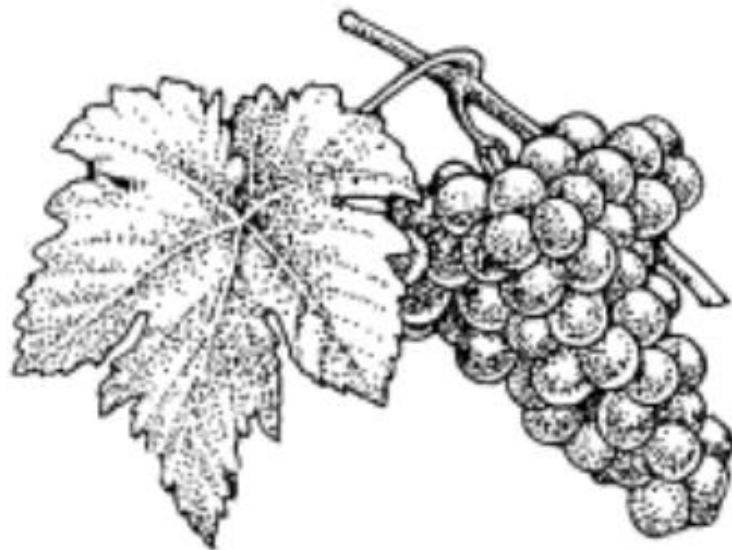


GROVE VINE

**The Magazine of
Grove Methodist Church
Horsforth, Leeds**

February 2012



**The Grove Methodist Church is called to respond to the
Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in
worship, service and mission**

Minister – Rev Alistair Jones

Phone: 0113 258 2678 or email: alistairjones@live.co.uk

Regular events

Sunday

- 10.20 Creche (0-3yrs) 216 0678
- 10.20 J Team (tots to 12s) 258 8803
- 10.30 Worship
- 6.00 Worship (alternate Sundays at Central Methodist Church)
- 7.30 Studio Dance SNYG 258 9093

Monday

- 12.15 Luncheon Club 258 3807
- 1.30 Network Women's Fellowship 258 9448
- 6.15 Beavers 258 1814
- 6.15 Cubs 258 2836
- 7.45 Scouts 228 9968
- 7.45 Flower Guild (3rd Monday in the month) 258 4520

Tuesday

- 9.00-9.30 Prayer Group 258 8803
- 9.00-12.00 and 12.00-3.00 Pre-school 258 9093
- 10-11.30 Coffee in the Centre small hall 258 3568; quiet room available for prayer. Jean Kemp's hand-made greetings cards will be available on the first Tuesday of each month
- 6.00 Rainbows (5th Horsforth) 259 0555
- 6.15 Brownies (5th Horsforth) 258 3670
- 7.45 Guides (5th Horsforth) 202 9010

Wednesday

- 9.00-12.00 Pre-school 258 9093
- 1.30 Line Dancing 258 7444
- 6.00 Rainbows (14th) 258 5519
- 6.15 Brownies (14th) 250 4907
- 8.00 Explorer Scouts 258 0882
- 7.30 Wednesday Break (fortnightly - 225 2734)

(Continued on inside back cover)

Looking over the roundabout from the study window...

I see an host of clouds, with a multitude of silver linings. Something of a parable for 2012, perhaps.

We face a very troubled world. In the news as I type there are fresh rebellions in Libya; Japan has a balance of payments deficit for the first time in thirty years, and the IMF are warning of a financial disaster world-wide if the Eurozone cannot be stabilised.

The Christians of Nigeria are facing murder and terror from Boko Haram, Tibetan Buddhists are burning themselves alive in protest against Chinese rule, Egyptian Coptic Christians await the rule of the Muslim Brotherhood with trepidation, and suspected Al Qaeda sympathisers face torture and internment.

Strains of TB that are resistant to antibiotics are appearing, antibiotics are less effective in general and we have a health system faced with increasing health threats and dwindling resources.

Aside from that, I am sure everything's fine.

Or maybe not.

So how and where do I see silver linings?

I see increasing social activism amongst the young, that very generation of whom we were bewailing their political cynicism.

I see some world leaders willing to take popularity losses at home, in order to get it right internationally.

I see Ghana predicting that it should be economically able to *turn down* international aid soon.

I see people in lands used to dictatorship crying out for the right to vote and live in peace.

