

Egremont **Methodist** Church 

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Quarterly Newsletter
March - May 2025

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Allowing God to take us out of our Comfort Zone

In a recent service I said that we all have God given gifts, referring to Paul in 1 Corinthians telling us that each one of us is an important part of the body of Christ. Some of these gifts we may feel very comfortable in using. However, as Gillian reminded us in a recent Café worship service, sometimes God will call us out of our comfort zone to use new and yet undiscovered gifts. Many years ago I was working for the Methodist Church in a different part of the country. As part of this role I had to go into the local primary school to take assemblies on a regular basis. I wasn't looking forward to taking my first assembly and went in with great trepidation. God got me through that assembly and as I took a few more assemblies I discovered that I really enjoyed taking them. Taking assemblies was not on my radar, but it was on God's radar and part of God's plan for me. May you be open to allowing God to take you out of your comfort zone, knowing that as he calls you to new and sometimes scary ways of serving him, he will equip you with the power of God's Holy Spirit.

John Wilson

A prayer in anticipation of the challenge of Lent

As we approach Lent here is a prayer to stimulate our thinking and prayer life. It is taken from Roots 2008 but it's as relevant today as it was then.

May this Lent be a time of risk as never before:

the risk of being still;

the risk of listening;

the risk of being vulnerable and open to the touch of love;

the risk of meeting Jesus as he walks the roads and streets on his way to Jerusalem;

the risk of following him;

the risk of trusting him;

the risk of calling others to his cross and to his empty tomb.

Lord, set us free this Lent to be your people and your church.

Amen.

Contributed by Gillian Bounds



Tributes to those who have passed on since our last Newsletter

Margaret Alderson

Margaret was a much-loved member of our Church. She worshipped with us regularly until she sustained a nasty accident late last year which altered her life completely. She lived a full life when she was fit, working in the garden centre the family used to run. She knew a lot about plants and shrubs, and she maintained her gardening skills right up to the time of her accident.

She was a school teacher in her working life, was a member of the local flower club, was on the committee of the NSPCC and also a member of Rotary. She was also an active member of the Church, taking part in its various activities but most of all she was known for her beautiful flower arranging, especially over the Christmas period when she and Christine got together to do some splendid arrangements.

She is a big miss to us all, but we know that she is now at peace and free from pain.

Ann Clarke

Ann was a much-loved member of our Church until she and John moved to Grange over Sands. She was our regular organist, was a member of the Church Council and took part in all the various activities of the Church. She was also at one time a Circuit Steward - quite an onerous job, which she did very diligently. I know at one time she took an Open University degree in maths, a very big undertaking.

Unfortunately Ann developed dementia so her last few years have been difficult, but she passed away peacefully in December.

Alf Cusick

Alf was a regular member of our coffee morning for many years and hence very much part of our Church family. He had many friends at the coffee morning and we all got to know him well. He was a real gentleman and loved by many.

We all miss you Alf.

Margaret Hargreaves

Lent Lunches

We will be joining with ecumenical friends for Lent Lunches again this year. As we no longer have the people available to host them in our building, Churches Together/The Mission Community will be supporting the lunches in St. Bees. Head along to New College Hall (next to the Priory) on Saturdays 22 and 29 March, and 5 and 12 April, between 12noon and 1.30pm and enjoy soup, bread and cheese and fellowship. Charity donations will be received.

Katie Bell

Carol Service followed by Christmas Dinner

The carol service was led by John Wilson and was a very enjoyable service with lots of very well-known carols and three very meaningful meditations read by John which gave us food for thought.



Following the service a Christmas dinner was laid on and what a splendid meal it was. The tables were set with Christmas cloths, candles and generally looked beautiful. What can I say about the meal? This was a full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings and well served by many helpers. Following this there was a choice of sweets and tea or coffee. This was a great time of fellowship and an enjoyable time had by all.

I would like to thank all who were involved in the planning, cooking and serving of the meal – very well done indeed. There was a lot of hard work involved but it was much appreciated.

Margaret Hargreaves

(Although not a fund-raising venture, £385 was raised at the Christmas Dinner which more than covered costs. Editor)

John's Joke

Last week I went to the doctors because I had been hit on the head by a set of bongos. The doctor examined me and said that I had a case of slight percussive.

Tree-planting

The afternoon of Saturday 8 February was overcast but calm, when our intrepid bunch of tree-planters convened outside Calderbridge. The mission was to plant as many as possible of the 420 trees that had been donated to our church by The Woodland Trust, to create a new native hedgeline along the top edge of Crake Nest wood. We estimated we might manage to plant half of them in the couple of hours we'd allocated so left about 150 in the car.



We set off up the path, armed with spades, trowels, gloves, a wheelbarrow full of tiny trees, and some shortbread for sustenance. Once at the planting site, everyone chose a section to work on and the trees quickly went into the ground, serenaded by ravens and green woodpeckers amongst other residents. After planting each section, we surrounded the trees with a layer of brash (twigs from previously pruned/felled trees) to help prevent deer from nibbling the new leaves. Alistair was sent to retrieve the remaining trees from the car, and amazingly, between our group of 9, all 420 were planted (actually 419 because I found one little rowan left in the wheelbarrow when we got home! It has been planted in a pot until we can take it back).



