

Intergenerational Games

At Fartown, once a month, the Elderberry group meets. It's a group for older people who do a variety of activities from watching films, sharing memories, poetry, playing games and much more! We have been pleased to be able to restart our intergenerational sessions with Fixby Junior School, and the children joined us for a games afternoon. The teacher wasn't sure how the children would respond, but we didn't

need to worry as soon as they were in the door they were joining the members of the group and eagerly playing games together.

The Elderberry members brought some of the traditional games they used to play, such as Snakes and Ladders, 'Pick up Sticks', 'Happy Family's' and Dominoes. We even had a

really old pack of 'Happy Family' cards with occupations we wouldn't recognise now.

The children brought 'Uno' and 'Dobble' to teach the Elderberrys some new games.
There was fun for

over an hour as new games were learnt and plenty of conversation about other children's games. The time passed really quickly. It was a joy to see the different generations enjoying each other's company. There is another session planned for July where we are going share favourite poems

and may even write some together. I wondered what other intergenerational activities are taking place across the Circuit?

Rev Sue Taylor



The Red Queen Effect

One of the books I used to enjoy listening to as a child was Lewis Carroll's "Alice through the Looking Glass". Perhaps it was the quirky surreal characters, that my father was teaching me chess or just I am a weird person. The images drawn in the edition I was read were fascinating and especially the Red Queen's Race.

Carroll writes:

Alice never could quite make out, in thinking it over afterwards, how it was that they began: all she remembers is, that they were running hand in hand, and the Queen went so fast that it was all she could do to keep up with her: and still the Queen kept crying 'Faster! Faster!' but Alice felt she could not go faster, thought she had not breath left to say so. The most curious part of the thing was, that the trees and the other things round them never changed their places at all: however fast they went, they never seemed to pass anything. 'I wonder if all the things move along with us?' thought poor puzzled Alice. And the Queen seemed to guess her thoughts, for she cried, 'Faster! Don't try to talk!'

Not that Alice had any idea of doing that. She felt as if she would never be able to talk again, she was getting so much out of breath: and still



the Queen cried 'Faster! Faster!' and dragged her along. 'Are we nearly there?' Alice managed to pant out at last. 'Nearly there!' the Queen repeated. 'Why, we passed it ten minutes ago! Faster! And they ran on for a time in silence, with the wind whistling in Alice's ears, and almost blowing her hair off her head, she fancied.

'Now! Now!' cried the Queen. 'Faster! Faster!' And they went so fast that at last they seemed to skim through the air, hardly touching the ground with their feet, till suddenly, just as Alice was getting quite exhausted, they stopped, and she found herself sitting on the ground, breathless and giddy.

The Queen propped her up against a tree, and said kindly, 'You may rest a little now.'

Alice looked round her in great surprise. 'Why, I do believe we've been under this tree the whole time! Everything's just as it was!'

'Of course it is,' said the Queen, 'what would you have it?' (https://sabian.org/looking_glass2.php) In true Godly play style, I wonder what this made you think about?

I recognise this in all areas of my life and not least in the life of church and Circuit.

This passage has generated the category "The Red Queen Effect" which has come to mean that staying in the same place is falling behind. It reminds me of one of my churches some circuits ago that insisted every year it must raise more money or do more things to keep a sense of meaning and purpose.

I feel like Alice rather needing to stop, but when I do, I realise I have to face change.

Here I feel rather like a broken record, looking back at recent years of newsletters in this and previous circuits.

The truth of where we are now is that even surviving another day means we need to co-evolve with the systems we interact with because everything is changing.

I was listening to a program on how we, as part of creation, need to remind ourselves of the lessons that creation has and is teaching us. The word evolve was used and, to my surprise, it was pointed out that the often quoted "survival of the fittest", made famous in the fifth edition of Darwin's "On the Origin of Species", was a term borrowed from English sociologist and philosopher Herbert Spencer after reading Darwin's earlier work. Spencer used the term "survival of the fittest" in relation to Darwin's idea of natural selection as he compared Darwin's theory to an economic principle in one of his books and the rest as they say is history.

Darwin had written "survival of the fittest" meaning the members of the species best suited for the immediate environment would survive. It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.

This has given me food for thought as we continue to cope with reducing membership and officers at local and Circuit levels. When volunteers, lay workers and ordained are struggling to find ways to be healthy and respond to their vocations in this time and space.

I am left wondering if we have a heart to continue to play parts in our communities.

