

CIRCUIT NEWS

LINCOLN METHODIST 17/02

SUMMER 2021



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Under the warmth of the summer sun the world awakes and blossoms into every imaginable colour. You created a garden for us to enjoy, and within it planted the most magical of flower and trees. You needed no horticultural training to plan your colour scheme, no gardening expert to recommend variety or design. Your garden is perfect, its colours harmonious, its scale immense, spoilt only by the clumsiness of those who tend it.



Calendar Dates - June to August 2021

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| | | |
| Wednesday | Jun 02, 2021 | Coronation Day |
| Thursday | Jun 03, 2021 | Corpus Christi |
| Wednesday | Jun 09, 2021 | St Columba's Day |
| Friday | Jun 11, 2021 | Barnabas the Apostle |
| Saturday | Jun 12, 2021 | Queen's Official Birthday |
| Sunday | Jun 20, 2021 | Father's Day |
| Monday | Jun 21, 2021 | Summer Solstice |
| Thursday | Jun 24, 2021 | Birth of John the Baptist |
| Saturday | Jun 26, 2021 | Armed Forces' Day |
| Tuesday | Jun 29, 2021 | Peter the Apostle |
| Saturday | Jul 03, 2021 | Thomas the Apostle |
| Tuesday | Jul 05, 2021 | NHS Big Tea |
| Thursday | Jul 15, 2021 | St Swithin's Day |
| Thursday | Jul 22, 2021 | Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:1-3) |
| Friday | Aug 06, 2021 | Transfiguration of our Lord |
| Tuesday | Aug 24, 2021 | Bartholomew the Apostle |
| Monday | Aug 30, 2021 | Late Summer Bank Holiday |
| Wednesday | Sep 01, 2021 | St Giles' Day |
| Tuesday | Sep 21, 2021 | Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist/ International Day of Peace |
| Wednesday | Sep 22, 2021 | Autumnal Equinox |
| Wednesday | Sep 29, 2021 | Michael and All Angels |

Father's Day





June 2021

Dear friends,
There are many songs that speak of thankfulness. Hymns and Songs that express our thankfulness to God for his love of us. I looked in the dictionary and it said:

Thankfulness: Gratefulness/Gratitude

From an early age I remember being taught to say please and thank you and now I find myself reminding my granddaughters to say please and thank you too.

I think when we look back and reflect over the last year, we will find that even in the Covid pandemic we will still have many things to say thank you for. God has continued to help and support us along the way. As well as encourage and deepen our trust in him.

It was a tremendous encouragement to the front-line workers to stand on our doorsteps and clap with our gratitude for their selfless giving as they dealt with the most challenging of situations.

As we look forward to the future how might we as church make space for people to join with us in thanksgiving? And how as church might we celebrate God's goodness to us?

I am reminded of the leper in Luke 17:11-19 that when he was healed, he returned to give thanks to God, the beggar at the temple gate in Acts 3:1-10, who in his encounter with Peter and John was healed and entered the Temple to give thanks. There are many other accounts I could have used.

One of the more recent songs that help us to express our thanks is a song called, 'Thank you Father' by Gareth Robinson.

These are the words:

Thank you, Father, for your love for me (x3)
And I love you,
I love you.

Thank you, Jesus, that you died for me. (x3)
And I love you,
I love you.

Thank you, Spirit, that you're here with me. (x3)
And I love you,
I love you.

Gareth Robinson © 2006 Thankyou Music.

Our God continues to help and sustain us. When we come into his presence, we can help but fall on our knees and worship him. I finish with a prayer of thanksgiving.

Our Lord God, we thank you for all your blessings, for life and health, for laughter and fun, for all powers of mind and body, for our homes and the love of dear ones, for everything that is beautiful, good, and true; but above all for giving your son to be our saviour and friend. May we always find our true happiness in pleasing you and helping others to know and love you. Amen

God Bless.
Alan



News from our Churches



Tales from North Hykeham Methodist Church

A tale of woe. My disabled friend decided to take her bath one morning; so armed with towels she used her newly installed bath lift. Alas when she was ready to get out it refused to work! Fortunately, she had towels to keep her warm.

Her cat was sitting on a stool beside her waiting for help. After 2 hours help arrived, an ambulance was called. This would have been a different story if she had taken her bath in the evening.

