

GROVE VINE

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

April 2015



**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

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Regular events

Sunday

- 10.20 Creche (0-3yrs) 0113 258 3509
- 10.20 J Team (tots to 12s) 0113 258 8803
- 10.30 Worship
- 6.00 Worship (alternate Sundays at Central Methodist Church)
- 7.30 Studio Dance SNYG 0113 258 9093

Monday

- 9 -12.00 Pre-school (2-under 5s) (Funding 3-4yrs) 0113 239 0335
- 12.00 Luncheon Club 0113 258 3807
- 1.30 Network Women's Fellowship 0113 258 9448
- 6.15 Beavers 0113 216 9006
- 6.15 Cubs 0113 216 9006
- 7.45 Scouts 0113 216 9006
- 7.45 Flower Guild (3rd Monday in the month) 0113 258 4520

Tuesday

- 9 -9.30 Prayer Group in the Quiet Room 0113 258 8803
- 9 -12.00 Pre-school (2-under 5s) (Funding 3-4yrs)
0113 239 0335 and 12.00 – 3.00 Pre-school as above.
- 10-11.30 Coffee in the Centre Small Hall 0113 258 3568;
Quiet Room available for prayer. Jean Kemp's hand-
made greetings cards are available on the first Tuesday
of each month
- 6.00 Rainbows (5th Horsforth) 0113 259 0555
- 6.15 Brownies (5th Horsforth) 0113 258 3670
- 7.45 Guides (5th Horsforth) 0113 202 9010

(Continued inside back cover)

Looking over the nation...

we have significant decisions ahead of us, decisions that should be made in the light of Christ's ministry, suffering, death, and Easter glory. Some Christians believe that they should not vote, that the establishment of Government is a divine act in which they should not interfere. This is not being faithful, it is abdicating the rights for which many fought and died.

1432 – Henry VI establishes that ownership of property of a specific value (about £600,000 at present prices) permits a male to vote.

1832 – the value is dropped to £35,000 at present values.

1867 – and dropped again to around £16,000.

1884 – further liberalisation of the system, but still excluding 40% of males and 100% of females

1918 – voting for all males over 21, and for about 40% of women, limited to those over 30 and holders of property.

1928 – voting for both genders if over 21, with no property restrictions.

1969 – voting age dropped to 18.

This country, our supposed cradle of democracy, was a battlefield rather than a bastion of freedoms.

If you can vote, then vote!

Vote because, if you don't, others will pretend that they are speaking for you, that they are 'the silent majority'. Vote because, if you don't, those who struggled for that right will be betrayed.

Vote in the light of Christ's ministry, suffering, death, and Easter glory, I wrote. I meant it.

Look at the policies of the parties as they appear to you. Which of them best match with the life, teachings, and sacrifice of Christ?

How did he act towards those his society feared, hated and despised?

When others needed healing, what priorities did he have?

Do you think he would have blessed tax evasion, or cursed those who practise it?

Did he revile those of other faiths, or admire their faith? Would he have reviled the poor as workshy layabouts, or urged compassion and sharing?

If we cannot vote with the example Christ gives us, then we deserve everything we get.

If we cannot vote with the love of God overwhelming our self-interest, how will God view us?

With the love of God in your hearts, and the rights won by centuries of struggle, **vote!**

Ali

(Rev Alistair S Jones)

From The Registers

19th March Funeral of Mrs Maureen Smith

Please remember in your prayers: John Ashby, Florence Bonfield, Tony Emmott, Mary Hart, Nancy Mathers, Stan Ramsden, Margaret Reasbeck, Ros Revell, Kathleen Taylor, Margaret Bosomworth, Alan Lodge and Christine Wilson.

