



Methodist Post

Boston Spa and Clifford
July/August 2020



Unfortunately, we are still not able to have this issue printed professionally, but it is available to read on our website:

www.bostonsmamethodistchurch.org.uk

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

For the September issue, please send copy by 17th August (note the later deadline) to: jovernon1@gmail.com

Jo Vernon, Editor
(01937 360016)



Cover photograph: Jo Vernon taken at Headingley Golf Club

Clifford news from Ros...

THANKS JULIE & PETER

I'm sure we'd all like to say thank you to Julie and Peter for their kind thought in making and personally distributing cards to us all. What a lovely gesture in these difficult and trying times. We all need to keep each other in our thoughts.

HANDMADE CARDS

Just a reminder that a selection of handmade cards for various occasions are available, so if you're taking items for the Foodbank on Wednesday afternoons, take a look.

A minimum donation of 50p per card is requested and all monies go to our Chapel funds.

And Kathryn adds...

Thank you to folk who have purchased books from our book stall and thanks to Ros who made the cards. £20 has been raised from the sale of books and £65 from the sale of her cards.

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

One of the things that I have and still am missing during lockdown is not being able to go to the seaside, and especially at the end of May when we were unable to go to Seahouses and, as the summer holiday season approaches, we are hoping that we will be able to go on a visit soon.

Both Sue and I have always loved the sea, and can spend many hours just sitting and watching it regardless of the weather; bright blue, or murky grey, it's always fascinating, and a friend of hours who lives on Holy Island has been posting short video clips of the coastline every day during lockdown, which have been great to see, but some days it has been so wild she has been unable to go out and has re-used a previous clip.

This reminded me that the sea is wonderful to look at, to listen to, to play in, or besides, but the sea has many moods. It can be wild and exciting. It can be calm and still, almost like a mirror. The sea can be a safe and gentle place to fool around in but, of course, it can also be a very dangerous place.

To me the sea is like life. Life has many different moods and moments. There are times when things are calm and still, times when things are really rough. Times when we are quite safe, times when we are in danger. And sometimes we move from one state of affairs to another very quickly. I guess like me, you too may have felt this way over the past few months both during the lockdown and perhaps more so as the easing of restrictions began.

Jesus spent plenty of time on or by the 'sea' and his closest followers were fishermen. He loved to be on or beside the sea of Galilee. One of the post-resurrection stories tells us that he made his followers breakfast whilst they were fishing. They hadn't been doing too well, but with Jesus present things turned around and they pulled in a big catch – 153 fish were in their net, we are told.

It is true for us too. When things don't go too well in life, when the odds appear to be against us, we too need a sense of God's presence to help us through.

Life, like the sea, can bring us many things: good times, hard times, happy times and sad times. So as we look forward to the journeys and changes that the summer and the easing of lockdown is bringing to all our lives, never forget that God is always with us, always present, and that, whether we remember he is there or not, he supports us and guides us on life's journey.

Many of you may remember the Footsteps Poem written by Mary Stephenson in 1936, in which she asked the question why the Lord had left her during the most turbulent times of her life, and the reply was:-



"My precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

With every Blessing, Rev Steve



Happy Birthday

Women's Friendship Group

July: Heather Grant,
Marion Lord

(No August birthdays)

Clifford Birthdays

July: Catherine Catton,
Gordon Shaw, Mike Suggate,
Irene Haigh, David Anstey
August: Joyce Forth,
Mary Ford, Katy Biercamp,
Stuart Haigh, Julie Anstey

Thought for the month

The loveliest day comes when you wake up and find that life still colours your world through people who truly care and never fail to remember you.
Good Morning!!



Join us for our Holiday Club

Online Opening Service Sunday 26th July

Pick up a Resource Pack each week

Complete the activities provided in your own time at home.

