



**SUTTON, BRANSHOLME AND
KINGSWOOD
METHODIST CHURCHES
NEWSLETTER
JULY & AUGUST 2011**



FROM THE MANSE.

Well, this is it, my LAST ever newsletter for this part of God's Kingdom! Ok, I may send the odd piece for future ones but this is the last time I will put most of the articles together and give you something to think about.

I wonder what you will remember as the last words from me? If you look at the Gospels they all differ on what were Jesus' last words from the cross, but then of course those weren't his last words anyway, what about what he said prior to his Ascension?. Mind you even these are recorded differently in the various books of the N. T.

Could his last words be suitable as my last words? Maybe you recall Jesus saying "Father forgive them, they don't know what they are doing" – could I say this about you ?? Maybe you recall Jesus passing on 'pastoral responsibility to John & his mother' – I suppose I am passing on my pastoral responsibility to Peter. Maybe you recall the pre Ascension words to 'go and wait'... but how long will you wait ? maybe you will await 'a comforter' – being a Hull lad Rev Peter may well bring you comfort as you end your association with Lancashire!

I suppose you will each remember my last words differently depending on who you are and where you say good bye to me. If you don't come to any of our leaving events and services maybe you will remember something I said a long time ago 'in your situation'. If you do come to something then maybe you will remember the song 'Friends' or a comment over a meal or something from the fun day. Maybe you are actually remembering something I said that you didn't like and that's all you remember me for.

Whatever you do remember then I HOPE and PRAY it has something to do with Jesus. If your memories include Ossy; Preston North End or Lancashire then great but IF they don't include me talking to you about Jesus then I am sorry I failed you.

My only purpose for coming here was to preach; teach and live Jesus and if I have come into your life or your family for any reason in these 8 years then it was in trying to serve Jesus. Please remember this if you want to remember only one thing about my Ministry here.

We have shared many great, and a fair few sad, moments. We have had many laughs and a good number of tears. We have 'taken the Church' into your community and welcomed your community into each church in a way that many 'non Sunday people' now consider they are part of one church or other – AND THEY (YOU) ARE.

If I have any regrets then I suppose they include not being able to welcome back into worship those of you who used to be so heavily involved but have left for one reason or another. I can only pray that I have helped sow the seeds for your return and Rev Peter reaps the benefits of your presence in worship and the wider church activities.

If I have any joys then they will definitely include those of you who have had 'phuff moments' or come to realise that Jesus is now a real part of your lives. Those of you, and the new things that have emerged, show that God is very active still in this part of the Kingdom, not least in the way Lansford and family have become so loved by the people.

There are too many people or things to mention but you are all special, there are things I leave behind that I will miss (and some I worry about) but those things I leave to God; Peter and you as you seek to continue to SHARE CHRIST'S MINISTRY in Bransholme, Kingswood and Sutton.

My Final words.....? Mark 8 v 29 and Romans 12 from the Living Bible!

God Bless MIZPAH

Rev. Keith and family.

FELLOWSHIP GOOD BYE POEM: written by Jenny Woods.

**Oh! Keith is leaving Sutton, we wish he wouldn't go;
It's going to be a sad goodbye, because we'll miss them so.**

**He's always had a friendly word and such a smiley face
It just won't be the same when he's not around the place.**

**We've got used to his accent though he speaks a different tongue
And though he's well past fifty now, compared to us that's young!**

**He's baptised lots of babies and married lots of brides
He's fooled around in pantomimes and made us split our sides.**

**He's quite a modern man, not a fire and brimstone preacher
And with the time he spends in school he should have been a teacher!**

**He's going back to Lancashire and leaving Yorkshires beauty
But we cannot complain because by us he's done his duty.**

**And so we must forgive him if he leaves us in the lurch
We mean it kindly when we say "he's left a Messy Church!"**

**We know he's such a football fan, his favourite team is Preston
When at those chilly winter games we hope he's got his vest on!**

**With Joanne and Rebekah, little Joshua and Liam
We know that Keith's new churches will be very glad to see 'em.**

**And if Keith misses Yorkshire and its native folks, the Tykes
Well he'll be welcome back here at any time he likes.**

**They say it here in Yorkshire and we all thought it was true
The best thing out of Lancashire was the M sixty two,**

**But now we all know better and we'd like to say to you,
The best thing out of Lancashire, the Reverend Keith, is YOU !**

REQUEST FROM CIRCUIT STEWARDS – RE: THE MANSE.

