

Dear friends

So the world turns and the Church year we return to our deeper consideration of the life of faith and the preparation for the glory of Easter that comes in Lent. In many ways it feels like we have been in Lent for so much longer than the five and a half weeks that we normally have. I remember last year taking about hope and the way forward and many ways we are still in the same place still looking for those signs of hope. As I write this the announcements of the Prime Minister’s roadmap to freedom as he called it is still ringing in our ears. There is at last a sign of improvement and a looking to the future and we can celebrate that. Very soon we will be looking back at this time and I think that we must ask the question. What have we learned? I believe that we have learned that there is such a thing as community after all. That it’s often the people who are not noticed and not paid very well that we need the most. That the teaching of a class full of children, keeping them engaged and focused is a wonderful skill that most of us do not have. We will do well to remember all of these things if we are allowed the privilege of getting through this unscathed as we also need to remember those who did not make it.

In all of this Hope does remain and is enhanced by the remembrance of what is really important. People are important, relationships on all kinds of levels are vital to us all. As long ago as the early 17<sup>th</sup> century the English poet John Donne wrote -

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.

And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

These are such wonderful words for today as a reminder that we all need one another. So let’s try not to forget. Down the road, ten or twenty years hence, who are really the most important folk and who we really need?

Every Blessing          David



**Creating Safer<sup>A</sup>Space:**



**Foundation Module 2020 Online Edition**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm – 9.30pm on Zoom  
 or  
 Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm – 9.30pm on Zoom

If you are able to access Zoom please could you book on by emailing Eileen Jowitt with your name, church and which session you wish to attend [safeguarding@airedalemethodists.org](mailto:safeguarding@airedalemethodists.org)

by  
 19<sup>th</sup> March for the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
 and  
 by 7<sup>th</sup> April for the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Information and pre training reading will be emailed to you prior to the date.

Any queries please contact Eileen Jowitt on the above email or 01535 657256

**Aims of the Foundation Module 2020 training is to support you to:**

- appreciate how safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and fundamental to the culture of a flourishing Church
- have a better understanding of good safeguarding practice within the Methodist Church, and understand its unique position in creating a safe space for all
- promote awareness and extend an inclusive welcome to those who have experienced abuse
- recognise, respond, record and refer relevant concerns about the safety and welfare of a child or adult, and recognise blocks to good practice
- learn from evidence from the Methodist Past Case Review (2015-17) and note the current national context

**FAMILY QUIZ OVER ZOOM**

**SATURDAY 20th MARCH AT 4 PM**

**GAMES TOGETHER THURSDAYS 11 and 25 MARCH at 6.30 pm**

**Details from Jo Dolman 07904 883491**

**YOUTH EVENTS DURING March over Zoom**

**AWESOME KIDS (at 6.30 pm)**

Monday 8th March and Monday 22nd March

**GIFT (At 6.30 pm)** Tuesday 9th March,

Tuesday 16th March and Tuesday 23rd March

Dear All

I would like to take this opportunity, and thank each one of you for the past 4 ½ years of my time up in West Yorkshire and within the Airedale Circuit as your circuit Youth Children Family Worker. Coming to a place as a single person and leaving family behind, not knowing anyone at all here, to making so many friends, connections and seeing the children youth and families and leaders grow in confidence and within their faith, has been a great blessing to be part of, and you have all helped mine grow too.

I have mixed feelings about going, from excitement to scary, but hey I moved here from my comfort Zone in August 2016. Why mixed? I think in my head, even though I feel very settled here and due to the circuit visioning process - I was leaving in August this year anyway, and that was my original end date. But God has opened a door early and my last working day is Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, with a week's holiday to finalise the packing and move the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> April to Bolton (greater Manchester) Methodist Circuit to become their Children and Young Persons lay Pastor.

Over these years here as I reflect back, I have been involved in so much, and set up new groups, rekindled some groups and encouraged a load of great volunteers and gained new ones, been part of a great staff team and circuit team.

We have ran 3 youth / children clubs, - (Awesome Kids, Kool Kids and 1 which was already running in Steeton), family fun events, family quizzes, holiday clubs, light parties (including these online this year), BBQs, cream teas.

GIFT our circuit Youth Fellowship was formed, attended district youth events / 3Generate in person and online with our Youth. Part of 'Roach Road' Circuit Pilgrimage both as a staff team and as a circuit.

Messy Church in Churches, online, and now at present in a form of a bag, attended toddler groups, set up 2 toddler praises groups up. Attended many rehearsals for the Pantomime at Oakworth as their Pantomime Chaplain.

Been part of X:site, Rewind to Easter, Christmas and Fast Forward events with CLIKS, (Church Links In Keighley Schools) as well as setting up these events at Silsden Primary.

Been part of Jigsaw and Budz Junior churches – which still continues through this time with a weekly worship clip and activity sheet emailed out and put on the Airedale Circuit Youth Children Family Facebook page.

Many assemblies were taken at Oakworth, Silsden, Kildwick, Parkwood Schools, including Prayer stations at Merlin Top School and St Andrews, working both alone and ecumenically in person and online.

I have been part of the Bradford youth leaders' gatherings, our district community of practice group for lay staff, connecting disciples and district event s for leaders, quiet retreat days / weekends and many more. Recently a Spiritual mentor for one of our Youth on the One Opportunity Programme too.

Taken many services, youth services both in church and online, even eventually became an accredited Methodist Local Preacher here too with the service happening over Zoom, which brought friends and family from across the World together. Including using my British Sign Language at a District Synod as well as within services.

Wow!! so much that I have learnt, brought to the circuit, I hope I haven't forgotten anything - through the highs and low times, even with some health issues (including now holding an EpiPen thanks to Bananas) and all this I want to Thank You All as you have all in a way supported me through all of these years.

It has been great to meet and know you all, explore new areas, and I know my family will also miss visiting here, - Bolton doesn't really give the same ring tone 😊

God bless and I will continue to pray for each one of you as you move forward with the Visioning and the future.

THANK YOU, I WILL MISS YOU ALL.

Jo Dolman



#### LENT EVENTS

PLEASE SEE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS OF EVENTS DURING LENT.

**During Holy Week there will be a zoom service every evening at 7pm**

Details for access for all these events from your Minister or the Circuit Office.



Please send items for the April newsletter by the 25 March to Penny Moon, Circuit Administrator office@airedalemethodists.org . Please send email to Penny if you wish to receive the Newsletter by email.