

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014



SUTTON, BRANSHOLME AND KINGSWOOD METHODIST CHURCHES NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014



FROM THE MANSE.

Read Luke 15 verses 11 – 32

Dear Friends

In the 21st Century we are all aware of family and relationship breakdowns. Even the most traumatic circumstances (i.e. a funeral) does not always bring reconciliation to a family that has been divided by some historical act or argument.

Family relationships in Biblical times were not always perfect either. In Genesis alone we read of Abraham almost sacrificing his son Isaac, Rebekah engaging in trickery to ensure her favoured son Jacob received the blessing that should have been Esau's and Jacob publicly pronouncing Joseph as his favourite son by presenting him with a multi-coloured coat. And we all know what a family rift that caused!

The story Jesus tells in the verses above is usually referred to as "The Prodigal Son," although it ought to be called "A man and his two sons" for both have a part to play in the story and we can learn something from the actions and attitudes of both.

The younger son demands his inheritance and in effect says to his father "I can't wait for you to die – give me my money now!" Despite feeling deeply hurt by his son's attitude, the man keeps his feelings in check and gives the younger son his share of the estate.

Very soon the young man is trying to buy friendship and love by throwing his money around. But once the money runs out – so do the so-called friends. Lost in a foreign land and looking for any job he can find, the young man takes that which to a Jew would be the most degrading of all jobs – feeding pigs.

At this point the young man could not have fallen any lower. His actions in feeding swine were against everything he had been brought up to believe in – his traditions, religion, values and customs.

And so it is all the more incredible that when the father sees his son heading home – an outcast smelling of swine, the cause of a great family rift – he runs out to meet him, and welcomes him back as a son and not as an alien traitor. Ordering shoes to be brought for his son's feet, the man demonstrates that although his son had been a slave to every

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

vice and degradation known to humanity, he is now being returned to the freedom of being a son, a child of God, who has come home again.

Jesus says this is what God's love does for us. It raises us up when we fall; it transforms us from slavery to sin to the freedom of discipleship. So should we ever find ourselves lost in a far off country – be that a country of addiction, frantic busyness, overwork, simple ingratitude or neglect of our spiritual self – let us always remember that the God of reconciliation is ready to receive us with open arms.

Every Blessing

Peter

SEND A CHILD TO SCHOOL

The Rev Lansford Penn-Timothy has set up a trust fund to help local children in Sierra Leone. £100 will pay for 1 years schooling for a child.

If you would like to help as an individual or as a group making a donation please speak to one of our stewards. (See also Bransholme's article.)

Cheques to be paid to "Send a Child to School".

Thank you.

FUTURE EVENTS

Circuit Quiet Morning

Saturday 1st March at Elstronwick Church 10.00 to 12.00 noon.

Led by Rev. Lansford Penn-Timothy.

Pancake Party

Tuesday 4th March – Pancake Party night at Sutton Methodists Church Hall 6.30 – 8.00pm

There will be a quiz, games, stalls and lots of pancakes! Admission is 50p.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 7th March at 2.00 pm. Speaker: Deacon Jill Taylor. City Chaplin for Retail Shops.

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

Jumble Sale

Saturday 29 March in the church hall, 10.00 – 1.00 pm,

Please send all your old jumble including books, jigsaws, bric-a-brac and small items of furniture etc.

If you need anything collecting please see Robin or call him on 712814. We also need help on the day.

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.

Discipleship Group

This year several members of our circuit have been taking part in the Discipleship Course. This has been quite a challenge, entailing in-depth reading of the books of the Bible.

What a privilege to read a whole book at one time and exciting to read parts completely new to us that we have not read before. During each session we watch a DVD which gives us an introduction to each book and a little of the history behind it. Then, using the excellent study book material, we are challenged in discussing and thinking about each topic raised in what we have read. Not easy! It is, however, thought provoking and we soon discovered that none of us were brainy academics – just people eager to know more.

During the last session we were asked to write a Creed based on what we had read. You will see from the examples below, just how we were inspired and how we feel.

Creed (Example 1)

I believe that salvation is through Christ who died so that we would be forgiven and brought into a right relationship with God.

This salvation is through grace, not works, or adherence to the law.

This then leads to a freedom so that we can glorify God, trust Him and spread his message to all who will listen.