Never give up on hope.

"The sun still shines on, it never goes down.

The light of the world is risen again."

Jesus is our hope, the sun behind the clouds, not a silver lining which can tarnish, but pure gold.

God bless you for 2012.

Ali (Rev Alistair Jones)

From the Editorial Group

Thank you for your interesting articles and reports. Keep them coming. **Please note that the editorial teams alternate.....so, the March issue will be prepared by Philip and Gill and you should send items to them no later than Wednesday 22nd February.**

Philip Abel pcabel@talktalk.net 258 7744

Margaret Bosomworth margaret.bosomworth@ntlworld.com 228 4777

Gill Jewell gilljewell@aol.com 278 9438

Gordon and Mary Mellor jgkm64@gmail.com 258 6199

Flower Rota for February



- 5th Mr & Mrs P Harding and Mrs A Blackburn and
Mr & Mrs J A Emmott
- 12th Mr J Myers and Mrs J Douglas and Mrs B Carter
- 19th Miss T Marshall and Mr & Mrs P Abel
- 26th Mrs E Lambert and Mrs M Wilks

Church Family News

Please remember in your prayers: Ros Ansell, Pat Blackah, Barbara Carter, Tony Emmott, Mary Hart, John Hardaker, Robert Lawson, Harvey and Lillian Liddell, Jack Myers, Dorina Overson, Stan Ramsden, Margaret Reasbeck, Chris Shagouri and Eileen Stones. Let us also remember the Speight family and the family of Petra Rogers and others recently bereaved. Also remember friends who are housebound and those who are caring for loved ones. All need our prayers and help at this time.

From the Church Registers

Baptism: Benjamin Llewellyn 11th December 2011

Funeral: Jeanette Speight 17th January 2012

Sunday Services in February

5 th	9.00	Rev. Ali Jones – Holy Communion
	10.30	Mr Philip Maud – Family Parade
	6.00	Rev. Ali Jones
12 th	10.30	Rev. J Barnett – Mission in Britain Sunday
	6.00	Circuit Service at St Peter’s Bramley
19 th	10.30	Mrs Kirsty Butler
	6.00	Rev. Ali Jones – Holy Communion
26 th	10.30	Rev. Ali Jones - Holy Communion
	6.00	Rev. Godfrey Nicholson

If you are unable to get to church because of transport problems, please phone the Hearn on 281 8176; they will be happy to arrange a lift for you.

Stewards on Duty

Feb 5 th	David Buckley John Bussey	Feb 12 th	Betty West Andy Walker
Feb 19 th	Carole Abel Kay Bassett	Feb 26 th	Cynthia Hatton Gordon Mellor

Our Neighbours

Taken from the finance pages of the Yorkshire Post (24th December)

“Karl Lavery, a Wealth Manager at Manse Capital said that Grove Manse, which dates from around 1760, was originally built by a wealthy merchant... and the change of company name was triggered by the move to the Manse.” He added “we loved the character and history of the Grove Manse, which could be the oldest property in Horsforth, and we recognised its potential to meet the long term needs of our growing business.”



Information gleaned from a report in the Methodist Recorder last month:

“Whatever else people sacrificed at Christmas they have done their best to ensure that what they spend delivers maximum benefit to other families around the world,” says Megs Vaughan, the business director of Traidcraft.

Traidcraft works with some of the most vulnerable and marginalised producers to help them export and develop local markets.

Over the last autumn 18,000 new customers were recruited and Traidcraft’s mail order sales grew by around 10%.

Although more people bought from Traidcraft in the last quarter of 2011 they have understandably, and perhaps inevitably, spent less. The global financial situation hits poorer, less resilient producers hard and means that wages, raw materials, and energy costs are higher and local currencies have continued to increase against the dollar, driving up the price of exports. This tends to make Traidcraft’s products less attractive.

Fairtrade Fortnight begins on Feb 27th

Please look for the **Fairtrade mark** on products. It’s your guarantee that disadvantaged farmers and workers in the developing world are getting a better deal.

Grove Church serves Fairtrade coffee and sugar after service on Sunday and at Tuesday Coffee Morning and other social occasions. Ed.

Are you weighed down by all that loose change?



This month’s Carboy Charity: Caring for Life

Musical Sudoku

To solve this puzzle, each of the following symbols:



must appear once in each row, column and small box.