Join us online each week

For a fun 30 minute session

Find out how Jesus gives us all Hope
Stories, drama, crafts, songs and prayer

Sign up so that we can make your pack up to collect each week and send you links to the online stuff

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-hope-club-boston-spa-holiday-club-2020-tickets-108976282996>

Collect your Resource Pack every Monday

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Reflecting on a reflection

'Reflection' is one of those strange English words which has two completely different meanings:

- ♦ the throwing back by a surface, of light, heat, or sound without absorbing it.
- ♦ serious thought or consideration

I'd like to add a third. *'A time of deep anxiety, verging on panic, when all common sense goes out the window.'*

So here's what happened..... One of the weekly 'Circuit Reflection' slots came up at short notice and a volunteer was required. Ignoring the old Army advice (never volunteer), I put my hand up. After all, I'm used to putting a sermon together, I've video self-recorded 12 'StoryTimes' for the kids at Busy Bees and Tots'n'Toys – how hard could it be? I was about to find out.

Firstly, I discovered that writing and recording are the easy bits, at that point I normally send it through to Steve and he edits, adds music and some other stuff. Unfortunately, he was on holiday but he'd always assured me that it really doesn't take that long. Except if you've never done it before, never used iMovie editing before – and then, it really does. I reckon that, because I had no idea what I was doing, the whole process for a 12 minute talk took about 12 hours.

Then there's posting it onto the various sites – again Steve normally does that. So I needed to be given admin rights to the Boston Spa You Tube site and the Tadcaster Circuit site. The second also needed double passwords, didn't like what I was trying to do and blocked me out – twice. Then it said I needed to set up a new

password – but in order to do so I had to log in with the password that I hadn't yet given it. Steve rescued me from that Kafkaesque nightmare by ignoring holiday and offering to do the posting.

What about the actual 'reflection'? It was on the topical subject of racism and I thought it was ok – until I looked at it again, once it was posted (i.e. too late to do anything about it), and I saw:

- ♦ on the very first title frame, I'd spelt Methodist with a small m
- ♦ half my shirt was turned inside out
- ♦ one of the (several) places where I'd edited out my deeply inappropriate response to making a mistake was so clunky it looked like I'd jumped through a time warp
- ♦ half way through everything suddenly went darker (we now think that was my iPad going into battery save mode)
- ♦ the list goes on

What about the response? A number of people kindly took the time to get in touch to say that they'd found what I had to say helpful, challenging and timely. None of them mentioned any of the numerous errors.

Reflecting on that, I realised something that I really should have already known. Last autumn, a number of us worked through the 'Talking Jesus' course, exploring how better to share our faith. Some had worries that they didn't know the right words, weren't confident that they could cope with theological questions and were worried that they might 'get it wrong'. My answer was always – *'don't get hung upon on that, do your best, just say what you believe, in your own words – and leave the rest to God'*. Wise words – maybe I should listen to myself a bit more?

Donald

PS If you're a Local Preacher, Worship Leader or anyone else volunteering to help with future Reflections/Services – don't let his put you off, you'll only have to do the easy/fun bit!

A round up from our Annual Church Meetings

We are living in unprecedented times and, since March this year, being Church has been very different. From the start of 'lockdown', Donald and I have been very conscious of the need to keep in contact with our Church families, and those with links to our Church, and to provide a form of 'gathered' worship experience that is accessible to all our members. To this end we have sent out by email, or post as appropriate, a regular newsletter plus a weekly, printed, service taken from the offering from the central Methodist Church – this has provided the opportunity for us all to worship at home but be together; by using these services at a regular time each week. We trust this has gone some way to providing a connection between us all.

Donald and I have also produced video versions of our Story-Time, and Tea-Time Church offerings, which have been enjoyed by young families and the young-at-heart alike. Several Circuit services have also been published. These, and the Story Time and Tea-Time Church 'At Home' have been published on YouTube, Face Book and Circuit websites. We appreciate that not all of you can access these, but if you would like to, please ask how we can assist you.

