

**Southowram Methodist Church**  
**Wesley News**  
**Summer 2010**



'Anniversary' lunch – April 2010

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There was once a young boy who thought the world was his oyster and that he was invincible and that he would live for ever. This young boy grew into a teenager and then into a young man and then became middle aged. In his life so far he had achieved many things. He had good grades at school, college and university and was now a manager in banking and finance. The world seemed rosy and his ambition was at its pinnacle. Suddenly there was a crash on the stock market and things began to look bleak. His world, as he saw it, began to crumble brick by brick until the carpet had been taken out from under his feet. He lost his job at the place where he had served his apprenticeship, his home and his flashy sports car, his so called friends had disappeared and did not want to know him.

As a child he went to the local church, Sunday school and Boys' Brigade. In his despair he returned home to his parents, who let him stay with them, even though there was little room. One day this young man bumped into an old friend, who had become a Christian and so he was invited to go along to the church he once went to as a child. There, he was accepted and welcomed once again just as he was the first time he entered the building as a child. Not long after returning to church he said sorry to God and his parents for pushing them out of his life and he became a Christian.

He then began to attend church regularly and got involved and his confidence and self esteem returned. He did not just turn up on a Sunday because it was what he had to do. He wanted to attend worship and get involved in everything that was going on, because he wanted others to know that God loved them as much as he loved him. This young man was a participant and not a spectator, he was a disciple and follower not just someone who was not really committed to Jesus.

The church he attended was on the verge of closing when he joined because it was struggling financially. With his skills in the finance world he was able to help organise events and think from a business perspective. More important though was the way he willingly shared his faith. He gave people in that congregation the spark they needed to reignite their faith and discipleship of Jesus. The church began to grow spiritually and in number and the church was transformed by one person first of all being invited along by a friend.

The man got his life back together and got another job with a different bank. It was very different from the bank he had spent his life in and things did not seem the same. In his working life he was not happy at all because of the loss of the bank he had worked and toiled for.

The man had lost all his enthusiasm and appetite and did not really want to work for a bank any longer, because it was not the same. The building was different and it did not suit his working conditions; he could not bring himself to see it as a bank but something different. The change was too much for him. So much so that he decided that he would leave the bank because he was only merely going through the motions, he had no sense of peace at all. The place no longer had the appeal that the original bank had and so when it came to getting involved in things socially or from a business perspective, he just couldn't be bothered any more.

Yet ironically at Church he was one of the most committed people there. God was calling him to go and do something else. So he decided to ask God what it was that he wanted him to do and the answer came in the form of setting up, organising and managing a homeless project run at the church. This gave him a sense of fulfilment and enabled him to share his faith with other professionals as well as those who needed help in a practical way.

This is only a story but it illustrates the acceptance and love that God has for us. God even loves the bankers who have put the country in turmoil. Surely there is hope for everyone! Those at the last Church council will know the precarious financial position of Southowram Methodist Church. Unless people are prepared to commit themselves and finances in following Jesus and inviting

people along to events and to organise events, then the future of the Methodist Church in Southowram is on life support, and the life support machine is in danger of being turned off for good.

There are still signs of life and there is a brief pulse, but how long it will survive depends upon the energy and commitment of those who are there.

Perhaps it is time to do something different in a different part of Southowram showing and helping people to know God's love for them.

God bless,

*Rev Paul Welch*

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First can I say 'Thank you' for the support and prayers that I've received over the past few months. I have now been diagnosed with Meniere's Disease and have to learn to live with it. If anyone who reads this also has Meniere's it would be good to hear from you.

Since coming back to work in January, I now travel on the bus most days, driving only occasionally. I travel the same route especially when coming to Southowram and Boothtown as I would if I drove. I see different things and meet different people as I travel. I see more of the beauty of God's creation as I am able to look through the window to see what's around rather than be concentrating on the traffic around me. There are frustrations with this, of course; I don't get to places as quick, or the bus doesn't turn up!

Our circumstances may change and we may have to do things differently, the one thing to remember is that God is with us. He is there for us, only a prayer away. The poem 'Footprints in the Sand' when the Lord is questioned about the times when there is only one set of footprints at the time of most need and the Lord replies:

*"The times when you have seen only one set of footprints in the sand, is when I carried you."*

'Through all the changing scenes of life' God is with us.

God bless

*Paula Prosser*

## **SOUTHWRAM GIRLS' BRIGADE**

### **11th Halifax (Southowram) Girls' Brigade**

Over the last few months the girls have been working hard gaining their badges. We have covered a wide range of topics such as baking with the Explorers and Juniors, the Monarchy with the Seniors and flower arranging with the Brigaders. All the girls have completed their Spiritual badge work which is a very important part of Girls' Brigade.

Every session of Girls' Brigade commences with devotions, so even if the girls do not attend church, hopefully we are providing some spiritual guidance at Girls' Brigade.

