



Lindley Methodist Church
Huddersfield
Winter 2024/25

Grapevine



East Street, Lindley, Huddersfield, HD3 3ND
www.lindleymethodist.org

Lindley Methodist Church

Minister: suet234@hotmail.com
Rev Sue Taylor 01484 522733

Steward Team: Ann Emery
Sue O'Neill
Nic Wimpenny
Hilary Wilson
Liz Froom
Linda Bairstow

Church Booking Secretary: office@lindleymethodist.org
Helen Hall 07775 237364

Treasurer Team: treasurer@lindleymethodist.org
Stuart Rudd

Church Council Secretary: ccsecretary@lindleymethodist.org
Liz Vere

Building & Resources: office@lindleymethodist.org
Adam Swallow

Pastoral Lay Worker: pastoralvisitor@lindleymethodist.org
Sheena Rudd 07483 315435

Media Team: media@lindleymethodist.org
Sam McNeil Notices
Helen Hall Notice Boards
Katie Fairbank Website Manager
Shona Malcolm Grapevine Editor

Church Bank Details:
Lindley Methodist Church R.C.1129166
Sort: 08-92-99 A/C: 65458875
Charity Number: 1129166

DATES FOR DIARY: December/January/February 2025

Coffee Stop		Thursdays	10:00
Saturday Marketplace		1 st Saturday	10:00
December			
1	10:45	F2F & Zoom	Sunday Service Led by David Schofield
8	4.00	F2F	Sunday Service and Holy Communion led by Rev Sue Taylor
15	10:45	F2F & Zoom	Nativity Led by Steve Bagshaw
22	10:45	F2F & Zoom	Carol service
24	3:00	F2F & Zoom	Family Chringle
25	10:45	F2F	Family Christmas Day service Led by Rev Sue Taylor
29	11:00	F2F & Zoom	Joint service at Fartown
January			
5	10:45	F2F & Zoom	Covenant and Holy Communion led by Rev Sue Taylor
12	10:45	F2F & Zoom	Sunday service led by Steve Bagshaw
19	10:45	F2F & Zoom	Sunday service pulpit swap with Oakes Baptist Church
26	10:45	F2F & Zoom	Sunday Service Led by David Schofield
February			
2	10:45	F2F & Zoom	Sunday service led by Steve Bagshaw
9	10:45	F2F & Zoom	Sunday Service and Holy Communion led by Rev Sue Taylor
16	10:45	F2F & Zoom	Sunday service led by David Schofield
23	10:45	F2F & Zoom	Sunday Service led by Rev Sue Taylor

Our services can be accessed from anywhere in the world and we would be delighted if you are able to join us – please contact media@lindleymethodist.org for Zoom invitation details and we look forward to you being with us

LETTER FROM YOUR MINISTER

Dear friends,

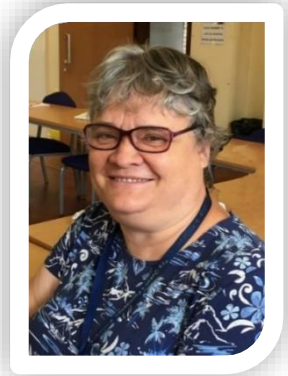
As we approach Christmas once again, our own lives and our church life, has probably been very busy with Christmas dinners, parties, nativity plays and carol concerts.

Christmas is loud isn't it? So much expectation. So many voices. Telling us how to celebrate. What to wear. What to eat and drink. What to watch and what to buy. Sometimes we lose sight of what Christmas is really about.

There is such a build up to Christmas and before we know it all the presents have been opened, we have eaten probably more than we normally do and Christmas day has been and gone.

This year in our Sunday morning services we've been following the theme offered to us through the Methodist Church entitled 'Hush the noise' which is based on a line in the carol 'It came upon the midnight clear'.

This year we have been inviting everyone to hush the noise, the noises around us within our world, and within our own heads, to make time to wonder, and prepare to hear the amazing love of God through the Christmas story once more. To listen for the love song the angels bring, this and every year. They sang it the first time more than 2000 years ago, on the midnight clear. They're just waiting for us to join in.