Sunday Services in April/May

5th 9.00 Rev. Alistair Jones - Holy Communion
 10.30 Rev. Alistair Jones - Family and Parade
 6.00 Rev. T. Boocock
12th 10.30 Rev. A. Jewell – Holy Communion
 6.00 United Service at Central
19th 10.30 Mrs A. Bailey
 6.00 Rev. Alistair Jones
26th 10.30 Mrs M. Tate
 6.30 Circuit Easter Offerings at Rodley
3rd May 9.00 Rev. Alistair Jones - Holy Communion
 10.30 Mr P Mawson - Family and Parade
 6.00 Rev. Alistair Jones

Stewards on Duty in April

5th	Michael Wallis and John Bussey
12th	Caroline Turner and David Buckley
19th	Margaret Shingler and Michael Wallis
28th	Michael Wallis and Caroline Turner
3rd May	John Bussey and Margaret Shingler

Horsforth Churches Together

Together in our community

ELECTION HUSTINGS

Your chance to question the candidates standing for election in the Parliamentary Constituency of Pudsey, West Yorkshire

Sunday 19th April 3.00 - 4.30 pm

Doors open 2.30 pm with refreshments
Venue: St Margaret's Church Hall

Questions will be selected concerning World, National and Local issues.

Questions can be asked before the event on the Horsforth Churches Together website
www.horsforthchurchestogether.btck.co.uk

Unfortunately 19th April is also the day chosen for the Meet, Greet and Eat event (see also Our Methodist New Circuit, page 10) for the new enlarged circuit (2.00 - 4.00) but enthusiasts will probably manage both.

Easter

A cross is standing empty
Pointing to the sky
On which they nailed our
Saviour
And left him there to die
In agony he hung there
Above the jeering crowd
“Father, please forgive them”
They heard him cry aloud.

All through the day they hung
there
‘Till in the evening gloom
His friends cut down his body
And laid it in the tomb,
Then heads bowed down in
sorrow
They sadly made their way
Back to their homes, in
readiness
To keep the Sabbath day

Early the second morning
Mary went unto the place
Where they had laid her
Saviour,
Deep sorrow lined her face.
She found to her amazement
The tomb was opened wide,
No sign of any body,
Only grave clothes lay inside.

She turned away in anguish
Saying to a man close by
“Where have they put my
Master
Who in that tomb did lie?”
The man replied so gently,
“Mary, why seek me here?
The son of man is risen;
Now death need hold no fear.”

I’m going to my father
To be at his right hand,
And soon will my disciples
Spread the news throughout
the land
That I died to bring redemption,
To set the sinners free,
To offer life hereafter
To all who follow me.

For I am with you always,
No matter where you stray
You’ll find me ever near you
To guide you on your way.
My life was given for you
Accept me as your friend,
I am the Way, the Truth, the
light,
My love shall know no end.

Florence Bonfield

WORD SPIRAL PUZZLE

1			2			3
	9			10		
	14			15		
8					11	4
			16			
	13			12		
7			6			5

Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words from the Bible, using the clues below. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the keyword across the middle, in the shaded boxes.

Keyword clue: Jesus Christ

1. Musical instrument - still used today
2. Travelling apostle
3. Jacob was tricked into marrying her
4. An animal part which was the origin of the trumpet
5. Rare and fragrant plant extract
6. Probably the roebuck
7. An upper one was the venue for the Last Supper
8. First gospel writer
9. Wise man or ruler?
10. A city of the Philistines or region in the news today
11. Man (first)
12. Common herb (we use it as well)
13. Poetical word for the cross
14. Son of Seth
15. Cloth worth its weight in gold
16. A mark of affection, even when on the feet

Tony Orton

Scout Bulb Sale

An early warning that after a pause last year there will be an opportunity to buy bulbs this year. Details later, but whilst your crocus and daffodils are blooming you can look for gaps in your planting scheme

in readiness. And please ask work colleagues and neighbours to do the same. Thank you *Keith Whitham 9th Airedale Scout Group*

Sunshine and Showers

The week began by my being asked to do something I felt unable to say "Yes" to. Previously I had said a cautious "Yes" to a different request, but later in this same week it transpired that I didn't need to do it after all! The ups and downs of daily life were at play. Then a couple of days later a little ray of sunshine approached and said "Isn't it time we had another of your little flower articles again?" So this is a "Yes" to end the week on a positive note!

