

STAYING IN TOUCH

March



Issue No 762 Saturday 21st March 2026



MALCOLM STEAD'S FUNERAL

Wednesday 8th April

1.20 pm A Short Service of Committal
at Wakefield Crematorium
2.00 pm Thanksgiving Service
at Sandal Methodist Church

CIRCUIT  COMMUNION

9.30 am at Trinity Wakefield every Thursday
26th March - Rev'd Kim Williams

A Word from the Manse....

Dear Friends,

As some of you will know, the Aire and Calder Circuit Meeting met on Thursday evening and accepted the recommendation that I should be appointed as the next **Superintendent Minister of the Circuit** from the 1st **September 2027**. This will mark, both the departure and retirement of the present **Superintendent Minister, Revd Barry Owen**. This recommendation marks the culmination



of a process of thought, prayer, and discernment for both me and the **Circuit Invitation Committee**, who are charged with the responsibility of trying to determine the appointment. This appointment will mark the beginning of a new circuit appointment and therefore extends to the **year 2032**.

The nature of this appointment (from within the existing circuit staff team) means that there is every opportunity for a smooth handing over period in the next connexional year (2026-2027), as Barry prepares for retirement and as I prepare to start the role of oversight in the wider Circuit. You will be pleased to know, that, certainly for the foreseeable future, the nature of my pastoral charge will remain the same - **I will still have the care and oversight of Sandal, Craggstone, Walton, and Lakeside**. I am delighted that I will have had **three years** of concentrated time, presence, and care dedicated to these four communities - time afforded for the building up of relationships and trust.

The new role will *not* be without its challenges, both in terms of time, energy, and responsibility but I have an inkling of this from previous experience both as a Super and as a Chair of District. However, in all these things, I am mindful that nothing is truly done in our own strength alone, but **through the grace of God who calls and equips his people to fulfil their calling**. Please hold me in your thoughts and prayers, as indeed you will all be held in mine over the next twelve months,
With peace, blessing and thanks, Julian



37th Wakefield Guides wish to thank everyone who supported their recent coffee morning. A total



of **£434.50** was raised and will contribute to the cost of those Guides who are attending the Poacher International Jamboree in August. Thank you for your generosity.



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday 29th March



10.30 am Morning service - Mr David Dixon

6.00 pm Circuit Service

A REFLECTION ON HOLY WEEK

by Sandal Methodist Choir

'A Reflection in words and music
on Christ's passion and death'

SANDAL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CHOCOLATE RABBITS

proceeds for Church and Charity

Last orders Friday 27th March

to **June Jamieson**

on 01924 253953



SANDAL BOWLING CLUB

There will be no bowls on the following dates,
due to bank holidays and funerals.

Friday 3rd April - Tuesday 7th April

Friday 10th April



PAUL GLASS LECTIONARY LEANINGS
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John 11. 1-45 Let go of Despair
Embrace 'Respair'

It's a rare one - but that's okay.
 A word that has a rather beautiful meaning. The word is 'respair' - the opposite of despair.
 It means 'fresh hope,
 a recovery from sadness and despair'.
 For those moments when all seems lost...
 When life seems hard...
 When we're not sure how to carry on...
 or even if we want to.
 It is then that we become aware of your power...
 your power to unbind us when all seems hopeless.
 You do not rush past the community grieving the loss of their friend Lazarus.
 You acknowledge their ache - you feel that pain.
 But you are a God who brings life when all seems lost.
 You are the God of 'respair'
 Of fresh hope.
 A recovery from sadness.
 You sit with us.
 You feel those pangs of grief and loneliness and despair.
 This is not about ignoring those deep plunging emotions.
 It is about gently moving to another place.
 A place where the power of love sits gently and holds.
 A place where we glimpse hope and trace rainbows.
 This is about feeling held and healed.
 A place where what has bound us so tightly is lovingly stripped away.
 A place of rebuilding... slowly and lovingly.
 A place of 'respair'.
 So as we hold each other in grace and peace.
 As we pray and sit and share and love.
 May these acts be a powerful reminder of a God who is a God of 'respair'
 Whose power is deep...
 Bringing life and hope and peace

THIS COSMIC DANCE

Today we have the Spring Equinox,
 a perfect balance between light and dark.



A reminder, of the flow of the dance in the Heavens.

A dance, all around us.
 A dance, also, within us.

This energy is incomprehensible.
 This dance is magnificent and wonderful.

Very soon, the light will take the lead,
 casting darkness into its corner.

We will begin to feel lighter and more joyful too,
 as the bursting buds of blossom open.

We will open our hearts to the spring,
 feeling this energy and light.

The planted seed will grow and take form.
 With welcome and thanks, we greet our new partner.

A new dance, with lighter step and graceful flow.
 We will follow this lead into summer.

Winter has passed, and the fallow land stirs.
 We stir too, drawing life, like sap, to breathe again.

Love from Maggie

Wakefield Hospice
Sandal Fundraising Group

Friday 27th March 10.00 am - 12.30 pm
 at Sandal Rugby Club

Walton Methodist Church
Charity Coffee Morning
28th March 9.30 am - 11.30 am
 in aid of
THE ROYAL OSTEOPOROSIS SOCIETY



Sandal Methodist Church
Women's Fellowship
Spring Coffee Morning
Saturday 28th March 10.00 am - 12.30 pm
 - Tea/Coffee - Bacon Butties -
 - variety of stalls - tombola - raffle -
 tombola prizes welcome which may be brought
 to Church on the day



Sandal Methodist Church
Women's Fellowship
Monday 30th March at 7.00 pm
Speaker: Dr Jose Bates - 'Life as a GP'



ICELAND RAMBLINGS

Tuesday 18th November - Part 1

We were to meet after breakfast at ten past nine, the



latest start I think I have ever had on a touring holiday. However, the reason soon became clear as it was still dark. A coach ride through the darkness and slowly improving light brought us to

the **Pingvellir National Park** in time for the sunrise.

The colours of the snow-capped mountains were spectacular as the sun rose over the lake in a cloudless sky. The paths were ice covered and treacherous, Unfortunately one lady slipped on the ice breaking her arm, so a hospital visit was required. Fortunately, we had an Icelandic guide with us which meant that the English tour leader could deal with the situation and we could continue our exploration.

We walked through the **Almannagja Gorge** which is where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates are pulling apart, past the site of Iceland's first parliament and on to our first waterfall, **Oxarafoss** which was partially frozen and stunning but again quite treacherous. **written by Graham Lee**