It is not all hard work, as there is always time for fun and games and time to chat, which enables us to get to know our girls, and with the help of Lisa we all love learning new crafts.

Before closing for Christmas, we held our Carol Concert when the girls took part in telling the Christmas Story through Bible readings, poetry and singing. The evening ended with coffee and mince pies. This was attended by family and friends.

Before closing for the summer we will hold our Badge Presentation Evening. We will also be taking the girls out for the day, destination unknown at the time, as some of the girls would like to go to the Beamish Open Air Museum, Magna at Sheffield or Fountains Abbey.

At the end of the session we will be saying a sad farewell to Mrs Joan Milnes as she has decided to retire. Joan will be greatly missed by all the leaders and the girls.

*Yvonne Wood*

### **Forthcoming event**

## **Ladies' Pamper Evening**

Ladies of all ages are invited to a Pamper Evening on Friday, 9 July from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm at the Community Centre, Law Lane.

Ten to fifteen minute taster sessions will be available, priced from £5 to £15.

- ★ Hair Stylists
- ★ Acupuncture
- ★ Make-up
- ★ Chiropidist
- ★ Beautician
- ★ Indian Head Massage
- ★ Slimming World
- ★ Aromatherapy
- ★ File and Polish (nails)
- ★ Chair Massage
- ★ Jewellery and Bags

Admission is £2, which includes refreshments

## Flower Plan, June to December 2010

<b>Date</b>	<b>Flowers supplied by</b>	<b>In memory of</b>
6 June	Mrs Jean Shaw	Thanksgiving
6 June	Mr & Mrs Peter Butterworth	Mother and father, Gladys and Albert Gomersal
13 June	Mr & Mrs D Dixon and Mrs N Clayton	Parents, Nancy and Ernest Hogg
20 June	Mrs Chressy Hall	Mother and sisters
27 June	Mrs Sylvia Williams	Hugh
4 July	Mr & Mrs J Hudson and Julie	Mum and dad, grandma and granddad, John and Marian Crabtree
11 July	Mrs Joan Milnes	Michael
18 July	Mr & Mrs B Morris	Mam and dad and grandparents
25 July	Mr John Cooper and family	Connie
1 August	Mrs M Dinsdale	Jim
8 August	Mr & Mrs J Hudson and Emma	Janet
15 August	Mrs Elsie Clingo	Mother
22 August	Mr & Mrs B G Lister	Parents and Jeffrey
29 August	Mrs Joan Firth	Parents and brother, Arnold
5 September	Mr & Mrs J Hudson	Wedding anniversary
12 September	Dorothy, Freda, Elaine and families	Mum and grandma, Grace Coates
19 September	Mr & Mrs E Hemingway	Parents, Mr & Mrs I Kitchen
26 September	Mrs H Wilkinson and Mrs J Wilson	Auntie Kathleen, Miss K M Wadsworth
3 October	Mrs J Firth	Willie and his parents
10 October	Mr & Mrs B Farrar	Wedding anniversary
17 October	Mr & Mrs D Hinchliffe	Mother and father, Mr & Mrs John Bolton
24 October	Mr Colin Oldfield and Mrs Joyce Atkinson	Mother and father, Mr & Mrs Wallace Atkinson
31 October	Mr & Mrs R Whitehead	Wedding anniversary
7 November	Linda and Richard	
14 November	Donation	
21 November	Miss Jean Hartley	Mother and father, Mr & Mrs John Hartley

Date	Flowers supplied by	In memory of
28 November	Mrs Alice Wade	
5 December	Mrs Joan Sharp	Derek
12 December	Mr Kenneth Crabtree	Wedding anniversary
19 December	Mr & Mrs Phillip Waldron	Brother, Philip Drake
26 December	Mr & Mrs R Field	Dad, Willie Firth and Auntie Betty

Thank you to all the people who have contributed the lovely flowers. They are very much appreciated by the people who receive them afterwards.

*Joan Firth*



## Coffee Mornings for Charity

Coffee mornings are held at the Community Centre on the first Tuesday of each month between 10.00 am and 12 noon. There is no set charge but donations are welcome. 2010 has seen us raise funds, so far, for Young at Heart, Calder Valley Search and Rescue, Halifax RSPCA, Arthritis Care and Noah's Ark.

Money raised at the coffee morning on 6 July will go to the Schiphra Medical Clinic, South Africa. It will be handed over at the Ladies' Club meeting on the same evening when the speaker will talk about the work of this centre. Please help us make this event a success.

*Judith and Brenda*

## WANTED

Editor for the *Wesley News*. If anyone is interested please see Julie or Brenda. Thank you.