If so, are we prepared to evolve to fit into this time, taking into account the reality of who we are and who we are becoming?

I'd love to know what you think.

Rev Peter Catford

Time to Say Goodbye

Time flies when you are having fun they say. Not so sure but my 8 years in the Huddersfield Circuit seem to have passed quickly when looking from here, however it has involved a lot of different joys and sorrows.

I came to be minister at Trinity LEP, Honley, Shepley, Brockholes and the small community at Gatehead. I was welcomed at the

primary schools in Brockholes and Honley. At Brockholes those from the congregation shared stories with a class as part of a formal project. I remember Robert Beadle talking about a record player and one boy trying to understand, asked if he meant an award-winning football player! At Honley, when Trinity held its 50th Anniversary as a combined congregation, we hosted the Knitted Bible Exhibition, including visits from every class at Honley Infant and Junior school, who also enjoyed Godly Play sessions with Suzanne.

Shepley already had their outreach through the Oasis cafe and Wednesday fitness group, but I was challenged with the village remembrance service and the Christingle on years when it was the Methodist's turn.

In September 2019, I started to work with Scholes - in the odd context of having been part of a Share Jesus Team based there almost 20 years earlier, sleeping in the upper room. In January 2020, I began my first sabbatical - returning to lockdown. Having prepared for 3 months without preaching in church, I came back to the new experience of Zoom, and weekly reflections on paper to email and deliver.

This was a changing moment for many of us, and some in the Circuit still combine Zoom and in person services. Gatehead had been on the brink of facing closure at the start of lockdown, whilst the same experience brought Brockholes to face the demands needed on so few people. So, in Autumn 2021 I led the final services at both churches. The whole process of closure can release people from the burdens of spending most of their time keeping a particular church going. But it is also a time of mourning for the history, for those who came before and members' own life stories in a particular place and community.

So now I work with Trinity, Scholes, and Shepley - each facing challenges but also having great strengths. I wish them well for the future. I have also had more opportunity to preach around the Circuit.

Yorkshire was a new place for me. I have said that I was taught that what went up came down, but here for every downhill there are at least two up hills! Well it has felt like that, at least in Honley. I learned quickly that dry stone walls were more easily jumped by Gabi dog than the hedges we knew in Herefordshire and Shropshire. Gabi has made her impact as the church dog over the years, happy to snooze through services and meetings but ready for snacks at coffee time.

Gatehead folk may recall our first Harvest with communion. When I stood behind the table I realised her long lead anchoring her still allowed her to sit in perfect attention in front of the table once I had uncovered the titbits. Time stood still as I saw Pat England's look of horror, and I realised the cloth was starting to move... Gabi was fed up waiting whilst I gave the communion prayers, she had raised her paw and her claw had caught in the lace edge of the cloth. I placed my hands firmly down on the cloth to hold it there and another member of the congregation came to unhook Gabi and distract her. Crisis averted!

We have both had a good 8 years in the Circuit, even with the sad moments. I have felt hugely supported by people in the churches I have worked with and the staff and stewards, including when health has been an issue. In August we head off to pastures new, down south where a bump is a hill, and the boundaries are back to hedges. I will be working 0.7 time with a group of village churches in West Hertfordshire.

When that appointment was confirmed I thought of My Fair Lady declaring that 'In Hertford, Hereford and Hampshire, hurricanes hardly ever happen' and wondered about Huddersfield instead of Hampshire then it would reflect my journey as a minister. Well no hurricanes so far...

Thank you, Huddersfield Circuit and the churches I worked with especially. It has been a good 8 years together. Rev Helen Roberts

We'd like to wish Helen well as she embarks on her journey to pastures new!



What we've been doing

WE FIRST MET IN APRIL 2022. WE MEET MONTHLY IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS.



WE' VE DONE SOME CHRISTMAS











WE' VE LITTER IN THE RAIN





KEEP IN TOUCH BY SCANNING THE QR CODE TO JOIN OUR WHATSAPP GROUP





WE MAKE STUFF. WE ARE ALL AGES





FOLLOW US ON O WILDCHURCH_ALMONDBURY

Warm Spaces and Hot Soup - all in a good cause

During the winter months at Lindley we opened the church all day on a Thursday as part of the 'Warm Spaces' iniative. This meant Coffee Stop, the regular Coffee morning, continued and the church then remained open for people to call in till 5pm.