During the change over between Rev Keith and Rev Peter there are **MANY** jobs that need doing at the manse. Time is limited, the Borwicks leave around August 4th, the Barnetts arrive around August 22nd.

In those ‘gap’ days **HELP IS NEEDED** with Cleaning; Preparation for painting; Painting in most rooms; dusting and hovering after major building work and tidying up the garden etc.

If you can volunteer to help **IN ANY WAY** then please contact the Stewards :- Steve (796744); Margaret Grant (860644) or Val (896508).

BORWICK LEAVING SERVICES & DATES.

Just a quick check list of the dates of the things planned for our leaving.

Sunday July 17th 6.30pm Circuit Leaving Service @ Sutton.

Saturday July 23rd 10.30 – 2.30 Fun Day on Snooker club fields.

Sunday July 24th 10.45am Final Service @ Bransholme
Followed by packed lunch fellowship.

Sunday July 31st 10.45am Final Service @ Sutton (incl Hol Club)
Followed by Faith Lunch.

Wed. August 3rd We Leave the Manse for Garstang.

FUTURE CONTACTS.

Our forwarding address will be 122 Lancaster Road, Cabus, Garstang, Lancs. PR3 1JE. The phone number is not known at this point and our email addresses will change. MY Work mobile number will also change!

WELCOME SERVICE. Sun. Sept. 4th 2.00pm

NB! Our Lancaster welcome service is now at a NEW Venue, Ashton Hall in Central Lancaster and is NO LONGER ALL TICKET!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2011

The total collected for Christian Aid Week was £1576. Gift Aid can be claimed on a further £442. The Coffee Day raised £256 – many thanks for all the help that was given towards that, for the cake bake, for all the house to house collectors and for all the donations I received.

**Thank you all.
Ruth Harker**

ACTION FOR CHILDREN.

Sunday July 10th was Action for Children Sunday (formerly National Children's homes). Should you wish to make a donation to the work of Action for Children Margaret Parker or Jean Lunn would gladly accept any gifts and forward them to the Methodist children's charity.

AFRICAN ORPHANAGE CHARITY.

Many of you will know that Hot Chocolate were inspired by Jess Brownlee, one of its members, to raise money for a Christian Orphanage in Africa following a visit she made with Malet Lambert.

You will be delighted to know that following events like the pancake night, the charity donation from Barclays bank; a donation from mums and toddlers and a share of the money raised from the breakfasts then we will be presenting a cheque for £ 900 to Miss Dyer, Head Teacher of Malet Lambert before the end of term.

Malet Lambert will make that up to £1000 and forward the money to the orphanage over the summer. Thanks to everyone, not least Jess herself.

SUTTON METHODIST CHURCH WIVES & FRIENDS GROUP

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 7.45 p.m. in the Potterill Hall.

Watch this space for future speakers and events commencing after the Summer.

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FORTY YEARS AGO - The Newsletter – July/August 1971

This year, the Methodist Conference is in Harrogate and will be taking one or two rather historic decisions.

Perhaps the most important decision that we make will be the one regarding the admission of women to the Methodist Ministry. It is not the first time in Methodist history that women have been numbered amongst the travelling preachers. They proved to be great evangelists during the early days of the Methodist movement called 'Bible Christians' and also in the 'New Connection'. Today, women in the ministry will be a completely new idea. How will the Church react? It is to be hoped that it will react favourably. Whosoever God calls, it is to be hoped, the church will listen to, recognise and encourage that call.

