



ST JOHN'S NEWS AND VIEWS

Number 8

Worship



Our morning services and short services of Evening Prayer are both now posted on YouTube as well as Facebook

(facebook.com/settlemethodist) every Sunday. If you are unable to access the internet and would like to receive printed services, provided by the Methodist Church, please contact Tim.

Circuit Time of Prayer

From February, there will be a Circuit Prayer Meeting at **8.00 p.m.** on the **8th day of each month.** Details are as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6135799022?pwd=UmVVNFRPMHdUbUZacGZ5RmlOc0c4dz09>

Meeting ID: 613 579 9022

Passcode: 8802

or telephone

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 613 579 9022

Passcode: 8802

If you are unable to join, you are still invited to spend a few minutes praying for our churches and for the needs of the wider world, in the knowledge that others will be doing so at the same time.

Lent

There will be an online Circuit Ash Wednesday service on the **evening of 17th February**, at a time to be confirmed. Please look at our Facebook page nearer the time for more details. There will also be a weekly online Lent Group on Tuesdays, **7.45-9.00 pm**, starting on **23rd February**. Details will be posted on our Facebook page.



Coffee Pot

Tired of your own company? Then join our 'virtual' Coffee Pot 10.30-11.30 a.m. every Tuesday. Full details are posted on our facebook page. If you haven't used Zoom before, please contact Tim or a church steward.

Church Notice Board Whimsy

*SERVICES CANCELLED
GOD IS MAKING HOUSE CALLS*

Edgewood Congregational Church

Yorkshire Preachers: no.6

John Castillo: 1792(?) - 1845 (Wesleyan)

Stone mason by trade and gifted dialect poet, Castillo was born near Dublin to an Irish father and a Yorkshire mother (née Mary Boanas). The family moved back to Lealholm near Whitby in

1795 and he was based there for most of the rest of his life.

As a skilled mason, Castillo's work involved a great deal of travelling to different jobs. This is most likely the reason why, as he admitted, his name never appeared on any circuit plan. Nevertheless, carved on his gravestone in Pickering are the words,

"He was an original and successful local preacher, among the Wesleyan Methodists for many years".

In 1968 Castillo's biography was written and published by the Revd. D, Quinlan, parish priest of Egton Bridge, who states that "Castillo's verses were once household words in North Yorkshire". They are among the classics of Yorkshire dialect poetry.

Here is the one he wrote for his own tombstone:

"Bud noo his eean's geean dim i' deeth
Nee mare a pilgrim here on earch;
His soul flits fra' her shell beneath
Tee reealms o'day
Whoor carpin care an' pain, an deeth
are deean away."

Jane Mansergh

Dear God,

I was cleaning the bath the other day - not something you often hear me say as I have a natural aversion to domesticity (hoovers, ironing boards and cookers all seem to conspire to injure me!) as well as an allergy to most cleaning products. But there I was, trying not to inhale and idly wondering why, if we can get people to the moon, we can't invent self-cleaning baths, when I found myself humming a hymn. The writer was the metaphysical poet, George Herbert and the verse was "A man that looks on glass, on it may stay his eye; or if he pleaseth, through it pass, and then the heaven espy." Needless to say I had

visions of this learned 17th century preacher in full robes with a bottle of Cillit Bang (other cleaning products are available!) attacking a grubby window with his squidgee. Which brought me to St Paul "seeing through a glass darkly" and rubbing away with a bit of spit and shirt-sleeve. When I first started to wear spectacles my Dad told me it was important to always clean them daily because, "you can't be optimistic with misty optics". He's right - there's nothing worse than bleary lenses for making you feel down. All you see is the muck and not the view - but rub them over with a cleaning cloth and suddenly things start to sparkle. Just like my bath, once I'd cleaned out the gunk and hairs in the plughole and applied a bit of effort it began to look much better. I couldn't spy the heavens, but I did feel a sense of achievement and in the current situation, I'll settle for that as a positive.

Yours - now sitting with a cup of coffee,
Old Lil Nongle



Tip No.2

Never put warm or hot food into the fridge or freezer as this will make the fridge work extra hard to try and keep it cold; always allow food to cool down first.

Borrowed from the Anglican Green Fingers website.

Nominations for Church Officers 2021/2

We are looking for nominations for our church officers and invite you to send them to Tim or any current church steward. You will need the consent from the nominee and, ideally a seconder too.

We are seeking:
Church Council Members
Church Stewards

Thank you all in anticipation.

OLD TESTAMENT QUIZ

Give yourself double points if you know the answer without your bible (or Google)

1. What is the first word in the Old Testament?
 2. What is the last word in the Old Testament?
 3. Who was the older brother of Moses?
 4. Whose wife was turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back?
 5. How many years did Noah live for after the flood?
 6. The book of Esther is unique because it does not mention which word?
 7. Adam and Eve had three children. Name them.
 8. In which book of the Bible is the parting of the Red Sea?
 9. Who wrote the 23rd Psalm?
 10. What kind of wood was Noah's ark built from?
- (Answers next time)

Putting our hand into the hand of God

By the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference

It was only when I came to Harrow and began commuting to the office that I really noticed

how dark the mornings are in January. It's a feature of the year that as the days get longer following the solstice it is in the evening that the effect first becomes noticeable. Although the sun does rise a little earlier each morning, it can feel as if it is actually getting darker. For many, going back into lockdown in England and the similar restrictions in Wales and Scotland will have had a similar effect. We know that Spring is on its way, but our hope and joy have been tempered by the steep rise in the number of deaths from coronavirus and the warnings about the transmissibility of the new variant. We need to put our hand into the hand of God.

The day before the second lockdown began I stood at a graveside and read Psalm 23. 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, because you are with me.' The good news remains the good news – God is with us.

THANK YOU to all those who have contributed to this and previous newsletters. We are always happy to receive new contributions (quizzes don't have to be biblical!). Please send them to Wendy or Philip and we'll see that they are published.



We pray for all those who have suffered over this past year and pray that the families who have lost loved ones will know your peace, comfort and strength at this time. We continue to pray for all those working to care for those who are sick and those who are seeking to comfort the dying and the bereaved. Help us to remember that even in these difficult days God is still with us. Amen.

(by Carolyn Lawrence, Vice-President of Methodist Conference)