We can each use the talents given to us by God to love our neighbour as ourselves and show and teach God's truth, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We need to be faithful in prayer, patient in affliction and fervent in our worship, so that the faith can spread and God can be glorified.

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

Creed (Example 2)

I believe: that faith in Jesus glorifies God.

That we should use the talents God gave us to illustrate that the way to salvation is by accepting Christ as our Saviour. Though this will not make all times good times, it will show Gods greatness to others, and help them to believe too.

In loving our neighbour as ourselves we glorify Jesus by accepting His way.

I believe that Christ is the embodiment of Gods Law and that He frees us from sin, by his life, death and resurrection. He gave us the Holy Spirit and enabled access to God through grace, not through our own efforts.

We should live our lives in faith and reinforce ourselves in the Lord through prayer and praise.

We look forward to finishing the course and as ‘disciples’ we hope to be travelling on in our Faith Journey.

If you are interested and want to know more, have a word with Pat, Angie or Bill.

Pat Dyson

THANK YOU’s

BRIAN ALLISON

Joyce would like to thank all at chapel for the cards she has received ,and the sentiments they conveyed, also the kind thoughts and support throughout his battle against cancer, and everyone’s attendance at both the crematorium and chapel services.

Brian and Joyce have been members of Sutton Methodist Church for many years and the fellowship they enjoyed together meant so much.

Brian was a true gentleman, someone who would do anything for anyone and talk to everyone. He was well-loved by all, but no more so than by Joyce, their daughters Gill and Pauline, son-in-laws Steve and Chris, and five grandchildren Adam, Russell, Helen, Stewart and Caroline who idolised their grandpa. One of Brian’s loveliest moments in the months before his passing was seeing his first great grandchild Ivy.

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the pantomime a great success, this year we raised £1000 for church funds.

Robin and Helen

PANTOMIME POEM

**It's that time of year
when people shout and cheer
For it is pantomime time
it will be just fine
Treasure Island adventure
Doctors, pirates and more
Of course there is a dame
Well it would not be the same**

**We have a Dr Finlay
Say that in the Scottish way
Well he needs to take a pill
For he was always ill
Now dear old Ma Hawkins
Full of aches and pains
Lived in a tavern with son Jack
Who wanted to go to treasure island**

**They even have a cow called Daisy
Yes I know it does sound crazy
Simple Simon, a silly lad
Looked after Daisy, he was not that bad
Didn't want the audience to cry**

**So we couldn't let poor Daisy die
So like an old race horse
She did get saved of course**

**Benamina Gunn and her pygmies
Such a lovely company**

**Ate bananas, nuts and grapes
Even sang about Tarzan of the Apes
Has time really gone that fast
Well 20 years had past since
Abandoned by one legged Long John
Whom she thought had long gone**

**Blind Pugh a grumpy old woman
Gave the black spot to Billy Bones a
drunken man
Of course he died an instant death
Well he had to after such a threat
The Squires daughter Alice
Well she had to pay the price
So she ran away (as a boy)
of course it was only a decoy**

**On the island was a skeleton
He of course was lots of fun
Then pygmies captured the pirates
This made them so irate
Jack and Alice fell in love
No-one did disapprove
But that's Pantomime style
For everyone is so versatile**

Doreen Hampshire 2014

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

RAFFLE & TOMBOLA PRIZES

Please could you save any unwanted Christmas gifts for raffle/tombola prizes for events during 2014. a problem please contact Robin Siddle on 712814 and he will arrange collection.

Many thanks for your support.

Thank you

Helen

EXPLORING CRAFTS

EXPLORING CRAFT will meet at Ings Library Friday 14th March 10 am to 12 noon, Central Library Wednesday 26th March 10am to 12.30pm also at Bransholme Methodist Church during the Coffee Morning/Table Top sale, every Tuesday 9.30 am to 11.30 am.

Everyone welcome; bring a craft item or learn/progress with a new one at all of these craft sessions, or just come and spend time with other crafters.

THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Is open every Sunday morning after the Service. The books are available to browse over coffee or to borrow.

Have a look, you may find something interesting, thought provoking or provide an answer to a faith question.

Watch out for "FOLLOW THE HERRING", an event telling the story of the women who

worked with the herring catches along the coast. It is travelling from Scotland down the

East Coast and will be in Hull in June. There is much involved, music, drama (at Hull Truck) and displays in various venues, Holy Trinity and other churches and venues.