		<i>b</i>	<i>p</i>					
	#						<i>f</i>	
		<i>f</i>			#	<i>p</i>		
				<i>p</i>				
<i>b</i>								#
				#			<i>b</i>	
			<i>f</i>		<i>b</i>	#	<i>p</i>	
	<i>f</i>							
								<i>f</i>

The solution will be provided in next month's issue of the Grove Vine.

[This Sudoku puzzle is reprinted from the June 2010 issue of Church Music Quarterly, the magazine of the Royal School of Church Music, by permission of the editor: www.rscm.com]

Tony Orton

Mangrove Forests and Climate Change in Vietnam

Since emerging from the severe effects of war during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, Vietnam has undergone major social political and economic change. Although the victorious Communist government of Vietnam was backed by the Soviet Union, the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989 meant an end to this key source of funding and an end to the old system of collective farming. To find alternative forms of income, the Vietnamese economy was opened up to the world and foreign investment and large areas of land were privatised or leased to households.

With its large quantities of natural resources, the coastal areas of Vietnam have become a lucrative attraction for this newly permitted investment. This has led to a vast increase in the number of businesses and people in coastal areas. Furthermore, the shift from a centrally planned economy to a market based system has ushered in a period of rapid economic growth, resulting in Vietnam being promoted from a low-income to a middle-income country in a very short space of time. However, this rapid growth has not come without cost. Numerous social and environmental problems have occurred, such as growing inequality and high levels of pollution.

A major effect of this has been the destruction of vast amounts of Vietnam's mangrove forests. Mangroves are trees that grow in salt water in the estuaries and shorelines of the tropics. The destruction of mangrove forests is alarming because they provide food and wood to local villagers and protect coastal communities from the impacts of tropical storms. Mangroves also carry out numerous environmental services to ensure that the coastal ecosystem is clean and healthy, with their roots acting as a natural filter in the water and providing shelter from predators for various young sea creatures.

On top of all these problems, scientists state that in the coming century Vietnam will be one of the most severely affected countries to the impacts of climate change. This is due to its extensive coastline that is highly exposed to tropical storms; its high dependency on climate sensitive agriculture and relatively low levels of development. As a result, Vietnam faces social and environmental problems that will be made worse by climate change.

In face of these problems, there has been growing recognition of the advantages that mangroves provide to people and the environment, and the Vietnamese government is keen to replant and restore large areas of forest. However, the success of these projects has been disappointing when compared to the amount of mangroves that have been actually planted. This could be due to a strong focus on planting with little regard given to the ability of local communities to look after, take care of and manage the mangroves themselves. I will be heading to Vietnam this year to study the various ways in which local communities in Vietnam have come together to take ownership of their local mangrove forests, to protect both them and the forests from the challenges they face.

Emmerson Orchard

St. John's Methodist Church, Stanningley, Pudsey



The present Church is a combination of two churches. Before the chapel was opened, cottage services were held at the homes of Mrs Jennings, Victoria Terrace, Mr G. Lumby, Gladstone Terrace, Mr Croft and Mr Tate of Bright Street. The foundation stone of

the **Swinnow Mission** was laid by Mr. Isaac Gaunt of Farsley on January 6th, 1886 and The Chapel was opened on November 17th, 1886. The building cost £1,670, with a new vestry added in 1897 costing £140, and a new institute, as a memorial to the young men who served in the war, in 1920 at a cost of £750.

The building was enlarged and improved in 1930, adding twenty feet to the body of the chapel plus new vestry at a cost of £1,300. According to a newspaper report at the time, 'it is the centre of one of the most enthusiastic and thriving religious communities of any of the Circuit. Indeed it boasts the largest Sunday School, in numbers, of any Church in the Circuit with the exception of Pudsey Trinity'. In 1943 Swinnow Mission was in the Farsley, Pudsey and Yeadon Circuit.

The Primitive Methodist Church & Sunday School, Eleven Lane Ends, Stanningley

The foundation stone was laid on 16th December 1871. The Chapel with School-room was opened in 1872, costing approximately £600, primary school premises being added in 1932 at a cost of £150.

In 1870, cottage prayer meetings had commenced in Bradley Hill Terrace at the house of William and Mary Ann Athorn. Between 1870 and 1871 a cottage was rented at Bradley Hill Place for Services and Sunday School.