All is well now - a new bath lift has been installed by the manufacturers and she is delighted. She always does a test first now - but a happy ending!!

~

A church member who likes to keep in touch with his extended family was concerned about a nephew with whom he had lost touch. He prayed that the nephew was safe and well. Incredibly, two days later, he received a call from the nephew inquiring if *he* was ok?

God sometimes answers our prayers over a period of time, and sometimes quickly. God Bless.

~

Easter Sunday is always a special day, but this year was wonderful as we were able to attend a service at Church for the first time since last November 2020.

On behalf of our church family, I would like to publicly thank Ann Ward who had done a wonderful job producing an interesting newsletter each week – news, photographs, and interesting tales. It is a time-consuming task, and we are truly grateful. Each week we eagerly await our weekly delivery.

Barbara Abbott



Swallowbeck

During Lent a group of 8 participants did the online Bible Course using the free material provided by the Bible Society. Finding that the format of watching a short video, discussing questions suggested in the handbook and doing “homework” – reading several chapters of the Bible in preparation for the following week’s study – was a good fellowship and learning experience. Rev Alan Robson also led a more informal Friday afternoon zoom hour for folk in his group of Churches during Lent. Since Easter John Turner has been leading a weekly zoom bible study course based on films following the journeys of Paul.



On the last Sunday in April several of us joined an outdoor congregation of around 70 people in Boultham Park at 4pm. Musicians from Bridge Church used the bandstand to lead worship, Dar-

ren Edwards (Ignite Church) led Communion and James Prentice (Life Church, Birchwood) was the preacher. A Pizza Van provided an opportunity for extending a time of fellowship over tea-time for anyone who wanted to place an order at the start of the service. Eating together in company is something that many of us have missed, so a socially distanced picnic becomes quite a treat. The next united service in Boultham Park will be on May 30th at 4pm again. If the weather is poor, it is the same weekend as Cliff College Festival, which is online at the same time. Details of how to register are on the College website.

Christian Aid Week May 9th-16th, features their work in Kenya. See page 7. The online fundraising quiz will have taken place by the time the summer copy of the Circuit news is printed, but there is still time to make a donation on the JustGiving Page of Swallowbeck Methodist Church. www.justgiving.com/fundraising/swallowbeckmethodistchurch

We welcomed our hall users who provide services to pre-school children back on site in April and set up Scripture Union's Easter Trail in the Church grounds for them. The Joy

Foundation have used our Upper Room to record video material for collective worship in schools to supplement the face-to-face work that they have just re-started. Our adult hirers are due back in June, all being well.



The climate crisis is leaving people hungry, homeless and heart-broken. People like Rose are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water. From drought to flooding, climate chaos robs people of control over their lives. I often feel hungry, Rose says. Because of climate change, I worry a lot about food. I pray to God that the rainfall will become normal like it used to be. In recent years, the drought has been so bad that it caused a hunger crisis. Crops wither and die. Rivers run dry. People struggle to survive. The coronavirus pandemic has only made this lack of water more critical for Rose. Without water for handwashing, it is a struggle to stay safe from the virus. Please help to provide reliable water source, for people like Rose. Your gift will help support Christian Aid's vital work with some of the poorest communities in the world. Thank you!



Stones Place

As 2nd doses of Corona Virus vaccine have now provided some protections for older members of the community, it is now possible for Stones Place to accept new residents. The vacant rooms have been used for respite stays and in one instance for providing short term accommodation for the son of a resident receiving end of life care. Respite enquiries can be made via the website and currently there is a special offer of 3 weeks respite for the price of two. Anyone fancy a Stones Place holiday? The reduction in resident numbers has coincided with the absence of staff who have needed to shield or been on sick leave, so the workload of care has been manageable. Regular Covid testing takes place and the small easing of lockdown to allow 2 named visitors to see an elderly resident by prior appointment is being welcomed. Non-essential visitors are asked to stay away and maintain contact digitally.

Rae Perkins – Circuit MHA rep.



Washingborough Methodist Church



So much has changed over the past year, not least how we worship. For several months Washingborough Methodist Church has held 2 to 3 services a month via Zoom.

