



## 'BEING CHURCH'

### Boston Spa and Clifford Methodist Churches

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## WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN AND WHY

You'll have noticed that this Newsletter is called '**Being Church**' - as our weekly reminder that Church is not just about the buildings, not even mainly about the buildings. The roots of the Methodist movement lie in having the doors to Church of England buildings being closed to them - being a Church without a building is not new to us!



So, we have developed new ways of "Being Church" - online Circuit Services and Reflections, pastoral support networks, family orientated 'TeaTime Church at Home', 'Storytime' for the toddlers, 'Dial-a-Sermon' for those without access to the internet, shared printed Worship services, Sunday morning coffee, midweek coffee, the 'Great 100 Days' material from our District Chairman and, more recently 'Bible Month' on Zoom.

Yet still there is something missing - that sense of togetherness and place which can only come from being physically together, worshipping together - in the same building.

As are teams from other churches, a team from Wetherby have been trying to make sense of the ever-changing Regulations and Guidelines, and Risk Assessments which would make gathering in our buildings 'Covid-Safe'. It has been an enormous job, but they hope that their hard work might provide ways forward that other churches might be able to implement in their planning. The reality is that, to open our buildings within the guidelines, Church will not look, or feel the same as it did, for the foreseeable future.

- restricted numbers and pre-booking
- social distancing, face coverings and hand sanitizer
- no singing (though music can be played)
- no hanging around for a chat afterwards

All of the Churches in the Circuit are now looking at what is feasible and when. But amongst all the questions about who, what, where and when, is the much more fundamental question of why? Each Church is being asked to complete a 'Mission Statement' to explain why it is important that it reopens. Rather than just another box to be ticked in the process, this is a chance for each Church, for each of us individually, to re-evaluate what "Being Church" means to us. What is our role in the Community? What is God calling us to be in a post-Covid world? In the coming weeks, Steve Jakeman will be sharing some of the findings from his Questionnaire on this subject - but in the meantime it is something we should all be thinking about and praying about.

***Steve, Sue and Donald***

## **Worshipping together - Online:**

This week we have a Circuit reflection from Joseph Kwallah - available on Boston Spa and Tadcaster Circuit websites.

## **Worshipping together – Offline**

The attached short Service will be shared by many of us on Sunday, at our normal Service time. We'll be focussing on Jacob's life changing encounter with God. Please join us, to feel part of something larger – physically apart, but spiritually together!

**On BBC:** Sunday at 8:10 am, BBC Radio 4 has the Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury charting her journey with God, through Covid – a very interesting lady, well worth listening to. At 1:15 pm, on BBC1, Songs of Praise, Aled Jones looks back at the 2012 Olympics and explores links between Christianity and sport.



**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:** If you don't have access to a computer, you can still listen to Joseph's reflection (available from Sunday)

**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 5th August at 3.00pm** (Contact Donald for details).

## **Families back catalogue on You Tube (for those rainy 'summer' days)**

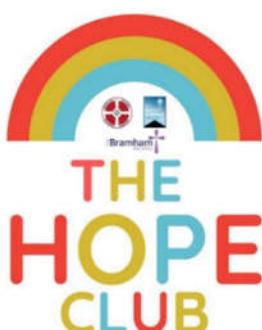


**Tea-Time Church at Home:** worship for young families



**Storytime for toddlers (and over 60s):** Donald reading favourite stories – go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCinmF5gqNsY8liI108RsZ7w/>



**Hope Club:** It's not too late to join in the fun! Pick up a Resource Pack each week and complete the activities provided in your own time at home. Join us online each week for a fun 30 minute session - we will send you the YouTube link to watch. Find out how Jesus gives us all HOPE with stories, drama, crafts, songs and prayer.

Collect your pack every Monday up to 24th Aug at St Mary's Church Boston Spa.

To book your place (so you can collect a resource pack) please use this link:  
[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-hope-club-boston-spa-holiday-club-2020-tickets-108976282996?fbclid=IwAR25dmaH9xGjWoPMhCtlVBQfHdfowR7vZ3Wx\\_XDxlqimubVeRjsf9TQVLHk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-hope-club-boston-spa-holiday-club-2020-tickets-108976282996?fbclid=IwAR25dmaH9xGjWoPMhCtlVBQfHdfowR7vZ3Wx_XDxlqimubVeRjsf9TQVLHk)



### Our Church family:

This week we're delighted to bring you a photo of Mavis Rodgers, now at home in Clifford and with a new hairstyle to celebrate!



Meanwhile Ella Sophia Dalby, aged just one day in this photo, is John and Chrissy McCarthy's new favourite granddaughter!

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.

**Prayer concern:** Many of you will know Francesca, who is sometimes able to join us at Boston Spa, despite many difficulties. She is currently very poorly in Sheffield Children's Hospital and she and the family would appreciate our prayers



### Martin House:

The Boston Spa Festival due to be held in July was largely cancelled but the Scarecrow competition survived, expanded to include Clifford and Thorp Arch this year. Sue will be giving more information in the next Methodist Post but we wanted to share that the sale of Scarecrow Trail maps raised an amazing £1,829 for Martin House. (Did everyone pop down to see our own W G Grace?)

### Zoom, zoom, zoom (Where's Wally?)



Bible Study Group

'Don't Stew and Fester'

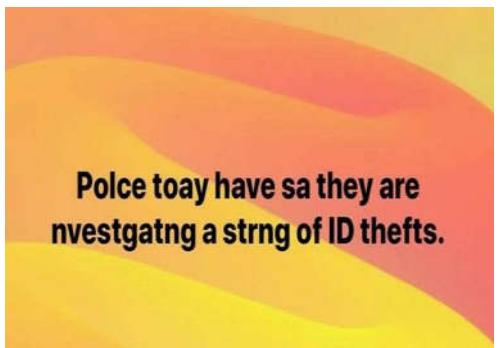


No, it's not the same as the real thing, but for many of us Zoom has been a real boon – allowing us to connect with our own families and our Church family. We have twice weekly coffee and chat sessions, and over the past 4 weeks we've had Bible Study sessions and there will be more to come. It's really not difficult to set up and any of the three of us would be happy to help – give us a call and join in

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

**Steve, Sue and Donald**

## Just for fun !



*Don't you just hate it when people act all intellectual and talk about Mozart, when you know they've never even seen one of his paintings.....*



**Another wooden ball! Would it kill the makers of avocados to include a different toy, maybe a plastic Smurf or a Minion? #IfKindercandoit!**

### Foreign Currencies

In preparation for when we can travel again, do you know which country used each of the following currencies?

- 1. Yuan
- 2. Forint
- 3. Rupee
- 4. New shekel
- 5. Rouble
- 6. Krone
- 7. Yen
- 8. Ringgit

- 9. Baht
- 10. Sol
- 11. Kyat
- 12. Bolivar
- 13. Zloty
- 14. Yen
- 15. Lev

Thanks to Marion Davis for the Quiz – answers next week

**You really couldn't make it up – plumbing disasters**



**Would you hire whoever came up with these solutions?**