St John's Methodist Church, Stanningley Road

At some point Swinnow Mission and Eleven Lane Ends were both in the Bramley and Farsley Circuit and eventually the two churches amalgamated in the 1960s to become St John's in the Pudsey and Farsley Circuit. In the 1980s, with the roof needing repair, Leeds City Council provided a grant to part demolish the building and rebuild with the addition of the 'Chapel in the Midst', the main part being given over to be 'The Stanningley Youth and Community Centre', costing £125,000. The building was officially opened and rededicated by the then President of Conference, Rev Dr John Vincent. At this time we were part of a Local Ecumenical Project with St. Thomas's and Holy Spirit in Stanningley and St. Mark's and Christ the Saviour in Swinnow. The five churches supported a printing project for the unemployed, a community café, a Sunday Lunch Club, a 'Live-at-Home' scheme and a youth group affiliated to MAYC who participated in a German exchange programme with Dortmund.

In 2006, the two circuits merged – Pudsey and Farsley with Bramley and Horsforth to become the Leeds (Wesley) Circuit. Currently a weekly Sunday morning service is held in the 'Chapel-in-the-Midst' with the occasional larger celebration or circuit service, when all the portable furniture is moved into the main hall, for larger congregations, baptisms, wedding and funerals on request, though sadly mainly funerals. There is also a monthly mid-week Communion Service. The MHA 'Live-at-Home' scheme, sponsored by St John's, uses the building regularly for luncheon club, community café, craft group and social events, also Easter and Christmas celebration meals. Two slimming groups meet weekly and a Zumba dance class has started. There are prospects for a photographic course and the members of St. John's are seeking to provide an 'After-School Club'. The main hall has also become a popular venue for children's parties and community events.

Susan Hogarth



News from Graham and Jenny Longbottom in the Solomon Islands

Part of the Helena Goldie Hospital

The 3 months before Christmas saw a lot of coming & going between Helena Goldie Hospital and Sasamunga, with trips to Seghe, Gizo and Honiara for Graham and in October Graham and Jenny moved to Sasamunga on the island known as Choiseul or Lauru. The clinic/hospital there is another health care institution run by the United Church here. It has received a lot of help from an American couple and is now in very good condition with a new solar power system. Mobile telephone communication was established there only a year ago but is intermittent.

Graham had to take on hospital secretary & accounting duties: quite a challenge!

Jenny remained in Sasamunga while Graham moved house in Munda and travelled to Honiara to do various jobs for Sasamunga Hospital. One of these was to purchase 14 uniforms for the nursing staff, another was to arrange customs clearance of equipment for the medical laboratory. Fortunately, microscope, centrifuge and nurses' uniforms for Sasamunga Hospital ordered by Graham arrived in Gizo intact to await their canoe trip across to Choiseul!

Graham paid off the debts at Inland Revenue and National Pension Fund, for a fresh start when the new accountant is appointed. Unfortunately the closing date for hospital secretary had to be extended but they hope to be able to appoint someone before leaving Sasamunga in March. Work progresses very slowly to complete the maternity unit and x-ray due to lack of finance and the difficulty in getting materials to Choiseul. The New Zealand Methodist Church has been very helpful in assisting and hopefully work will start again in earnest. Jenny planned the medical & dental touring for 2012 which is supported at Helena Goldie Hospital by the Australian Uniting Church, aiming to extend this to Sasamunga. The plan is for her to tour south Choiseul from 9th January, visiting the remote communities there, then on to North New Georgia and back to H.G.H.



Nurses' Day 2010.

The new nurses' uniforms were worn for the first time on Sasamunga Hospital Day on 16th November. This had been planned as a thanksgiving for the past and a re-dedication for the future. Some moving tributes were made to the local people who had provided the earliest health care to the people of Choiseul. Wreaths were presented in an open air

service outside the hospital and the nurses presented with watches as they renewed their international nurses' pledge. Afterwards the feast was provided by the village community and entertainment included some health awareness dramas as well as dancing and singing. This is to be repeated annually on 16th November, with fundraising for the hospital.

With no functioning bank in Choiseul Province for the last few weeks, life has been difficult especially for nurses, teachers and those running small businesses. To get to the nearest ATM on Gizo those living on Choiseul or the Shortland Island have to cross open sea in canoes with fuel a significant expense. The sea is usually calmer in the morning, so 4am is a common departure time.

