

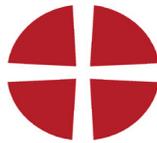
Newsletter and Plan

June to August 2022



Photograph taken by Caroline Shaw, Warcop

**KIRKBY STEPHEN, APPLEBY
& TEBAY METHODIST CIRCUIT**



Cumbria District (09/07)

'Our mission is to know Jesus and make him known'

From the Manse

As we come to the Diamond Jubilee, many Methodists with non-conformist roots, find themselves in an odd position. The question is what does the Platinum Jubilee actually mean for us, particularly if one is not a royalist? This is of course an unfair generalisation, and many of us have grown fond of the Queen over the many years she has served and have been particularly impressed by her openness about the Christian faith she professes. This has roughly been my position, though in the past years I have come to appreciate the place of the royal family in our democracy, as it seems to have contributed to a stability and reasonableness in our politics, something which may be seen as lacking in other democracies without such a presence. Queen Elizabeth in particular has been careful in how she has embodied that role, and 70 years of such service to the country seems a good reason for a celebration.

Yet this year in particular, I have noticed recently that the Queen is not able to perform her duties in the way she used to. This is far from a criticism but instead an observation of how the Queen has found herself increasingly confined to her home over the past couple of years. Queen Elizabeth II is after all still a human being like any of us, and subject to health concerns and age as we all are. This has meant some planned engagements have had to be cancelled, or performed by some of her children and grandchildren. Yet one story in this Jubilee year of a teapot factory coming to visit the Queen in the palace, because she could not visit the teapot factory, particularly struck me. The pictures on the BBC website showed so much delight in her face as she examined the delicate china and the joy of being able to take part in this civic duty albeit in a new way.

Throughout the last 2 years I have encountered stories of family, neighbours and brothers & sisters in the church, who have had to find new ways of doing things, which have often been difficult and restrictive. In some ways this gives us a glimpse into the ways in which life at different times offers us freedoms and at others finds them taken away. Young children will live in a care free way, yet when they become an adult new freedoms are discovered, as well as new responsibilities. A parent will find lots of benefits in their lives from children, but that comes with that role requiring sacrifice. An older person may find themselves free from paid work, but it may be health concerns emerge that can change someone's expectations of retirement.

Life's limitations and freedom's have their time, and yet we believe in a God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. through all the changing

scenes of life, God does not let us go. We may find it harder in certain circumstances to be with God, to pray, or be immersed in the word of God, and be involved in church. Yet it can often be our own limitations that we put upon ourselves and not God's. Those limitations can so easily become excuses as to why God must be less important in our lives at certain times. When we decide that God can be side-lined from our lives in some way, I wonder how that changes us?

Yet because it is God's nature to always reach out, to always wait for the embrace much longed for, we are reminded that a life without God is chasing after the wind. we are reminded to pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances in scripture (1 Thess 5:16-18). This is not a command to make us feel guilty or less than perfect but to remind us who and what we are made for. We are to live beyond ourselves living in Christ as we allow Christ to live in us. This is the gift of God for us, which we can so often and easily neglect, and yet is the key to life lived well no matter what circumstances we are in. In knowing God in this way, we find the strength we need in times of weakness, the grace we need in times of challenge, and the love we need in times of isolation. God helps us in our responsibilities but also in our desire to be free, to play, and discover again all the riches that are to be found in life.

Just as the Queen was important enough for a teapot factory to come to her, God sees you as significant enough to meet you in the circumstances you find yourself in. Such love, such grace, that goes beyond our comprehension yet dwells within our hearts! I pray that we may desire for our hearts to open to God's presence with us and that we may be transformed and renewed. This is after all God's good, pleasing and perfect will for you.

Rev Andrew



Mid-week Services and Prayer Meetings

Appleby Monthly Communion Service on 1st Wed each month.

B Sowerby Fortnightly Bible Study Tuesday Evening 7pm
Information Available from David on 017683 41223

Dufton Fortnightly Bible Study Tuesday Evening 7.30pm on Zoom
Information Available from Rev Andrew on 017683 51244

K Stephen Fortnightly Bible Study Wednesday Morning 10.30am
Information from Heather on 017683 71202

N on Lune, Ravenstonedale & Orton
Fortnightly at N on Lune Tuesday evening 7.30pm
Information from Heather on 017683 71202 or
Wilf on 015396 23600



The Day of Pentecost marks fifty days since Easter Day and brings the Easter season to an end. It is a major feast of the Church's year when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations.

*God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit
be our goal and our strength, now and always. Amen.*

Ukraine

Close the curtains, shut them fast
on this battered night that must not last
screams of terror, loss, the jeopardy,
as all that matters dangles dangerously
Buildings sway, flap, hang, plummet down,
as hate is all suffocates and harms.

Close the curtains on this loathsome night
where they break, blow-up, seek to stifle fight.
Close the curtains on this awful night
lest they sense our presence and unleash their might.
Close that iron curtain on the shattered hills of stone
that yesterday were beloved homes.

Open the curtain on this sickening world
where they break, beat, bury and burn
Universities where student dream and yearn
and the hallowed places where children learn
Open the curtains as the searchlights reveal
the extent of the madness, tyranny and greed.

'Close the curtain of the sky' they cry in vain
so the bombs can't fall their fearsome
rain
But the whole world trembles,
fears extinction, this costly fall,
Do they have to die to save us all?

