

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014



SUTTON, BRANSHOLME AND KINGSWOOD METHODIST CHURCHES NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014



FROM THE MANSE.

“Indeed, God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3 verse 17 NRSV)

Dear Friends,

Love them or loathe them, Christmas Fairs, Jumble sales and other fund raising events are all now a regular part of many a church calendar. Sadly we live in a time when without such events happening many churches would be in dire financial trouble and perhaps for some places these occasions are the difference between a church remaining open and its closure.

At the time of writing this article I find myself in the middle of a run of such events at various venues around our circuit. At one such recent event, something happened that perfectly sums up the heart of the Gospel message as outlined in our text at the top of this page.

I was sitting next to a lady on a stall, when she noticed that some of the buns she had made for another stall to sell were still available to buy. Without hesitation, she produced some money and instructed someone to go and buy the buns for her. “That’s a very Godly action,” I told the lady in question who looked at me somewhat quizzically.

“Don’t you see?” I went on, “First of all you made those buns, then you sent someone to pay the price for them and to bring them back to yourself! In the same way God who created the world sent his son into the world (as we celebrate at Christmas time) to pay the price for our sin and to bring us back (or redeem us) to himself.” Or as St. John puts it, Jesus came “...not to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

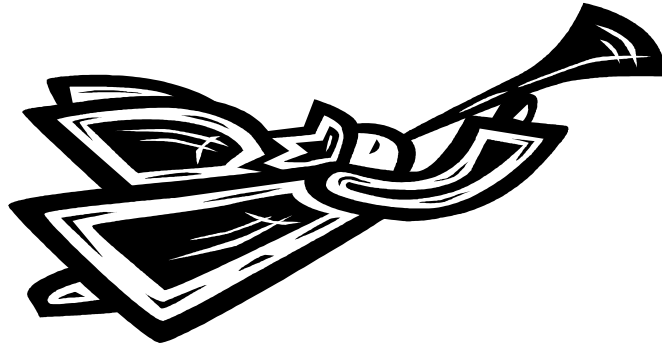
I think that event spoke to us both. Not only did it give us a practical and visual reminder of the very essence of our faith, but also served to remind us that the God who is with us wherever we go can speak to us anywhere and at any time – even at a jumble sale or fundraiser!

So the next time you find yourself at such an event, don’t just concentrate on what you are buying or selling, but have the courage to ask the living God if he has anything to say to you or through you to someone else. And the God of surprises may surprise you with an answer.

May you have a peaceful and blessed Christmas season

Peter

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FUTURE EVENTS

Wives & Friends, new programme available soon.

Christmas Services 2013

Sunday, 1st December
Evening worship “Come Sing Messiah” at Withernsea

Sunday, 8th December
10.45 am Toy Service/Parade including Jo from Home Start

Sunday, 15th December
Usual services
Victorian Christmas Fayre in Sutton Village, 2.00 – 8.00

Sunday, 22nd December
2.00 pm Christmas Crafts
6.30 pm Carol Service

Tuesday, 24th December
5.00 pm Christingle
11.30 pm Holy Communion

Wednesday, 25th December 10.30 am Family Service

Sunday, 29th December
10.45 am Joint service with Bransholme Church at Sutton
No evening service

Saturday 8 February – Panto –Treasure Island

No baptisms in December – next service Sunday, 26th January 2014 at 12.30 pm

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In December we are having the large general Christmas card as usual with donations to Action for Children (formerly NCH)

The proceeds from the Carol Service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will also be donated to Action for Children.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL OCT 2013

The property report outlined urgent repairs on the perimeter wall, condensation damage in the kitchen and essential work on the tiling in the passageway. Work on the kitchen will be carried out during the next summer holidays in 2014.

The Stewards reported that Robin and Helen Siddle are our new stewards and Barbara Berry has retired.

