

STAYING IN TOUCH

February



Issue No 756 Sunday 8th February 2026



Lynn Clegg's celebration of
VALENTINE'S DAY
on School Lane Walton

CIRCUIT  COMMUNION
9.30 am at Trinity Wakefield every Thursday
12th February - Rev'd Naomi Kaiga

A Word from the Manse.....

Dear Friends,

Many of you will be aware that since we moved to Wakefield in the September of 2024, I have conducted funeral services in each of the four communities that I serve, Sandal, Walton, Crigglestone, and Newmillerdam. Many of these services have been conducted for existing members of the churches, who have lived and died in the faith of the Christian Gospel, but equally there have been numerous services for people outside the life of the Christian Church.



On each occasion, it is an enormous privilege to conduct these ceremonies, as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Methodist Church. I count it a blessing to have the privilege of looking after bereaved individuals and families and working with them to shape the kind of service that will enable them to grieve, to give thanks, and to acknowledge the message of Christian hope that should always exist in the face of death.

I am proposing to extend this ministry by offering the opportunity for a **Memorial Service**, when we can remember those who have gone before us, by remembering their names and lighting candles of remembrance too. In consultation with the **Pastoral Secretary, Sally Kirkham, and the stewards at Sandal**, we are proposing to hold a **Memorial Remembrance Service on Sunday 1st March at 4 pm at Sandal Methodist Church**. This will be a service for **all four churches** and an opportunity to remember those who have died in the four churches over the last eighteen months. Those remembered can be those from *within* and *without* the church - anyone whom we choose to remember and cherish.

Please can I encourage you to attend and participate in this event and share the awareness of this service with anyone whom you think might benefit from it. If you

would like a particular person to be remembered and their name to be read out, then please can you contact me, and we will begin to collate a list of those to be remembered in preparation for the beginning of March. By its very nature, this is likely to be an *emotive* occasion that will touch us all in diverse ways, so we all need to be aware of the people we need to support and the people who might value being accompanied to such a service.

With peace and blessing,

Julian



I will find you.
If it takes,
a thousand years.`
Words, of the soundtrack
from the film `Last of the Mohicans`.
Haunting.
Delicate, brutal, beautiful.
Words which God may utter...to us?
We cannot sink so low,
that God will never find us.
Truth.
No matter what.
Whatever has happened, and no matter what
we`ve done....God is there.
He will find us....if it takes a thousand million
years.
No sweat, no tears.
Just wait and see.
`The wondrous Majesty of God`s Great Glory.`
ALL, will see`.

Maggie

PAUL GLASS LECTIONARY LEANINGS

Matthew 5. 13-20 Inside and Outside



Salt and light.

One is about the inner world - the other is centred on the outer.

Salt is about the inner - about working through ingredients to

transform and blend and add texture.

It is about the inner life of taste and flavour.

Bringing out character and transforming the life of food.

It changes our inner perception and experience.

Light is about the outer life.

Seeing the world around us.

Enabling us to see things that otherwise might have remained hidden.

Sometimes harsh in its brightness, sometimes gentle in its glow.

It transforms our experience of the outer world.

Shining understanding, highlighting detail.

Our journey of faith contains both elements.

If the inner spiritual life loses its flavour -

the life of prayer becoming hesitant and repetitive,

the journey of discovery becoming lifeless and shallow

What then?

Or perhaps the outer life of discipleship loses its energy.

We no longer see injustice clearly,

acts of selflessness, words of love become few and far between.

We find it difficult to see things with clarity through a haze of other concerns.

What then?

So the growth of our life of faith is constantly this:

It is the constant journey of the inner and the outer.

The bringing of life to both -

the enlivening of the inner with purpose and energy.

The transformation of the outer with passion and intention.

It is about the constant process of moving forward.

Of seeing things in new ways.

Of allowing our inner and outer life to feed and develop.

It is keeping ourselves open and allowing

the Spirit to wash and cleanse and bring life.

It is acknowledging our tiredness and opening ourselves to be refreshed.

It is grace filled journeying and delight in surprise.

It is God

A MEDITERRANEAN ADVENTURE

Monday 29th September: As this was a free day before the majority flew home the next day, we had a leisurely start before catching the bus to Sorrento. Again, a full bus with standing room only but it got us there. Time to organise our trip for the next day, our last day in Italy before flying to Malta for four

nights. That done we headed for the shops, major highlight (NOT). Then our friends

suggested we visit the **Foreigners Club** which they had been recommended and had been to previously.

What a spot, a terrace overlooking the Bay of Sorrento over to Mount Vesuvius, and a table free on the perimeter. A light lunch, couple of beers, charming company and delicious Vesuvio ice cream to finish. A fabulous way to spend a sunny afternoon on the Amalfi coast. Back to the hotel to freshen up before heading back to the village. Meeting in a restaurant we had previously visited we met with several others to enjoy a last meal together.

My daughter, Caroline, had suggested we climb to the crater of Vesuvius where we could enjoy a glass of wine at the summit. Back to the railway station in Sorrento we boarded a train heading for **Pompeii** where we would join a coach to Vesuvius. The road up the mountain was narrow with hairpin bends, to say the least a hair-raising drive. The path was quite steep and consisted of lava and it took us about an hour to reach the top. I was expecting an extortionate price tag for the wine but in fact was only two Euros, so Liz got one as well. We explored the crater to get a better view of



the fissure which was smoking and then started the descent back to the bus. A hair raising descent took us back to Pompeii where we caught a packed train back to Sorrento. As it was not too late, we headed back to the Foreigners club to pass some more pleasant time before returning to the hotel. As there were just eight of us heading to Malta we enjoyed a final meal in the village. **written by Graham Lee**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sandal Methodist Church
Messy Church

Wednesday 11th February 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

All ages welcome (accompanied by an adult) for crafts, activities, worship, and food



Messy Church Extra

Monday 16th February 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

A new Messy Church inspired group for children in school year 6 and above

Crigglestone Methodist Church
FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

Thursday 19th February at 11 am

Shelley Wilson

'Creative Arts at Lakeside'

Refreshments from 10.30 am

Sandal Methodist Church
Sunday 22nd February at 1.00 pm

The Latvians are celebrating their 2nd Anniversary of worship at Sandal and invite all to join them for their service followed by coffee/tea and cakes

Walton Methodist Church
Saturday 28th February 9.30 am - 11.30 am

Charity Coffee Morning
in aid of **Heart Foundation**



The next JOTTINGS will be
Issue No 757 Sunday 15th February 2026