We received a grant towards heating during this time and also to buy some slow cookers to provide hot soup at lunch time. We had a small number of new people join us, but also found that people didn't rush

away after Coffee Stop in the morning. They liked to stay and chat for longer.

So when the warm spaces stopped we carried on with soup at lunchtime. People donated homemade soup and we tried many different varieties. These included leek and potato, tomato and basil, broccoli and apple and even a vegan tomato soup. Each week we had three different varieties and it was simply served in a mug with a bread roll to keep catering simple. Often someone would also contribute a cake or some buns. We decided to do this all through Lent and ask people for donations towards their lunch, and decided to support the Circuit's charity for this year, Action for Children.

A simple idea, tasty soup, good company and conversation and it raised £213.

Rev Sue Taylor



Messy Easter at the United Church Marsden

During Holy Week we held a Messy Easter morning which was well attended with families from the village and surrounding area. It was lovely to also see children who had once attended Tiny Tots joining us.

We really enjoyed sharing the Easter Story, with using a story performed by our Junior Church B.L.A.S.T group. There were action songs, lots of craft and an Easter story trail with a special treat at the end. We finished with a lunch of pizza, salad and fruit, plus some lovely homemade cakes.

Carrie Hackett, Marsden



Meet Emily and Emilia

My name is Emily Beahan and I'm the Regional Fundraising Manager for Yorkshire at Action for Children. My role is to acquire new supporters and partnerships in to generate income for the region. I work with companies, faith groups, sports event participants, Action Squads (volunteer fundraisers), DIY fundraisers (those who do an event or activity of their choosing) and more.

Action for Children

As well as raising income to be allocated anywhere (unrestricted), I work closely with our local children's services to fund specific items and high priority projects (restricted). This means researching to find pots of money from local trusts and foundations that match our vision and mission, though there is much competition from other charities.

One event that stands out for me was an Indian Food Festival at Leeds Kirkgate Market. The venue had a huge LED screen and sound system so I spent ages creating an impactful presentation and video. I was so nervous but as I started the electricity cut off. After a few laughs I just had to wing it and project my voice! Despite this, I had hundreds of wonderful conversations, tasted new foods and learned about different cultures. The event raised over £2000!

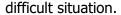


My colleague and Regional Support Officer Emilia Convertino, helps our wonderful supporters with their fundraising activities, by providing advice and branded materials to help maximise their fundraising. It's very important to us to have a

good relationship with our supporters and show them how much we appreciate them. We couldn't support the UK's most disadvantaged children, young people and families, without them.

I want to share some news about our 'All Worked Out?' report, published in February. It shines a light on the 1.95 million UK children who could be trapped in poverty and hardship as their parents face major barriers to taking on extra work.

It shows that work is no longer a guaranteed route out of hardship. Families can face poverty and gruelling challenges from day to day, even if parents are working full time. A staggering 440,000 children are in poverty, despite having one or more parents in full time employment. Factors like long-term sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities can worsen an already



With child poverty levels expected to climb as the cost-of-living crisis deepens, we are calling for changes to the social security safety net and childcare support to help more parents break through barriers to work. We are also asking the government to consider raising the Child Element of Universal Credit by at least £15 a week and abolishing the Benefit Cap, to help lift 320,000 children out of poverty.

Action for Children has developed a digital tool to identify levels of child poverty and financial hardship in your area. More information will be released with the AFC Sunday mailing.

Please do get in touch with me if you would like any more information about how to support Action for Children:

emily.beahan@actionforchildren.org.uk 07929 078353

Thank you!

Emily Beahan, Regional Fundraiser for Action for Children

You can read the 'All Worked Out?' report and access the digital tool on the Action for Children website

- Sat 10th June, 1pm Step out Walk Sponsored walk between Slaithwaite and Marsden, along the canal
- Hungry Caterpillar Challenge (toddler groups)
- Highlighting local Action for Children Projects (In Touch):
- Bradford Baby Steps -begin collection for labour bags
- HMP New Hall Mother and Baby Unit
- Sat 15th July, 10am-12noon Action for Children Circuit Coffee morning @
- Displays, activities, collection point for labour bag items, visit from Emily Beahan and refreshments
- Sun 16th July, 10:30am Action for Children Sunday Service @ Gledholt led by Liz Bishop NOT a Circuit Service, but all welcome.