Will they make good ministers? General Booth used to say (so it is reported) that the best men in his army were the women. Perhaps the men had better watch out. But if we are to be truly the Methodist people, we must remember that we believe in the priesthood of all believers. It is the duty and privilege of every Methodist to exercise his or her own ministry within the church. In these days, I believe the Church and its members are being called to discover again what is meant by 'commitment'. 'service'. and 'ministry'.

David W, Coster.

PS! 40 years on and some Churches have yet to follow our inspired example, and that of other denominations who made the move well before we did. We pray that all ages; colours; races and genders will be able to offer for all roles of ministry in the body of Christ, acknowledging how vital women were to Jesus. Rev. Keith.

FINAL HOUSE GROUPS – BY ME. (Rev. Peter will probably continue some).

Before I leave I have managed to fit in 3 more house groups to which ANYONE is welcome to attend, even if you haven't been before. They are on :-

Fri. July 15th 1.30pm @ Angie Meadleys – (ring 706525 for directions)

Tues. July 19th 7.30pm @ Nessie Briggs {30 Grizedale, Sutton Park}

Sun. July 24th 6.30pm in Potterill Room – REPLACES THE EVENING SERVICE.

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JULY & AUGUST at BRANSHOLME

At the time of writing Julia has just started her Maternity leave and will be expecting her first baby before the end of July. We wish her and Matt all the best for a safe delivery and look forward to seeing the happy couple, with child, in the very near future.

Julia will be off on leave until January and her role is being shared between Ally Martin; Lansford; Lesley; Audrey and a few volunteers - ? you ?

BRANSHOLME PREACHERS

July 17 th	Deacon Peter Ogle		
July 24 th	Rev. Keith Borwick (S)	followed by packed lunch.	
July 31 st	Lesley Humphrey		
Aug 7 th	Hall		
Aug. 14 th	McDonald		
Aug 21 st	Rev. Lansford	MORNING	NB! EVENING
“ “ “ “ “	6.30pm	Circuit SONGS OF PRAISE @ Bransholme	
Aug 28 th	McDonald		

BRANSHOLME WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Bransholme Women's Fellowship meets every Tuesday at 1.45pm.
Everyone is welcome.

All the meetings in July except 26th July will be games sessions. On 26th July, Zem Rodaway and Tony Garrett will be giving a presentation about their trip to Palestine and what they learnt about the area. Men are welcome at this special meeting. Friends from other Churches can also join us.

Women's Fellowship will close during August and re-opens on Tuesday 6th September.

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Bransholme Weekly Diary

Monday:	7.00pm	Worship Group
Tuesday:	9.30am	Table Top Sale
	1.45pm	Women's Fellowship
Thursday:	9.00 – 11.00am	Parent and Toddler Group (closed during school holidays)
Friday:	10.00-11.00am	Prayer Meeting at Church Open to everyone
Sunday:	10.45am	Sunday Worship

TRANSPORT OF DISABILITY AIDS TO KENYA

A work colleague of mine comes from Kenya and his family have set up a resource centre for their local community for aids in relation to various disabilities. My colleague is now collecting items (bulky or small) to take over later in the year. If you have anything that is now finished with and wish to donate it, please contact me. Examples of items are hearing aids, zimmer frames, wheelchairs, support items of various types. If you are unsure if something would be useful, feel free to ask. I can be contacted on 01482 854947.

Tony Garrett: Bransholme Church.

CHAIR EXERCISE GROUP.

On Tuesday lunchtimes, 12.15 to 1.15pm, Bransholme Methodist now hosts a Chair Exercise group. This is a 'keep fit' session to music, led by a qualified teacher, and everything is done 'sat down'.

If you would like to join this group, or give it a try, please contact Zem Rodaway; Audrey Hall or Ivy Gale for details. This is not a Church group as such and is open to everyone, regardless of whether they worship at Bransholme Meth.

