

Welcome

A warm welcome is given to Richard Waller who joins the Circuit as a Local Preacher. We look forward to seeing Richard in our churches.

Lent and Holy Week 2018

Ash Wednesday 14 February	Communion Service	11am	St Andrew's
Palm Sunday 25 March	Services as per Plan including Circuit Service	6 pm	Embsay MC
Maundy Thursday 29 March	Maundy Thursday Meal (Booking required)	6 for 6.30 pm	St Andrew's
Good Friday 30 March	Walk to Rylstone Cross	10.00	St Peter's, Rylstone
	Service	10.00	St Andrew's
	Procession of Cross	10.45	St Andrew's
	Shared Service	11.00	Skipton Town Hall
	Silent Witness	c. 11.45	Grassington
	Open Air Service	12 pm	Grassington Lower Square
	Service & Procession	2.00	Long Preston Parish Church
	United Service	7.00	Bradley MC
	United Service	7.00	Embsay MC
Easter Day 1 April	Services as per Plan including Circuit Service	6 pm	Hetton MC

Information about the Maundy Thursday meal including menu choices and how to book will be circulated to churches in due course.

Skipton and Grassington Methodist Circuit (27/18) in the Yorkshire West District Circuit Newsletter & Plan

March to May 2018

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the spring edition of the Circuit plan which covers Lent through to Pentecost. There are numerous events to look forward to! For those churches within Skipton and including Embsay, the programme of events for the series "Do you know Him?" will have begun so look out for those, including the outdoor events on Saturday mornings in Skipton.

By the time of reading this the season of Lent will have begun and there will be a Circuit evening service on Palm Sunday at Embsay to mark the start of Holy Week. There will be a Circuit celebration on the evening of Easter Day at Hetton and also on Pentecost Sunday at Trinity.

These services offer an opportunity to worship with friends across the Circuit and can be an encouragement to us all as we meet together. When I became a member of the Methodist church quite a few years ago now, I was struck by the way in which it is structured in order to encourage a sense of connectedness. We maintain our individual identities in our churches but the Circuit binds us together and supports the churches. We are called to be part of the Circuit just as the Circuit is part of the wider District, now "Yorkshire West!" and the Districts make up the Connexion. Churches like Malham are being supported in this way as the redevelopment scheme gains momentum and we greatly appreciate this!

Please send any items for the next Newsletter to Edwin in the Circuit Office by **31 March** 2018.

e-mail: circuit@sagm2718.plus.com

Two new initiatives are recommended by the President and Vice President of Conference following on from last year.

One is an encouragement in prayer from 10th to the 20th of May - Ascension Day to Pentecost. (You may remember our prayer travels round the Circuit last year which we felt was very encouraging.)

There is a website for information:

www.thykingdomcome.global/prayerresources

Secondly, another preaching series is planned but this time focusing on Jonah.

“Encounter” appears again on the plan at Embsay and, of course, everyone is welcome.

I think that it is encouraging that there is an emphasis on prayer in many places at the moment and I hope that these opportunities are taken up by as many as possible.

With every blessing

Janet

#doyouknowHim?

The idea of **#doyouknowHim?** came about when the team at one of the churches in Skipton was planning for Easter in 2017. They decided that the Easter Sunday theme would be based on the story of Mary Magdalen on the first Easter morning and Jesus MEETING her, risen from the tomb. That prompted a brief rendition of the hymn ‘Thine be the glory’. “Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!”

They talked about ‘Meeting Jesus’; ideas flowed and then the phrase, “do you know him?” was said. Immediately, lots of cogs seemed to click into place and it led to...**#doyouknowHim?**

It was influenced too by a video online using the words of the Rev Dr. S. M. Lockridge, a pastor from San Diego, California in 1976.

The question seemed to lend itself to those who already know Jesus but are challenged to know him more, and also to anyone who has never thought about the fact that Jesus knows and loves them and that He desperately wants us to know and love Him.

It asks, ‘Have you met Jesus; do you know Him?’ and, ‘If you do know Jesus, how well do you know Him?’ Like any relationship, there is a need to invest time, effort and heart to make it grow.

We then put together a list of characteristics of Jesus that we know and that help us in our lives. The list went on and on and on... So, we condensed these to a ten-week series looking at particular aspects of Jesus. It included follow up material for individuals and small groups to study further.

The church shared it with the leaders of other churches in Skipton and another church trialled the series and a vision was caught. A vision in which ALL the other churches in Skipton would follow the same series at the same time – with all the churches in their sermons and services focussing on JESUS under the strapline, **‘#doyouknowHim?’**

All the Skipton churches agreed to follow this series; all uniting around JESUS and the challenge of how well we know Him. From February to April, for ten weeks, the churches of Skipton will learn more about Jesus in services, in small groups (including some mixed church groups) and also individually by reading the Gospel accounts of Jesus.

We are also wanting to pose the question to Skipton too, to give people the opportunity to think about the fact that Jesus knows and loves them and to be able to respond or just find out more.

The launch event was on 28th January at St Andrew’s, where Bishop Nick of Leeds gave an inspiring and encouraging address. Further events are planned, including mission activities on Skipton High Street every Saturday morning for ten weeks. We don’t know where it’s going to go; that’s up to the one who the question is about. But it’s exciting. It’s challenging. We’ll keep you posted. In the meantime we are grateful for—and in need of—your continuing prayers for everyone involved.

Remember – it’s not just knowing about Jesus...

but KNOWING JESUS...

To KNOW Jesus more and more to KNOW Jesus.

(Adapted from www.doyouknowhim.net)