There has been much discussion on social media about worshipping in the building compared to online. Some have even declared that if it doesn't take place in the church building it isn't "proper" worship. Does it need pointing out that for many years the church didn't have buildings at all? Or that it ignores the thousands of Christians across the globe who can never worship inside a building, because of illness, disability or life's circumstances. Indeed many cannot gather for fear of retaliation and persecution, living under fear of arrest, torture or death. Should they be regarded as "second class" Christians? It is a privilege, not a right, to have a building in which to worship. As Methodists we recall that John Wesley was driven from the church building because he preached the gospel and wouldn't toe the line. The result was that he reached far more people outside, whose lives were transformed by Jesus Christ.



When Jesus went through Samaria he met a woman there, by a well. They talked about Jewish/Samaritan differences, about life and faith, about worship and the temple. Jesus told the woman "true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.....God is spirit and His worshippers must worship in spirit and truth." This tells us 2 things (at least!). Firstly, God cannot be contained. No building can contain God. He is to be experienced everywhere. The first Christian to be killed for his faith was Stephen (Acts chapter 7). As Stephen witnessed to the religious leaders about Jesus the

final straw came when he quoted Scripture to these men, whose power base was the temple, “the Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says: Heaven is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? Says the Lord.” That’s when they stoned him to death!

Secondly, our worship, wherever it takes place, must be honest and authentic. Of course we wish, indeed need, to gather together to worship God. At Washingborough we have found that gathering via Zoom has enabled more people to worship together than we could in the building, under current regulations. We’ve also found a warmth, a togetherness as we’ve met. The wonderful atmosphere felt over the ether has been surprising. We have also held a Zoom Bible Study Group and a Prayer Group during the week. These again have been popular and many have joined in who have not joined before. Of course we realise that there are those who cannot meet via the internet and are therefore losing out. It will be a glorious day when we can meet physically, with no masks, and able to sing out our praises to the Lord. It is something to look forward to and we pray it will be soon. However, this year has taught us a lot, not least that God is a God of creation; “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah chapter 43:18,19).

In light of this, as we re-open our building for worship from 30th May we want to avoid just going back to how things were. We plan to use 2 services a month for Own Arrange-

ments so that we can explore different ways of gathering to worship. We really do need to look into how we can stream live worship too, so that others don’t miss out. We will also have re-started the Garden Groups, which were so successful last year. Groups of 6 meet in people’s gardens for sharing, prayer and Bible Study. We plan to look at the Psalms and Mark’s Gospel (following the Bible Month material). We pray that the weather improves and makes this possible.

Of course we will also be welcoming our new minister Jennifer later this year and we look forward to her leadership and guidance.

In May we celebrated Pentecost – the anniversary of the coming of the Holy Spirit which turbo-charged the early church into action and sent them out into all the world to proclaim that Jesus Christ is alive. We pray that we will be open to the new things God is doing in and through His Son Jesus Christ and in the power of His Holy Spirit.

Welton and Dunholme Methodist Church

What a joy it was to re-open for worship on Easter Sunday morning. Social distancing allowed us to have 34 people in the congregation and we were at capacity! Our service of Holy Communion was especially moving as it was conducted by our minister, Rev. Helen Hooley. It was her last service with us before her period of leave, then sabbatical and move to her new circuit



in Cumbria. We were pleased we could say goodbye in person, thanking her for her ministry with us and the wider circuit and wishing her well in her new appointment. The fells of Cumbria will be a great contrast to Lincolnshire but she said that she will always remember us as she walks them in the boots she intends to buy with our cheque! Welton and Dunholme is now coming under the ministry of Rev. Alan Swann and we are looking forward to working with him and having him lead our services.

Elaine Johnson



Monks Road

Like everyone else, we are slowly adjusting to being back in our church, and renewing our friendships and support networks. We wait to see how many of our church family may not be able to get back to church, and we are developing ways of continuing to keep in touch, not least with our Friday Connections which were delivered, sent by email, or posted to over 30 homes every week while the church has been closed as a building. We are also planning which activities we can restart in the near future, not least our regular church groups, uniformed organisations, our after-school family events and coffee drop for parents and carers after the morning school run.

St Giles

We have continued to meet via Zoom, thanks to John Lawson, every morning to share concerns and pray for each other and for others in our church, community and the wider world. This has now been going for over a year.