NB! Bransholme Church and Messy Church / toddlers are running a couple of stalls at the Borwick's leaving fun day on July 23rd. HELP to staff both is requested. Contact Jean or Allyson if you can help for some of the event.

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THESE 'E' NUMBERS WILL BE GOOD FOR YOU !!!! E 100.

As part of my Pentecost Challenge mentioned last month I want to challenge myself to read the Bible more regularly (not just for worship etc) and need 100 of YOU to feel Spirit moved to help me.

In the 400th year of the Bible in English (King James Bible) the Bible Fresh movement have devised a Bible Reading challenge based on 100 STORIES from God's Word, 50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the new.

I would like 100 of you to read these stories with me BETWEEN SEPT 1st AND CHRISTMAS. Yes after I leave I would like us to STAY UNITED by reading the same stories at the same time (you don't have to promise to read one every day if it doesn't suit you - I usually forget too!!!).

By my leaving services I will give out 100 E100 leaflets with the readings and the challenge in them, but ask me if you know you want to be 1 in a 100!!! – I don't mind more people joining us – but I pray I can find 100 to join me*

GOING; GOING... NEARLY GONE. GUIDES NEWS.

At the June Church Parade we had hoped to make a small presentation to Mrs Tricia Burden from the Church as a thank you for all the work and dedication she has put into running Brownies and Guides, especially at Sutton.

Tricia decided it is time for her to hand over the reigns from this summer and will end her active service – which also took in St James in the past – at the same time that Joanne Borwick will stand down as a leader and Rebekah Borwick will stand down as a young leader. We hope Lorna stays on !

Unfortunately most of the brownie and guide leaders ended up being away at the date of that Church Parade and so we couldn't make a public presentation and vote of thanks. Instead representatives of the Church will take your thanks to the last meeting of the Guides in July. * THANKS TRICIA *

The two leaders who will replace Tricia and Joanne were also away on the weekend of that Church Parade and so it is likely that they will be officially welcomed at the October 2nd HARVEST Church Parade.

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Dear Group / Leader. Borwick's Fun Day Leaving Event Sat. July 23rd.

Hopefully you already have this date in your diaries etc but if not then we are holding a family fun day on the Sutton Leisure Club (snooker club) fields on **Saturday July 23rd** from 10.30 till early afternoon. This is a chance for the community of Sutton (& Bransholme) to say goodbye to Rev Keith & family {there are also Church goodbye services planned} as well as raise money and have a good day.

We are ASKING all groups connected to the Church to support the event in some way or other. The event will have a bar b q; side shows; bouncy castle; table sales; entertainment and more. Any profits made will go towards the work of the Youth Club & Messy Church groups at both churches HOWEVER any group supporting the event CAN raise money FOR THEIR OWN FUNDS. Could your group ? :-

1. **Organise a stall** (even if only to publicise your group) and staff it ?
2. Could you help provide **staff for other stalls** or competitions ?
3. Could you **help set up** for and / or **tidy up** after the event ?
4. Could you, at least, **publicise the event** amongst your members ?
5. Could you **help in some other way?** (publicity; donations; making things) ?

If you can answer YES to any of this above could you PLEASE INFORM the event organiser, Mrs Jean Wilson, on 795971 or jean.wilson@awsgroup.co.uk OR tell me.

(PS! If the forecast is for a VERY wet day we will relocate to the Church Hall)

TO EACH INDIVIDUAL.

Whether you are part of a group or not then HELP is needed for the event. Could you help set up on the Friday night the 22nd? MEET Church Hall @ 7.00pm and see what is needed.

Could you help Set Up on the Saturday morning? Meet Field from 9.00am

Could you :- sell balloon guesses for the Limo ride; Save a Penalty? Roll a Penny; carry a tray; staff a stall; share a smile; bake a cake; eat a burger; carry a black bag; provide a rain shelter / sun shade; BE USEFUL ???