Spring is definitely beginning to spring. Anthony and I have already done "The First Week Hunt" for the Wild Flower Society which entails going out and recording what wild flowers are in bloom during the first week of March. We have seen Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - not the ones that immediately come to mind - but look in any wild flower guide and you will see a delightful flower that goes by this name. We found it growing out of the bank by the River Aire at Kirkstall Abbey. It can also be seen at Golden Acre Park, but there it has been planted - a very subtle difference! To be a wild flower it has to be one that appears naturally without man interfering in any way.

In that first week of March we found 38 different flowering species. Colleagues down in Guernsey will probably have found 138 when the results are published, whereas those in the Shetlands will be lucky to reach double figures. Our most pleasing sighting, because it is hard to find, was Yellow Star of Bethlehem. This is a small yellow flower with a green stripe down the underside of its petal that likes to grow in dark, damp woodland. Its name derives from being the earliest flowering plant to shine like a star to light the way out of the darkness of winter and herald the hope of Spring. Admittedly, though, it doesn't quite manage to bloom in the season of Epiphany.

Another early bloomer and much easier to see is Coltsfoot. You could be forgiven for passing it by thinking it a dandelion, but a closer look will show you a very different stem and the flower itself is far more delicate and intricate than the head of a dandelion. It rejoices in the wonderful Latin name of "*tussilago farfara*". Latin is the language of the serious botanist. The point of it all was illustrated to me by the following little tale. A group of Japanese botanists visiting Europe could scarcely make themselves

understood to their hosts, yet when out in the field identifying plants, everybody was singing from the same latin hymn sheet.

During the winter we have had a good clump of Common Field-speedwell brightening up the garden. Only a small flower, but a vibrant blue and to really see the beauty of it you need to look through a lens. The first time I ever looked through a lens at a small flower head, I was just stunned at the beauty of the detail and couldn't help but think of "each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings" and then often think of that birthday card verse which ends with the words "you are nearer to God in the garden than anywhere else on earth".

Sunshine and showers will soon make the woodlands come alive with ramsons (wild garlic), wood anemones, celandines, bluebells and our countryside and hay meadows will burst into colour with buttercups, clovers, lady`s-smock and early purple orchids. Meanwhile, we should soak up the sunshine that falls on us and cope with the showers that will rain down on us. Think of the amazing way plants like groundsel, dandelions, sow-thistles, bittercresses - tough little things - will soon be rising up against all the odds, popping out of tarmac along our pavements (and in our gardens!). We may not like them very much but, after all, "He made them every one".

Rita Grainger

Our New Methodist Circuit

At present our church belongs to the Leeds Wesley Circuit, along with the Methodist churches in Bramley, Stanningley, Pudsey, Swinnow and Farsley. As from September we shall be joining with two other circuits (Headingley & West and Central & South) to form the Leeds South and West Circuit, which will stretch from Horsforth in the north to Hunslet in the south. This is part of a similar process across the whole country.

A 'Meet, Greet & Eat' event has been arranged so that we can get to know our new partners and hear about the mission opportunities they are pursuing. It will be held at Trinity Methodist Church, Upper Town Street, Bramley, on Sunday 19 April from 2 until 4 p.m. Please come, even if you cannot be there for the whole time. Let one of our stewards know if you need a lift.

A Tale of Three Circuits

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.

There are times when we have to accept that the future is not going to be what the past has been.

Those times come along every few minutes, because we live in a world of change.

Leeds (Wesley) is joining together with 'Headingley and West' and 'South and Central' Circuits in September, to become one big Circuit with 24 worshipping communities. This Circuit will be under the administrative and pastoral care of Rev Tim Boocock as our Superintendent, and while there will be various changes of ministerial responsibility, my 'station' will remain unchanged for the time being.

I say 'for the time being' because British Methodism is facing major changes. This year it has become apparent that we have a significant shortfall in ordained Presbyterian Ministers. I can only guess, but that guess would be that over the coming years the Circuit will be losing ministerial staff.