The Finance Committee reported our church playgroup had a successful year and savings were made on property repairs. However unless collection money income improve s we will be looking at a deficit next year. A large donation is to be received from a will. This will be used for the work on the kitchen.

The Scouts requested to do some fundraising and the Beavers want to do something for their community award.

The Remembrance book is to be updated.

J Gay.

THANK YOU to everyone who has made kind enquiries and sent messages of support since hearing of my health issue. I continue to recover at home, after a positive result from my consultant so far. I am now waiting for details of further treatment. My good wishes to you all.

Michael Whitton

As another year draws to a close and the madness begins once again, I would like to take a moment to thank all of you who have worked so hard to keep things running smoothly. I don't think we always

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appreciate how much work it takes to ensure everything happens safely and when it should, but I am really grateful to everyone.

In particular I must thank all the Stewards for their hard work and support, all those who serve on committees or raise funds, those who clean and tidy, who carry out repairs and keep the garden looking beautiful, the tea/coffee servers, the cake bakers, the youth workers, the flower arrangers, the organists, the computers operators and sound and vision engineers, the newsletter editor, the pastoral visitors, the door stewards, the Mums and Tots and Playgroup staff, those who run the uniformed organisations, the worship leaders, the readers and group organisers and lastly, but by no means least, the minister and his wife and, of course, visiting preachers.

I am sure I will have missed someone off this lengthy list and I hope you will understand that it is difficult to sit and think of every aspect of our church life. We have a wonderful community spirit at Sutton and I am truly thankful to belong.

Every blessing for a wonderful Christmas and 2014.

Margaret Parker



Christenings

All the congregation are invited to stay for the Christenings after the service and welcome the families to the Church. They take place on the last Sunday of every month.

Hull Methodist Women's Luncheon Club

The Methodist Women's Luncheon Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at Kingston Theatre Hotel, Kingston square, Hull. We enjoy fellowship, a good meal and have a varied programme of speakers or musical entertainment.

Any lady wishing to join us will be made very welcome.

If you require any further details, please contact Margaret Bettley Tel. 799512 (Circuit Rep)

WEAK and HEAVY LADEN

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**On the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday we held our usual Memorial Service for bereaved families and friends .Fifty + people attending including a group of ladies from Bilton Grange Church. All were given a warm welcome and time during the short service for reflection and grieving. All enhanced by candles, flowers and Margaret Grants playing. Later people enjoyed a hot drink and were able to chat or sit quietly as appropriate to them. I would encourage others to attend a similar service next year.
Yours Elaine Plumb**

METHODIST PRAYER HANDBOOK

The Methodist Prayer handbook is now ready and available from Pat Dyson, priced £3.50 each

EXPLORING CRAFTS

EXPLORING CRAFT group meetings for 2013 are completed.

Dates for 2014 start with:

Friday 10th January 2014 at Ings Library 10 am to 12 noon) weather permitting

Wednesday 22nd January at Central Library 10 am to 12.30pm)

Every Tuesday during the Bransholme Methodist Church Coffee Morning 9.30 to 11.30 am.

Future meetings on second Friday each month at Ings Library and fourth Wednesday each month at Central Library

Enquiries to Linda Whitton, in church or tel 783517.

PLUS GOOD NEWS for Exploring Craft -

We are fortunate to have just been awarded a substantial grant from the Healthier Hull Project which was set up to explore interests and activities to encourage Hull people to be involved and active in a wide variety of projects. This grant means we can buy more equipment and materials for our existing crafts and also explore a wider range of craft projects.

Knit &Stitch meets at Bransholme Methodist Church every Tuesday 9.30 to 11am. All welcome. Bring a project, or learn a new one, or just come along and see what we do.

**Is there a craft project you would like to do or learn?
Contact Linda Whitton tel 783517 for any enquiries.**

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THE CHURCH LIBRARY is open in the Primary Room after Sunday morning services. Also books at 50p each, and a variety of greetings cards from 50p, are on sale for Church funds.