Graham made a quick visit to Vonunu clinic (one of the five health care institutions run by the United Church of the Solomon Islands) on the way back from Honiara. The clinic has fairly new buildings (thanks to AusAid) but very little equipment. In Munda there is neither an otoscope (for checking ears), mattresses nor electricity, to the detriment of the care provided. It would be good if we could raise standards at least in the clinics run by the United Church. Fortunately things are improving at Sasamunga but it is certainly not easy. In Gizo the new hospital remains unused, waiting for a kitchen and laundry but hopefully it will be in use later this year.

The hospital staff enacted the nativity on Christmas morning finishing with the Calypso carol. It was very simple but clearly touched the hearts of the congregation who seem to have lost much of the Christmas traditions introduced by the pioneer missionaries in the early 1900s. In the afternoon they joined the traditional feast laid out on banana leaves in the dining hall. Boxing Day was marked by singing & dancing on the beach in traditional style, accompanied by the bamboo band to the great enjoyment of all.

The heat over Christmas & New Year sapped Graham and Jenny's energy. Then heavy rain fell across the country for the last week and they are grateful for the use of 2 bikes allowing them to take rides along the coast, usually on Saturday mornings. Otherwise they continue to swim most days, with waves from the open sea contrasting with the flat waters of the lagoon at Munda.

January 2012 "With only 3 months left of our time here, our thoughts are beginning to turn towards home and we are looking forward to being with our family & friends again. There is however still much to be done here and we are trying to plan our schedule for our remaining time. Graham is back in Honiara having taken advantage of the ship which brought the outreach team - a 24 hour journey rather than the usual 1-2 weeks taken by the cargo ship. Fortunately some money owed to Sasamunga hospital from AusAid finally got paid to the hospital after persistent enquiries & phone calls (when we could get through)."

It's Pantomime Time

The 9th Airedale Scout Group are proud to present their new Pantomime "You're Nicked" at the Grove Centre on Thursday 16th, Friday 17th and Saturday 18th February. Performances at 7.30pm with a Matinee at 3.00pm on Saturday.

We look forward to seeing you again at one of the shows. Fun for ALL the family.

Tickets available from Eric Douglass or contact the Booking Office on 258 5519. Adults £4 Children (15 and under) and Concessions £3.

Eric Douglass

What's the best tune?

Did you enjoy singing 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night' to the tune CRANBROOK (nowadays corrupted for use with 'On Ilkley Moor baht 'at') at our Carol Service? *Hymns and Psalms (H&P)* suggests two possible tunes for this very popular carol. One is the relatively ancient WINCHESTER OLD, which we sang at our Nativity Service, and which is widely used for 'While shepherds watched' all around this country. The other is the slightly more recent LYNNGHAM, which is sometimes used with 'O for a thousand tongues to sing' (*H&P* 744) – a hymn which has three other tunes set for it in *H&P*! Both CRANBROOK and LYNNGHAM incorporate much to-ing and fro-ing (repeated phrases), much up-ing and down-ing, and often much trilling and thrilling (a lot of notes for each syllable), so they take a long time to sing and make great demands on our vocal cords. CRANBROOK has not featured in Methodist hymn books since the introduction of the 1933 edition. Indeed, it only features in an Appendix to the 1904 hymn book, suggesting it was not the usual tune even then. In that hymn book, the tune set for 'While shepherds watched' was an arrangement by Sullivan (of G&S fame) of an anonymous melody, now no longer in any hymn book I know. Clearly, the tunes we sing today may not be the same as those our grandparents (or even parents) sang!

In our copy of *The United Methodist Hymnal*, the recommended hymn book in the USA, the set tune for 'While shepherds watched' is called CHRISTMAS, and is claimed to have been adapted from an aria in Handel's opera *Siroe, King of Persia*. It doesn't do anything for me, but then it is unfamiliar. Neither CRANBROOK nor LYNNGHAM feature in this American book, but WINCHESTER OLD is the set tune for both, 'Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire' (*H&P* 469), and 'My God, I love thee' (*H&P* 171). Try singing these hymns to WINCHESTER OLD (or CRANBROOK, or LYNNGHAM), and see what you think! I can almost guarantee you won't like these associations of words and music, but again that may only be because they are unfamiliar. In our current hymn book, two tunes are suggested for each of *H&P* 469 and *H&P* 171, all four tunes being different from each other. What all of this demonstrates is how one can pick and mix words and music of the same metre – and yet they often don't seem right when put together – not at first, anyway. Altogether, there are one hundred and nineteen **Common Metre** tunes in *H&P*, all of which would potentially fit 'While shepherds watched'! And just for the record, WINCHESTER OLD was the set tune for three hymns in the 1904 *Methodist Hymn-Book*: 'O for a thousand tongues to sing', 'When God of old