What the result of that would be I do not know, but it is worth noting for the future that having a minister split between only three churches may well be seen as a luxury.

What will the effects be in the here and now? Well, it is far too early to tell on most matters.

In terms of administration, we hope that it will relieve the burden on many people by uniting and simplifying structures. In terms of preaching, for the time being the ministers are getting around a bit more than usual, and the preaching plan has significantly more names upon it.

Of course, what this *does* mean is that I will not be as present as usual.

Some people are concerned that this means a likely decrease in the number of communion services held at the Grove. Their analysis is correct, their concern is not. Let me explain why.

Consider our current plan, listing those 24 worshipping communities over three months -

3 Communion Services – 13 churches, including Rodley

4	“	“	7 churches
5	“	“	2 churches, including Central
6	“	“	1 church – the Grove
8	“	“	1 church

As far as the Grove is concerned, of course, the evening service roughly alternates with Central, and the majority of regular worshippers are Grove members. That adds an additional 2 services to the Grove's total.

As you can see, Grove and Central have access to significantly more communion services than almost all other churches in the Circuit. Even if the present number of communion services were halved, the Grove would still have more communion services than half the churches of the new Circuit!

As a Circuit we move forward into an era with less certainty and fewer ministers than we want.

Nonetheless, we move forward. If we want ministers, then we must raise them. If we want a bigger church, then we must grow it. If we want to serve God, we must do it.

Moping over a lost past does not help, nor does moaning over an unsatisfactory present.

Looking to the future, working and hoping for it, that alone will help. It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It always is.

Rev Alistair S Jones

Question.....

What does the above really mean for **OUR Church, its members and congregation. 'Amalgamation' has to have benefits, be fit for purpose and move us forward.**

The role of Pastoral Care and Learning – how do we address this?

Outreach – seen to be in action, is it?

Sustainable Church Strategy.

Missing Generation, what is being done to get younger people into church?

Financial Resources, can the enlarged circuit be viable, will it be detrimental to the Grove?

So many questions, strong leadership is needed. To take on this bold concept, needs commitment, **do we have it?**

Paul and Jenny Redfearn

Christian Aid Week 10th – 16th May 2015

The Christian Aid 'House to House' collections will be 10th/16th May. The history of envelope collection in Horsforth and especially the Grove, has been financially very rewarding; each year increasing to a very substantial amount, last year totalling £1936.94 for the Grove alone.

We have over the last 30 years, increased our number of collectors but proportionally our roads/streets have increased too, since many have not been covered by other churches. I am very proud to thank all our existing collectors and ask for more helpers to come forward particularly in your own area.

This year's appeal has been targeted with Ethiopia in mind and the story of Loko who has to collect wood to make money. To make money she makes a back breaking 8 hour trip to gather wood, four times a week. Her story is dreadful when compared to women of the same age in this country. She has no choice at all, she says "If I can't collect firewood my children will die" She dreams of owning a cow – its milk would nourish her children and provide the income she needs to take control of her life.

This Christian Aid Week, you can walk alongside women like Loko. The money we collect will transform the lives of thousands of the Worlds poorest people.

If you are already a collector please let me know that you would be happy to continue this year. If you would like to help deliver and collect for the 1st time we would be so grateful to have your help – just a short road or street would help to boost our collection – we would like to raise £2000 this year. Many thanks

Barbara Buckley

Joseph Rathmell's Roots (1811 – 1897)

In the last issue of Grove Vine, I reported on the surprising development of our earliest Local Preacher, Joseph Rathmell. I have been very pleased to have further information from Lorraine Hughes in Australia and particularly from David Rathmell in Barwick-in-Elmet. As David says, there is a real wonder in being able to trace local continuity in faith through the Rathmell family from before 1800 to the present day.

As we already know, Joseph Rathmell was involved at the Grove. But it is in reading of his family connections that there is further interest. Joseph Rathmell was the oldest son of John and Rachel Rathmell, living at Stainburn, nr Otley. Lorraine Hughes's husband John is a direct descendant through his mother and her father was uncle to our Joseph. There are several Josephs and Johns and it is not easy to unpick the line.