The Community Larder continues to provide free food and household goods to families in need on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

We have established contacts with local supermarkets whereby we take their surplus stock for further distribution to the schools opposite and to people on the estate who are in need.



The Light Night Café has been going since February on Tuesday evenings. People come into a relaxed atmosphere where they have coffee and chat in the Jubilee Room decked out with sofas and easy chairs. Volunteers, carers and church members help out.

Sunday worship resumed at Easter when Chris Matthews took the service and has continued since then. This included a streamed circuit service when we said goodbye to Rev Helen Hooley.



PRAYING TOGETHER

JUNE TO AUGUST 2021

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1 Pray for the nations of the world, particularly our leaders and those in government responsible for making hard decisions. | 9 Pray the Lord's Prayer. How can you make your bit of earth more like heaven? | 17 Pray for our Superintendent, Rev Alan Swann, as he shepherds our Circuit forward into the future. | 25 Pray for all our Ministers, Lay Preachers, Worship Leaders as they assist Rev Alan Swann in his task of ministering to the many members of our Circuit. |
| 2 Pray for peace, wisdom and understanding and a deep commitment to serve all. | 10 Pray for the unemployed and for all who feel desperate. | 18 Pray for strong and growing initiative and energy in country towns, so that farmers may share in life-giving communities. | 26 Pray for our children and young people as they come to terms with the disruption in their education; give them hope for the future. |
| 3 Pray for the Christian denominations of the world, that their leaders may lead us forward in a Christ-like way and help to forge peaceful links with other religions. | 11 Pray for good communication between country and city, so that we may understand each other's worlds and encourage one another. | 19 Pray for those in despair in hard times, that they may be helped and supported by caring services and friends. | 27 Pray for teachers as they strive to ensure that their pupils become wise and compassionate citizens of this world, despite all obstacles in their way. |
| 4 Pray for rural and regional networks, sharing information to overcome loneliness and isolation for those on the land. | 12 Pray for health and happiness in the home life of all and for families to work together with love, respect and harmony. | 20 Pray for Christians who gather for worship, study and prayer, that their faith may create and sustain community. | 28 Pray for our community at this difficult time, that we might recover and rebuild our confidence; give us strength as we meet the challenges ahead. |
| 5 Pray for strategists, planners, policy makers and advisors, offering new ways to grow food and care for the land in changing times. | 13 Pray for safe work practices and healthy habits for all farmers, so that people and communities may flourish and be strong. | 21 Pray for those in the emergency services. When they are called out, let the traffic part before them; keep them safe from harm under the shadow of your protecting wings. May their hands be your hands of healing and comfort so that they are able to help all those to whom they are called. | 29 Pray for administrators, that they have clarity of mind, unity of spirit, strength of will, a heart of wisdom and the gift of your truth-bearing Spirit, so that they might be enabled to make decisions that lead to the flourishing and wellbeing of the whole community. |
| 6 Pray for seasonable weather, good growth and good yields, so that there may be abundant harvests to feed hungry people. | 14 Pray for those who are facing an uncertain or challenging future. | 22 Pray for those who are sick – that they will be comforted. | 30 Pray that Jesus is with us as we meet; guides us as we talk; stays with us as we plan; opens our ears as we listen and opens our eyes to your vision. |
| 7 Pray for people who love the land and care for it well, making farming sustainable for future generations. | 15 Pray for wise financial planning, land care and asset management, so that farmers may be confident about the future of their farms. | 23 Pray for our families, loved ones and friends that God will safeguard us and make provisions for all of our needs; always guiding our actions and protecting us. | 31 Pray for ourselves, that we may put our trust and faith in God alone: that our faith and trust does not waiver as we face each day anew. |
| 8 Pray for crop growers and livestock breeders, taking risks to grow food for a hungry world. | 16 Read a newspaper. Pray for any situations that trouble you. | 24 Pray that our Lord guides our heart with love; our mind with truth; our actions with faith and our soul with hope. Let us trust Him completely. |  |



Skellingthorpe—May 2021

We have gone through some strange times over the past fifteen months but now feel that there is a pinprick of light at the end of the tunnel!

