

STAYING IN TOUCH

September



Issue 786 w/ending Sunday 6th September 2026



SCOTT HELLIWELL

'It is with sadness that I share with you the news that **Scott Helliwell** passed away on Tuesday evening.

He was surrounded by his family at home and died peacefully. Please remember Liz, Nigel, Alistair & Sarah in your prayers.' -**Julian**



Featherstone Methodist Church
Sunday 6th September
6.00 pm CIRCUIT SERVICE
conducted by Reverend Barry Owen

There will be no 4.00 pm service
at Sandal Methodist Church

A Word from the Manse.....

On Sunday last, many of us shared in a deeply moving moment in the life of our wider Methodist family as **Crigglestone Methodist Church** held its final **Service**



of Thanksgiving. It was a privilege to preside at this service and to be alongside these faithful souls.

Nearly **one hundred people** gathered — friends from neighbouring Methodist churches, members of other denominations, circuit local preachers, and many who simply wanted to honour a place that has shaped faith and community for generations. The warmth of that support was a witness and a great encouragement to the existing congregation.

There was, of course, a sense of sadness. Buildings hold memories: baptisms and weddings, hymns sung with full hearts, quiet prayers offered in times of need. To say farewell is never easy and we should not pretend otherwise. Yet the service was filled not only with sadness but with deep gratitude. We rejoiced in the long and faithful witness of **Crigglestone Methodist Church** — in the discipleship nurtured there, the fellowship shared, and the countless acts of kindness that flowed from its doors.

A further sign of generosity came through the retiring collection, which raised an extraordinary **£470.00 for CAP Wakefield**. This gift will support vulnerable households across our district, turning remembrance into practical compassion. It was a tremendous response and a fitting tribute to a church whose mission has always reached beyond its walls.



As we commend the Crigglestone congregation to the future, we do so with hope and faith. God, who has been their dwelling place in every generation, will continue to lead them. New paths will open, new ministries will

emerge, and the seeds planted over many years will bear fruit in ways yet unseen.

May we all continue to hold them in our prayers, trusting that the God who accompanies us in endings also guides us into new beginnings. The God who will not let us go will travel faithfully with his people though every season and time,

With peace and blessing,

Julian

BACK TO SCHOOL



Lynn Clegg's latest Post-box topper
on School Lane Walton

Sandal Methodist Church Men's Circle

Monday 14th September 7.30 pm

light refreshments from 7.00 pm

Speaker Dr Richard Vautrey CBE

Past Vice President of the Methodist
Conference

Past Spokesman of the British
Medical Association

'Speaking to the Media'

This is an open meeting - everyone welcome



PAUL GLASS LECTIONARY LEANING

A - Sunday between 4 and 10 September

Exodus 12. 1-14 Get Ready for God Good

morning...come in, come in. You're most welcome.

I know what you want to hear about. You want to know

what it was like
when we were told
to get ready for
God.

It's difficult to
explain it. We had
been so badly



treated over such a long time. When Moses and Aaron came to tell us to get ready we could hardly believe it. Yes there was a sense of anticipation but in another way we could hardly believe that after all of this waiting God was coming. That freedom was on its way.

The instructions were given to us with such reverence, such care. We knew that this was not just an important moment but foundational. That these simple actions, this getting ready - this taking and eating of food - this preparation would become something that is fundamental to who we are as people and our relationship with God.

And it was all about getting ready, the doorposts, the food, the prayer...it was shot through with meaning, purpose, symbolism. I trembled as I carried out these simple actions. I knew - even as I was doing it - that this would be something that would live for ever in the heart and soul of our people.

As I look back I could not have known what the future would hold. Desperate flight...the moving of an entire nation. The fear of being pursued - the journey into the wilderness where we would be tested, broken down, reshaped, built up again. I could not know any of that. But what I was aware of in those days of preparation and build up - what was very clear to me was the importance of being ready when God calls. Because when God calls - sometimes fast, decisive action is necessary. There are times when you have to respond right away.

I don't know what it might mean for you to be ready in that kind of way, that's up for you to decide - but let me tell you this...if God is going to move in your life you've got to be ready for it. Ready for instructions that might seem strange. Ready to move in a direction that might be very different from the one you thought you were travelling in. Ready for the surprising, the lovely, the slightly scary, the constantly unexpected.

God moves in mysterious ways... I've heard that before...bit of a cliché really...except I've found to be true and it's good to be ready to move too

Another South American Adventure

Wednesday 8th July



The day arrived sunny and warm ready for our flight to Rio late morning. We were collected at the airport by a young man whose favourite expression was "you guys" which our companions found a real wind up, but I just found mildly irritating.

The minibus was pure luxury with armchairs in which we were taken to our hotel on the **Copacabana Beach**.

A chance to relax after a hectic few days with time spent on the famous beach. Dinner outdoors in a beach front restaurant with a



group of retirees indoors enjoying a Samba night.

We returned to the hotel for a drink in the roof top bar with a wonderful view of the illuminated sea front looking across to Sugar Loaf Mountain, what a spot!

written by Graham Lee

SMALL WORDS

Two letters.

Three letters.



And their meaning?

The same.

Just a different name.

Let us consider for a moment.

Om God

Two and three describing Divinity.

Two words spoken, sometimes whispered, barely even heard.

Or screamed aloud, in panic or trouble.

Often, inwardly prayed, falling gently, inside a tear.

Hummed sometimes, and felt, deep within our chest.

The sound of eternity,

living now.

How we perceive The Almighty One is personal.

As individual, as our DNA.

And expressed by us in the differing ways, in which we pray.

Two more small words.

You Me.

Three and two, again. And we too, are the same.

We are from God.

We are Om.

We are spirit, clothed in human form.

We are One.

We are unique.

A paradox?

No, I don't think so...let us let go, of thinking too much!

And just `be`.

Flesh and blood. Spirit and soul.

All wrapped together. all part of `The whole`.

Yet let us not forget this Power.

For it is within.

It is written, it was spoken.

And lives with each breath exhaled, and drawn in.

Breathe with joy! **Love from Maggie**