came down from heaven' and 'Join, all ye ransomed sons of grace'. The first of these hymns is the only one of the three to be retained in *H&P*.

The point of all this has nothing to do with Christmas. It is that someone has to choose which tune to use for the hymns we sing at the Grove. Often this is sorted out at choir practice, though sometimes the preacher requests a particular tune. If the set tune, or one of the suggested tunes, is familiar, then most times that would settle the matter, but there are hymns in *H&P* with set tunes which many of us believe could easily generate complaints! Then it's a matter of searching among all the hymns with the same metre for one that seems to go well. That can be difficult. On the one hand, if the words are **Common Metre** (8.6.8.6), or some other frequently used metre, it can take a long time to decide which one sounds the best, or even just moderately good! In the middle of a choir practice, there isn't the time to try out one hundred and nineteen tunes. On the other hand, if a hymn has an unusual metre, we may not know or like any of the inevitably very few tunes available. Occasionally, there is just no choice – we have to use the set tune – however miserable or difficult we think it is! Our policy is always to do our best to use familiar tunes at evening services. But at morning services – well we'd never learn anything new if we weren't sometimes at least a little adventurous. In the last resort, however, we all have to accept that there are likely to be times when some of us are not going to be pleased with a tune that has been selected.

And now for the apologies! Yes, I do realise that some readers may find that the musical references in this article take you outside your comfort zone. If so, maybe you could find a musical friend to provide the necessary accompaniment, so that you too can enjoy trying out the words and music combinations described here. And no, I don't know why the names of hymn tunes are always presented in capital letters in hymn books, but they are, so I have adopted that style here. Have fun with the hymn tunes!

Tony Orton

Community Fund Raiser. The Church continues to save money through CFR. Because of cheaper gas and electricity charges, £4,000 was saved on last year's bills. 2 new members have joined since last October. Prices of gas/electricity/broadband/home and mobile phones continue to be very competitive. If you want to save on your utility bills, as the Church has done, phone Ricky Hearn on 281 8176.

The Life and Times of our First Preacher: The Rev. William Morley Punshon 1824-1881 Part 2



Having preached at the opening of the Grove Wesleyan Methodist church in January 1868, the Rev. W. Morley Punshon set sail for Canada in April to become the President of the Canada Methodist Conference. His reputation followed him to where the Methodist church was in respectable and growing mood. Eastern Canada at that time was divided into its original parts, Upper Canada speaking English and Lower Canada speaking French. Canada had vast territories and sparse population. Methodism had reached there in 1765 and grew under American and English influences. Conflict had existed between competing missionaries, but by the time that Punshon arrived in Toronto in summer 1868 things had improved.

His goal was to extend Methodism from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He sent out more missionaries and urged the building of more churches, especially in the neo-gothic style which he liked and used in his own church in Toronto, the 'Metropolitan Church'. In 1872 the University of Montreal conferred on him the honorary degree of LLB rather against his will. He was offered the chair of Moral Philosophy at Toronto University but declined, having much work to do in uniting the different strands of Methodism there.

In declining health Dr Punshon returned to England in 1873, yet was elected President of the Conference in 1874. That year full union of Wesleyan Methodism in Canada was achieved. He was made Missionary Secretary to Conference in 1875 but his health further declined. Despite a recuperative trip to France and Italy in 1881 he returned to England where he died.

This man, who graced our church with his presence in 1868, is now viewed as an important influence in the growth of Methodism in Victorian days. His talent was in the power of speech and what it can achieve, hand in hand with good works. Methodism still needs people of such calibre with an articulate voice to spread the word of God.

Christine Mathers.

The Heptonstall Octagon Chapel

On the edge of the moors, above Hebden Bridge, the village of Heptonstall lays claim to the oldest Methodist Chapel still in continuous use. A visit and further references provided both the history of the building and a social commentary.