There are Rathmells associated with tenancies at Whetstone Farm, Ling Bob Farm and Non-go-by Farm. There was also a short term tenancy in 1891 of Lee Lane Farm – though Paul Shagouri has no record of that.

The Stainburn Society and Stainburn Chapel. The development of the Methodist Chapel there is directly linked with the Rathmell family. David's research makes interesting reading. Early Methodist communities were called Societies and the Stainburn Society comprised 6 members as part of the Keighley Circuit in 1785. In 1787 they sent 5



shillings to the Circuit to support an itinerant Minister. In 1790 Stainburn was included in the Otley Circuit. In 1800 there were 10 members. Ann Rothwell née Todd was one of the founding members and was the grandmother of our Joseph Rathmell. By 1815 that number was down to 5. In 1821 the population of Stainburn was 361 but the Society accounted for only a small proportion. Joseph's mother Rachel was an active member.

However, they had sufficient strength of purpose that in 1837 the Chapel was completed at a cost of £179-1s-11d! Pew rents helped offset expenses – typically £4 per half year. The local blacksmith, Mr William Wood, loaned the not inconsiderable sum of £30. The Trustees were named in the Accounts Book and they included the Rathmells, farmers as Banks Farm. One trustee was the schoolmaster who was paid £1-10s to clean the Chapel. The 1837 Accounts Book was still in use when the final entry for the Chapel was made in May 1976. By 1851 there was seating for 134, with 46 regularly attending Morning Service, 50 at Evening Service and 40 at Sunday School.

There are other interesting insights into life in Stainburn at that time. David Rathmell has done considerable research into the realities of being a Local Preacher in the early 19th Century. Records from Quarterly Meetings show:

“9th June 1841.

Q. Are there any objections against any of the Preachers?

A. John Rathmell because he will not preach. (*David comments – “This is a sad indictment of his character. We can only hazard a guess at the reason. The only mode of transport would have been by horse and it would have taken some time to travel from Banks Farm to villages such as Arthington. It could take 2 hours each way and should be remembered that they had a large farm to tend.”*)“June 1854.

Q. Are there any objections to any of the Preachers?

A. Bro J Rathmell to be wrote to respecting preaching too long.”

Many thanks to Lorraine and David. There is a lot more information associated with this fascinating family story. *Gordon Mellor*

Thought for the month

Our word *believe* does not get the force of the Greek word. It really means *give yourself over to, risk your life on.*

Dr John Vincent

Regular events (contd)

Wednesday

- 9 -12.00 Pre-school (2-under 5s) (Funding 3-4yrs)
0113 239 0335
and 12.00 – 3.00 Pre-school as above.
- 2.00 Line Dancing 0113 258 7444
- 6.00 Rainbows (14th) 0113 239 0335
- 6.15 Brownies (14th) 0113 250 4907
- 7.30 Wednesday Break (fortnightly) 0113 225 2734
- 8.00 Explorer Scouts 0113 258 0882

Thursday

- 9.30 – 11.30 Tots & Tykes (0-4yrs) 0113 293 8458
- 11.00 Bible Fellowship 0113 258 3239
- 6.00 Cubs 0113 216 9006
- 6.15 Beavers 0113 216 9006
- 7.45 Scouts 0113 216 9006
- 7.45 Grove Ladies Group (1st and 3rd Thursdays)
0113 258 2520

Friday

- 7.45 Choir Rehearsal 0113 258 9093

Walking Groups: **Thursday** 0113 258 6579
Saturday 0113 258 4520

From the Editorial Group

Note that the Editorial Teams alternate..... n.b. the May Issue will be prepared by Gill Jewell and you should send items to her no later than 5pm on Wednesday 22nd April.

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***Please include dates up to Sunday 7th June 2014.
Email (copy as an attachment) would be appreciated!***

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

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Off duty from Saturday noon and all day Sunday