

Meetings in July

WORSHIP in July

Sunday 7th

10:00am Rev Graham Smith

6:00pm Rev Sarah Jemison at Crag Road
Holy Communion

Roy Lorrain-Smith at Calverley

Sunday 14th

10:00am Sharon Fell

Parade Service

6:00pm Circuit Service

Sunday 21st

10:00am Rev Phil Drake

Holy Communion

6:00pm Rev Phil Drake

Holy Communion at Calverley

Sunday 28th

10:00am Mervyn Flecknoe

6:00pm Rev Nick Blundell

Hoy Communion at St Andrews

Ministers Duty Rota

w/c July 7th Rev Ian Griffiths

w/c July 14th Rev Phil Drake

w/c July 21st Rev Nick Blundell

w/c July 28th

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

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C.A.M.E.O. Summer break

Next meeting 4th Sept

The Prayer Groups

Meet every Monday at 7.30pm

and Tuesday at 10.30am

Usually in the Wesleys 4.

Community Conversation Group)

Thursday 25th 2.00pm-3:00pm

Meet early for coffee in Wesleys

Topic: Overpopulation

Introduced by Liz Parrish

All welcome

Baildon Buddies meet in Wesleys each

Thursday for social activities..1:00-3:00pm

Film Show on first Thursday each month

July 4th

Youth Group

Friday 5th 6:30pm in church rooms

Craft evening

Friday 19th

Walk to White Cross-

Wetherby Whaler



Baildon
Methodist
Church

Centre Pages

Whither, or whether?

Confusion! This way, or that? Stay and defend, or let go and move on?

Now, or later? All the choices seem equally bad, or just good in parts. No path leads clearly anywhere, or not for more than a step or two. And the consequences...! What'll happen if...? Can we? May we? Should we? Dare we? Don't even know what to pray for! Some say, 'Just leave it with the Lord,' but decisions have to be taken. Others, 'We've got to do something, even if it's wrong,' but we want to get it right. What would Jesus do? Or what would Jesus have us do? Lord, we need to know.

What do you need to know, my child?

We need to know where we're going, Lord.

You are on your way to me, my child, you know that.

Yes, but we need guidance so we know where to turn.

But you have a Guide, my child, He who is with you always, to whisper when you listen, 'This is the way, walk in it.'

But Lord, Father, we don't know the way, that's the problem.

Jesus is the way, my child. He told you that clearly.

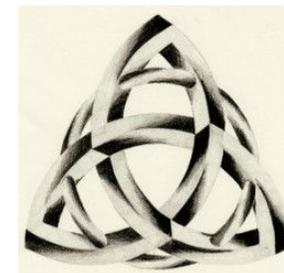
He said we were to follow. To follow in his steps. To deny ourselves. To clothe ourselves in his likeness. To do the Jesus thing in the Jesus way.

That's a start, my child.

The way of the cross. The way of the Spirit. The way of the Lord's words.

Lord, help us to hear your words. Please open our ears to hear and our hearts to follow. For you are our Lord, and we are your people.

Roy Lorrain-Smith



A prayer for each week of July

7th July Lord, true Parent, help me quiet my soul in you, like a child on your knee, that I may find your promised rest, and thus your purpose for my life.
Amen.

14th July Lord, true magnetic north for every wavering pilgrim, please give me steadiness of purpose to follow you, whatever the terrain and distance.
Amen.

21st July . Lord, I feel weak: yet you say in weakness you can perfect your power, and that your grace is sufficient: please help me accept that blessing.
Amen.

28th July Lord, sustainer, be my pick-me-up today (every day), that I may run the course to the tape, stage by stage, trusting in your guidance all the way.
Amen.

Your own prayers

Lectionary Readings through July

7th: 2 Kings 5:I-14, Isaiah 66:I0-I4, Galatians 6:(I-6), 7-16 Luke 10:I-II, 16-20
7TH AFTER PENTECOST

14th: Amos 7:7-17, Deuteronomy 30:9-14, Colossians I:I-14 Luke 10:25-37
8TH AFTER PENTECOST

21st: Amos 8:I-12, Genesis 18:I-I0a, Colossians I:I5-28 Luke 10:38-42
9TH AFTER PENTECOST

28th: Hosea I:2-I0, Genesis 18:20-32, Colossians 2:6-I5, (16-19) Luke II:I-13
10TH AFTER PENTECOST

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In common with most Churches and organisations, Baildon 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 1998. Please notify the minister in writing if you do not wish your data to be held in this way.

Ministers letter for July

Dear friends,

I was hearing the other day of an elderly nun who had played a significant role in the spiritual development of a number of Christian leaders. Her gentle wisdom was offered, often as they were beginning their ministry, and stayed with them throughout it. For example, gentle wisdom about how to pray.

‘Look around the world,’ she would say, ‘look at all the places where there is need or injustice or violence, and begin your prayer with “Lord, bless this mess.”’

Then she would point them to the church, both local and wider afield. ‘look at the church,’ she would say, ‘look at where she struggles and is divided, look at your local congregation, and begin your prayer with “Lord, bless this mess.”’

“Finally look into the mirror, into your eyes, at your face, and with a smile begin your prayer with “Lord, bless this mess!”’

We like life to be neat and tidy, properly planned and carefully undertaken, but we know that it can rarely be like that. Most of the time it is more of a mess. We struggle with far from straightforward relationships, with illness, with changing circumstance. We are frustrated by people’s mistakes (including our own), by things not arriving, not being right. We struggle with yet another form! We mess up.

“Lord, bless this mess” can often, should often, be our prayer.

And some of that mess will be about change. Most of us don’t deal brilliantly with change, we would prefer things stayed as they were, but we know that nothing is more constant than change. Everything changes. And often change is messy. Phoebe, our eight-month old grand-daughter is proof of this, as we struggle to keep up with what she can do and how high she can reach. It’s amazing where you can find porridge in our house!

Church is changing, and we struggle with it. We knew where we were with how things were, and now we’re not so sure. “Lord, bless this mess” seems a good place to start in praying for our church. And even as we do so, we realise that the one to whom we pray is not unfamiliar with mess. A stable was the place he came among us, and on visiting the temple he overturned the tables. He welcomed the woman who messed up the dinner party with her embarrassing tears and costly perfume. He left change and changed people wherever he went.

As we pray “Lord, bless this mess” of our church, let’s be open to what God is doing through the mess, and our discomfort with it. Let’s look for the ways God is blessing us through the new challenges and responsibilities we are facing.

And with those bewildered travellers on the road to Emmaus, let’s be ready to walk with the only one who can make sense of it all. Never mind ‘we had hoped’, rather ‘It is true!’

Blessings, Nick