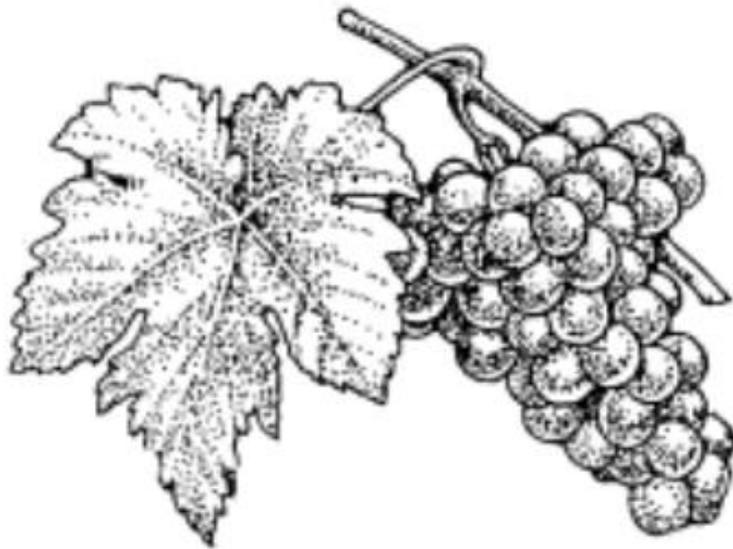


GROVE VINE

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

**December 2011
January 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) 258 3509
- 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 across the roundabout...

there is no hint that Christmas and New Year are hurtling towards us. Many of the trees still have leaves, the morning rush-hour is the same as it has been since the snow of last winter cleared. It is as if people were simply getting on with their lives.

Maybe they are, and maybe they need to. After all, we are in a time of economic crisis, with soaring unemployment and worldwide instability. So perhaps the best we can do is to get on with our lives.

As I told you last Christmas, I am an Easter and Pentecost man, and my response to Christmas is generally that of 'Bah! Humbug!'. Some people don't appear to believe me, but I can assure you that it is true. In the face of rampant commercialism and sickly sentimental television, I just want to get on with life.

Don't get me wrong – I adore Morecambe and Wise re-runs as much as any child of the sixties, but there are times when André Previn's piano and Angela Ripon's legs don't seem to be overly indicative that Christ is born to save all humanity.

In a world where people are simply getting on with their lives, and some are simply struggling to stay alive it seems to me that the Christmas message is absolutely vital. By the Christmas message I don't mean robins on snow-clad branches, three bearded gents on camels, family celebrations or gift giving, or even traditions like Carols from King's.

Rather, I mean that the struggle to stay alive is worth it. That there is more to living than just getting by. That in the birth of a baby to an unmarried teen in a hotel garage there is hope for us all.

Hope for what is left of 2011, hope for 2012, and hope for whatever may come.

Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Merry Christmas,

Ali (Rev A S Jones)

From the Editorial Group

Please remember to keep us informed of your dates and activities – we need reminding so we can pass them on to everyone.

The next deadline is January 25th 2012.

We wish all our readers a meaningful and happy Christmas and a fulfilling new year in 2012.

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 December and January

Dec 4th	Mrs C Turner & Mr and Mrs P Mawson
11th	Mrs C Seller
18th	Mr and Mrs L Wolfe & Mr H Castle
25th	Dr and Mrs A Orton
Jan 1st	Mr and Mrs P Boyes & Mr and Mrs W Kemp
8th	Miss H Watkins; Miss J Maylor & Miss B Wigglesworth
15th	Misses N and C Mathers & Mrs V O'Hara
22nd	Mrs M Heaton & Mrs E Hudson
29th	Mrs E Whiteley; Mr and Mrs B Ball & Mr and Mrs JA Emmott

May each Christmas, as it comes, find us more and more like Him who at this time became a little child, for our sake; more simple-minded, more humble, more affectionate, more resigned, more happy, more full of God.