There seemed to be a gloomy atmosphere at a Zoom meeting of Circuit representatives earlier in the year to discuss the future. At the end of the meeting however Rev Margaret Doughty cheered us all up by telling us how

Central Methodist Church had brightened up the High Street by decorating their Christmas Tree with yellow pom-poms following the removal of the festive trimmings. This piece of news inspired us at Skellingthorpe to do something similar.

So.....a letter was sent out to all Craft 4 Charity members (who had been unable to meet since February 2020) asking them to make pom-poms so that we could trim up the Chapel holly tree in time for Easter. Following an appeal in the village magazine as well more than 350 pom-poms were collected and made a wonderful display. It helped that Rev David standing on the stepladder was able to reach much higher than the rest of us! There were plenty of pom-poms left over to trim up the railings and windowsills inside. Our Easter message was the Hope that Jesus brings so the letters H.O.P.E were also displayed in bright colours on the glass doors.

During the planning of the pom-pom project we were also invited by St Lawrence's Church to take part in the Easter

Trail around the village being organised by them. Several gardens displayed scenes from Holy Week and we involved as many chapel members as possible in making a display depicting the Last Supper. A very large bare cross was displayed next to the holly tree for Good Friday and this was decorated in time for Easter Day with pom-poms and bunches of daffodils. The photo shows our efforts.

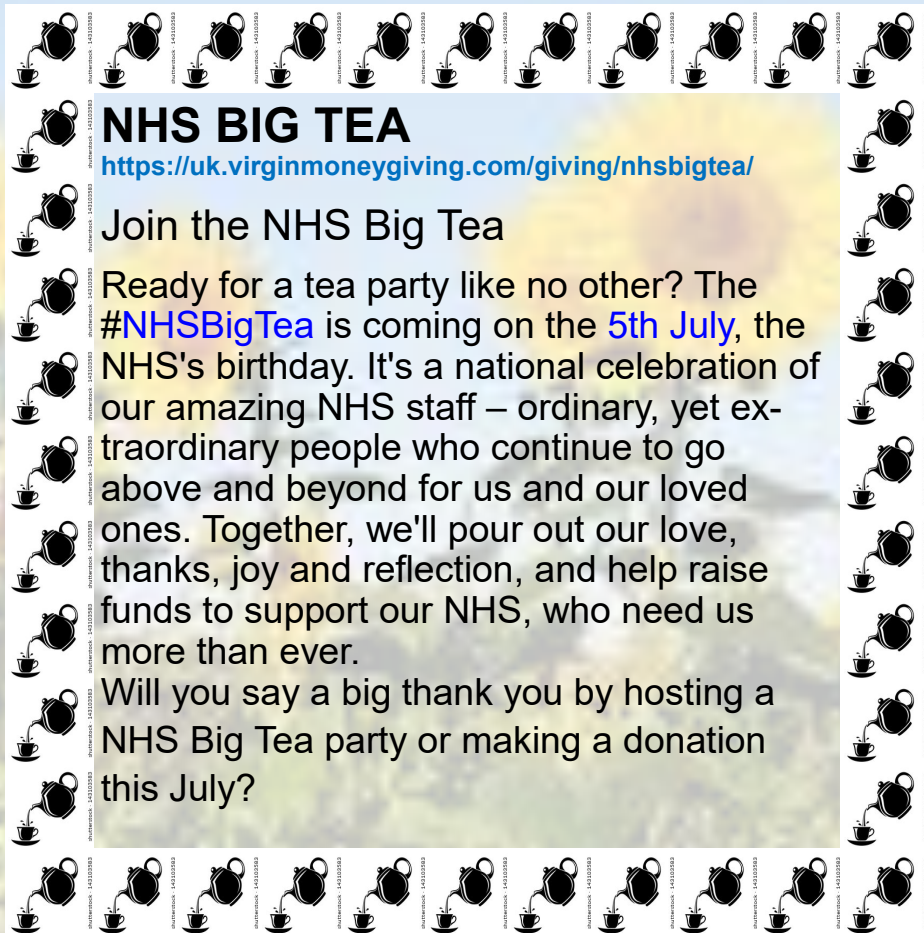


Our Easter activities made the Easter Sunday Service all the more meaningful and signalled the beginning of worship services again. The Chapel was almost full, allowing for the necessary social distancing, and Rev David made it possible for us all to take holy communion. For many of us the feeling of togetherness is still absent and will remain so until we can sing again but this is the start of more normality. Services are continuing but not yet in a regular pattern. Some people are finding it difficult to return at the moment but we have welcomed members from other churches and look forward to welcoming them properly over a 'cuppa' after the service.

