



# ST JOHN'S NEWS AND VIEWS

Number 42  
August 2023

## Worship



Online services and reflections (morning and evening) continue via our Facebook page and on YouTube.

Our preachers and services in church for the next few weeks will be as follows:

6<sup>th</sup> August 10.30 am Wendy Holt  
13<sup>th</sup> August 10.30 am Mavis Speight  
20<sup>th</sup> August 10.30 am Jane Mansergh  
27<sup>th</sup> August 10.30 pm Revd. Roger Fox

## Circuit Service

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August at Bentham Methodist Church, Revd. Kerry Tankard (our District Chair) will lead a "Welcome Service" for Revd. Tim in his new role as Superintendent (and minister for all 6 churches in our circuit), starting at 7.30 pm.

## Coffee Pot



Please join us at Coffee Pot on Wednesdays from 10.30 am – 12.0 noon – and bring your friends.

## Charity Coffee Pots

Our July Charity Coffee Pot, held on July 5<sup>th</sup>, raised £140.50 for Action for Children (formerly NCH). Additional donations on the following Sunday increased this amount to over £183.

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, our Charity Coffee Pot will be in aid of the Smile Train Charity, which supports care for children with cleft palates in over 70 countries.

## Bible Book Club

Our next meeting will be held after Coffee Pot (at 12.0 noon) on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August, when we will be looking at 1 Samuel (particularly the 1<sup>st</sup> few chapters). As usual, this will be led by Revd. Tim Broughton; background notes can be found on the hymn book cupboard.

## Bible Study / Fellowship Group

Our next meeting will be held at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August in the lounge at Limestone View. We will be looking at Matthew's gospel, chapter 5.

## Settle Hangout

We are really excited about a new venture in Settle aimed at reaching out to young people, providing a safe and fun space for games, friendship and conversation. Settle Hangout will be led by the lovely Tom & Joel, with support from myself & Jon & Cath Jackson. It will run on Wednesday evenings in term time, from the start of September. We are currently raising funds for equipment and resources to support the Youth Group (September's Coffee Pot will be in support of this work) so anything you might be able to do to help in any way would be greatly appreciated! Two "taster" sessions are planned for August, with a games night on the playing fields in Giggleswick on 9<sup>th</sup> August and a "Silent Disco" & BBQ at St John's on 30<sup>th</sup> August. Please do share with any young people you know that might be interested & please do also pray for the success of this initiative!

*Revd. Tim*



## Eco Explorers

To be held at Lower Winskill Farm, BD24 9PZ on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August and Wednesday

16<sup>th</sup> August, starting at 10.0 a.m.

This free Day Camp includes a picnic lunch (help yourself or bring your own if you prefer), finishing mid-afternoon. We will explore different Eco/Nature themes outside and in the barn. Limited activities in the barn if wet. For families of any size – bring friends but one adult must be included.

Come one day or both, but places are limited, so please book your places/transport by contacting [sally@thewatersons.org](mailto:sally@thewatersons.org) (07753 618381).

## Dates for your diary

- 23<sup>rd</sup> September 6.30 pm Harvest Supper  
28<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 pm Giggleswick and Settle  
Brass Band Concert  
18<sup>th</sup> November 7.00 pm Quiz Night  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 10.30 am Church Anniversary  
Service  
11<sup>th</sup> December 7.00 pm Soupacarol



*These are strange times. When I first wrote this piece there were heat waves all over southern Europe and Northern America. I was not expecting the prolonged period of rain in the UK. Please forgive the incongruous nature of this next section. It does highlight just how volatile our weather patterns are and how much we need to look after our planet. Philip*



What can we do to ensure nature has a chance in these dry and hot times? Here are our 5 top actions for wildlife:

- Make sure you have a supply of water for birds and insects. Water stress is one of the biggest killers of wildlife during drought. Keep it topped up every day.
- Don't forget to continue to supply food for wildlife. Drought can mean grains dry up faster and insect numbers reduce increasing reliance on us to help support nature in times of stress.
- Avoid cutting your grass. Keeping grass long will help retain moisture, provide a source of shelter for insects and mammals and keep the topsoil from blowing away.

- Keep your bushes unpruned. Creating spaces of shade will help reduce your garden's temperature, slowing the effect of drought.

- Make sure you keep fruit trees well-watered with a can, not a hose. Don't waste water trying to keep the grass alive (grass will recover quickly when the rains come) - instead, focus your attention on flowering and fruiting species. This will help to keep a food source for pollinating insects and for birds and other animals to feed. Finally, make sure you step outside for plenty of vitamin D and vitamin N (nature) this summer. Enjoy!

## Hidden Treasures

The 2023-24 Methodist Prayer Handbook's theme is 'Hidden Treasures', based on Isaiah 45:3, with further inspiration from Romans 8:22-29 and Psalm 139.

We talk easily about 'the light of Christ', yet truly God is at work in the darkness, and in the most difficult of times. It can feel challenging to follow God when the way ahead seems less clear. But we believe that God's hidden treasures are present, often in the most unexpected places and unexpected people. While the prevailing narrative is one of decline, there is hidden potential for new growth in the Church and continuing to see God at work, even in the most marginalised of communities.

This handbook contains prayers for the Methodist Church to be the Church that God desires as we respond to the gospel of God's love through discipleship, worship and mission. A monthly cycle of prayers and daily bible readings are included, as well as more general prayers.

If you would like a copy (£4.50 plus postage and packing or £4.15 plus p and p if we order 10 or more copies), please let Wendy know by 6<sup>th</sup> August (01729 825163).

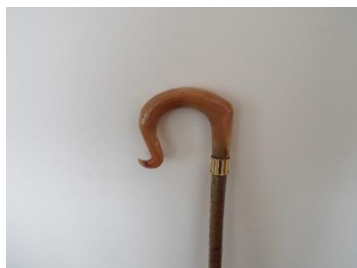
## Magnet

*Magnet* is a beautifully produced magazine which includes illustrated prayers and meditations as well as articles which seek to nurture Christian faith in thoughtful, challenging ways, encouraging, enabling and equipping people of all denominations. Annual subscriptions, covering 3 issues, cost £20. Please tell Wendy by 6<sup>th</sup> August if you would like to join our group of subscribers.

## Revd. Stephen Caddy



Stephen retired in July, after 46 years of full-time ministry. The very talented Robert Lawson of Bentham has made Stephen's farewell gift from the circuit - a beautiful staff.



## A Meditation

Choreographer divine, you danced creation into being and called us to partner you in the dance. Teach us the steps of faith, whether our life be in quick step or slow.

May we be in tune with the rhythm and flow of your dance.

When we twist and turn in the dark places of our lives and discouragement and despair trip us up, hold us gently in your arms and lift us in an arabesque of love and hope.

As we dance to unknown places and new opportunities, may we encourage others not just to tap their feet but to risk joining us in the dance of life.

Amen.

*Stella Bristow (submitted by Chris Sturrock, after hearing a sermon by Jane Mansergh)*

## Topics for Prayer



Please pray for churches which are running Holiday Clubs during the summer, for Eco Explorers and for Settle Hangout.

## Newsletter

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this newsletter. Please send any material for inclusion in our next edition to Philip or Wendy by the **28<sup>th</sup> August**.