Cardinal John Newman

Sunday Services in December

4 th	9.00	Rev. Alistair Jones – Holy Communion
	10.30	Rev. Alistair Jones – Family Parade and Toy Service
	6.00	United Service at Central
11 th	10.30	Mrs J Swales - Nativity
	6.00	Rev. Alistair Jones – Holy Communion
18 th	10.30	Rev. Alistair Jones – Holy Communion
	6.00	Rev. Alistair Jones – Candlelight Carol Service
25 th	10.30	Rev. Alistair Jones – Christmas Morning Service

Sunday Services in January

1 st	10.30	Mr S Westerman
8 th	10.30	Mrs A Blackburn
	6.00	Rev. Alistair Jones – Holy Communion
15 th	10.30	Mr B Thornton – Chapel Anniversary
	6.00	Mr B Thornton – Chapel Anniversary
22 nd	10.30	Rev. R Hayes – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
	6.00	Rev. Alistair Jones – Taize - Horsforth Churches Together
29 th	10.30	Rev. Alistair Jones – Holy Communion
	6.00	United Service at Central

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

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks On Ilkley Moor Baht 'At

‘While shepherds watched their flocks by night’ has been a popular Christmas carol for a very long time. The words first appeared in print in 1696, and have always been attributed to Nahum Tate, the Poet Laureate at that time. Singing in churches before about 1700 consisted basically of the psalms, and ‘While shepherds watched’ has been claimed as the very first Christmas hymn. It is not known what tunes might have been used for it then but WINCHESTER OLD, a set tune in most hymn books throughout my lifetime, dates from 1592.

The music for ‘On Ilkley Moor Baht 'At’ is based on a hymn tune composed by Thomas Clark (1775-1859), a Canterbury shoemaker. The tune is known as CRANBROOK, the name of a Kent village, and it was used at first with the hymn ‘Grace 'tis a charming sound’, written by Phillip Doddridge. It seems likely it wasn’t very long before the tune became associated with ‘While shepherds watched’, particularly in non-conformist churches. Clark wrote and published many other hymn tunes, and no doubt was able to try out his ideas on the local Methodist Church choir, in which members of the extended Clark family were prominent.

The words of ‘On Ilkley Moor Baht 'At’ are said to have been ‘put together’ by a Halifax Church Choir on a trip to Ilkley Moor, and have been in existence since around 1875. One can imagine this group having a hilarious time on their awayday, making up words to fit a familiar hymn tune. Over the passage of time since then, the melody has been subject to amendment, perhaps by people who didn’t know the original hymn tune. Thus, when we sing ‘While shepherds watched’ to CRANBROOK at the Grove, it may not sound exactly the same as your version of ‘On Ilkley Moor Baht 'At’.

Today, music publishers are prone to ignore the origins of the music, describing it as ‘traditional’, even when using it with ‘While shepherds watched’. But we know better. The evidence suggests that the original version was composed by a Methodist with a talent for writing hymn tunes.

Tony Orton

Church Family News

Please remember in your prayers: Ros Ansell, Brian Ball, Joan Benson, Pat Blackah, Mollie Burrows, Tony Emmott, John Hardaker, Mary Hart, Robert Lawson, Dorina Overson, Jaine Rae, Stan Ramsden, Margaret Reasbeck, Chris Shagouri and Eileen Stones.

Let us also remember the Hoyle and Rogers families and others recently bereaved, friends who are housebound, and those who are caring for loved ones, who all need our prayers and help at this time.

Stewards on Duty

Dec 4 th	Margaret Bosomworth Kay Bassett	Dec 11 th	Carole Abel David Buckley
Dec 18 th	John Bussey Betty West	Dec 25 th	Janette Mawson Andy Walker
Jan 1 st	Cynthia Hatton Carole Abel	Jan 8 th	David Buckley Margaret Bosomworth
Jan 15 th	Kay Bassett Gordon Mellor	Jan 22 nd	Andy Walker Cynthia Hatton
Jan 29 th	Margaret Bosomworth Carole Abel		

From the Church Registers

Funeral: 14th November 2011 - Mrs Petra Rogers



St Mark's Swinnow

St Mark's was built over fifty years ago to serve a new council estate between Bramley and Pudsey on Swinnow Moor. The building is all-purpose. A large hall, with a stage at one end and a curtained sanctuary at the other, is the hub of church life. In addition there are two meeting rooms – one of which became a side chapel when Mount Zion church closed in Pudsey, and gifted their communion table and other assets to St Mark's. Kitchen and toilets meet present standards and there is a ramp for disabled access. During the recent refurbishment the area in front of the church was gravelled and raised flower beds added later.

St Mark's began with a group of ladies who met to knit and to sew in the late fifties. The original Sunday school met in a local school. St Mark's opened its doors for the first time in October 1958. It enjoys a close relationship with Christ the Saviour Anglican Church built less than a year later. St Mark's is a member of Churches Together in Pudsey.

Membership and outreach has varied across the years, but the congregation continue to feel a strong sense of God's purpose. He continues to send new people to St Mark's who bring fresh enthusiasm and insight into church life. As older members pass on, others replace them and membership remains fairly constant at 30+. We had the joy of confirming an eighteen year old this year. Sophie is now carrying her commitment to Jesus forward at York University.