On a sad note we have said goodbye to two members of the congregation who had been unable to attend for some time, Marjorie Lawton and John Atkin. A service was held at Chapel to remember John and in spite of the restrictions this was a beautiful service and much appreciated by the family.

Most of us have been able to watch the on-line services organised by the Circuit and would like to record our thanks to everyone involved in this considerable undertaking. The printed copies of the 'Vine at Home' service which have been sent out from the Office are much appreciated by those unable to watch on-line so thank you to Anne and Denise for doing this, it helps to keep us all together.

Pat Robinson

A promotional banner for NHS Big Tea. The banner features a repeating pattern of a teapot and a teacup along the top and bottom edges. The central text reads: "NHS BIG TEA" in large blue letters, followed by the URL "https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/nhsbigtea/" in blue. Below this, it says "Join the NHS Big Tea" and "Ready for a tea party like no other? The #NHSBigTea is coming on the 5th July, the NHS's birthday. It's a national celebration of our amazing NHS staff – ordinary, yet extraordinary people who continue to go above and beyond for us and our loved ones. Together, we'll pour out our love, thanks, joy and reflection, and help raise funds to support our NHS, who need us more than ever. Will you say a big thank you by hosting a NHS Big Tea party or making a donation this July?"

NHS BIG TEA
<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/nhsbigtea/>

Join the NHS Big Tea

Ready for a tea party like no other? The **#NHSBigTea** is coming on the **5th July**, the NHS's birthday. It's a national celebration of our amazing NHS staff – ordinary, yet extraordinary people who continue to go above and beyond for us and our loved ones. Together, we'll pour out our love, thanks, joy and reflection, and help raise funds to support our NHS, who need us more than ever.

Will you say a big thank you by hosting a NHS Big Tea party or making a donation this July?

Obituaries

It was with great sadness that we learned of the deaths of Dorothy Jackson and Barbara Kemp. Both much loved and respected in the Circuit.

Dorothy Jackson on 11th April 2021.

Dorothy was a member at Reepham and a loved and respected Local Preacher.

Please continue to pray for Roy and the family and our friends at Reepham Methodist Church.

Barbara Kemp Peacefully on 16th April in the loving care of St Barnabas Hospice. Barbara was a cherished member of Central.

Please pray for her family, friends and members at Central Methodist Church.



A ship is always safe at the shore, but that is not what it is built for.

- Albert Einstein

The Methodist Church sets out how Sabbaticals are a required part of a presbyter's [or deacon's] performance of his or her duties, describing how they can be extremely beneficial both for the individual minister and for the health of the wider Church - thereby enhancing the ministry of the whole people of God. No pressure there then!

From a personal perspective, the Church's gift of a sabbatical is certainly generous and recognises that a period of time set-aside purely for rest, reflection, study and new experiences, can be both life-enhancing, and even a form of Church investment. Biblically, the intention of a 'sabbatical' naturally draws meaning from various books, but certainly includes intentional rest every 7th year to aid future 'fertility'.

Having been postponed due to Covid-19, my actual sabbatical took place in the autumn of 2020. Whilst Sue and I were unable to do most of the planned visits and trips due to the ongoing national restrictions, it was still a welcome opportunity to recharge my batteries, and take an intentional pause from all the hustle and bustle of Church and Circuit life.

But the question in some peoples' minds remains: 'What on earth do you do on a Sabbatical?' With a support group in place up to a year in advance, (made up of Church and Circuit reps), each minister has the

prayerful and practical support to plan their time away to include a range of activities.

For Sue and I this was to be a dedicated time to catch-up with family and friends (spread across the UK). In reality, we managed to get in one trip to see newly born Albie, (grandson number 5), before the travel restrictions and lockdown recommenced in earnest. But in the face of all the strictures of the pandemic we also discovered a new-found freedom to rethink our time once again and live a little more spontaneously. Perhaps this is a lesson for the future too.

