December is the Carol Service and the 10am service on Christmas morning is a shorter Family Service. All collections over the Christmas period will be in aid of Action for Children.



	Door Stewards	Flowers	Vestry
2nd	Carol Smith, Margaret Suggate	Alison Smith	David Mountain
9th	Catherine Catton, Ros McCall	Carol Smith	Alison Smith
16th	Hazel Greenwood, Alison Smith	Margaret Suggate	David Barrow
23rd	am Julie Norman pm Sheila & Katy Biercamp	Mavis Rodgers	Michael Whaley Jason Turner
24th	Catherine Catton		David Mountain
25th	Catherine Catton		Michael Whaley
30th	UNITED SERVICE AT BOSTON SPA		
<b>Schoolroom cleaning</b> – Jackie Turner <i>(reduced duties as outline in November Methodist Post)</i>			



Jackie Turner  
Silas Turner  
Edward Barrow

**THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

If you were able to believe in Santa Claus for 8 years, you can believe in yourself for 5 minutes!

**CHRISTMAS PARTY & CAROL SERVICE**

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on Sunday 23 December at 3pm. There will be music, a quiz and party games. Please ring along a plate/dish of food (savoury or sweet) to make up the usual Faith tea. The Carol Service, led by Rev'd Steve Jakeman, will then follow at 6pm in Chapel. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards. Everyone is very welcome so please come along and enjoy yourselves.

**Bits 'n' Bobs**

This is a craft group to be held in the Schoolroom every Friday (but not during school holidays) 7pm-9pm commencing 7 December. Whatever your current project is, knitting, embroidery, crochet, anything you fancy, or if you're just looking for ideas, come along and have a chat whilst you're doing it! There is a small charge of £2 and tea/coffee and biscuits will be available. Everyone is welcome so come along and join us.



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Boston Spa Methodist Church present our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Community Christmas Tree



**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December: 3.00pm – 5.30pm**  
3pm: St Mary's School Choir open the Festival.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December: 10.30am – 7.00pm**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December: 10.30am – 5.30pm**

12noon: Our renowned pre-Concert Lunches

1pm: Lunchtime Concert

(The 'Good Old Days' with David Owen-Lewis, Vivienne Bailey & Beryl Pankhurst)

Tickets £5 (available on the door)

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December: 10am – 5.30pm**

10.30am: Collingham Training Band

12noon: David Wilkes entertains on our fabulous Harrison & Harrison organ

3pm: Wetherby Folk Chorale

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December: 12noon – 4.30pm**

10.30am: A 'Messy Christingle' - a Christmas worship experience for all

6.00pm: Festival Carol Service

further attractions to be announced!

Refreshments available in the Wesley Room throughout the Festival.

"Put Yourself in the Picture" – Nativity photo-opportunity

ENTRY to the FESTIVAL is FREE (except for the Friday Lunchtime Concert)

Please see our website for further details: [www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk)

or



[www.facebook.com/bostonspamethodistchurch?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/bostonspamethodistchurch?fref=ts)

Boston Spa Methodist Church... where Church and Community meet



On the afternoon of 11th November, at Clifford Methodist Church, we held an indoor 'street party' to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1.

Approximately 60 people attended, and we were treated to a lovely tea (sandwiches, sausage rolls, cake and fruit jelly) served, uniquely, in individual card-board boxes, with

scones, jam and cream served separately.

Following the tea, entertainment was a 'sing-a-long' of WW1 songs, interspersed with readings, poetry and interesting WW1 facts.

Good hearty singing, and plenty of flag waving, helped to create a party atmosphere, and everyone enjoyed an afternoon which, although

acknowledging the horror of war, looked to the future with hope.

*Sue Jakeman*



*Photos: Steve Jakeman, Jo Vernon*

## 100 Years of Peace 1918~2018

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*



Anyone entering St Mary's Church, Boston Spa after 9.30am on Sunday 11th of November 2018 would have been surprised to find that every pew seat was filled with standing room only available.

At 10.40am, the Choir headed the procession with the Cross, Flag Bearers, Servers, and Clergy led by the Rev'd Canon Clive Everett-Allen following. Next to process in were many children, almost entirely comprising Brownies, Beavers and Cubs from the local Scout movement. In all, some 300 people then joined in singing the traditional hymn of dedication, 'I vow to Thee my country'.