Churches invited to hold Action for Children services throughout July, August, September (worship resources available)

- Invitation for individual church fundraising in support of Action for Children
- Sat 23rd Sept, 10am -12noon Action for Children Circuit Coffee morning @ Dalton

Displays, activities, drop off point for labour bag items and refreshments

Invitation for individual church fundraising in support of Action for Children

Update on Circuit project - In Touch



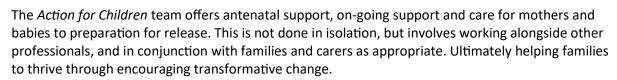
September June July August

Action for Children - Supporting Local Projects

Curious to find out if there are any *Action for Children* projects in the Huddersfield area, the Circuit Social Justice Group (CSJG) approached Emily. She made us aware of the two nearest projects, New Hall Mother and Baby Unit and Bradford Baby Steps. Keen to explore more, and to find out if the Circuit could offer any support, the CSJG decided to dig a little deeper.

New Hall Mother and Baby Unit

Part of HMP New Hall, near Wakefield, the Mother and Baby Unit seeks to encourage and empower mums to bond with their babies and make better informed life choices long-term. Through a process of assessment, intervention and review, support is provided in a variety of challenging areas which can include 'basic baby care, budgeting, communication skills, issues of bereavement and loss, substance misuse...'





So how can the Circuit best support?

The Mother and Baby Unit are seeking to improve their outside area, to meet current needs. It is possible the Circuit could do some targeted fund-raising to aid this project.

The CSJG are currently waiting to hear more – watch this space!

Bradford Baby Steps

This is an antenatal programme which seeks to support disadvantaged parents and those with additional needs e.g.

homeless, victims of domestic abuse, refugees, learning difficulties, substance misusers.

Their aim is to promote health and well-being in an attempt to make a positive impact on the quality of life for those children and families experiencing hardship.

This is delivered through providing information and practical help, covering topics such as 'baby's development, parent-infant interaction, mental and physical wellbeing, and positive parent relationships.' In addition, support networks are also created.

This project was initially run from the Barkerend Children's Centre, but with funding cuts, it's now been taken out into the community with individual family visits.

So how can the Circuit best support?

Baby Steps are always needing labour bags; they're in much demand all year round. These contain some of the essentials needed by new mums and their babies – see list provided.

The CSJG would like to challenge the Circuit to provide 24 labour bags, equivalent to one per church.

How will this work?

A church could choose to donate one complete labour bag or have a collection box for individual items from the list to be donated.

If you run or host a toddler group, perhaps you could encourage them to get involved too?

Calling all Knit and Natter groups – would you be able to knit or crochet some baby blankets, made with love?

There will be a collection point for handing in Labour bags and items at the planned *Action for Children* Coffee mornings – see diary dates. The end of September will mark the end of this challenge, nearly 3 months to meet our target! Let's get busy being creative!

With thanks in anticipation of your support!

Suzanne Bridges, on behalf of the Circuit Social Justice Group

For further information contact Suzanne, suzhmc@gmail.com

Count your Blessings - Thank you!

A fantastic total of £2,200, including gift aid, has been raised for *Action for Children* by those who participated with 'Count your Blessings' through Lent.

For everybody who took part, the local church links, and to Liz and Barry who organised this — a BIG Thank you! A great start to the Circuit project — supporting Action for Children!



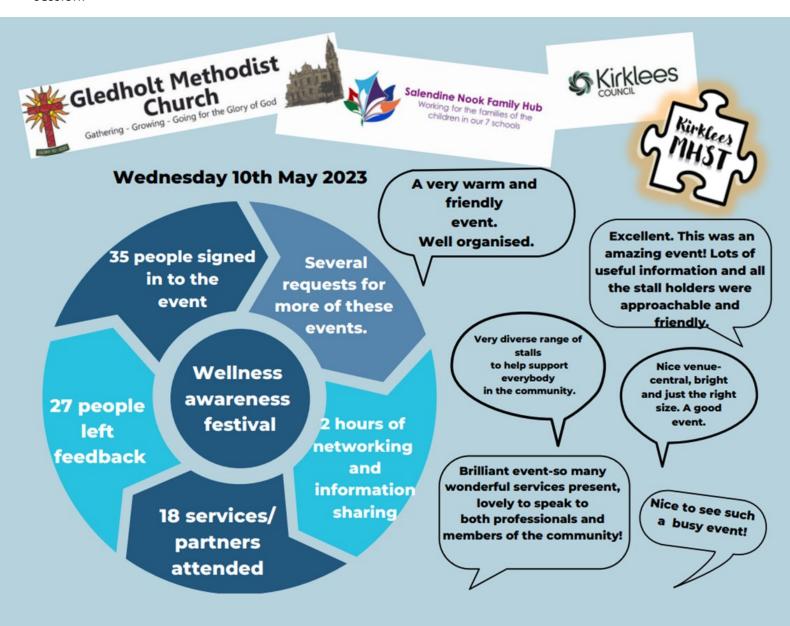
Toiletries

Towel

Wellness Awareness Event

As part of Gledholt's post-Covid visioning work, we have been looking to use our Wednesdays @ Gledholt sessions as a community hub where local residents can get advice as well as tea, toast, Fareshare and company.