We are also looking at other online offerings, such as Bible Study, and Prayer meetings, please look out for these as, and when, they come to fruition.

There has also been opportunity to meet together in 'virtual' coffee times, both mid-week and on Sunday mornings – again all are welcome and if you need some assistance with attending, please ask.

This year, due to the lockdown restrictions, we have had to be creative in how we went about the official business,

required by The Methodist Church in Britain, for bringing reports and voting on Church roles, and representatives to the Church Council's for the Church Year 2020/2021. We could have gone down the route of online web conference ('Zoom') meetings but this would have precluded those who were not 'tech savvy', and would not be inclusive and fully representative of our Churches.

Therefore, in order to be as accessible, and inclusive, as possible all the reports were collated, for both our churches, and voting forms for the required ballots were produced. These were distributed either by email or by post (for those without internet access). The votes, and any comments, were received back for counting either by return email or a supplied S.A.E..

Minutes will be written up in due course but here is a summary of the results of the voting, (at the time of writing).

Clifford:

The minutes of last year's Annual Meeting were approved.

Roles and Officers remain extant from last year and were approved.

Boston Spa:

The minutes of last year's Annual Meeting were approved.

Apart from that of Property Team Coordinator, the roles and Officers remain extant from last year and were approved.

Following Brian Marsden standing down from the position, Iain Vernon had been proposed for the role of Property Team Coordinator, this was unanimously approved. Welcome to the team, Iain!



I would like to thank you all for your perseverance, and for the love and support you have shown one another, throughout this difficult and challenging time. Although it won't be soon, due to the challenges, and the multitude of requirements (some insurmountable) that we would have to comply with as Churches in order to be able to open our premises, I do look forward to a time when we can meet again in our buildings. Until then we will continue to be Church to each other, and to those around us, wherever we are.

Rev Steve



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* No more than 10 mins

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

We are aware of water in three different ways. It's real and important to us, fundamental to life, in those different ways. In its frozen form we know it as ice, as hail, as snow. We use it to cool drinks, we rely on it to preserve foods. In its liquid form we know it as water – rain, the sea, the water piped to our homes. In this form we rely on it for refreshment and for cleansing – washing our bodies, our clothes and our belongings. In its gaseous form we know it as steam. In this form we have long relied on it for power – steam power drove the industrial revolution.

There's perhaps some kind of parable here, but let's not try to take comparisons too far. When we're thinking of our incomparable God, we can't.

Last Sunday was Trinity Sunday, the Sunday after Pentecost, the day set aside by the church for us to remember that, whether or not we recognise him, we experience God in three main ways. The Bible doesn't use the word

"Trinity", but the church does.

Scripture tells us that God is all goodness and all love. To give expression to that goodness and love he created everything that is. He cares about each one of us, he cares for each one of us, he seeks us out, he accepts and forgives each one of us. He wants to live in us.

God himself came into human form in Jesus, to show us how to love and to live.

In his death on the cross he showed us the lengths to which God would go to redeem us, to pay himself the cost of our faults and failings. He took our humanity upon himself.

The Holy Spirit is the power and purpose of God, present with God from the beginning. He is the agent through whom God makes things happen. He speaks to us and through us. God wants to live in us through him. He is forever our personal friend and helper if we will let him be.

Dennis



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An unexpected gift

I never cease to be amazed at the generosity of people to those less fortunate than themselves, and the car load of food donations we take to the Foodbank warehouse every week is just one manifestation of that Christian charity.

A couple of weeks ago, the donations included, to our amazement, a TV and DVD player. A fairly recent, large flat screen TV to boot – not some ancient and out-of-date model. Obviously, TVs and DVD players are not a lot of use to Foodbank, but the donor insisted that he was happy for them to be given to another worthy cause – he just didn't want them any more.