Joyce Worsfold



Chairman of the District

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Staff Rest Days

Ministers

Rev Stephen Radford

Friday

Rev Andrew Sterling

Saturday

Circuit Administrator

Mrs Avril Swinbank

Saturday, Sunday, Monday

Circuit Connexion Services

All our Circuit Connexion services are shown on the Plan.

Website Addresses

Circuit Website

www.ksaandtcircuit.org.uk

Methodist Church Website

www.methodist.org.uk

Cumbria District Methodist Website www.cumbriamethodistdistrict.org.uk

HOW link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6iZVadGymIBC04aEEOJryw>

Please look at the website for latest news and also reflections from lockdown.



If you are on Facebook please "Like" our Kirkby Stephen, Appleby Tebay Methodist Circuit page and keep up to date with our latest news!

Poem

How can the Ukrainians feel safe?
How can they live their lives?
Children crying
People dying
can they stay alive?

Fighting in the streets
bombs come from the sky
Children screaming
People dreaming
of life without the war

Jesus our dear lord
Bring peace to their dear land
Childhood trauma
people's mental health
let there be an end.

Refugees from countries far
come to our homeland
Children homes
people loved
we must do our best

Once the war is over
let us all take stock
children's lives
people's homes
Jesus loves us all

So father up above
Give your grace and care
Let children smile
Let people laugh
and bring a sense of love

Caroline Shaw





God calls us into mission - to open our hearts and open our doors and take the good news out and about. We have loads of opportunities to do this in our lives and by our prayers. The extended bank holiday weekend for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee offers us a chance to get involved in community events and get to know our neighbours.

It's a chance to get to know people, to extend a radical invitation to everyone in the neighbourhood, to build relationships, and be bold in your faith-sharing. This is a chance to join in with God's mission on the streets of your community. How are you getting out and about that weekend?

For more information, please contact either Rev Stephen or Rev Andrew or look on the Methodist Church in Britain website at www.methodist.org.uk



God save the Queen!

Lectionary

- 5 June Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9 , Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21, John 14:8-17, (25-27)
- 12 June Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 and Psalm 8, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15
- 19 June 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a and Psalm 42 and 43, Isaiah 65:1-9 and Psalm 22:19-28, Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39
- 26 June 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 and Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20, 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 and Psalm 16, Galatians 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62
- 3 July 2 Kings 5:1-14 and Psalm 30, Isaiah 66:10-14 and Psalm 66:1-9, Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
- 10 July Amos 7:7-17 and Psalm 82, Deuteronomy 30:9-14 and Psalm 25:1-10 Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37
- 17 July Amos 8:1-12 and Psalm 52, Genesis 18:1-10a and Psalm 15, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42
- 24 July Hosea 1:2-10 and Psalm 85, Genesis 18:20-32 and Psalm 138, Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19), Luke 11:1-13
- 31 July Hosea 11:1-11 and Psalm 107:1-9, 43, Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 and Psalm 49:1-12, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21
- 7 August Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 and Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23, Genesis 15:1-6 and Psalm 33:12-22, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40
- 14 August Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19, Jeremiah 23:23-29 and Psalm 82 Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56
- 21 August Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Psalm 71:1-6, Isaiah 58:9b-14 and Psalm 103:1-8 Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17
- 28 August Jeremiah 2:4-13 and Psalm 81:1, 10-16, Proverbs 25:6-7 and Psalm 112 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14



Circuit Calendar

June

18th 10.00—12.00 R'dale Charity Coffee Morning

July

August

Youth Activities

Rev Andrew Sterling and the Education and Youth Committee are planning some new youth initiatives, look out for more details in the near future.



Rural Mission Sunday

When? 3rd Sunday in July

Rural Mission Sunday 2022 takes place on 17 July

Visit the [Arthur Rank Centre](#) to explore their resources worship, wherever you are able to experience it this year.

The Arthur Rank Centre feel passionately about the importance of small rural churches: they know rural churches do mission and want to celebrate that fact. With that in mind, Rural Mission Sunday was an initiative that began in 2016.

It provides a real opportunity for rural churches to celebrate who they are and give thanks for their community. At the present time, The Arthur Rank Centre has also produced a [series of weekly reflections](#) in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

PRAYER POINTS



I have been to Edinburgh on the train a couple of times lately. Just before the train gets to Carstairs station, it slows down from very fast! To a crawl. There is a very sharp bend where trains can only go at 15 mph. It reminded me of lockdown when we all had to slow down and now we are all rushing about as we did before. I read that if they modified the track the train would get to Edinburgh 4 minutes earlier!
In this busy life we need to take time to be with our Lord, quiet and still.

A call to stillness: Based on the story of Mary and Martha

What's the rush! Sit a while.

He must be hungry, they'll all be thirsty.

Peace beloved.

This is important, come and listen.

The house is a mess. They're sitting on the floor

Rest beloved

There won't be another time like this,

Dirty cups, dirty plates. What must they think!

Calm beloved

For today I am here.

Today I will feed your soul.

Today I will comfort you.

Today my love is enough.

Today I am with you. (*Fleeson*)

My Jesus I hear You, I stop, I listen, I pray, I stay. Amen

**Christ be at the centre of my mind and my heart
Christ be at the centre of my thoughts and my words
Christ be at the centre of my joy and my pain
Christ be at the centre of my home and my journey
Christ be at the centre of my peace and turmoil
Christ be my inspiration and my guide. Amen**