See future newsletters for updates on how the Egremont Methodist Church hedge is growing. Alternatively, feel free to go and see it for yourselves - ask Katie or Alistair if you'd like directions (although the trees are currently too small to find unless you know where they were planted).

Thank you and well-done planters!

Katie Bell

What the Eye Cannot See

We all love our church. Every Sunday we meet together as friends for fellowship with each other, knowing that the Spirit of God is with us. The building looks good, the heating is on, the flowers lend a bit of colour to the place, the screen and microphone are in situ and thirty or so chairs have been set out to be sat upon. The church furniture – communion table, bible and stand, lectern and, most important of all, the Cross – completes the picture. It is a lovely atmosphere and it is so, so comfortable.

Throughout the week our building is used in many different ways and various community events take place there. After the Sunday service it is stripped of all the artefacts required for a church and it becomes a church hall until the following Sunday when it is set up once again for the church service.

How does this happen? How are chairs removed from the back storage space into the main hall? Where do the flowers come from? Who organises all the IT stuff? – certainly not me! Who checks that a preacher is definitely coming and arranges for readers and piano or organ music? Who counts the offering and who ensures that it goes to the bank and, very importantly, who keeps the church accounts? Who keeps the building clean? Who looks after the bricks and mortar? Who regulates the heating? Who fixes things when it all goes wrong?

There is so much more to keeping a church and its buildings going than many of us realise.

It is our regular church members who undertake all these tasks, and we are very grateful to them. Their skills are invaluable, and we appreciate their commitment to the church and its survival. We are grateful that we don't have to pay accountants fees, administration fees, cleaning fees nor fees associated with problems arising from electrics, water, and the bricks and mortar of the building. We pay for the big work, but the manageable stuff is carried out by people in our congregation – one of whom who may be sitting beside you the next time you are at a church service. The volume of physical work involved in keeping the church and its building going is enormous and most of us are unaware of it. We cannot see behind the scenes – we only see the finished product and we enjoy immensely the fruits of the labours of others.

It is getting harder for those of us of advancing years. Although we may not be able to do the big things we once did, there are many small tasks which may be a possibility for some. In fact, we are considering splitting the large jobs into smaller jobs to make them more manageable.

Our main concerns at the moment are church cleaning and coffee mornings (Katie tells me that coffee mornings last year raised £2,500 for church funds) and it would be great if we could have some extra help with these. Those involved already (Janet, Margaret, Linda or Gillian) would be pleased to inform anyone interested about what this entails.

Linda McDevitte



Highlights of the most recent meeting of the Church Council

The Church Council met on 29 January in the Upper Room. Nick gave a special welcome to Anne and Eddie Taylor, as this was their first meeting.

Mike said that the 5-yearly inspection of church premises had taken place recently, with no urgent matters identified.

Gillian reported on how we are preparing for the time that John leaves in August, with several people already identified to take on certain roles.

Katie referred to the Energy Audit carried out last year. We agreed to set up an Eco Project group - see Katie's article below.

Doug reported that Churches Together had decided to formally close after more than 40 years, with the more local side of the Coast to Fells Mission Community being effectively the successor organisation.

Full minutes of the Church Council are available on the Church Noticeboard in the Main Space.

Alec Bounds

Eco Project Group

Following an energy/eco audit of our building last year, the January Church Council meeting agreed to convene a small group of people who are interested in helping with an eco improvements project for our church.

The project is likely to include a new roof (finally!), fitted with solar panels, and replacing the gas boiler with heat pump(s) amongst other energy improvements, which will help us meet our church aim of achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030. We will need people to help plan the project, write publicity, apply for grants, and meet with/supervise tradespeople. It will be an exciting project and if you are interested in playing some part, large or small, please speak to me.

Katie Bell

Pause to Ponder

"There are no crown wearers in heaven, who were not cross bearers on earth" (CH Spurgeon)

"The ox and the ass understood more of the first Christmas than the high priests in Jerusalem and it is the same today" (Thomas Merton)

Contributed by Jean Mille from the Methodist Recorder

Quiz Night



No-one submitted an article on Quiz Night (15 Feb), but it was very successful raising more than £350 for this year's Circuit Charity – The Cumbria Agricultural Chaplaincy.

I stayed in the kitchen during the quiz in order to operate the dishwasher, but I can say there was a frequent noise I heard coming from the Main Space through the hatch roller-shutter door, and that was the sound of laughter ringing through

into the kitchen! Congratulations to the winning group.