Now, as it happens, the Rotary Club of Wetherby Wharfedale is involved in a major project to raise money for pre-school educational aids for deaf and deaf/blind infants in the Greater Leeds area. It makes sense that the sooner we can help deaf children to cope with their disability, the better, so help should begin from birth onwards.

Unfortunately, although the education system does provide specific help from infant school age onwards, there is, in these days of scarce resources, very little money available for pre-school help. Leeds Education Department does what it can, and has a dedicated team of specialist teachers for the deaf and deaf/blind children; but they need the tools – especially a range of educational aids (we might call them toys, but they have a particularly useful purpose in the hands of the right nursery workers and teachers).

Rotary plans to fund as many of these "tools" as possible and were very happy to take electrical goods to sell on, to raise money for the project. The TV and DVD player were to be included in a proposed Car Boot Sale – but with Lockdown in full swing and no firm date in prospect for the sale, one of the supporters put the TV onto Ebay instead. The good news is that it sold for the grand sum of £80!

And so, thanks to a generous local donor, one deserving family will receive some real help in equipping their deaf child to cope with living in the hearing world.

*God works in mysterious ways,
his wonders to perform . . .*

Iain Vernon



Library photo

What I've been doing in Lockdown...

When Donald asked how we're occupying ourselves during 'lockdown', Judith's response was so interesting, we decided to share it with our readers

I have been working on a family tree for my sister who wanted this because it is her late husband's family and as I enjoy calligraphy she gave me the task!

I had not finished it until lockdown because I was too busy. It was literally a godsend!

I spent 9 weeks finishing it. I put outlines of some of the places the characters were associated with round the edge, I found the original coat-of-arms which we were unable to trace without going to the Lyon King of Arms in Edinburgh and so the one pencilled in is not the correct one. I have painted the correct one which is much better but I dare not paint directly on because one mistake and I would have had to start all over again so I now have to stick it on!

It is done on very special paper – Arches Aquarelle made in France and deckle edged. I am told there is a very helpful framer at Shipton cum Beningbrough so

will go when safe to do so.

I decided that it was a shame not to know about any of the people so I started to look online and what a marvellous family they turned out to be! I was able to find photos or paintings of some and I have compiled a book for my sister for each person .

One of them, Lilius Trotter, was a wonderful discovery.

She was an extremely talented artist and became pupil of John Ruskin who told her she could be the greatest living artist. However, she was a very devout christian and, although it was a hard decision, she sacrificed her career in art to become a missionary to Morocco and Algiers. There is still a Lilius Trotter Society in Bristol I believe and a great deal about her online. I have sent for a documentary which was made about her life called Many Beautiful things with lovely scenes of Morocco and Michelle Dockery (*Lady Mary from*



These are the words of Lilius which have impressed me:

“Never has it been so easy to live in half a dozen harmless worlds at once – art, music, social science, games, motoring, the following of some profession, and so on. And between them we run the risk of drifting about, the good hiding the best. It is easy to find out whether our lives are focused, and, if so, where the focus lies. Where do our thoughts settle when consciousness comes back in the morning? Where do they swing back when the pressure is off during the day? Dare to have it out with God, and ask him to show you whether or not all is focused on Christ and his glory. Turn your soul's vision to Jesus, and look and look at him, and a strange dimness will come over all that is apart from him.”

Lilius Trotter 1853-1928

In other words, what good things in our lives are hiding the best because we are living in so many “harmless worlds at once”. I know that that is true of myself.

Downton Abbey) doing the voice of Lilia.

I found a photo and some of her words which I found very pertinent to myself! I do drift about doing all sorts!

It has been fascinating. I have found a Jacobite who fought at Culloden, survived, hid under his fiancée's hooped skirt when the English soldiers burst into the house! and took Bonnie Prince Charlie's Seal to Rouen after the battle which is where exiled Jacobites went. He later became the only engraver ever to be knighted and is

buried in the Actors' Church in Covent Garden! What a life!! He met Marie Antoinette and Louis (*was it 14th or 16th?*)

I hope I have not rambled on too much.