PRAYER BOARD

If you would like to have a prayer included in the service the Prayer Board is in the church and the prayers will be included in each Communion service.

FORTY YEARS AGO – The Church Newsletter, December 1973

The minister's letter:

“No room, no room”, cried the Mad Hatter and March Hare, sitting at the long empty tea table. “Don't be silly”, replied Alice, “there's plenty of room!” “Alice in Wonderland”, I find, is often “spot on” in portraying many of the current situations and attitudes. Maybe it is because the world is actually as mad as Alice's Wonderland.

“No room” is a often the cry of people when faced with the needs of others. It is the cry when we receive the many charitable appeals at Christmas to help the many less fortunate people, some in acute misery. “No room – no money” we say as we indulge in our often selfish Christmas spending.

“No room” is our plea when we know that some poor soul will be spending Christmas entirely on their own. “No room” we say because we will be having family and friends popping in.

“No room” we say when coloured friends are obliged, for economic and political reasons to come and live with us in our country. “No room” lest we lose the splendid purity of our race and the great British way of life.

“No room” when Christianity and religious belief asks for a serious hearing in our modern world. “No room” in our clever, enlightened, sophisticated, technological world for that old-fashioned mumbo-jumbo.

Of course this cry isn't new. It is certainly as old as Jesus, for Luke tells how “there was no room for them at the inn”. John put it another way when he said, “He came to his own home and his own people received him not”. (John chap. 1 verse 11.)

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God, however speaks with Alice. “Don’t be silly, there’s plenty of room, room for everyone and their needs.” Of course there is if we have the right spirit, faith and outlook. The more we give, the more we have to give. The more we love, and more love we have. So, this Christmas at least, let us move over and make room for Christ and His needy friends- there’s more room than we think!

Your friend and minister,

Arnold S. Johnson.

FORTY YEARS AGO – The Church Newsletter, January 1974

Squaring One’s Conscience

Hold this square to your face and blow on it. If it turns green, call your doctor. If it turns brown, see your dentist. If it turns purple, see a psychiatrist. If it turns red, see your banker. If it turns black, call your lawyer and make a will. If it remains the same colour, you are in good health and there is no reason on earth why you should not be in Church next Sunday morning.

From a church magazine and reproduced in Reader’s Digest.



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Dear Friends of Bilton Grange, Bransholme and Preston Chapel and beyond.
Greetings from the Manse

Quote: *“One can give without loving, but one cannot love without giving”-Amy Carmichael*

Scripture readings: Isaiah 9:6 “For to us a child is born to us a son is given” John 3:16
“For God so love the world that He gave us Hisson...”

It was on the 24th December 1987: two years after our mum passed away. In a place called Murray Town Barracks in Freetown Sierra Leone. Dad had been to work with a promise to come back later to bring some money for us to do some cooking because there was no food in the house. With all the merriment around, after work, he may have headed down to his usual pub forgetting that me and my 7 brothers and sister were at home waiting and looking out for him. As we waited patiently on empty stomachs with our eyes on the clock, I realised it was almost 10:30pm. At this point, my younger sister and my brothers were dozing off. I made our beds on the living room floor of our single bedroom flat and we eventually slept hungry.

At about 12:15am on the 25th of December in my sleep I could faintly hear from a distance; local drums, shegureh, empty tins crashing and people singing: “Happi Chrissmess mi nor die o, tell God tenky for mi life o,” I jumped/woke up from my sleep, pushed the door to my dad’s bedroom...hummmmm he wasn’t there. Shortly after 1:35am I heard the front door and it was dad stumbling in the dark to find the way to his bedroom: he was highly under the influence of alcohol. I helped him into his bedroom; he then laid on his bed and slept. We all woke up on Christmas morning; it was the same story...hungry children, no food in the house and dad still in bed with no money left. At about 1pm on Christmas day, our well-to-do neighbours gave us a big bowl of rice and stew. It was hardly enough for 8 of us yet we were generous enough to put some of the rice aside to share with our dad who was still asleep. If not for the act of giving by our neighbours, it would have been another day (Christmas day) without food.

