

Meetings in January

Worship in January

Sun 6th
10:00am Rev Graham Smith
Covenant Service

Sun 13th
10:00am Parade Service
Own Arrangement

6:00 pm Rev Nick Blundell
Holy Communion

Sun 20th
10:00am Mervyn Flecknoe

Sun 27th
10:00am Rev Ian Griffiths

Our team ministers are always willing to talk to you about a problem you may have, your spiritual life, or how you feel God is calling you to serve him either through the Church or elsewhere. Often, a phone call is all that is necessary - you are always welcome to phone our Minister on 0845 6060820 for a more personal talk.

The Ministerial team and their rota dates are:-

Week commencing 2nd January Rev Nick Blundell
Week commencing 7th January Rev Phil Drake
Week commencing 14th January Rev Sarah Jemison
Week commencing 21st January Rev Nick Blundell
Week commencing 28th January Rev Lynn Britten

Useful Contacts: The Ministerial team can be contacted on :-

Tel: 0845 6060820 **or email:-** ministers@bradfordnorth.org.uk

Stewards: - stewards@baildonmethodists.org

Lay Worker: Lynne Yarde Tel 590371 **BMC Kitchen:** 07407 607081

BMC Payphone: 588054 **BMC Postcode** BDI7 5NH

Lettings: 0845 606 0844

The Prayer Groups
Meet usually in Wesleys room 4
Mondays at 7:30pm
and Tuesdays at 10:30am

C.A.M.E.O.

Jan 9th AGM & Gay Collinge: My mother's designs - Display
Jan 16th Mike Lawson: Baildon Moor
Jan 23rd Diane Greenwood: Talk
Jan 30th Christine Simpson:
More Guiding memories

Supper Clubs

No meeting in January

Youth Group

Alternate Fridays
18th January 6:30-8:00pm
Have fun learning about First Aid

INI Conversation Group

Thursday 13th January 2013
Ideas & Issues Conversation Group meet.
2:00 -3:00pm 'Sourcing Food'
will be introduced by Ruth Anderson

Baildon Buddies

Meet in Wesleys on Thursdays
1:00-3:00pm
Film show on first Thursday each month.

2013
HAPPY NEW YEAR



**Baildon
Methodist
Church**

Centre Pages

When the light goes

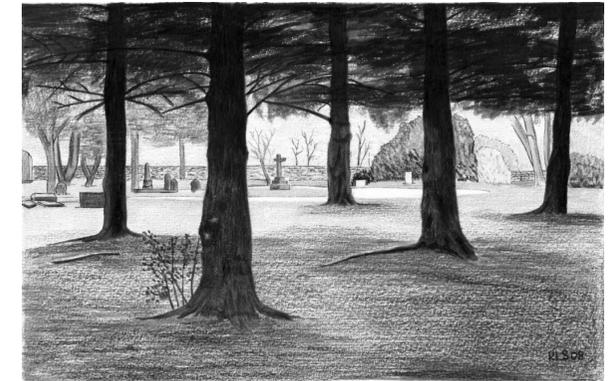
Lord, where are you in this cold, dark, dank graveyard of a time? When I look up there is only darkness, like a thicket shutting out the sun. I'm shivering! There's none of the warmth you've blessed me with before.

Why do I have to suffer like this? Why is everything so dark and hopeless? Why do I have to cope on my own? What's the point of it all? Why haven't you answered my prayers and taken away the pain like you promised?

And yet - promise: when I think, perhaps your promise is after all the key to the way out of this dungeon of despair. Perhaps I have to hold on to your promise that you are never absent, even in the scary shadow times, merely invisible, for reasons of your own: it's a trial, not a life sentence. I have to endure and win through, torture though it feels like. Didn't James say trials were a training programme building us up; didn't Peter see them as a refining process, producing faith of pure gold? A crucible isn't meant to be comfortable! (James 1:2-4; I Peter 1:3-9)

Lord, open my eyes to see my way out of the wood, to the light beyond in the open space; and the glorious prospect of eternal life in the new world with you, once you've put us through your full workout here. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Roy Lorrain-Smith



baildonmethodists.org
Join us!