Prayers of confession and scriptural readings preceded the address given by the Rev'd Canon who spoke to both adults and children as to the importance



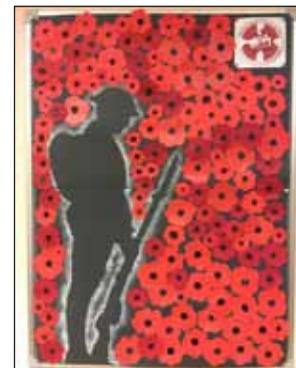
of remembrance when forgetting is so easy. He skillfully linked Remembrance to Sacrifice reminding us of Christ's instruction to Remember His own Sacrifice and the words of the poet John Maxwell Edmonds 'When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today'.

A movingly updated version of the hymn, Eternal Father strong to save, with verses referring to perils on both land and in the air, thereby including appropriate words for each of the Armed Forces, was sung. Somewhat unusually the Service of

Holy Communion followed during which the choir sang and after the final hymn, Clergy, uniformed organisations and congregation processed to the village War Memorial, gloriously decorated with knitted poppies, for the service of the 'Laying of Wreaths'

Following the National Anthem, hot drinks were served by men from the Methodist Church in the hall.

*Arthur Faulkner*



*Photo left:  
This poignant montage was made  
by the children in Messy Church*



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## What is God doing in Boston Spa?

A big, sincere, "thank you" to everyone who gave up their time to attend one of the Review sessions. As I mentioned at these, our purpose is not to try and decide what we should be doing as a Church, as that would have entirely the wrong perspective – we are all too well aware of our limitations. Instead, we are trying to discover what God is already doing in Boston Spa – and then hitch a ride! He knows our strengths and our weaknesses better than we do, yet still has plans for us – and he never asks without also providing the means. (I'm sure that a few years ago there were those who thought the building project was beyond us – yet here we are, with a great base to allow the next stage of sharing the good news with the whole village.)

Understanding where we are right now is an absolutely essential starting point for any journey. To help with this, we have been able to tap into the "Healthy Church Handbook", which is based on 10 years of research and experience. It identifies the marks or traits of a "healthy Church" – one that is able to grow and be a blessing to the community. Without those traits, we're a group of well meaning individuals but with them, we are the Church of God – and that's a whole different ball game.

I have started the analysis of your answers to the Questionnaires received to date (which has involved finishing off the spare Bakewell tarts and chocolate rolls – the sacrifices I make on your behalf!) Not surprisingly, there are some areas where we score really highly and others that we need to work on. I will be reporting back to Steve and the Stewards and can assure you that every comment, every frustration, every dream is being taken into account and we will keep you fully informed and involved every step of the way. I hope you're looking forward to it as much as I am.

*Donald Milne*



**Methodist Women in Britain – Yorkshire North And East District**

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## Remembering .....

This end-of-year time is a time of anniversaries. This year, the 11th November marked the centenary of the end of World War 1. At 11 a.m. on that day in 1918 the guns fell silent and the killing was over. There had been around 20 million war deaths on the two sides and around the same number of wounded, civilian and military. The armistice marked the end of the fighting, but it had to be renewed three times until the formal Treaty of Versailles was signed in June 1919. The Treaty took effect on 10 January 1920.

Early November also saw the release of the film "Peterloo", although the bicentenary of the event itself will not be until the 16th August 2019. The film commemorates the 15 demonstrators killed and the hundreds more injured when cavalry of the 15th Hussars charged, sabres drawn, into a peaceful demonstration in Manchester. The end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 had led to a period of poverty, famine and unemployment. The demonstrators wanted reform of the parliamentary system to give them the vote and better representation. They had gathered in St. Peter's Field to listen to a well-known speaker. The Peterloo Massacre gave birth in 1821 to the "Manchester Guardian".

The third major anniversary this year is still to come. Important though the others have been, this one still outweighs them. It is positive, it is life-affirming. It is Christmas, our celebration of the life-changing event of "our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man". We remember and celebrate the fact that God, who is both beyond space and before time, became human in Jesus for our sakes so that we could better see and know his love for us. He was prepared even to die for us.

Christmas has become more and more a secular celebration, a time for family and children, of presents and parties, of food and drink. Let's not lose sight of the reality behind it, of God in Jesus willing to lay down his life for his friends. Let's always remember what a Christmas present that is!

*Dennis*

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## WHAT'S MY LINE?

In this series of articles, Arthur chats with various members of our church family about their working life.

This month we feature... Phyllis Reynolds

### A Working Life of Dedication and Loving Support

There are times when the media and we, give scant recognition to those whose work involves much physical toil. At the end of the day, these are the ones upon whom we all rely. I therefore wish to applaud all such persons for their effort and dedication and who better to start with, than Phyllis?