THIS IS A COMMUNITY EVENT THAT NEED LOTS OF HELPERS.

Nb! NO vehicles will be allowed on the field on the day except for exhibits so please park responsibly in the village. Disabled parking is available opposite the field gates with access from Wawne Road roundabout. KEITH.

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JULY / AUGUST PREACHERS @ SUTTON.

July 17th Rev. Keith (S) *** This is a Confirmation Service ***
“ “ “ “ 6.30pm Circuit Leaving Service for the Borwick's.

July 24th L.A. Rev. Lansford & B. Renwick.
“ “ “ “ 6.30pm Rev. Keith HOUSE GROUP service.

July 31st Rev. Keith Holiday Club and Farewell Service + lunch
NB! NO EVENING SERVICE

Aug. 7th Gray
6.30 Rev. Viv Smith

Aug. 14th LA (See Ann Borrill for details)
6.30 LA “ “ “ “

Aug 21st B. Richardson
6.30 Songs of Praise @ Bransholme

Aug. 28th Agar
6.30 Rev. John Staton

Sept. 1st 7.30pm Circuit WELCOME Service Rev Peter and family.

Winnie & Marjorie – 100 not out 'soon'.

As Winifred and Marjorie are both going to be 100 on 27 August 2011 (God willing) and there are two families involved in planning what is best, I can only say that a Party might be great with Mum and Aunt Marjorie, her twin, appearing as 'stars', briefly twinkling and leaving everyone else enjoying the festivities. **I will try to be more definite after talking to the families involved.**

These are the thoughts of the Rippon family who are looking into using the Potterill room for a birthday celebration. Keep listening for more news.

Visitors at home and just cards would be equally welcome, says Stephen.

** I'm only sorry I won't be around for this special day – Rev. Keith**

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FLOWER ROTA SUTTON



10 July	W Winfield	17 July	M Grant
24 July	R Harker	31 July	The Bone Family
7 Aug	A Storr	14 Aug	R Taylor
21 Aug	A Houlton	28 Aug	A Borrill
4 Sep	M Lowsley		

CAKE ROTA SUTTON



10 July	Joyce, Julie	17 July	Ruth, Angie
24 July	Helen, Fiona	31 July	Rebekah, Brenda
Holiday break during August			



17 July	Elaine St. Andrea, Ruth		
24 July	Brenda, Phil, Lois	31 July	Margaret, Lois, Elaine St.
07 Aug	Siddle Family	14 Aug	Andrea, Ruth, Brenda
21 Aug	Phil, Elaine P, Margaret	28 Aug	Andrew, Ann, Bill
04 Sept	Siddle Family		

If you know anyone who would appreciate flowers on the Monday after a service please give their names to Doris B, Ann B and Jenny Wood whether they have been ill, sad or joyful.

Email Editor: sonnyj@sonnyj.karoo.co.uk or tel 702069
(for articles and mobile phone recycling).

POSTSCRIPT FROM REV. KEITH.

Those who know ‘my story’ will know that the most influential Minister on me was Rev Winston Graham from Northern Ireland whom I met on pilgrimage in Malta. Whilst clearing out for our move we came across ‘his last letter’ to his Glengormley congregation a decade ago. I will retype it almost word for word below as I was amazed how what he told them, I could well have written for you.

First a word of Thanks. We wish to warmly thank the many people who have shown us all sorts of kindnesses during the past 8 years (yes he did 8 too). We will always be grateful for the prayers; thoughts; generous and caring acts that surrounded us often. All 5 of us in the family (yes he had 3 children too) feel we have belonged to X Y Methodist Church and we leave a part of our hearts behind. We are also filled with a spirit of thanksgiving to God for the way in which He has blessed us and so often given added strength when needed. We rejoice in the way in which God has blessed the Church and our hearts have been warmed to see continued growth, lives newly committed to or re-dedicated to Christ. In all this WE have only had a small part to play because we are but members of a team led by God and empowered by His Spirit. We are deeply grateful to the many who serve this Church faithfully, week by week.