Apart from that, I have walked my lovely dog, Summer, every morning at 5am by the river and seen woodpeckers, otters and deer.

I dug for Victory in the autumn and am now the proud owner of half a stick of rhubarb and 14 gooseberries to sustain me through the long days of winter!

Judith England

Jim & Anne's visit to Harlow Carr

Anne and I had a super day at Harlow Carr, the rain stayed away and so it was very pleasant. The photos below are from the redeveloped streamside which is dedicated to Geoffrey Smith. I recall from my early days in Yorkshire how much I enjoyed reading about and listening to him.

Editor's note: Geoffrey Denis Smith (1928-2009) was a professional gardener, broadcaster, writer and lecturer, and lived in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales. He was the presenter of 'Gardeners' World' from 1980 to 1982 and appeared on a number of other BBC programmes. I love the quote attributed to him: "Put the brown end in the soil, the green end above it, and you're in with a much better chance".



The Geoffrey Smith memorial stone inscription reads:

*The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth
One is nearer to God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.*

Bible quiz

With thanks to Judith and Ken Grimditch for sending in this quiz for you to test your brains.
(Answers at the bottom of page 15)

- ◆ Unscramble the name of each book of the Bible and write it correctly in the blank.
- ◆ Then write the letter from each numbered position in the corresponding blank at the bottom of the page.
- ◆ You'll spell a phrase that's used to describe the word of God.

We've done the first one for you as an example.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|-------|-----|
| 1. | UTRH | RUTH | (3) |
| 2. | TWAMHET | _____ | (5) |
| 3. | BOPERRSV | _____ | (5) |
| 4. | SUBNEMR | _____ | (7) |
| 5. | WRESHBE | _____ | (6) |
| 6. | USAJHO | _____ | (2) |
| 7. | MORASN | _____ | (1) |
| 8. | GEJDSU | _____ | (3) |
| 9. | STREEH | _____ | (3) |
| 10. | HMOLIPEN | _____ | (2) |
| 11. | LINEDA | _____ | (5) |
| 12. | SEESING | _____ | (5) |
| 13. | SHEEPISAN | _____ | (2) |
| 14. | CLAIMHA | _____ | (7) |
| 15. | HARMEEJI | _____ | (3) |
| 16. | AGHAIG | _____ | (6) |
| 17. | SNAGILATA | _____ | (5) |

Your answer: _____

60 years of wedded bliss



Jackie and I thank all of our friends for their good wishes; it means so much especially at a time like this.

As you may know, we had to cancel our original big party on 4th July at The Bridge due to our daughter Alison's long term treatment. That, and COVID-19, did at least enable us to celebrate the actual date on Thursday 4th June.

A trip to Helmsley, two takeaway paninis (including two bottles of wine – gratis), which we ate overlooking the NYMoors, take-away tea at Hovingham and a take-away from Da Carlo (plus complimentary wine), and a bit of sunshine, made for a rather unique but

nevertheless wonderful celebration.

The day was made perfect when we received an email from Alison to say that her tests had showed that the cancer had now left the blood and that she has started the 6 month 'final intensification treatment' followed by a two year maintenance follow up.

To that wonderful news we must add a big and literal "Thank God", and to all of you who have been praying for her, we are all immensely grateful.

Arthur & Jackie Faulkner



*Social distancing
afternoon tea with friends
just before the weather broke*

Dear friends, many of you I perhaps don't know...

I just want to write a few words of thanks for all the prayers you have been saying over the last few months for my recovery from Leukaemia (ALL). I'm relieved to say that the treatment has pushed the cancer into remission and we'll continue to fight for a full recovery with the maintenance therapy programme I'm about to embark on, once my chemotherapy ends in September.

Many many thanks for all your good wishes, messages and support to my parents Jackie & Arthur, which undoubtedly help to keep up morale and hope during this arduous struggle.

