



Tim's Letter

Over the last couple of years I have spent a good deal of time reflecting on my own sense of discipleship, ministry and relationship with God. This has come about as a result of nearly six months off work due to ill health, bereavement and sabbatical. It was for me an experience of what the 16th century Spanish mystic St John of the Cross termed "the dark night of the soul." It was a prolonged period of self-examination and questioning around the theme "where is God in the midst of the difficulties we often face."

As I reflected on my own experience I also came to reflect upon the state of anxiety that much of our church life seems to be characterised by. The institutional Church in the Western world is in a period of sustained and rapid change as it seeks to find new ways of being and working in order to relate to today's world. And the prospect of change always leads to a degree of anxiety. How are we going to face that change as churches and as a Circuit? How are we going to live through the chaos of planning for growth at the same time as recognising the shrinking resources that seem to be available? When we can find no easy answers we are easily tempted to shrink back into ourselves and put up the barricades and our thinking and planning becomes more about "how long can we survive?" than "what can we do to thrive?" We narrow our focus to protecting ourselves and our egos.

A wilderness experience, such as a dark night of the soul, offers a different perspective. Lent, of course, marks Jesus' own wilderness experience. His period of fasting and temptation follows immediately on from the high of his identification as the Son of God through his baptism. So Jesus has to face the temptations of what his ministry and life would be about. Who's Kingdom would he seek to build.

Perhaps we can use this season of Lent to reflect upon our corporate challenges and instead of protecting our own little Kingdoms for as long as possible, we might throw ourselves and our churches on the mercy of God and trust that God will bring a new dawn out of the dark night, that chaos will in time lead to clarity as we let go of the need to control our own future.

God bless. Rev Tim

Addingham and Ben Rhydding

Both churches are participating in a 6-week Lenten Bible Study entitled "The Mystery of Everything" by Hilary Brand.

This study will look at the film "The Theory of Everything" based on the lives of Stephen and Jane Hawking and discuss themes which arise in the film within a Christian context.

Ben Rhydding: Thursdays from 2-4pm at church members' homes starting 5th March

Addingham: Fridays from 2-4pm in the Church lounge starting 28th February; group will meet at 9:45-11:45am on Friday 6th March on this date only.

Anyone interested in being involved is welcome. Please contact Rev. Shannon at 01943 430345 for more information.

Viewpoint is your periodic look ahead to see what is happening across the circuit.

If you have special services, fundraising events, social gatherings coming up, or perhaps you have news that you'd like to share, please let us know!

March 2020

Otley

Holy Week meditations at Otley will run from Monday 6th April through to and including Maundy Thursday.

To be held in church from 7:00pm -7:30pm

The meditations will focus on the theme "I was there..."

Maundy Thursday's reflection will lead into communion.



To publicise your forthcoming events within the next issue of Viewpoint, email details to Mike Fawcett at :

admin@wandamethodists.org.uk
or call: 07885 585946

Bramhope

A Concert by The Wetherby Musical Theatre Group Saturday 28th March 2.30pm

A varied programme of musical items, humorous interludes and other light entertainment. Refreshments will be provided.

Tickets £12.00 from Jack/Betty 2672906 or Ben/Dorothy 2672467.

Lent Course: This Lent, using a resource book from All We Can, we will find out about the impact of climate change on poor communities and how we can respond.

Shared meetings with St. Giles will be held on the five Tuesdays in March:

2pm at St Giles Church on the 3rd and then at 2pm at the Loft, Fox & Hounds every following Tuesday and at 7pm on the 3rd, 17th and 31st at St Giles Church and at 7pm on the 10th and 24th at the Methodist Church (in the Low Room)

Safeguarding Training Sessions - Spring/Summer

Refresher Training — Saturday March 16th 9:30am to 12:30pm at Addingham Methodist Church

Trainers: Viv Pitts and Matt Burland

Foundation Module - for people new in the role

Monday June 10th 7:00 – 9:30pm, Burley in Wharfedale Methodist Church

Trainers: Isabel Griffith and Revd Roger Smith

Please book places by contacting Viv Pitts via: vivienpitts@talktalk.net or on 01943 968301.



Norwood

Folk Evening At Norwood—Saturday 14 March 2020, 7.30pm

Norwood Chapel & Retreat Centre
Lower Norwood Road, Norwood, Otley, LS21 1RA

Tickets £10.00 each including refreshments

Featuring performances by Summercross Band and songstress Heather Woodhead

For tickets send payment & SAE to: Norwood Folk Evening, C/ O 76 The Whartons, Otley, LS21 2BS. Cheques payable to Wharfedale & Aireborough Methodist Circuit

Maximum 60 ticket capacity, so get yours early!!

Gardens in the Bible — Eden to Paradise via Gethsemane & Calvary a Quiet Day at Norwood Chapel and Retreat Centre

Led by Revd Cayte Norman, Saturday 4th of April 2020
10:00am — 3:30pm

Bring your own lunch, drinks provided. Donations would be appreciated

Book via caytenorman@aol.com, or 0113 2160901.

All Welcome!

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www.wandamethodists.org.uk

Guiseley

Sunday 29th March 2020 at 6:00pm Evening Service including a performance of Maunder's Olivet to Calvary with The Wesley Singers and friends

Tenor: Howard Clinkard.

Baritone: Dominic Rose

Organ: David Wilks

Conductor: Barry Jordan

Service led by: Rev Roger Smith

Christ the Beginning and the End

A day of theological exploration for preachers and others, led by Rev Dr Neil Richardson.

Revd Dr Neil Richardson was tutor in New Testament Studies and Principal of Wesley College, Bristol. He served as president of British Methodist Conference in 2003-4.

Date: Saturday March 28th

Venue: Yeadon Methodist Church Chapel Hill, Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7RG

Time: 10:00am — 4:00pm Coffee from 10:00am, programme to start at 10.30am The day is free and open to all. Donations are invited to defray expenses. Bring a packed lunch. Drinks will be provided throughout the day.

Please book your place via Mike Fawcett, Circuit Administrator, admin@wandamethodists.org.uk tel: 07885 585946

Further information: Vivien Pitts Circuit Steward. vivienpitts69@gmail.com 07814 18882

Planning For Growth

The Methodist Connexion is asking all churches and Circuits to review their life and mission and to develop a growth plan.

This is a deliberate strategy to encourage us to focus our time and resources much more on evangelism and mission to our communities rather than living with a maintenance mindset.

Over the April to June period churches will be invited to build on the work done last year as they produced an annual report for the summer Circuit Meeting in order to identify realistic opportunities for growth. These plans will come to form an essential part of our Circuit's Stationing strategy as we seek to focus limited resources where they can have the greatest impact for God's kingdom.

Please start having conversations in your churches about how you can more effectively share the good news of God's love in Christ with your local community.