I hope you have enjoyed the run up to Christmas and our Advent services. I hope also you have managed to find times of stillness, time to pause amid the busyness of the season and welcome Jesus, the light of the world, born among us once again.

And as we will sing in that carol:
'and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring.
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing!'

Mike and I hope this season is a peaceful one for you, your family and friends, and the world.

With every good wish for the year ahead,
Sue

NATIVITY REFLECTIONS – STEVE BAGSHAW

For the past fifteen plus years we have been having a 'no rehearsal' nativity at Lindley on the second Sunday before Christmas. I love the fact that at 10am we may have the readers rehearsing, costumes in boxes and not a single member of a cast that by 10:45 will be putting on this year's version of the familiar story.

Then people start to arrive and by twenty past we have a few gaps and by 10:30 we have a full show on our hands. The ten minute walk through just makes sure everyone remembers the order of things. A few changes are made to the words as wise women replace wise men and Herod turns out to be a rogue Glaswegian. And we have a nativity. This year as seen through the maturing eyes of the cousins Mary and Elizabeth leafing through a photo album and remembering that year when their babies were born that changed the world.

Over the years we have started in an Amazon warehouse, we have had arguments over wheelie bins, we even had the service taken over by two teenagers who thought it was all a bit boring. The essence is the same – we are all so busy that sometimes we forget what Christmas and especially the spirit of Christmas is all about and this nativity story interrupts our lives - reminding us of how love came in the form of a baby. A love for us all.

Along with carol singing – our nativity is for me a special part of this time of year and one I always feel privileged to be a part of!! May your Christmas have time in it to remember that first nativity and for you to feel that it is your story:

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely love divine.
Love was born at Christmas – star and angels gave the sign.

A FRAGMENT OF 'LOST' MUSIC FOUND IN THE PAGES OF SCOTLAND'S FIRST FULL-LENGTH PRINTED BOOK IS PROVIDING CLUES TO WHAT MUSIC SOUNDED LIKE FIVE CENTURIES AGO

Scholars from Edinburgh College of Art and KU Leuven in Belgium have been investigating the origins of the musical score – which contains only 55 notes – to cast new light on music from pre-Reformation Scotland in the early sixteenth-century.

Researchers say the tantalising discovery is a rare example of music from Scottish religious institutions 500 years ago, and is the only piece which survives from the northeast of Scotland from this period.

The scholars made the discovery in a copy of The Aberdeen Breviary of 1510, a collection of prayers, hymns, psalms and readings used for daily worship in Scotland, including detailed writings on the lives of Scottish saints. Known as the 'Glamis copy' as it was formerly held in Glamis Castle in Angus, it is now in the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh. Despite the musical score having no text, title or attribution, researchers have identified it as a unique musical harmonisation of *Cultor Dei*, a night-time hymn sung during the season of Lent.

The Aberdeen Breviary came from an initiative by King James IV who issued a Royal Patent to print books containing orders of service in accordance with Scottish religious practices, rather than needing to rely on importing texts from England or Europe.

The researchers say the composition is from the Aberdeenshire region, with probable links to St Mary's Chapel, Rattray – in Scotland's far northeastern corner – and to Aberdeen Cathedral.

The discovery was made as researchers examined numerous handwritten annotations in the margins of the Glamis copy.

Of primary interest to the scholars was a fragment of music – spread over two lines, the second of which is approximately half the length of the first – on a blank page in a section of the book dedicated to Matins, an early morning service.

The presence of the music was a puzzle for the team. It was not part of the original printed book, yet it was written on a page bound into structure of the book, not slipped in at a later date, which suggests that the writer wanted to keep the music and the book together.

In the absence of any textual annotations on the page it was not clear whether the music was sacred, secular or even for voices at all, the researchers say.

After investigation they deduced it was polyphonic – when two or more lines of independent melody are sung or played at the same time. Sources from the time say this technique was common in Scottish religious institutions, however very few examples have survived to the present day.

Looking closer, one of the team members realised that the music was a perfect fit with a Gregorian chant melody, specifically that it was the tenor part from a *faburden*, a three- or four-voice musical harmonization, on the hymn *Cultor Dei*.