Perhaps St Marks' greatest strength is the love and commitment members and adherents feel for each other, for the church and for the area that it serves. There is a well supported Women's meeting and a small Sunday School. Outreach into the community includes Boys' and Girls' Brigade, and a family Scottish Dance class. St Mark's hosts the local 'Live at Home' gentle exercise class and lets to outside agencies provide further opportunities to witness in the community.

2011 has seen many new initiatives. There have been three café style services, two on Saturdays. A parents and tots group started in November.

A New Testament marathon 'read', a flower festival and a special service led by the Girl's Brigade celebrated and raised money for Bible Fresh. A strong contingent has attended the recent series on Vision and Outreach.

A small outreach team is delivering St Mark's magazine around the estate. By targeting one street at a time and making follow-up calls, offering information, a willingness to pray for individual concerns and a free magazine each month the team are building bridges with a community infamous for its apathy about almost everything.

The church has been blessed over the years by a variety of strong leadership - presbyters, deacons and lay workers - from America, Ghana, China and Germany as well as Great Britain. St Mark's has made lasting bonds with each one of them, continues to miss them when they move on, and because of their influence remains open minded - to new people and to new ideas. The congregation await the coming appointments to Wesley Circuit with anticipation.

Kirsty Butler

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Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the wisdom of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

R L Stevenson

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

In January 2012 we celebrate the 144th anniversary of our present church. It should have opened in 1867 but didn't due to minor glazing and plumbing deficiencies. Delayed then until January 1868, a top class preacher had to be found for the opening service. This was not on a Sunday, but on Thursday 16th January, a great and memorable day for many in Horsforth. A preacher was found, already known for his 'moving eloquence' and even better, he was a Yorkshireman, born in Doncaster.

The residents of Horsforth lived then in the High Victorian era, the middle period of that reign. Queen Victoria, a widow for six years and in deep grief, had retreated from public life, spending six months each year at Balmoral. The affairs of state continued in London. The past Prime Ministers, Sir Robert Peel and Lord Palmerston had died. 1868 brought three consecutive Prime Ministers: the Earl of Derby held office in January, by February Mr Benjamin Disraeli had taken over, in his turn succeeded by Mr William Gladstone in December. They presided over a population of 25 million of whom 2 million were enfranchised males, including the newly promoted urban labourers. Women's enfranchisement came much later.

Not everyone then could read. The big education acts were still to come. In that pre-electronic age, news and information could be had in newspapers like the 'Leeds Intelligencer', the precursor of the 'Yorkshire Post', or from public notices and most important, by word of mouth. That is why the preacher was so important, by adding a deeper spiritual dimension. Therefore against this background the Rev. W Morley Punshon came to open the new church called 'Grove Wesleyan Methodist'.

Punshon's family traded as merchants with connections in Sunderland. It was there that he was accepted as a local preacher and then urged by his uncle to offer for the ministry. Richmond College was the trainee ground for Methodist missionaries, but he wanted to remain on home ground so he was put on the reserve list. Gaining experience at Exeter Hall, an evangelical centre in London, after four years he was finally ordained in Manchester in 1849. He made rapid progress, particularly as a speaker on religious and literary themes, while stationed in northern places like

Carlisle, Whitehaven and Leeds in 1855, achieving a great reputation.

Because of that reputation, in 1859 he was elected to the 'Legal Hundred', the body of preachers charged with powers to enforce legislation and administer the property of the Methodist Church. Two years later he became the editor of the new 'Methodist Recorder', now 150 years old. He used his energies to promote the 'Watering Places Fund'. This was to help build 24 churches in seaside towns such as Bournemouth or Folkestone, to spread the gospel. He raised £10,000, an enormous sum, by lectures, sermons and inviting donations, but by doing so damaged his health. His wife died in 1858 followed by his mother-in-law the next year. These losses also affected his health. His wife's sister cared for his four children.

In 1867 the Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada requested the appointment of the Rev. W. M. Punshon as its next President. Having weighed it in his mind he decided to accept. For him it would be a new world of experience and bring about the possibility of marrying his sister-in-law, impossible and legally banned in this country.

Meanwhile on that Thursday in January 1868 Mr Punshon arrived at our newly built church for its opening service, where he would preach in our new pulpit, survey the people in the new box pews and admire the stained glass windows, the wrought iron railings and the wide approach to the large entrance doors. He chose for his sermon's text Hebrews chapter 12 verses 18 and 22: 'For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched... But ye are come unto Mount Zion and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem and to an innumerable company of angels'.

Three months later in April he set sail for Canada.

