



# ST JOHN'S NEWS AND VIEWS

Number 7

## Worship and Prayer at St. John's



Our morning services and short services of Evening Prayer are both now posted on YouTube as well as Facebook

(facebook.com/settlemethodist) every Sunday.

If you are unable to access the internet and would like to receive printed services, provided by the Methodist Church, please contact Tim.

From February, there will be a Circuit Prayer Meeting at 8.00 p.m. on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of each month. Online details will be available nearer the time. If you are unable to join online, you are still invited to spend a few minutes praying for our churches and for the needs of the wider world, in the knowledge that others will be doing so at the same time.

*Tired of your own company? Then join our 'virtual' Coffee Pot 10.30-11.30 a.m. every Tuesday. Full details are posted on Facebook.com/settlemethodist.*



*If you haven't used Zoom before, please contact Tim or a church steward.*

## Yorkshire Preachers: no.5

**Jonathan Saville:** *cont...*

One Sunday afternoon in 1812, South Parade chapel, Halifax was packed to capacity with hundreds overflowing into the chapel yard. The early 19<sup>th</sup> century equivalents of police constables were present to keep the peace. The occasion was the service following the funeral earlier in the week, at South Parade, of Samuel Hartley, a Luddite shot dead in a riot at Cartwright's mill. Many of the people present thought of Hartley as a martyr and the mood was ugly. The local preacher planned had not turned up, unsurprisingly. Jonathan was asked to take his place. Diminutive and crippled, he went into the pulpit and preached the gospel of Christ. A few days later stones were thrown at him in the street.

*Jane Mansergh*

*Dear God,*

*I'm unwell: bad cough and respiratory issues (which in these times is enough to cause anxiety). It makes it hard to sleep, which is how I came to be standing making a hot drink in a chilly kitchen in the early hours. Outside was bleak and icy, the world a frozen void. I flicked on the radio, to news of riots and worsening pandemics. I realised I wouldn't even be surprised to hear that the sea had turned to ice and the tides had stopped turning. Outside the school playground was deserted, covered in untouched snow: no school means no children and the unnaturally barren, bitter canvas seemed an appropriate image for our times. But as I watched, the sun began to caress the edges with palest peach and pink light so that the ground sparkled, creating an otherworldly beauty in the stillness. Then the cat arrived, dancing his way across the whiteness, twirling wildly around, flailing at the snowflakes. Suddenly he spotted a robin and moved into stalking mode, low against the snowy ground. He pounced; the bird flew up and the cat spun cartoon-style in slow circles with splayed paws. The bird perched on a branch and sang his triumph, the game began again ... with the same result. Confused, the cat rose warily, shook himself and nonchalantly wandered off to chase more snowflakes, content to adapt to his unfamiliar surroundings. The bird sang more loudly and I noticed beneath the tree that early spring bulbs were appearing. I sipped my drink, realising that despite everything there is still beauty, causes for joy and signs of hope. The sun continues to*

rise, the waters still flow and smiles are free.  
I returned to bed to sleep, comforted by all  
I'd seen.  
Yours with deep appreciation and affection  
Old Lil Nongle.

Day Trust from 7-8pm, and then from 8pm to  
gather on Zoom for chat, discussion and sharing  
our thoughts. Please contact Marian McNichol  
(email: [marianmcnichol@gmail.com](mailto:marianmcnichol@gmail.com) phone:  
01729 822 313) for the Zoom link for our local  
event, and with any questions about the evening.

## Oversight and Trusteeship

This is the title of a report from the Methodist  
Conference which will be discussed at a special  
online meeting in our Circuit on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>  
Feb. (More details to follow).

At a local level, it is proposed that the minimum  
size of an independent church, operating with a  
full church council, should be raised from 6  
members to somewhere between 12 and 25. This  
doesn't mean churches would have to close, but  
that some of the administrative burden might be  
removed to allow them to focus on mission  
activities. Smaller churches would become  
"classes" of larger churches (as is the case now  
for Rathmell) or of a federation on which they  
would be represented; they would fully retain  
their ability to meet for worship, to maintain their  
building as they choose and to hold some  
funds. This may mean significant additional work  
and responsibility for the councils of the larger  
churches or the circuit (Church Council members  
fulfil both the Methodist role of Managing  
Trustees and the public role of Charity  
Trustees). In some instances, the result of these  
changes may be that a single Church Council  
oversees the whole of a circuit; Stephen Caddy  
has suggested that in our circuit we might look at  
the possibility of either 1 for the circuit or 1 per  
minister as well as the option of remaining as we  
currently are. We are all asked to give these  
proposals our prayerful consideration.

## Holocaust Memorial Day

Settle Quakers invite us all to mark this year's  
Holocaust Memorial Day on **Wednesday 27th  
January**. We are invited to join them for a  
ceremony hosted by the UK Holocaust Memorial

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Jan.)



As we have been unable to mark  
this week in the usual ways, we  
are hoping to use the material  
produced this year at a united  
evening service on Pentecost Sunday - 23<sup>rd</sup> May.



When we were awarded our bronze category as  
an Eco Church, we promised to raise awareness of  
environmental issues, so there will be a simple  
and short green tip in each of our newsletters.  
These are borrowed from the Anglican Green  
Fingers website.

### Tip No.1

Read your meters monthly to check how  
much fuel you are using. This kind of  
monitoring can save on your fuel bills and  
also up to 250kg CO2 equivalent a year, as  
you keep a closer eye on your energy use.



Loving God, we pray for the churches of our  
circuit and their ministers; guide and strengthen  
us at this time. We pray too for other local  
churches, that we may work together to serve our  
community. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.