Also, local people are involved with making sea and fishing related items for the setting of the

various events; fishing nets, Herrings and other sea creatures.

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

Anyone interested can join in with the various parts of this event.

Please ask me and I will tell you what I know, which is more every time I meet up with the organisers! See me in church or phone me on 783517.

Linda Whitton

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, March 1974

Part of the minister's letter: (Rev Arnold Johnson)

WHAT PRICE OUR FISH? We have all been greatly distressed at the apparent loss of the trawler "Gaul"* and the 36 man crew. The high cost of our fish, part of our living.

WHAT PRICE OUR CHRISTIANITY? Lent and Easter, a season when we remember how Jesus fasted, denied Himself, was tortured and vilely slain. Since His day has flowed the sweat, blood and tears of countless thousands of Christians who have followed in His way. All the things we hold most precious bought at the highest cost. A cost others have met so that we might live.

**later confirmed*

MARCH at BRANSHOLME

Send a Child to School

The circuit is supporting the send a Child to School Charity, details of which are on the circuit website. We are no longer collecting hymn books, Bibles or other books for Sierra Leone and Malawi. We are still collecting cash or cheque donations for school fees, stationary for school children, used computers, laptops, children's clothes, toys, shoes, school bags, stacking or folding chairs and tables, and any other school related stationary or furniture.

Many Thanks for your continued support to these poor and vulnerable children of Africa.

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

In His Service

Lansford Penn-Timothy

[Sutton and Bransholme Newsletter](#)

Beloved, Life is worth living not because of who we are or what we have but it is because Jesus Lives.

[Palm Sunday \(Mark 11; 1-8\)](#) was the day Jesus entered Jerusalem to mark the beginning of the end of his ministry on earth. In preparing for the final show down, He sent His disciples to a village to get Him a donkey. While they were untying the donkey the owner came out and asked why! They replied “The Lord has need of the donkey” then the owner let them take it. Beloved what is it that you have that God has need of; He needs your time, your heart, your talent. They brought the donkey to Him and he rode on it into Jerusalem. As he rode down Jerusalem people put down Palm leaves and their expensive clothes for Jesus to walk on. But guess what? Jesus didn’t walk on the Palm leaves, the humble donkey did. Today if we humble ourselves like this donkey and allow God to use us, He will cause us to walk on the palm leaves of good health, peace, joy, prosperity, favor and love.

[Good Friday Luke 23:32-43](#) was the day Jesus died on the cross and paid the price with His blood for our sins: it was an old rugged cross of pain, shame and agony. On this old rugged cross there are opportunities that some of us will see and others will miss. The day Jesus was crucified two thieves were crucified with Him one on either side of Him. They both had equal opportunities, the one saw it, the other didn’t. One of them protested saying “if you are the Messiah save yourself and save us” while the other pleaded with him saying “Lord remember me when you come in your kingdom” Jesus replied, “today you shall be with me in paradise”. As you hang on the cross of ill health, pain, disappointment, broken heart, molestation, shame, disgrace, lack, hopelessness, oppression, suppression and fear: The question is. Are you protesting/complaining or are you pleading/praying? Whatever you go through in life good or challenging situations, I pray you will see an opportunity to invite God in your life and situations.

[Easter Day :\(Matt 28:1-15\)](#) Jesus died on the cross, He was buried but on the third day he rose from the grave. However the Roman authorities did all they could to cover up the facts of the resurrection on Easter day. In a desperate effort to cover up the resurrection story, the soldiers who were on guard at the grave side were bribed, to lie that “while they were sleeping His disciples came and stole the body”. Can you be asleep and yet see the disciples steal the body? Just like the Roman authorities, today the world discredits this story but we are living witnesses to that resurrection power ([Roman 8; 11](#)) Therefore, I pray that the same spirit that raised Jesus from the grave

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

will raise you out of every death and dying situation and circumstances. I pray that same spirit will heal, anoint, and abide with us all. Until He comes for His Church, I encourage you to abide in him, share your faith with other, be steadfast, unmovable always abounding in his work. Amen

Rev Lansford

Minister; Bransholme, Bilton Grange and Preston Methodist Churches

Lent and Easter

There will be no Lent study groups at Bransholme, or any of the other Churches in our Churches Together group. Also, there will not be a Walk of Witness through the centre on Good Friday morning. Sadly, we have not got sufficient people to organise any joint events this year. Some of the Churches may be organising their own events. If we hear anything, it will be in the Sunday notices.