David Coney, of Edinburgh College of Art, who discovered the identity of the music, said: “Identifying a piece of music is a real ‘Eureka’ moment for musicologists. Better still, the fact that our tenor part is a harmony to a well-known melody means we can reconstruct the other missing parts. As a result, from just one line of music scrawled on a blank page, we can hear a hymn that had lain silent for nearly five centuries, a small but precious artefact of Scotland’s musical and religious traditions.”

As well as uncovering lost sounds within its pages, researchers have also traced how the Aberdeen Breviary may have been used, and by whom, over its long history. At one time used as the private service-book of the illegitimate son of a high-ranking chaplain at Aberdeen Cathedral, himself a rural priest, it would later become a treasured family heirloom of a Scottish Catholic whose travels led him from post-Reformation Scotland to the capitals of the Habsburg and Ottoman Empires.

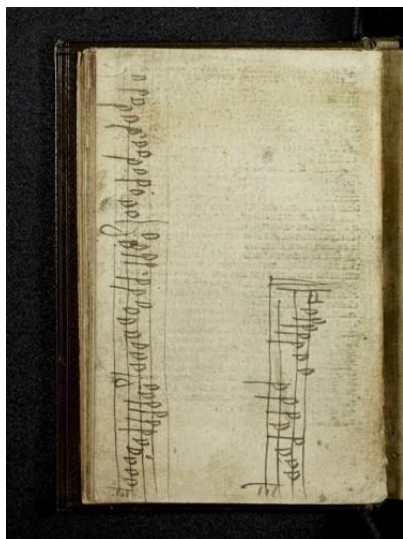
Lead author, Dr Paul Newton-Jackson, of KU Leuven, said: “The conclusions we have been able to draw from this fragment underscore the crucial role of marginalia as a source of new insights into musical culture where little notated material survived. It may well be that further discoveries, musical or otherwise, still lie in wait in the blank pages and margins of other sixteenth century printed books held in Scotland’s libraries and archives.”

In 2023, Dr Newton-Jackson was also a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Edinburgh’s Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities.

Dr James Cook, of Edinburgh College of Art, said: “For a long time, it was thought that pre-Reformation Scotland was a barren wasteland when it comes to sacred music. Our work demonstrates that, despite the upheavals of the Reformation which destroyed much of the more obvious evidence of it, there was a strong tradition of high-quality music-making in Scotland’s cathedrals, churches and chapels, just as anywhere else in Europe.”

The study is published in the Journal [Music and Letters](#)

Copyright Life and Work, December 2024



GRAPEVINE MEETS ALABASTER SNOWBALL, SANTA CLAUS' CHIEF ELF

Grapevine was delighted that Alabaster was able to find some time in his busy schedule to catch up with the Editor for a quick chat.

Briefly describe yourself and what you do.

I am part of the senior management team with Santa's Elves Inc. I head the Investigative Branch, overseeing thousands of elves checking out which children have been naughty or nice.

Best piece of advice you've received.

There are a couple of things, but that all relate: tell the truth, read, and be kind. Follow those and you will always do well in life.

If I had it to do over ...

I would have fought harder for us to have green outfits instead of red. Green is much better camouflage with Christmas trees.

You are going on an extended solo trip. What three albums and three books would you take?

White Christmas, John Rutter Brass at Christmas by Black Dyke Band, and Huddersfield Choral Society Christmas Album.
T'was the Night Before Christmas, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, A Christmas Carol.

Tell us one thing about yourself that few people know.

I am actually taller than people think.

You are hosting a dinner party. Who, living or dead, would you invite and why?

Santa and Mrs. Claus (obvious reasons, they are like my parents), Donner (he's actually my best reindeer friend), Hermey, he's the elf who wanted to be a dentist and we got really close saving each other's lives while chasing the Abominable Snowman, the Abominable Snowman (after Hermey fixed his tooth, we realised he was really nice in real life. Plus he has a funny accent and you should see the way he eats!).

Name an as yet unfulfilled dream.

I would like to deliver presents with Santa one Christmas.

If you weren't doing what you are, you would be ...

I love the reindeer, so probably a reindeer herder. Or a Peppermint candy farmer.

Your go-to food.