Alec Bounds

Upcoming Events for Children and their Carers

Egremont Methodist Church



Toddler Praise

Starting Wednesday 5th March
1.30-2.30pm
Then every first Wednesday

Songs Crafts

Bible Stories At The Meeting Place

Baby Corner Drinks and Biscuits

Free



For pre school age children accompanied by parents or carers
For more info contact John on 07737505387



Craft Afternoon with Afternoon Tea

*You are invited to bring your Mum,
Gran, Auntie or other adult
to The Meeting Place
(Egremont Methodist Church)
on Saturday 29th March
Between 2pm. and 4pm.
When we will be making gifts for
Mother's Day.
There will be
afternoon tea and lots of crafts.*

**We would love you to come
and join us.**

RSVP if possible to John on 07737505387 or
email: john@egremontmethodist.org.uk



Lent Courses

This year during Lent, together with the Mission Community, Open House Fellowship will be looking at the book *Women of Holy Week* by Paula Gooder. This is a series of nine stories about nine different, but interlinked, women. Starting with Palm Sunday and finishing with Ascension Day, these nine stories imagine what it might have been like to accompany Jesus in this final week of his life from the perspective of nine women. Some of them we know with certainty were there because the Gospels tell us they were: the widow with two coins, the woman with the ointment of pure nard, Mary wife of Clopas, Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of Jesus. Some are not mentioned at all, but someone like them was probably present: a woman journeying to Jerusalem for the Passover, the wife of a scribe, and a female disciple at the Last Supper. The stories also aim to travel from the outside in: from people who had the most fleeting encounters with Jesus at the start of the week to his most devoted followers at the end.

There are three opportunities to study the stories of these women during Lent:

Open House Fellowship will be exploring their stories on a Monday evening beginning on Monday 10th March at 7.30pm.

The Mission Community is running a Zoom session on a Tuesday evening from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. The Zoom link will be available shortly for those interested.

11th March - Introduction and Miriam's Story

18th March - Sarah's Story

25th March - Anna's Story

1st April - Susannah's Story & Joanna's Story

8th April - Salome's Story & Mary Magdalene's Story

22nd April - Mary, Wife of Clopas' and as further reading Mary, Mother of Jesus' Story

The Mission Community is running an in-person session on Thursdays, 1.15-2.45pm at the Meeting Place

13th March - Introduction and Miriam's Story

20th March - Sarah's Story

27th March - Anna's Story

3rd April - Susannah's Story & Joanna's Story

10th April - Salome's Story & Mary Magdalene's Story

24th April - Mary, Wife of Clopas' and as further reading Mary, Mother of Jesus' Story

You would be welcome at any of these sessions. Taking a Lent Course can be enjoyable, informative and an excellent Lenten discipline.

Gillian Bounds

From the Editor

Thank you to all those who have submitted articles for this edition.

Articles do not necessarily represent the official views of Egremont Methodist Church.

Alec Bounds

Egremont Methodist Church Dates

Regular events

Sundays, 11am to approximately 12 noon, Church Service at The Meeting Place.

Most Mondays, 7-30pm: **Open House Fellowship** at Emmaus, Wodow Rd, Thornhill. Includes worship, discussion of text in the Bible, refreshments, prayer. Phone Alec or Gillian Bounds, 01946 823659.

Wednesdays except for 23 April, 11am-1pm, **Warm Welcome Space** at The Meeting Place.

Saturdays, 10am – 12 noon, **Coffee Morning** at The Meeting Place.

The Meeting Place is used by several community groups during the week – see the poster on the Information board in the Meeting Place.

Other church events in March, April and May

All events at The Meeting Place unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 2 March, 4pm, **Prayers for Peace**.

Wednesday 5 March, 1-30pm – 2-30pm, **Toddler Praise** for pre-school age children accompanied by parents or carers.

Monday 10 March, 7-30pm, **Start of 'Women of Holy Week' Lent Course at Open House Fellowship**, Emmaus Thornhill.

Tuesday 11 March, 7-30pm – 8-30pm, **Start of 'Women of Holy Week' Lent Course (Mission Community)** on Zoom.

Tuesday 11 March, 7-15pm, **Mission Meeting** at Emmaus, Thornhill.

Thursday 13 March, 1-15pm - 2-45pm, **Start of 'Women of Holy Week' Lent Course (Mission Community)** at The Meeting Place.

Saturday 29 March, 2pm-4pm, **Craft Afternoon** for children making gifts for Mothering Sunday, with **Afternoon Tea** for their carers.

Sunday 30 March, 11am, **Mothering Sunday all-age service**.

Wednesday 2 April, 1-30pm – 2-30pm, **Toddler Praise**.

Friday 18 April, 11am, **11am, Giving out Hot Cross Buns** on Main Street.

Friday 18 April, 12 noon, **Good Friday service**.

Sunday 20 April, 11am, **Easter Sunday service**.

Wednesday 7 May, 1-30pm – 2-30pm, **Toddler Praise**.

Saturday 17 May, 8am – 10am, **Christian Aid Big Brekkie**.

Sunday 18 May, 11am, **Church Anniversary Service** led by Rev Nick Baker, with **Bring and Share lunch** and **General Church Meeting**.

Tuesday 20 May, 7-15pm, **Mission Meeting** at Emmaus, Thornhill.