We were approached by our Kirklees Hub leader and agreed to host a Wellness event during a Wednesday morning session. Apart from extra refreshments, tables and a large space, we didn't have to do much more than usual. It was great to see so many people gathered in our building. Here's some analysis from the session:



If you think that your church could host something similar, please get in touch and I'll find out contact details for the community hub in your locality.

Circuit Administrator - One Year (and a bit) On - Shirley Burton

Well, it's hard to believe that it has already been 18 months since I started this role and introduced myself to the Circuit in 'In Touch'. And now I've been asked to give my thoughts on how the job is going and, quite frankly, what do I actually do?!

So here goes...

How's it going?

Nice of you to ask! Very well thank you. As with most jobs it has busy times and quiet times. But the work is varied and I get to try many different things as well as meeting lots of people across the Circuit.

Role of the Circuit Administrator – then and now.

As I said in my last piece, the role was completely new and I was excited to get the opportunity to shape what it would become. This has, to a degree, been true. But of course, what has shaped the role most are the needs of the Circuit. To begin with it seemed like there was a never-ending stream of quinquennials to organise (these are 5-yearly property inspections that are needed for Methodist properties). And from early on, as expected, I have also taken a significant role in gathering data for and preparing the preaching plan. But one of the largest areas of support over these months has been with safeguarding. There is a lot of admin support needed around making sure training and DBS checks are up to date, as well as organising and collating the annual audit.

One aspect that I didn't see coming was starting to understand(?!) the consents website – the system by which we gain appropriate approval from the Methodist



church for changes to properties and the ownership of them. I have been busy helping churches when they need to grapple with this system. I still have a lot to learn but the more I do, the more I learn and the more I can assist churches with their queries. I have also learnt about TMCP's new streamlining process for sales of property so that I can support churches that may need to use it.

It would take a long list to detail exactly what the role has produced over the past 18 months because so many administrative tasks are small and simple – but those tasks need doing and would take up the time of ministers, stewards and volunteers. So, my help has hopefully freed up a little of their time and kept the wheels of the Circuit rolling around.

So, can you help me?

I'll try! Whether you need to get your "Summer Fun Day" advertised around the Circuit, are in need of a DBS check for a new volunteer, or want to find a risk assessment template to suit your church just let me know. I'm available to help anyone in the Circuit with church related queries. And if I can't help, I might know someone who can.

How can we get hold of you?

It's difficult to give exact working hours as I try and fit work around the children. This means there is virtually no chance of getting hold of me between 3 and 4pm in term time! I usually try to have Thursday off and I'm also not around on Tuesday afternoons as I help at a local Forest School.

I try to spread my 15 hours around on Monday, Wednesday and Friday throughout the day, or Tuesday morning. But I will always reply to emails or phone messages as soon as I can, so please don't hesitate to get "in Touch!" anytime via admin@huddersfieldmethodists.org.uk or 07851 689005.

Shirley Burton, Circuit Administrator

What Methodism Means to Me – Andrew Marchington

Whilst I was certainly born a little Liberal, I was also born a little Methodist.

My parents met at Cliff College. That is not as exciting as many people think given that dad was working in the

kitchen and mum was there on a church trip.

My parents married at the little Wesleyan Chapel in the village in Somerset where mum is from. In 1967 I was baptized at Dove Holes Primitive Methodist Church (the Prims) in the village in Derbyshire where dad is from. They were both the only Methodist church in the village.

We moved to Golcar in December 1968 and started to worship at Providence Methodist Church (Prov), which all other things being equal, is the church I continue to call home. When faith found me, in my late teens, the place where the seeds of faith had been sown was where I ultimately returned.

Singing, preaching, and asking questioning are some of the things that Methodism means to me. Not always in that order. Knowing that God loves us, and that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are part of us, is only the start of things. How we respond to God's love, living a life in that love, expressing that love is what the Methodist expression of faith helps me do.