Santa always brings back mince pies – I mean even he can't eat all the mince pies good boys and girls leave out on Christmas Eve.

Favourite film(s)?

It's a Wonderful Life

Elf (Will Ferrell and I are great friends. I served as a consultant on that one.)

Miracle on 34th Street.

Dogs or cats?

Oh please. Reindeer obviously.

Your favourite quote and why.

“Remember, if Christmas isn't found in your heart, you won't find it under a tree” Charlotte Carpenter.

Name something that you are extremely glad you did or accomplished.

I learned that one of the most important things in life is to give others another chance. Over the years I have watched children do naughty things, things that would prevent Santa from coming. But we all make mistakes, and I continue to watch these kids and realise they are great. They just had a bad day. By giving a second or third or fourth chance, I learn who they really are. So by doing that, they got great presents from Santa.

What advice would you give your younger self just starting out on their own.

The World says you only get one chance to make a first impression. That's true. But so what? You might mess up in that first impression, but that does not define you. Keep trying. Keep improving. Never let one instant define you. You are the sum of all your parts, not one part.

GARDENING WITH GEORGE

Plant lore from George Anderson, Retired Head of School of Horticulture at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, and presenter of BBC Scotland Beechgrove



I am writing this magazine article one week after my wife and I attended the funeral of my good friend and colleague – and gardening superstar – Jim McColl. What a consummate television presenter he was, a warm and caring human being and a humble and self-effacing gentleman. A lover of Scottish music and ‘the water of life’ he was a passionate believer in the importance of gardening as a healing therapy. Like thousands of folks across the length and breadth of the UK I will miss him terribly but at the same time I am so happy that I knew him and enjoyed his company on Beechgrove for close on fifteen years. He taught me so much.

Gardening and the world of horticulture, botany and plants offer us all a treasure store of wonders. It has often been said that there is nothing we eat that does not originate in plants. Think of what you had for dinner, lunch or breakfast and all of it will have its origins in one plant or other: spices, protein, vitamins, vegetables, mushrooms, milk, cheese, bread and wine. Many of our common medicines also have their origins in plants: aspirin from willow and meadowsweet, quinine from tree bark, ephedrine (used in eye

treatments) from ephedra, cancer fighting drugs from the common yew tree and treatments for Alzheimer's from daffodil bulbs.



We have been provided with a veritable chemist's shop filled with potential life-changing medicines. Have we conserved it or destroyed it? I would suggest that we have been poor custodians of our natural world, and as a consequence many plant species have never been fully assessed and have been lost to humans, never to return. Extinction is a permanent condition. Next time you visit the chemist's, have a look on the shelves and see just how many plants have contributed to your soaps, perfumes and health products.

The Old Testament has lots of plant references scattered throughout its various books starting in Genesis with The Garden of Eden and the apple, moving through Exodus with its mention of hyssop (used to splash the blood of the lamb over the doorposts during the death of the firstborns in Egypt) and coming to a veritable climax in The Songs of Solomon with its love songs and poems, where mention is made of pomegranates, almonds, figs, capers, saffron, Cedar of Lebanon, crocus and many, many more. And the list continues

throughout the New Testament. Plants have shaped our lives for centuries and continue to do so still. That is why I garden.

This week I ordered my seeds for next year's allotment crops and have had to be careful not to get too carried away. Clicking away merrily as I look through the seed catalogues on my iPad is so easy!! What is much more difficult is deciding which seeds to buy and which to cut out so that the total bill is not too draining on my bank balance. Soon, the small Page 10 packets of dry seed will pop through the letterbox to be safely stored until the year turns and the days lengthen, the warmer days of spring summon a return to new growth and we look forward to a summer full of sunshine, warmth and gentle rain. We can dream.

I approach each new year with faith, trust and new energy, in the hope that I will have success. As Jim McColl often said, "Every day is a school day." We never stop learning. To know as much as he did, I would need two lifetimes.

Happy gardening,

George



OPEN THE BOOK AT CHRISTMAS



Another Christmas story told to a 'hall full' at the Infant School.

14 of us plus Nigel the Donkey made our way across East Street on Tuesday morning to join the morning assembly. We go every month and share stories from the Bible Society's Open the Book. This time we combined two of their stories - the Journey to Bethlehem with the Shepherds and told the first part of the nativity story.