Jean Lunn

Bransholme Women's Fellowship

Bransholme Women's Fellowship remains closed until further notice. Please contact Jean Lunn for further details.

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

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.

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

Bransholme Preachers for March

Mar 2 nd	Mr B Richardson
Mar 9 th	Mr J Morrell
Mar 16 th	Mr M Winfield
Mar 23 rd	Rev L Penn-Timity (Church Anniversary)
Mar 30 th	Mrs B Gallant

Bransholme Weekly Diary

Monday:	4.00pm	Worship Group
Tuesday:	9.30am	Table Top Sale
	1.45pm	Women's Fellowship (monthly) Closed 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

Somerset Emergency Flood Relief Fund Appeal

Since seeing the floods in Britain over the last few months on the news, it has been difficult to find a means of giving money to help those who have been suffering. Now there seems to be a way.

In response to the crisis arising from the extensive and persistent flooding on the Somerset Levels this winter, Somerset Community Foundation is accepting donations to relieve the immediate hardship individuals, families and communities are facing and support their recovery over the coming weeks and months. Support is already being

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

distributed, but we need to ensure we do everything possible to alleviate the immediate crisis and support a swift recovery.

For many it is the second time in two years they have been affected, and whole communities have been cut off for weeks. The response within the communities themselves has been magnificent, but there is only so much they can do for themselves. With your support, we will help families and communities get back on their feet as quickly as possible

We will use the funds raised to:

Provide emergency relief grants to people whose homes have flooded to meet the immediate financial burdens of moving out, pumping and drying, and emergency repairs. These are £250 and usually awarded within 48 hours of receipt of an eligible application.

Help those who face additional financial burdens as a result of the flooding, for example through loss of earnings, extended daily commutes and school run

Support local micro-businesses to ensure their survival and swift recovery as an essential part of the local community and economy through grants and, where applicable, loans.

Support counselling and other support services to help people cope with the emotional stress caused by the flooding in the short and medium term.

If donations exceed the immediate need outlined above we will use donations to help communities on the Levels increase their resilience, or retain for future episodes of flooding. As far as possible the cost of administering the fund will be taken from gift aid receipts, and no more than 10% will be taken from non-gift aided donations for administration.

By telephone : 01749 344949

By email : info@somersetcf.org.uk On the web: www.somersetcf.org.uk

By post : Somerset Community Foundation, Yeoman House, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 6QN

Heaven's Grocery Store

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago when I saw a sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store." As I drew a little closer, the door came wide open, and almost without thinking I was standing right inside. I could see a host of angels standing everywhere, one handed me a basket and said, "My child, now shop with care, for everything you need is in the grocery store, and if you are running short you can return again for more." First, I got some patience, love was just along that row, further down understanding, needed everywhere you go. I got a box of wisdom, a bag or two of faith: and asked the Holy Spirit to guide me through my life. I stopped to get some strength and courage to help me run life's race. My basket was getting heavy, but I still found room for grace. I didn't forget salvation, for salvation is for free. I noticed there was plenty, enough for you and me. I set off to the counter to pay my grocery bill, for I thought I now had everything to do my master's will. Going up the aisle I noticed prayer and had to put some in, for I knew that when I stepped outside, I would run right in to sin. Peace and joy were plentiful; both on the final shelf, songs and praises were hanging near for me to help myself. Finally I asked the angel "now, how much do I owe?" He smiled and said "just take them child everywhere you go." Once more I asked, "tell me, how much do I owe?" He smiled again and simply said "Jesus paid your bill a long, long time ago"

Brought to the Bransholme Church's notice by Robin Maunoury

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. 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

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

Flower Rota



2 Mar	J Lloyd	9 Mar	P Tinker
16 Mar	t.b.a	23 Mar	J Tyler
30 Mar	Easter	6 April	L Thomas

Cake Rota



2 Mar	Helen, Fiona	9 Mar	Joyce, Julie
16 Mar	Ann, Brenda		
23 Mar	Ruth, Angie		

Coffee Rota



2 Mar	Siddles family
9 Mar	Elaine P, Ann, Ruth
16 Mar	Margaret, Phil, Andrea
23 Mar	Alison, Elaine P, Brenda

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

30 Mar Andrew, Elaine C, 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