I remember the preachers who came to Prov when I was younger; Miss Waddy, Fred Bell, Joan Balmforth, John Oldham. They preached with courage and conviction. They dressed like members of the congregation, they did everyday jobs, what they said about the Bible applied to them as much as to us. They always spoke to the children (young people) and there cannot be many people in the former Pennine Circuit who have not seen John Oldham cutting up a tie!

In the summer of 1986, I worked in Liverpool and stayed in the halls of residence just off Hope Street. I socialised with a couple of Roman Catholics and found myself encouraging them to go to church to help with some of the

problems they were experiencing. I was challenged back about why I did not go to church.

When I returned to University in October, I started going to Methsoc (The University Methodist Society). There wasn't a Methodist Church in St Andrew's, so I found myself travelling over to Dundee Methodist Church on a Sunday morning, in my blue Mini with a few other friends. It is Dundee that I preached my first sermon (or rather read out something someone else had written) on Social Responsibility Sunday. It is also where (in the middle of the 1987 general election) I became a member. Malcolm Rothwell

was our minister and also the University Chaplain. We went through the Nicene Creed and explored what that meant for us to be Christians and Methodists. I still hold fast to Methodism's place within the Universal (catholic) Church, and that Methodism is one of the most catholic denominations. Our Christianity is not just for Sundays but it embraces every part of our lives.

At Dundee Methodist Church I encountered Hymns and Psalms for the first time and in particular HP 315. I am reading it from the Hymn Book that my mother

bought me. "God's Spirit is in my heart ... He sent me to give the good news to the poor" - if Methodism is about living out our faith, then those words are a good starting point.







CORONATION CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE CIRCUIT

St Paul's Dalton

On Sunday 7th of May, 82 people dressed in red, white, and blue descended on Dalton St. Paul's for afternoon tea.

The large hall had been decked out with banners draped from each corner of the ceiling, and table decorations added to the atmosphere. Members of the church had been working very hard behind the scenes to make this memorable day a great success.

Reverend Tim opened the celebration with a prayer and

the food kept coming as people enjoyed a wonderful array of goodies. Support from Tesco, One Stop Moldgreen & Moldgreen Bakery added to the occasion and cakes were baked by friends of St. Paul's.

Voluntary contributions were taken and £165 was raised for church funds. 52 people stayed on for a celebration service, led by Reverend Tim, which included communion and a beautiful array of hymns.

A lovely day was had by all!

Carol Ellis, Dalton





Lepton





A Blast from the Past

Park Road Methodist Youth Club, Crosland Moor, May 1960.

Some may remember the heyday of the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs, particularly the annual MAYC London Weekend. Churches within the London Districts would host, enabling young people from around the Connexion to stay on church premises and meet up with their Youth Club.

My name is Elizabeth Edwards (née Packett), and in 1968 I moved to the manse in William Street with my mum, dad and sister Gillian. I, therefore, am not in the photograph! So how have I been able to copy it?

I have heard it said that Methodism is a small world. I think this must be true, because in 1980 I moved to New Malden (then in Surrey, now Greater London) and met Youth Club members at New Malden Methodist Church who had hosted Park Road Youth Club in the early 1960s. This photograph belongs to Doreen Downey (née

Lambe) who clearly remembers the exchanges, and indeed her visits to Huddersfield. She would love to hear from anyone who remembers staying on the hall floor.

She can be contacted by email:

<u>doreendowney5@gmail.com</u> or via me: lizedwards513@gmail.com

Another connection is that Peter Catford will be able to picture New Malden Methodist Church hall floors from his time as minister there. Sadly, he will never be able to visit Park Road which was demolished thus making space for the Crosland Moor Shopping Centre.

Liz Edwards



In Touch is edited by Suzanne Bridges and Rev Roz Page, and produced by Chris Mason. Please send all contributions for the next edition of In Touch (Sept - Nov 23) by Fri 25th Aug to suzhmc@gmail.com



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Summer Concert 2023 "Flowers, Folk and Fathoms"

Saturday 8th July - 7.30pm St Paul's Church, Armitage Bridge, HD4 7PD

Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo – Flanders & Horovitz
"Old American Songs" – Aaron Copland
"Yugoslav Folk Songs" – Matyas Seiber

Entrance £12 on the door – Students & under 18's £5 Includes programme & interval drink Cash and major credit/debit cards accepted

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