Regular walks became a most welcome feature on many days...where Sue and I talked and put the world to right, whilst discovering many new vistas within walking distance of the manse, and also within mid-Lincs (as far as the restrictions allowed). We also went on numerous trips to the surrounding Wolds when the opportunity allowed.

I also spent some valuable time reading various books by: Tony Horsfall (on *finding intimacy with God in a busy life*), Alister McGrath (on *growing in wisdom and hope*), Yves Congar (on *I believe in the Holy Spirit*), and lingered with Julian of Norwich (on *Revelations of Divine Love*), amongst others. I also greatly valued being out and about in the garden, and began work on a very old, rustic pine chest of drawers to remodel it.

On Tuesday 1st December 2020, I returned to the Circuit rested and refreshed, very thankful for the Church's gift of a



Sabbatical. Our plans may not always point to our destination, but they do motivate us to set-sail, and then our journey with God really begins.

Revd David (Lawton)
March 2021



PLEASE CAN YOU HELP YOUR MINISTERS?

Each year all Ministers in the Methodist Church undergo a Ministerial Development Review with their immediate superior during which their calling as an ordained minister is affirmed and their work in the Churches and Circuit in which they are stationed is reviewed to see what they have achieved in the past twelve months, to set hopes and goals for the coming year and to identify any areas for learning and development to assist in achieving those goals. The minister reflects on the various areas of their work and is assisted in that reflection by a lay person who accompanies them on their faith journey.

The work of the Lay Contributors is valued by the ministers as they provide a different perspective on the minister's work and are able to encourage ministers talk candidly about what they do, without wondering how their comments will be viewed within their working environment.

I am very much in need of more volunteers to act as Lay Contributors and hope that more people will come forward to provide this vitally important service to ministers. Please could anyone who is interested in finding out more about being a Lay Contributor contact me (see email address below) and I will have a chat with you. Training will be given and support throughout the MDR process, so you will not be "cast adrift"!!

Michael May
MDR Co-ordinator
Lincolnshire Methodist District
mdr@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk

Tribute to Dorothy Margaret Jackson, 01/12/1935 – 11/4/2021

Thank you for being here, and to those joining through the internet, to celebrate the life of my much-loved mum Dorothy. My name is David, and I am here with my father Roy, my brother Ian, my sisters Helen and Rachel, and our better halves Catherine, Rosemary, Jonathon, and Ben who Mum welcomed into the fold over the past 30 years or so. Words do not come easily but it is my honour to reflect on our mum's life and I count myself fortunate to be her son.

Mum was born in Pudsey, West Yorkshire, in 1935. The Methodist Church was always a big part of her family's life, and it remained a core part of her life. At 19 she went to Sheffield University to study Biblical History under Professor F.F. Bruce, with English on the side. Here she joined Meth Soc and as she was an accomplished singer, (having been trained and being a lead contralto in the Leeds Philharmonic Chorus), it was not long before she was asked to sing a solo. But she needed musical support, so some bloke named Roy was roped in to accompany her on the piano and so began a friendship and love-affair that lasted 65 years.

In August 1960 Mum and Dad were married and moved to near Warrington with their jobs. It was here that Dad started preaching in the local Methodist Circuit and Mum would often accompany him, to make sure he was doing it right. He spent many a Sunday in fear and trepidation should he put a foot wrong with Jewish history or Biblical quotations; on reflection I do not think that ever changed.

We started turning up from 1964 onwards and the family was complete with the arrival of Rachel in 1974. We were brought up with a Christian background, taught to respect each other and to treat others as we would wish to be treated. Between Mum and Dad, they helped us with schoolwork and for Ian, one of the memories that stands out is getting Mums help with English, whilst I got my love for Norse myths from her. On top of

that Mum was our driving instructor, so now you know who to blame!

Mum's support and dedication to the Church continued wherever we moved to. In Grindleford she was Girl Guide Leader, Brownie leader and Sunday School teacher all rolled into one. Each year, the Guides and Brownies put on a pantomime, written by, choreography by, directed by, produced by, and musically accompanied by Dorothy. The hall would be packed, and it was always a rip-roaring success. At Tideswell she introduced a Luncheon Club for older couples and single people; and during the Well Dressing week she inspired people to decorate the church to a particular theme. This was always a great success and raised vital funds for the church.