Christine Mathers.

I am grateful to the late Misses Rathmell (late members of the Grove) for giving my family their notes concerning the opening service.

To be concluded next month. Ed.

Look backward with gratitude.

Look onward with hope.

Look upward with confidence.

Worship with a difference?

On January 22nd 2012, at 6.0 pm, there is a Horsforth Churches Together service at the Grove. In other words we shall be welcoming, and worshipping with, our friends and neighbours who attend other churches in the locality. Significantly, however, it will also be a Taizé service, the first one for Horsforth Churches together.

What is Taizé?

Taizé is the name of a small village situated in peaceful and beautiful surroundings in Burgundy, France. The founder of the Taizé community, Brother Roger, arrived there in 1940, at a time of widespread conflict across Europe, with the vision of founding an ecumenical community of Christians among whom refugees might find shelter and support. Since then, the growing community has provided a safe haven for the many who have needed it. More recently, however, it has become a place of pilgrimage, where many people both young and old, but nowadays probably mostly young, may go to deepen their faith, to learn more about prayer, about the scriptures, and about worship, and of course to meet other Christians from all around the world. The vocation of Taizé is now to strive for communion among all, and to work for reconciliation among Christians separated into different denominations. It thus seems particularly appropriate that this Horsforth Churches Together service is a Taizé service.

Taizé services at the Grove

In our services we try to copy the style of worship developed at Taizé, with its emphases on the study of scriptures and on prayer, with its unhurried approach, and with its silences and its opportunities for quiet reflection. For various reasons the singing is very simple, and often repetitive. We sing very few traditional hymns. This might be the first obvious distinction from 'normal' worship for many newcomers to Taizé services. It might also be hard to adapt to – at first. But many of our congregation have come to appreciate the style. One reason for the simple songs is purely practical. Pilgrims from all around the world speak a multiplicity of languages. The simple refrains and responses of Taizé songs can be learned easily and quickly through repetition, so all can join in. But the main reason for simple songs and chants is to support a contemplative approach to

worship, in which the sung words do not demand the sort of concentration on both words and music often required by a traditional hymn, so that space within the mind is available for a deeper focus on gospel messages, on spiritual truths and on prayer. We don't even all have to sing all the time. Sometimes we can just listen to what the words are saying to us. Sometimes the words lead us into private prayer. And while we are silent, the choir and others around us will maintain the constant atmosphere of contemplative worship.

Tony Orton

Did you miss this

If you had gone into the main hall on Friday evening (18th Nov) and seen it full of empty tables, you would not have believed the transformation when you went in again on the following Saturday morning. This was the Christmas Bazaar and everywhere you looked there were tables groaning under the weight of all sorts of goodies, as well as refreshments (Punch and mince pies !!) in the small hall.

What a fantastic atmosphere, with crowds of people mingling, talking, buying and eating and drinking – Mums with push chairs and toddlers queueing up to see Father Christmas in his grotto – worth it just to see the Elf and the Fairy.

Many, many thanks to Jean Kemp for organising it, and to all those who served on the stalls. An amazing three hours !!! **and** they managed to raise a stupendous £2,075.

.....then make sure you don't miss these:

10th Dec Carols at the Band Stand in the Park at 4.00pm.

19th Dec “Give it back Mac” a rumbustious Christmas play for all the family by the Riding Lights Theatre Company.
St Margarets Hall, Church Road at 2.00pm and 7.00pm.

24th Dec Christmas Eve - Christingle Service at 6.00pm
Grove Methodist Church, Town Street, Horsforth.

Forthcoming Events – December & January

- 9th, 10th and 11th. Christmas Tree Festival at Trinity.
To sponsor a tree @ £10 contact Val 0113 229 9662
- 10th “String of Beads” Concert at Trinity.
7.30pm. Tickets £6.00 inc. Festive Refreshments
- 11th “Big Christmas Sing” - Churches Together in Farsley
Farsley Community Church at 4.00 to 6.00pm.
Refreshments will be served.
- 14th Carols by the Canal at Rodley from 7.00 to 8.00pm.
- 24th Christingle Service at Grove at 6.00pm.
- Jan 18th to 25th Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Jan 19th Prayer Services for above:
St James at 6.30am and Grove at 12.00pm

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) 258 2097

Friday

- 7.45 Choir Rehearsal 259 1580
- Thursday Walking Group 258 6579
- Saturday Walking Group 258 4520

Items for the February magazine should be submitted to Gordon, Mary and Margaret by 25th January 2012. Please include items 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

[://www.grovemethodist.org.uk/](http://www.grovemethodist.org.uk/)

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