The children helped us out - by providing sheep, animal noises and happy/sad faces as the story progressed. It was all great fun - I'm not sure who enjoys it more the actors or the children!!

It ended with a time of quiet as we all thought about times when the unexpected happens and how God's love is with us always.

We meet again in the new year to bring the Magi to the baby Jesus (via another grumpy Herod)!! Happy days!!

If you read this and think you'd love to join us - there's always room for another - just have a chat with one of us - there's no commitment to be there every time and no requirement to speak - we are super flexible.

Happy Christmas,
Steve

OUTSIDE NATIVITY

Week One



Week Two



Week Three



To be continued after Christmas Day...

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Sue and Tim O'Neill are once again not sending cards for Christmas. We will be making a contribution to the Welcome Centre in lieu.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. We are donating to The Welcome Centre in lieu of cards. David & Ruth Schofield.

Christmas Greetings to all our church family and friends from Stuart and Nicola xx

Anne Haigh sends greetings to all for Christmas and good health in 2025.

Wishing you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year from Shona, Alan and Rosa xx



ADVENT PRAYER



From within the ancient longing
May we hear the more ancient cry:
“Prepare...”

In the long promise hurtling towards us
May we hear the longer echo:
“Emmanuel...”

From the old distance of the prophets
May we hear the yet older poem:
“Magnificat...”

Ancient God,
May you gather together the Good News:

The shards of promise;
The slivers of story;
The scraps of song;
Scattered across our faith,
And culture,
And denominations,
And fit them together
Anew
Into this fresh moment
Of holy retelling,
Of sacred Kintsugi*,
Of golden joinery,
Bringing the pieces together
And finding incarnation
Where the edges touch:
Gabriel to Mary,
Hope to promise
Silence to song,
Waiting to wonder,
Angel to shepherds,
Manger to world.
The pieces of nativity
Falling into place,
Reformed and reimagined
For today.
Through the brokenness of the world
May we find your advent resin:
“Peace...”

**Kintsugi is the ancient Japanese art of repairing broken bowls with gold.
The cracks are still there but more beautiful in being so.*

Copyright Life and Work, December 2024

EXTERNAL GROUPS @Lindley

Monday to Friday	
Lindley Pre-School	9:00am to 6:00pm 07905-725130 hello@lindleypreschool.co.uk
Lindley Out of School Club	7:30 to 9:00am; 3:30 to 6:00pm 07894587130 lindleyoutofschoolclub@googlemail.com
Monday	
Imperial Quilters	7:15 to 9:15pm monthly
Tuesday	
Baby Massage	9:30 to 10:30am
Pilates	6:30 to 7:30pm
Gledholt Male Voice Choir	7:30 to 9:30pm
Wednesday	
U3A Watercolour Society	10:00 to 12:00noon
Huddersfield Youth Choirs	5:45 to 8:00pm
Thursday	
Mini First Aid	6:30 to 8:30pm monthly
Marsh Ladies Choir	7:30 to 9:30pm
Friday	
Sing & Sign	9:45 to 11:30am

WHAT'S ON @Lindley

Sundays	
Morning Worship	10:45am
Monday	
Parent & Toddlers	9:30 to 11:30am
Guides	7:30 to 9:00pm
Tuesday	
Beavers	6:15 to 7:15pm
Open the Book	8:30 to 10:00am (monthly-ish)
Wednesday	
Wednesday Fellowship	1:30 to 4:30pm (1 st Weds in month)
Cubs	6:30 to 8:00pm
Thursday	
Coffee Stop Service after Coffee Stop on last Thursday of every month	10:00am to 12:00noon 12:15pm
Armchair Keep Fit	10:30 to 11:30am
Supper Club	6:30 to 8:30pm (2 nd Thurs in month)
Garden & Nature	7:00 to 8:00pm (1 st Thursday on Zoom)
Scouts	7:30 to 9:00pm
Friday	
Brownies	6:15 to 7:30pm
Saturday	
Market Place	10:00am to 12:00noon (1 st Sat of month)
Walking Group	Monthly – see programme