Late in her career, basically when we had all left home and she had more time, Mum felt a calling to become a Local Preacher, completing the course and put on the 'Full Plan' in 1995. Dad recalls the final interview which took place in Cliff College chapel, Mum being asked to relate her call to preach and interrogated on Wesley's sermons and matters of Methodist doctrine and discipline; all under the watchful gaze of most of the College staff and fellow local preachers! Life doesn't get much harder than that!

Two of the other great loves in Mum's life were music and cooking. Teaching music was in her blood and Mum started at an early age, practicing on her then 5-year-old sister, my Aunt Val, whilst still only a teenager herself. She tried to teach us all the piano, with varying degrees of success, at one extreme me, tone deaf, fat fingers and didn't practice, through to the girls who took it more seriously and have done a lot more with their skills. She did not stop there, she taught nieces, nephews, grandchildren, friends, and neighbours, continuing right up to very recently.

Cooking was her other love and one that many of the family remember her fondly for. She was never keen to be in the limelight and the focus of attention, even at her own birthdays and anniversaries; at family gatherings and parties Mum would

often just disappear, migrating to the kitchen. We learnt to bake when we were young, particularly cakes and biscuits. Somewhere in Mum's kitchen there is a blue notebook with all her hand-written recipes, mainly cakes and biscuits, and the occasional savoury dish.

When we got a bit more independent, Mum went back to work as a Social Worker with Sheffield City Council. She was promoted to Senior Social Worker and put in charge of a satellite office in one of the deprived areas of Sheffield. And it was in Sheffield we all learnt to drive, we learnt to hill start on almost any gradient and it's here I picked up the habit of leaving the car in gear when parked, which winds my children up no end.

On retirement Mum took up pottery with a vengeance. The garage was kitted out with clay slip machines, kilns, and lots of moulds! She became very adept at painting the pottery and bringing out new lines throughout the year, most of us got at least one light up pottery Christmas tree. Then as the weather got better over summer, getting Dad trained to hitch up the caravan, load it with pottery and trundle all-round the country attending craft fairs in village halls or muddy fields. He claims it was hard work, but we are not convinced, we think Mum did most of it.

Mum never stopped and as when they had more time on their hands Mum and Dad would disappear off on cruises or drive up to Harrogate for a Gilbert and Sullivan weekend. As walking became harder, she found new ways to get out and about, and for those whose feet still bear the scars, can confirm that she was absolutely lethal with her mobility scooter.

Mum was one of those people who put more into this world than she took out. She could be outspoken at times, and as with all families occasional heated arguments would arise, but her words came from the heart, she was always true to her beliefs and did not bear grudges. She would always help wherever she could and never counted the cost or time involved.

Mum was an artist, a musician, teacher, driving instructor, preacher, script writer, author, mentor, cook, hostess, party

planner, wedding organiser, gardener, fund raiser, knitter, reader, a shoulder to cry on, a sister, wife, aunty, mother, grandmother, the list goes on.

Mum was an inspiration to her husband, her children, and grandchildren. She made space for and welcomed our partners and children into the family. I know that we will all have different memories, whether one to one, or camping together as extended families, or as part of the Church family, she will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Thanks, Mum, for being part of our lives, we cherish you, we look back fondly on the memories we made together, we are going to miss you so very much.

Circuit Live Stream Services

You can watch the circuit service on <https://live.lincolnmethodist.org.uk/>

If there is an issue watching on a mobile device, eg phone or tablet, then you can watch direct on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuX2h5FJRkrj01OshS94Aza>

When on YouTube, why not SUBSCRIBE to our channel and then you will get notifications when we are live! You can also catch up on all our other services.

There is a link on the page and the circuit website and the Facebook page and group.

Compiling each Circuit News is a big but exciting job. It is really important that we celebrate all the good that is happening in the Circuit and would like feedback on our newsletter. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us; we welcome your thoughts. Please address to info@lincolnmethodist.org.uk

Material for the **Autumn 2021** edition of **Circuit News** must be with the Circuit Office by Friday, 13 August 2021. Any material received after this date will not be included in the September edition.

Email: info@lincolnmethodist.org.uk

Address: Lincoln Methodist Circuit Office
Burton Road Methodist Church
175 Burton Road
Lincoln LN1 3LW

Website: www.lincolnmethodist.org.uk