This Christmas like me and my 7 brothers and sister, some families in our community and our world will be waking up hungry with no food and no hope of finding food until a neighbour like you and me purposefully send them something. Some are trapped in alcohol/drug additions, others engulfed in poverty and hopelessness. How are we going to respond to these different challenges as a body of believers?

God so loved us He sent us Jesus. “For unto us a son is given....” Jesus came to take away our sins, our hunger, our pains, our worries, our troubles and to replace them with; Joy, hope, happiness, good health and prosperity. Like our neighbours in this story, let us share in love; not just a bowl of rice but the message of Christ birth, death, burial, resurrection and his eminent return. Until He comes back, let us depend upon the Holy Spirit to empower us to response positively to the challenges around us today. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. Amen

Rev Lansford Penn-Timothy

Minister: Preston, Bilton Grange & Bransholme Methodist Chapels

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DECEMBER/JANUARY at BRANSHOLME

Bransholme Women's Fellowship

Bransholme Women's Fellowship now meets once a month on a Tuesday. This meeting is open to anyone to attend from both churches. The next meeting will be on 3rd December at 2pm at Holderness Road and then will be closed until further notice.

Bransholme Weekly Diary

Monday:	4.00pm	Worship Group
Tuesday:	9.30am	Table Top Sale
	1.45pm	Women's Fellowship (monthly)
	Closed from 4th December till further notice	
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

Preachers at Bransholme - December/January - 10.45am (unless stated otherwise)

Dec 1	Lezlee Mennell
Dec 8	Denys Fell
Dec 15	Julia Sheard (Messy Christmas)
Dec 22	John Richardson (Carol Service)
Dec 24	Christmas Eve (Tuesday - 2.30pm) - Carols By Candlelight
Dec 29	Morning service at Sutton
Jan 5	Rev Lansford Penn-Timothy
Jan 12	Peter Ogle
Jan 19	Jean Gray
Jan 26	Joan Richardson

Transport of disability aids to Kenya

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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. Please do not donate items which belong to Social Services as such items need to be returned. I can be contacted on 01482 854947. We are also collecting money to pay for transporting the items to Kenya.
Tony Garrett: Bransholme Church

Bransholme Table Top Sale

Every Tuesday 9.30 – 11.30am

EVERY TUESDAY, COFFEE MORNING AT BRANSHOLME METHODIST CHURCH.

Nearly new clothes, books, bric-a-brac, refreshments

Please check with Jean Lunn or listen to Church notices for details of Christmas closure.

Worship and Prayer Groups at Bransholme

The Worship Group (Mondays at 4pm) and the Prayer Group (Fridays at 10am) will continue to meet as usual – weather permitting. Anyone is welcome to attend either of these groups. Please contact Jean Lunn on 836725 for further information, especially about dates. We will close over Christmas.

BRANSHOLME METHODIST CHURCH WISH ALL THE NEWSLETTER READERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR



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Flower Rota



1 Dec J Wiles
December ADVENT FLOWERS

Cake Rota



1 Dec Ruth, Angi
8 Dec Helen, Fiona
15 Dec Joyce, Julie
22 Dec Ann, Brenda
29 Dec Ruth Angie

Coffee Rota



1 Dec Siddles Family
8 Dec Alison, Ann, Ruth
15 Dec Elaine C, Andrew, Phil
22 Dec Elaine P, Margaret, Andrea

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29 Dec

Brenda, Ann, Ruth

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

Newsletter printing & postage. To reduce these costs, we are now sending the newsletter to as many people as possible via email. If you would like to receive the newsletter “hot off the press” please supply your email address to the Editor at the email address below.

Email Editor: sonnyj@sonnyj.karoo.co.uk or tel 702069



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