

BAILDON AT CHRISTMAS

Baildon Methodist Church is once again going to participate in the "Baildon at Christmas" festivities – which take place this year on Sunday 1 December. As last year, there will be activities for children in the church and refreshments and entertainment in Wesley's café area from late morning through to around 4p.m. If you belong to an organisation which would like to have a stall at this event, either for fund-raising or to give out information, then please let me know by the end of September. If you know of other organisations that might wish to have a stall at this event, please feel free to pass on the details to them and ask them to contact me. As last year, we shall not be making a charge to the good causes which have stalls, but if your organisation is selling items and has a successful afternoon, we would be most grateful for a small donation to help to cover the costs of running the premises for the event.

Chris Flecknoe, Chair of Worship and Church Life. e-M chris.flecknoe@blueyonder.co.uk;

Inventive Spirit of God Alive and Well at Baildon Methodist Church

The Fundraising Strategy Group would like to thank all the wonderful people who have not only had wonderful ideas for raising money but also the brilliance and graft to put them into practice. So many new community events have occurred, bringing delight and new friendships in their wake, and raising money for, not only the Big Fund, but also for Care for Kaleo, NCH Action for Children, BIASAN and other valuable works, to say nothing of table tennis and Red Ladder. Thank you, thank you, thank you; may the Spirit of God remain with you always!

Mervyn Flecknoe **Lay Pastor for Baildon Methodist Church**

BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern) Appeal

Thanks to the tireless work of volunteers, and the generous support of Churches, community groups and individuals since BEACON was established, we have been able to develop our work in various projects with asylum seekers. However, having almost used up some generous donations made to us when it began about 8 years ago and with charitable trusts very hard pressed in these difficult times, BEACON is now facing a severe financial crisis.

We shall be grateful if you will share news of our difficulties with your church members and hope a positive response will be made to this appeal for support. Any donations will be gratefully received, or perhaps you could organise a fund raising event during 2013. We shall be glad to offer advice and support. If you need more information, would like to receive regular articles suitable for a church magazine; or wish to arrange for a speaker to visit and speak about our work, please get in touch with

Rev. Rita Armitage, Chair of BEACON rev.rita@talktalk.net 01943 603886 or

Kezia Rooke, BEACON coordinator beacon@beaconbradford.org

FLOWER FESTIVAL Bingley Methodist Church 24th–26th August

Saturday 24th August: 10:00am to 4:00pm Sunday 25th August: 12:00noon to 6:00pm

Bank Holiday Monday 26th August: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Hot lunches served on Saturday and Monday, cold food on Sunday

Refreshments and Stalls

A few years ago we used to include a section of prayer requests. I am anxious to refresh this from September, simply names and local, national or world-wide situations

Supplement
4th August 2013





Mervyn's Lectionary Reflection

Mervyn Flecknoe, our **Lay Pastor**, BLOGS a reflection each week on our website. You are welcome to join in; He welcomes comments.

(This blog is printed here for benefit of those not having access to the internet)

The story of the greedy farmer in Luke 12:13-21 goes well with Psalm 49; no, don't take my word for it, read them both. "Like our dogs, we age, we weaken, we die." We can't take it with us. It would be depressing except that it is a commentary on the experience of every human being. No getting away from it.

Every moment of every day, we make choices about what is important to us. When we approach death, we have the chance to review but not to relive our lives, and to vainly wish that we had spent them differently. Few people say with their last breaths that they wish they had spent more time at the office / watching TV / slagging off the neighbours. With what should we fill our lives? Duty, of course, is part of it. We perceive that we have a duty towards those who depend on us: parents, children, partners. We accumulate other dependencies too, according to choice or need. All duty is optional. Unless we fulfil it joyfully, it is better ignored.

As for filling our barns with the good things that we cannot immediately consume... stuff that we wish to preserve for our own use... stuff that we don't want others to consume whilst we await a moment of desire or need on our own part... well, you can't take it with you. Better to share now; before your Powers of Attorney step in to take decisions for you.

Perversely, it is the pursuit of future happiness that is the Devil here. Present happiness is not the problem, it is hoarding that causes difficulty. Unless we rejoice in the present, we risk perpetual unhappiness. Happiness can only exist in the present moment. There is some joy in planning, but even that is a present joy that requires savouring. Future joy, anticipating future joy, implies that the present is unsatisfactory.

People who seek future happiness; people who seek security; people who want to store up goods against the future; are amongst the least happy of the children of this Earth. People who share; people who let go of security worries; people who live on just enough; these are the winners. And when the cowled figure with the scythe and the hour glass stands before them, they don't worry about their investments, they can just rejoice in the remembrance of a life well-lived and a welcome death. We don't talk about death much. We don't see death much. We ignore its very existence. I think that is a mistake.