## On the buses

A neighbour recently lent us a small publication he thought we would find interesting. It was the Halifax Corporation Bus Guide for a three-month period including the outbreak of the Second World War. We very often complain about the infrequency of our bus services and the cost of the current single fare to Halifax (£1.80 for those without a bus pass). So, it seems hard to imagine that, in those days, the thirteen-minute bus journey from Towngate to Halifax would set you back only 3d (1\_p) or, if you were travelling to work before 8.00 am, workman return fares were available for the same price (presumably, workwomen were also eligible for this concession).

The No 30 bus travelled from Westgate in Halifax to Towngate via Northgate, Beacon New Road and Pinnar Lane as frequently as every five minutes between 5 and 6 in the evening. Can you image the congestion caused in Pinnar Lane? Brenda well remembers double-decker buses


passing in Pinnar Lane (though not in the 1930s I hasten to add): "If the driver could see a bus coming in the opposite direction they would wait at Highfield. If they didn't see anything coming they would come down as far as our house and pass there. They couldn't pass if they didn't wait in one of those two places." She also remembers one of the regular crews – Micky and George. "There was always a conductor on in those days. We used to watch out for this particular pair and we would look out and say 'Is that Micky?'. Micky was the driver and George was the conductor. He used to lean out of his cab and slide his window open and say 'Pull your socks up, your nose is bleeding!'."

The adverts appearing in the timetable were also interesting. For instance, there was a page headed 'Why carry parcels about? – Order them to be sent home by bus'. A parcel weighing less than 7 lbs could be sent from Halifax to a home in the Heavy Woollen District for 6d. Something weighing 1 cwt would cost the princely sum of 1/8d! It was also good to know that you could find all the latest appliances to allow ladies to have 'more leisure for pleasure' at the Corporation Electricity Department Showrooms in Northgate and Crossley Street!

## More Leisure for Pleasure !

Time to knit, time to read, time to take it easy, when Electricity's doing the donkey work. Cooking perfection for every meal; effortless cleaning and washing.

Hot water instantly. You'll find the terms very attractive : call and see the latest appliances at the



*Cooking Demonstrations  
3 p.m. Wednesdays at the  
Showrooms.*

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**ELECTRICITY**  
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**NORTHGATE & CROSSLEY ST. Tel: Day 5701  
 Night 5104**

## Ladies' Club

The Ladies' Club meets at the New Street Centre on alternate Tuesdays starting at 7.00 pm. There is a charge of £1.50 which includes refreshments. All ladies are most welcome.

8 June	Top of the Bill	John Wallis
22 June	Canada (slide show)	Arthur Hayes
6 July	The Schiphra Medical Centre	
20 July	My Box of Treasures	Jocelyn Brooks
3 August	Earls, Pears and Girls	Don Burslam
17 August	Dogs Trust, Leeds	Sarah Powell
31 August	My Life in Music	Kenneth Rothery
14 September	Graphology	Kathryn Clapham
28 September	Where I Come From	Rev Paul Welsh
12 October	Mary Bateman	Patricia Atkinson
26 October	Bretton Hall	Cyril Pearce
9 November	Craft Evening	
23 November	To be announced	Mr & Mrs Cain
7 December	Christmas Party	



## A Seaman's Prayer

Almighty Father, whose way is in the sea and whose paths are in the great waters: whose command is over all and whose love never faileth: let us be aware of thy presence and obedient to thy will.

Keep us true to our best self, guarding us against dishonesty in purpose and in deed, and helping us so to live that we can stand unashamed and unafraid before our shipmates, our loved ones and thee.

Protect those in whose love we live. Give us the will to do the work of men and to accept our share of responsibilities with a strong heart and a cheerful mind.

If we are inclined to doubt, steady our faith. If we are tempted, make us strong to resist. If we should miss the mark give us the courage to try again.

Guide us with the light of truth and keep before us the life of Him by whose example and help we trust to obtain the answer to our prayer, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

## Obituary – Nellie Ainley

Nellie started coming to church about 3-4 years ago. Nellie was well known in the village along with her late husband, Roy; he used to win prizes at the horticultural show in the village.

Nellie died early this year after being ill for about six months.

Nellie was a very pleasant lady and easy to talk to. She had many funny tales to tell. Nellie thought a lot about her family and spent a lot of time with them especially her granddaughter, Debbie.

We miss Nellie and her tales.

We ask God to bless her family.

## Birthday congratulations Elsie



Elsie was 90 years young on 13th April.

I think Elsie's birthday went on for a week - a week she enjoyed very much. It started with open house, for which Elsie had made cakes and sandwiches, and very nice too I might say! Then she went to the Ladies' Club in the evening and out came sandwiches and cake (party two), then on Sunday at church we all sang Happy Birthday to her, and so it went on. Her church family is having a tub of plants done at Kitson's nursery (which I must go and pick up for her now there is sign of summer on its way). Well done Elsie and God bless.

Editor

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The Wesley News is now available online at  
[www.halifaxmethodistcircuit.org.uk/churches/southowramindex.html](http://www.halifaxmethodistcircuit.org.uk/churches/southowramindex.html)