Phyllis was born in Wetherby in a house where the library now stands and with the family, she attended North Street Methodist Church. Later, the family moved to the Flint Mill at Thorp Arch where her father was the Miller. She went to St James' Church school for all but one term of her school life when she attended Crossley Street School. Like most she left school at the age of 14 years and then went to work for a Miss Poole as a dressmaker. Having learnt the skills of cutting and sewing, she left Miss Poole's employment four years later and went to work for Mrs North at Blanella Electric Blankets in the newly acquired factory in the Old Mill by the bridge at Thorp Arch. At Blanella, firstly as a machinist and later as one who wired up the electrically heated blankets, she became the tester for ensuring the safety of the product marketed as Cosy Comfort Electric Blankets. "I really enjoyed the job" she told me.

One of her duties at the Blanket factory was to fetch the fish & chips for the staff and so, each Friday, she could be seen struggling up the hill from the bridge to the High Street on her bike to collect the order. These were wrapped in newspaper and put in a large bag. A smaller packet was also placed inside – a gift from the fryer in recognition of her custom!

Phyllis and Frank were married in 1956 at St Mary's in Boston Spa and lived for a short time with Frank's parents before moving to their present abode in Bramham.

Their first child Diane, was born in 1958 and Phyllis left full time work at Blanella but in order to supplement the family income, she took on outdoor field work on a temporary basis. Much of this entailed the backbreaking job of picking up potatoes, mangles, turnips and stones, as well as cutting cabbages and the like. However, the cold and chill began to take its toll so Phyllis went as a housekeeper to Clayton's Farm in Thorp Arch and, in 1962, her second child Sandra arrived.

In 1974, life changed radically for Phyllis and her husband Frank, with the birth of Yvonne who was found to have spina bifida. This most tragic of circumstances brought both Phyllis and Frank into a new world, that of being carers: for Phyllis – this was to be a full time, 24/7 occupation. Any attempt on my part to put into words, just what that meant and still means, could not do justice to the total dedication that Yvonne has received although she has only recently moved into a specialist nursing home.

Phyllis had joined the Methodist Church in Bramham in the mid 1960s and she attended worship regularly, taking the family along with her. She soon became fully involved in the life of the church and ran the Sunday School for a few years.

When major structural problems arose at Bramham Chapel, worship continued for a few years in the schoolroom, which had been refurbished by friends. However, the inevitable closure came in April 2007 and after serving teas and tidying up after a wonderful final spread, Phyllis could not bring it upon herself to turn the key for the last time and this was left to her ever helpful and understanding husband, Frank.

Since then, Frank has brought Phyllis and Yvonne to Boston Spa Methodist Church in their car, adapted for the wheelchair, on most Saturdays for coffee and on Sundays for Worship.

It was a joy to talk to Phyllis and Frank and we send them and Yvonne our very best wishes for the future.

Arthur

**Collection for Refugees:** Your help is requested for donations of basic items of food and clothing to be sent to various refugee camps. Please see the list of requirements on the noticeboards at both Boston Spa and Clifford.

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*A. J. Morgan, B.Sc., M.C.Optom.*

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## Traidcraft's future in doubt

The pioneering fair trade company Traidcraft plc faces the possibility of closing this year due to poor trading. With no high street presence, the company sells fairly traded products online, through 350 UK retailers and via a network of around 3,500 community volunteers – many through local churches. While sales of Fairtrade-marked goods increased by 9% last year, Traidcraft plc – which cofounded the foundation behind the Fairtrade label – has seen heavy losses, causing it to question its current trading model.



Ken and Judith Grimditch have operated as Boston Spa's church representatives for Traidcraft for some twenty years or more, but they have now held the last of their regular monthly stalls.

The task of obtaining setting up and dismantling the stalls has involved them both in a considerable amount of work and, as a church, we are most grateful for their hard work and unfailing dedication.

So, thank you very much Ken and Judith – your efforts have been much appreciated.

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EXPERIENCE  
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INSPIRATION



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**Knowledge:** Every member of staff is highly-trained and incredibly well-travelled: we believe that our clients deserve as much first-hand knowledge as possible and we are pleased to be able to give them just that.

**Experience:** Our staff members are passionate about travel and regularly attend training events, conferences and educational overseas visits to increase our knowledge. Between us, we have more than 100 years' experience in the industry.

**Service:** We feel that clients who put their trust in us deserve the highest levels of personal service and, quite simply, that is what we give them. Anyone can use the internet to make a simple booking, but we aim to give much more and call on our own extensive knowledge, personal contacts, specialist operators and experience to get the right holiday for each individual client.

**Inspiration:** Don't know where to go? Not a problem: we love a challenge and, after consultation to establish your requirements, we will come up with a selection of suggestions to inspire you.

Paul J Dayson

*Partner*

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