With best wishes,
Alison Powell (Faulkner)



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“I gave it my best shot” – Archbishop John Sentamu



Towards the end of his final sermon on Sunday 7th June these words brought to a close 15 years’ ministry as Archbishop of York. He will leave a significant legacy, not only to the people of Yorkshire, but across the wider Christian community. He is also quoted as saying, *“my faith has been so strengthened by being in Yorkshire. As the saying goes, if anybody stands out in a crowd, they do so because they’re being carried on the shoulders of others. And I have been carried on the shoulders of giants.”*

Two things come to mind from my time in York. Firstly, participating in the Easter walk of witness on Good Friday, he would

stop en route to speak to the homeless on the streets of York and many others. In addition, he is remembered for charities that he has supported, including ACTS 435, which, as Patron, he launched at the General Synod in July 2010. He also set up his own Youth Trust in 2009, helping young leaders working in local communities.

Much has been written about him recently, and so much more I could reflect on, but we all have been so blessed by the presence of a crusader, campaigner and bishop like no other. Truly, a genuine man of the people. I end with another quote, *“be the change you want to see”*.

Jim Murison

Note: Archbishop Sentamu’s successor is The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, the current Bishop of Chelmsford who will take office on 9th July. He recently tweeted: *“Big thanks for Archbishop Sentamu. Few archbishops have had such a national impact. We thank God for his witness and commitment to the gospel.”*

Answers to bible quiz on page 12: 2. Matthew 3. Proverbs 4. Numbers 5. Hebrews 6. Joshua 7. Romans 8. Judges 9. Esther 10. Philemon 11. Daniel 12. Genesis 13. Ephesians 14. Malachi 15. Jeremiah 16. Haggai 17. Galatians
The Sword (of the) Spirit (Ephesians 6:17)

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Flying the flag...



I'm sure you will have seen the wonderful display of flags in Boston Spa High Street, and we have Boston Spa in Bloom to thank.

This year, Boston Spa in Bloom faced two problems; the first was the usual supplier of the 60 plus hanging baskets had furloughed their workers, and the second, even if the baskets had been available, the watering teams would not have been able to tend them due to lockdown/social distancing measures.

So, instead, local individuals, businesses and organisations were invited to make flags to hang in place of the baskets, which were then put up by Boston Spa in Bloom helpers.

A photographic key is displayed in shop windows identifying the creators of each flag.

At the end of the summer, the flags will be taken down and stitched together to create a Boston Spa tapestry, thus providing a record of the community's response to the pandemic.

Coordinator David Watts said:
"The time and work that has gone into creating the flags is incredible. Many of the flags have personal messages to lost family as well as showing support for the NHS."



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Spa Surgery – Update

Due to Covid-19, the Patient Participation Group has been unable to meet. However, the Practice Manager, Debbie Docherty, has told me that the surgery Facebook page is being used to communicate certain messages and this page is updated most days. Patients who use Facebook can find this by searching for Spa Surgery, Boston Spa.

Understandably, the way the surgery is now working has changed to ensure the safety of patients and all the team at the surgery but services continue to be offered more or less as before. It is comforting to know that the surgery has designated zones within the surgery so that suspected Covid-19 related patients are segregated from routine work and appointments. When you call the surgery you will be advised if an actual visit to the practice is needed with the

majority of GP appointments being handled by a telephone or video link. Please see the Practice website to arrange an online consultation via the e-reception tool. If a visit to the surgery is required to see a GP or nurse you will find that personal protective equipment will be worn.

Please note that Covid-19 antibody testing at the surgery is not yet available as the immediate priority is testing NHS, Care Workers and hospital inpatients. For guidance on eligibility for testing and how to get tested for coronavirus please use the link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-antibody-getting-tested>

Do please only use government/NHS websites for up to date valid information. Stay well.

*David Coates
Patient Participation Group Member*

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