Built in 1764, on ground donated to trustees, it was one of relatively few to be built to an octagonal shape (Norwich, Rotherham and Whitby had been built earlier). But why an eight-sided building? Several suggestions have been put forward (perhaps the most romantic being that there could be no dark corners for the devil to hide in). However it seems that John Wesley had favoured this design because he wanted to create a preaching house, rather than a church. At that time, it was common for people to attend services at their parish church and supplement this through Methodist preaching. Before the chapel was built, ‘preaching’ would be in a house at North Gate End.

Charles Wesley had visited the area in 1747 and John later that year. In 1748 a ‘Quarterly Meeting’ was held in Todmorden and the first Methodist Circuit was formed. I’ve read that the minutes were, shall we say, detailed: ‘Mr Wesley’s expenses 2/-; mending Mr Wesley’s breeches 4d; knitting his stockings 3d; horse shoeing 2d.’

The Wesleys had been satisfied that this octagon preaching house be established to serve the area. And it was built, using local men and women with their simple tools. Some worshippers soon returned to their original places of worship but the Heptonstall Society held fast (despite initially having a Circuit that stretched to Preston).

In 1781 the number of ministers had increased to 3 – meaning that each could visit once in 6 weeks. In 1795 a Sunday School was begun, with reading and writing taught (the only form for the education of the poor at that time). By 1802 there were over 300 members and 1,000 scholars – a remarkable number by any reckoning. Heptonstall was a busy textile/hand loom community despite its hilltop location and the octagon shape had to be expanded to provide extra seating. Yet, by 1821, it was again too small.

So, a further chapel was built, closer to Hebden Bridge.

Extraordinarily, the Methodist Conference of 1823 urged societies such as that in Heptonstall to consider the teaching of reading and writing as not suitable for a Sunday. Later, a Heptonstall minister accepted this 1823 edict – and the teacher was dismissed! Some members felt this was wrong and opened another school further up the street. There was further division and disruption over whether an organ should be used to lead the worship!

When you read of all that this modest working community had to do to fund, build and develop this early Methodist church and the setbacks overcome, it is a remarkable testimony to them all. And they continue to provide Methodist Witness after nearly 250 years.

But... Before The Octagon and Before The Wesleys

So, how come there was a movement in Heptonstall, ready to receive Charles Wesley in 1747? It is largely down to a character who, had he been alive today, would have been given the doubtful title ‘celebrity’ and be appearing on every chat show going: **William Darney**.

William Darney was a Scottish pedlar and cobbler, of ‘prodigious size’ with a ‘big beard and a lot of red hair’. He had visited Heptonstall in 1742, five years before Wesley. It is reported that he would ‘roar a gathering of weavers and farmhands to their knees with threats of hellfire’. Conversely he was very committed, despite suffering ridicule and even a soaking in the river while preaching at Hebden Bridge.

He was convinced that others would wish to share his experience of salvation and to ‘read of Christ’. Those giving him food and shelter would be taught to read and he would compose verses (which he would sell). This man founded several Darney Societies (on both sides of the Pennines), where people would come together to pray. One such society was in Heptonstall; another in nearby Crimsworth Dene at Handibut Farm, on the old road to Haworth.

Unfortunately, his well-meaning but unorthodox behaviour was sometimes a problem. And his own modest education meant that he could not keep up to the organisation of all his societies. Thus it seems likely that he would have breathed a sigh of relief when he could transfer his societies to the steadier hands of the Wesleys!

Gordon Mellor

Regular events (contd.)

Thursday

9.30-11.30 Tots & Tykes (0-4 years) 293 8458

11.00 Bible Fellowship 258 3239

6.15 Beavers 239 7327

6.00 Cubs 258 9865

7.45 Scouts 216 9006

7.45 Grove Ladies Group (1st and 3rd Thursday) 225 2734

Friday

7.45 Choir Rehearsal 259 1580

Walking Groups Thurs. 258 6579 Sat. 258 4520

Items for next month's magazine should be submitted to Gill or Philip by Wednesday 22nd February. Please include dates up to 4th March 2012. Email would be appreciated!

Premises Manager: Alan Firth
43 New Street, Horsforth, Tel: 258 2742 or 07985745525
Off duty from Saturday noon and all day Sunday

<http://www.grovemethodist.org.uk/>

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