January 2013

A prayer for each week of January

6th January

Lord of light, never overcome by darkness however dense, please help me to cling to that great truth when all seems gloom to me, and to press on in faith till the light breaks through once more, through Jesus. Amen.

13th January

Lord of the light of life, providing the spark which illumines all our lives, please help me to look to you when, in the murk of confusion, I am tempted to look elsewhere for hope and purpose – through Jesus. Amen.

20th January

Lord of the light of creation, upon whom the whole world depends, please may I continue to trust you with every living breath and faltering step I take, until you lead me out of the wood, and I can see. Amen.

27th January

Lord of the light of recognition, providing the joy of friendship in well known faces, please help me to recognise and respond to true friends and acts of friendship, especially when I feel cold, hard and isolated.

Amen.

Space for your own prayers

Lectionary readings for each week of January

January 6, 2013 [

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:I-6 Psalm 72:I-7, IO-I4 , Ephesians 3:I-I2, Matthew 2:I-I2

January 13, 2013

Baptism of the Lord First Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 43:I-7 Psalm 29 , Acts 8:I4-I7 , Luke 3:I5-I7, 2I-22

January 20, 2013 Second Sunday after the Epiphany (Human Relations Day)

Isaiah 62:I-5, Psalm 36:5-IO , I Corinthians I2:I-II, John 2:I-II

January 27, 2013 Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:I-3, 5-6, 8-IO, Psalm I9 , I Corinthians I2:I2-3Ia, Luke 4:I4-2I

Data Protection Act

In common with most Churches and organisations, Baidon Methodist Church keeps pastoral records of names, addresses and telephone numbers of regular church worshippers and friends. These records are used for church purposes only and are never communicated to another body. The information is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act I998. Please notify the minister in writing if you do not wish your data to be held in this way

January's GiFO is the Fund for Presbyters and Deacons

When our ministers retire from full time service to the church, they lose their manses and have to find their own accommodation. This fund pays for unexpected and un-meetable bills for ministers, their widows and widowers, who have served the church well and who are in tight circumstances. Don't let our retired ministers live in penury. We know that there is to be a huge increase in the rent charged for ministers' retirement homes over the next two years which will place severe strains on the finances of our retired colleagues. Please give generously.



Every penny counts

At the start of the new year Methodists make a distinctive resolution

The **Covenant Service**, often celebrated on the first Sunday of the year, is at the heart of Methodists' devotion and discipleship, and their dedication in working for social justice. In the service the Church joyfully celebrates God's gracious offer to Israel that "I will be their God and they shall be my people".

This offer is then extended beyond Israel to all women and men in Jesus Christ, who also provides the supreme example of what it is to live in such a relationship with God.

That relationship primarily involves the corporate life of the community of God's people (i.e. Israel; the Body of Christ). It is concerned with individuals within that group.

What God offers is a loving relationship. The Covenant is not a contract in which God and human beings agree to provide particular goods and services for each other! It is not something that we have to do to create a relationship with God. God has freely and graciously already made it possible.

Rather, the Covenant is the means of grace by which we accept the relationship and then seek to sustain it. It is therefore not so much about getting in to a relationship with God as it is about staying in it. It is not about acquiring a relationship with God, but living within the loving relationship that God has already offered us.

God's gracious offer to us is therefore simultaneously a challenge. If God is committed to us, are we prepared to accept that as reality and commit ourselves in return to God? Even if we do choose to accept it, how can we manage to live out our commitment adequately, frail and human as we are?

The New Testament suggests that as we join the group of those seeking to follow the way of Jesus, we respond to God's challenge with him and begin to share his relationship with God as Father. Within the group of disciples, this leads to his Spirit bubbling up in us as individuals, encouraging and enabling us to live out our side of the relationship (i.e. "writing God's ways on our hearts" as Jeremiah 3I describes the Covenant).