Secondly a word of Regret. When I came to Minister here I had all sorts of plans as to how I would try to fulfil my work for God and care pastorally for the congregation. Time and again every day needs and demands decided how my day must be spent. Although being Minister here has been a deeply fulfilling experience I regret that I have been unable to complete many tasks and duties because of time. I would love to have been able to care pastorally for the congregations in a better way with more sustained and regular visitation of your homes. This was often just not possible, but I want you to know that your needs and cares have always been in our hearts and prayers even if I could not be physically present in your homes.

Thirdly a word of Sorrow. During the past 8 years we have experienced many sorrows in our Churches, with many sudden or unexpected bereavements that have deeply saddened us all. Recently I spent some time in thought and prayer recalling these sad times and we want those families, who continue to sorrow, to know that we have not forgotten them. We remember many wonderful lives with thanksgiving and in the midst of tears rejoice that we believe in a Living Lord who conquered sin and death.

Fourthly a word of Disappointment. I trust that this word, spoken in love, will come as a challenge to those who read it. It has been a joy to see so many people of all ages gather within our Churches and halls. We have seen many babies, children, young people and young married come amongst us and this gives hope for the future. However not all seem to keep those sacred promises made at baptismal and marriage services to continue to be part of the Church of Christ. Also many people have promised several times that they will start coming to Church and have not yet done so.

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If you have made these promises for yourselves or your children and slipped away again from Church, I trust and pray that the challenge of the words you spoke in the past will come before you now. I look with hope and expectation to see all those who have made promises to the Lord and His Church fulfilling them. If you have left the Church for any reason, perhaps just because you have forgotten or lack of effort, come back amongst us. A warm welcome awaits from Christ and those who belong to His Church. When you come and find his love there will be great joy in heaven.

Finally a word of Hope. We have a strong feeling of Hope for your future. In the words of John Wesley we feel “the best is yet to be”. As a family we pray that God will continue to bless the work of the Churches we leave. We trust that many more will find Christ as Saviour. We look with confidence to the Leaders of the Church for the days ahead. Let the measure of our commitment to Christ and the Church continue to deepen. We must be seen to be a part of the body of Christ that continues to care, pray and witness. A church that prays, cares and witnesses is one that will continue to grow and be used mightily by God. The Lord does not look for greatness in what we do, but only that we are faithful and asks us to re-examine our priorities for prayer and Bible study.

HONESTLY THESE ARE 99% WINSTON’S WORDS TO HIS CONGREGATION AND OTHER THAN CHANGING THE CHURCH NAME I HAVE MADE HARDLY ANY ALTERATIONS. I DON’T THINK I COULD HAVE PUT IT ANY BETTER.

Winston finished that letter by asking the congregation gives the warmest of welcomes to the minister that followed him and I do the same for Rev. Pete and his family.

SEA – SIDE ROCK HOLIDAY CLUB JULY 27 – 31ST.

This will be OUR last holiday club and so the theme is a favourite of mine BUT without YOUR HELP it will be a flop. This year I cannot get as involved as usual (due to weddings; packing; finishing off etc) and so I want to BEG YOU to volunteer to help as many times on as many days as you can. PLEASE NOTE this is a Church Holiday Club NOT A MESSY CHURCH and so the Church must not rely on 3 or 4 people to run everything.

Look out for a planning meeting or sign up on a volunteers list! Even if you work midweek there may be things you can help prepare. Go on – BE A ROCK !

CHURCH OUTING. SAT. JULY 30TH.

Please sign up for the Church outing to Sowerby and Bridlington on the Saturday of Holiday club, it is OPEN TO ANYONE. However we have only got a 53 seater coach and so book early, so we can book another if necessary. See Jim Maslen for more information but the sign up lists are around at BOTH Churches.

THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR THE HOLIDAY CLUB POSTER

THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR THE FUN DAY POSTER