



'BEING CHURCH'

Boston Spa and Clifford Methodist Churches

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'Plus ça change, plus la même chose'

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Well, there's plenty of change going on at the moment!

- Last week we had the questionnaire asking what we wanted to see change and what remain, as the Church moves forward. If you haven't yet submitted yours, please do, we really need your views (if you're having any problems with it, contact any of the three of us).
- Plans are being made for the time that we can re-open Church buildings, with a myriad of rules coming from the Government and the Methodist Church. What signs, spacing, sanitising will we need? How many people can be there at any time? What can we do once we're there – singing? Communion? Who can attend and how do we look after those who can't? It will take time to work all this through – please bear with us
- There are changes in the Circuit. Heather Shipman steps down from her role leading Wetherby on 18th July and Rev. Ann Fox joins the Circuit on 1st September and there will be some realignment of roles.

We are in choppy waters and so much seems in a state of flux – yet there is one thing that remains the same. Our God is constant. We have his promise that, whatever storms we might face, as a Church, as a society, as individuals, he is there. Unchanging, unshakeable – a source of strength, of wisdom and of love, which we are called to share with those around us.

In this Newsletter we highlight so many opportunities to worship and to deepen our connection with God and with each other – let's take advantage of them!

Steve, Sue and Donald

Sunday Morning Coffee 11:15 every

Sunday: a chance to use Zoom to catch up on news and discuss aspects of the Sunday service – was there a hymn or prayer that was meaningful? Has it triggered any ideas you'd like to share?



Don't Stew and Fester: don't forget that if you want to catch up with friends, for a chat over virtual coffee, via Zoom (bring your own cake), the next session is on: **Wednesday 1st July at 11:00 am** (Contact Donald for details)

Bible Month 2020

Bible Month is a little different this year!



You are invited to join us for four 'Zoom' sessions throughout July during which we will look at, and have conversation around, the **Book of Ruth**

Thursday 9th July, 7^{pm}

Ruth 1 - The Story of Orpah led by Revd Steve Jakeman

Thursday 16th July, 7^{pm}

Ruth 2 - The Story of Boaz led by Donald Milne

Thursday 23rd July, 7^{pm}

Ruth 3 - The Story of Ruth led by Heather Shipman

Thursday 30th July, 7^{pm}

Ruth 4 - The Story of Naomi led by Revd Ruth Parry

Please contact Donald Milne donaldmilne53@gmail.com to book your place (and to receive the 'zoom link', plus course information)

You are very welcome to come to all of the sessions or just those you can make – they are standalone. Each will last about an hour, you don't need any prior knowledge and, whilst there will be plenty of opportunities to contribute, if you prefer just to listen – that's fine!

Worshipping together – Offline

The attached short Service will be shared by many of us on Sunday, at our normal Service time. Please join us, to feel part of something larger – physically apart, but spiritually together!

On BBC: At 8:10 am, BBC Radio 4 has a service exploring the power of music in troubled times. At 1:15 pm, on BBC1, televised Songs of Praise celebrating Florence Nightingale and the NHS

Prayer Cards: Every Sunday and Wednesday, at 7:00 pm, we remember to place a lit candle in the window and use the Prayer Cards, for a quiet moment with God, including prayers for those groups who would normally meet in the Church rooms over the coming week. Please also remember those of our immediate Church family, who we know are coping with loss of a loved one, their own health problems, loneliness or other worries.

Dial-a-Sermon: listen to a new reflection from Sue Jakeman, for Sunday.



Worshipping together - Online:

Watch this week's '**Circuit Reflection**' by Sue Jakeman, available on Boston Spa and Tadcaster Circuit websites. Also available on the same sites (plus Facebook) are:



Tea-Time Church at Home: for young families on the theme of '**Everybody Praise!**'



Storytime for toddlers (and over 60s): there are now 14 stories on the Boston Spa Methodist Church YouTube site – check them out!

Suggested exercise for the over 60s (try this at home - maybe)

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there for as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.



After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

Our Church family:



*'And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?
Glory and praise to Jesus give for his redeeming grace!'*

(Charles Wesley – Singing the faith 456)

One of the things we are all missing in these strange times is the chance to catch up with news of our Church family. For those 'online', we have the 'Don't Stew' sessions but wouldn't it be great to have more. So please send Donald your news – birthday, anniversary, what the children or grandchildren are doing, new skills learned, whatever you'd normally share. How about a photo (send in your own or ask Donald to come and take one – socially distanced of course) to prove to your friends that you're still alive and kicking! **We're all in this together, so let's share our Church Family news.**



Jackie has been busy in the garden and greenhouse, potting up plants for sale (with contributions from Eva Mills and Margaret Milne).

These stand in the lane along which there is a steady stream of walkers. She simply asks for a donation for BSMC and to date, has raised around £100 – well done!

Into the 'support bubble'

On the morning of 13 June 2020, I waited in anticipation for my son and grandson to come to my flat. It wasn't the first time I would have seen them during 'lockdown' – there had been grocery deliveries, waves through the window, a piece of birthday cake delivered and video calls made. During the previous week we had had a picnic at the football field as two families were allowed to meet – but, whilst observing social distancing. What I was looking forward to this time was THE HUG! Would there be one from Jack or would he hang back unsure of what to do? Well I needn't have worried. You won't have seen our greeting on the telly as others have been, but I can assure you it was the biggest, tightest hug EVER (and kisses) and the bubble had been established.



***Thank you Hazel
for sharing this
lovely moment!***



The Scarecrows are coming!!

As you will be aware Boston Spa Festival Weekend like many other events has been cancelled however for your entertainment and delight, much work has gone into creating the greatly loved Scarecrow Trail.

This year with the theme of 'Sporting Legends' we have over 90 scarecrows for you to see across the villages of Boston Spa, Clifford and Thorp Arch. Maps can be purchased from Yeadons, for the sum of £2.00 and all profits will go to Martin House. The Scarecrows will be on show from 4th July until 5pm on 12th July

← The photo shows the 2019 Boston Spa Methodist effort – we'll have our own entry again this year – pop down and take a look.

Stay safe - remember we love you and, more importantly, Jesus loves you!

Steve, Sue and Donald