

CHURCH DIARY AND SUGGESTED GOSPEL READINGS.

Services begin at 10.45am.

May 28th - worship led by Anne Parker. John 17:1-11

June 4th - worship for Pentecost led by Jessica Isherwood.
John 20:19-23

June 11th - Holy Communion for Trinity Sunday led by Reverend
Anne Lewitt. Server Jessica Isherwood. Matthew 28:16-20

June 18th - worship led by Helen Windsor. Matthew 9:35 - 10:8

June 25th - worship led by Reverend Anne Lewitt. Matthew 10:24-39

July 2nd - worship led by Terri Raddings. Matthew 10:40-42

DIARY OF EVENTS.

Tuesdays & Thursdays - Charity Shop at Dewsbury Road 9.30-3.30

May 14th -21st - Christian Aid Week.

May 22nd - Holy Communion in the lounge at Dewsbury Road at 1.30

May 26th - Games Evening - Beetle Drive 7-9pm.

June 10th - Reflections Café - 10.03 to 12.30

June 11th - Church Breakfast - from 9.15

June 16th - Social Evening - quiz and party games 7-9pm.

June 17th - Community Café - 10.30 to 12.30

June 26th - Holy Communion in the lounge at Dewsbury Road.

June 30th - Games Evening - dominoes 7-9pm.

CATCH-UP.

- Please remember the Elders as they meet on the 13th of June.
- Rooms are available for hire for single events or for longer periods. See the notice board for contact details.
- Please let Jessica have information for the next Newsletter by Sunday 18th of June.
- The church website address is urcinsouthleeds.org.uk



THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN SOUTH LEEDS

THE NEWSLETTER

May/July

Easter 6 – Pentecost 4

4/4

Following the Way.

In my garden there is a large area of grass, and because the weather has been so dry you can see a pattern of paths across it, in a rather wonky figure of eight. These mark the way the dog loves to run – around the fruit trees at the bottom and back up the garden again, a picture of happiness with her tail wagging!

As we travel through life, what paths do we follow, and where do they lead? Familiar routes, like the dog's, bring us back to the same place; so some thought is needed about where we are going and which way will take us there.

Jesus was talking to his disciples about the future:

"You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus replied, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

I sympathise with Thomas – sometimes it feels to me as if I have no idea what is around the next corner. Certainly I wasn't expecting to be leaving Leeds after only four years. But this is why we say we 'follow' Jesus – because by learning about him, about what he said and what he did, and by being aware of the powerful nudging of the Spirit in our own lives, we can travel forwards on the way that leads to him.

I am expecting to be with you for a few more months, but already you, as a church, and especially the elders, are looking to the future and seeking the way that Christ is calling you. You will have support from the Moderator and from friends within the Mission and care group, and I pray that as you face this journey you will grow together in Christ.

Anne L.

SO - WHAT DID YOU DO ON HOLIDAY?

Visiting St. Aidan's Church in Bamburgh I picked up a pamphlet about Christian pilgrimage – the whys and wherefores of. Well I was in Alnmouth so the suggested places - the Holy Land, Rome, Santiago di Compostela, and Canterbury were not really in my scope. The tides and the bus times barred me even from Lindisfarne. Yet I felt the urge to undertake some sort of 'retreat' day. I decided on a prayer-walk. I could walk along the headland and come down at Foxton and back along the beach but would I find enough to pray about? I would let the Spirit move me! On my way out I took my rubbish to the bin and posted some cards – and thanked God for all those whose jobs serve the rest of us and keep the wheels of society turning. It's a steep but worthwhile climb onto the headland, so thank-you God for knees that can still do this and a lung that works. Pausing for a rest, I thanked God for the amazing view and for all of his creation. Passing the site of a Bronze-age settlement I thought of those early people who could not know God as we do and yet worshipped God's created world – the wind, the trees, the rivers, the gods of the harvest or the winter solstice. My next stop was at the Battery where I prayed for peace in our troubled world and that we might inhabit a world where well-being, freedom from want and education for all were truly sought after.

Above Marden Rocks I wondered at the wrens, how such tiny birds can make such a big sound – thank-you God for my senses, hearing the birdsong and the sea, seeing the view, tasting the tang of salt on the air, smelling the cut grass on the golf course, feeling the breeze on my skin. I am so enjoying this, thank-you for the solitude.

Then came the neck-braking (exhilarating?) descent to the beach and sitting on a rock I thanked God for my lunch – for the growers, gatherers, transporters, makers and sellers of this food. I was walking back looking at the rocks for fossils all part of God's evolutionary creation when suddenly above me – a kestrel. Oh, thank-you so much! For forty minutes he stayed around, landing only yards away to eat a tasty morsel and then hovering and wheeling above me as he quartered the ground. I felt so blessed.

Finally, from Bamburgh – "To know Thee is the end and the beginning..... Thou art the journey and the journey's end." Boethius (c.480-c.524)

Jessica I.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY.

On Easter Day we received the sad news that Jack Fuller had died. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jack's family.

Joan Cholmondley has moved to Owlett Hall following a stay in St. James's hospital.

Sarah Oldknow has a broken bone in her foot.

Please remember these and other church family and friends you know to need our prayers at present.

'O Lord, my God, I come to you for protection. I thank the Lord for his justice; I sing praise to the Lord, the Most High.' Psalm 7:1+17.

CHURCH BREAKFAST.

Glenys and Glyn have kindly offered to do breakfast for us all on June the 11th from 9.15. Proceeds to church funds.

PENTECOST.

We will be celebrating Pentecost on the 4th of June with a Café Service. This will be a celebration of the Churches birthday - and yes there will be cake - and much, much more.

SUMMER 'SPRING' CLEAN.

Can Spring-cleaning happen in the summer - I don't see why not. We are looking a little shabby again and in need of some TLC. The 3rd, 4th and 5th of August look like suitable dates so plenty of warning! I think we will say daytime working unless anyone especially wants to come and work in the evening. There's plenty to do and of course I'm looking for volunteers - please. I will put up a list at the beginning of July for you to sign up and say when you can help. A big thank-you in advance.

Jessica I.