

*West Yorkshire Methodist District
welcomes you to*

*A Celebration of Welcome
and New Beginnings
for the life and work of the
Methodist Church in Bradford*

Wednesday 2 September 2009

*at Bradford Cathedral commencing
at 7.30 pm*

*Preacher: Rev. R Graham Carter MA
(President of the Methodist Conference 2006/7)*

*Leaders: Rev. Peter Whittaker BA
(Chair of the West Yorkshire Methodist District) &
Rev. M Ruth Parry BMinTh
(Deputy Chair of the West Yorkshire District)*

Organist: Mr Richard Walsh

WORDS OF PREPARATION AND WELCOME

Acclamation: Bless the Lord, my soul and bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.
(to be sung twice unaccompanied on each occasion)

HYMN: **As the deer pants for the water,**
so my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.*

I want You more than gold or silver,
only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.

You alone are my strength, my shield.....

You're my Friend

and You're my Brother,
even though You are a king.
I love You more than any other,
so much more than anything.

You alone are my strength, my shield.....

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PRAYERS

God of truth, you are worthy of higher praise than we can offer,
and of purer worship than we can imagine.

By your Holy Spirit, assist us in our prayers
and draw us to yourself, so that what is lacking in our thoughts and
actions
and in our words and music, may be supplied by your overflowing love:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Gracious God, when we do not listen for your word in the words of
others,
forgive and renew us.

When we do not use the gifts you have bestowed on us,
forgive and renew us.

When we do not love one another as sisters and brothers in Christ,
forgive and renew us.

When we do not serve our neighbours in their need,
forgive and renew us.

When we do not share the Good News with those around us,
forgive and renew us.

God calls us to serve, forgives us in Christ, and renews us by the
Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

God of all grace, you call your Church to be a holy people
to the praise of your name.

In the power of your Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and our lives
with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Reading: Micah 6: 6 - 8

Mr David Humphreys, Headmaster, Woodhouse Grove School

SUNG ALLELUIA (twice)

Reading: Luke 4: 16 - 21

Mrs Ruth Hilton representing the Touchstone Project

SUNG ALLELUIA (twice)

HYMN: Meet and right it is to sing,

In every time and place,

Glory to our heavenly King,

The God of truth and grace:

Join we then with sweet accord,

All in one thanksgiving join;

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Eternal praise be thine.

Thee the first-born sons of light,
In choral symphonies,
Praise by day, day without night,
And never, never cease;
Angels and archangels all
Praise the mystic Three in One,
Sing, and stop, and gaze, and fall
O'erwhelmed before thy throne.

Vying with that happy choir,
Who chant thy praise above,
We on eagles' wings aspire,
The wings of faith and love:
Thee they sing with glory crowned,
We extol the slaughtered Lamb;
Lower if our voices sound,
Our subject is the same.

Father, God, thy love we praise,
Which gave thy Son to die;
Jesus, full of truth and grace,
Alike we glorify;
Spirit, Comforter divine,
Praise by all to thee be given;
Till we in full chorus join,
And earth is turned to heaven.

(Charles Wesley 1707-88)

ADDRESS The Rev. R Graham Carter

HYMN: Behold the servant of the Lord!

I wait thy guiding eye to feel,
To hear and keep thy every word,
To prove and do thy perfect will,
Joyful from my own works to cease,
Glad to fulfil all righteousness.

Me if thy grace vouchsafe to use,
Meanest of all thy creatures, me,
The deed, the time, the manner choose;
Let all my fruit be found of thee;
Let all my works in thee be wrought,
By thee to full perfection brought.

My every weak though good design
O'errule or change, as seems thee meet;
Jesus, let all my work be thine!
Thy work, O Lord, is all complete,
And pleasing in thy Father's sight;
Thou only hast done all things right.

Here then to thee thine own I leave;
Mould as thou wilt thy passive clay;
But let me all thy stamp receive,
But let me all thy words obey,
Serve with a single heart and eye,
And to thy glory live and die.

(Charles Wesley 1707-88)

COMMISSIONING OF THE NEW CIRCUITS

Leader: Brothers and Sisters in Christ I ask you join with me in welcoming the birth of the new circuits of Bradford North and Bradford South.

I ask you to pray for the work of both circuits, for their cooperation and continuing development.

I ask you to respond to God's love and care for you by loving and caring for others.

We rejoice in responding to God's call to love and service. We will work together and pray for each other, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit as our new circuits develop.

Will you love and care for each other?

We will.

Will you support one another prayerfully and practically?

We will.

Will you listen again for God's call to contemporary discipleship?

We will, God being our helper.

May the God who calls us all

Fill us with love

Renew us in worship

And enable us to share Christ with all people. **AMEN**

COMMISSIONING OF CIRCUIT STEWARDS

(Stewards come forward)

To you is entrusted an important leadership role in your circuit. You are to represent the people, care for those in ministry and help oversee the work of God. I ask you to do this prayerfully, in partnership with others, making your work an offering of loving service. Will you serve in this way as an outworking of your discipleship?

STEWARDS RESPOND: I will and I ask God to help me and all of you to support me prayerfully as we work together for Jesus.

*(Deputy Chair of District and Synod Secretary join the Chair of District
in greeting the Circuit Stewards of Bradford North and Bradford South
circuits)*

HYMN (DURING WHICH THE OFFERTORY WILL BE TAKEN)

Brother, sister, let me serve you,

Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
And companions on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,
When you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

Richard Gillard © 1977 Scripture in Song, a division of Integrity Music/Adm. by Kingsway's Thankyou Music.

COMMISSIONING OF NEW MINISTERS *(they come forward)*

The Rev. Peter Whittaker presents the ministers to the congregation.

The Rev. Graham Carter invites the presbyters to make their promises:

Barbara, David & Ian

Will you hold before us the story of *God's* love and mercy, above all, the *Gospel* of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and will you be among us as one who preaches the word of *God*, administers Baptism, presides at the Lord's Supper, teaches the faith, and cares for the flock?

Revs. David Bonny, Barbara Glasson and Ian Griffiths respond:

I will. I ask *God* to help me, and I invite you all to join with me in proclaiming the *Gospel* of life and hope.

Through Christ, we have Good News to share.

Will you hold before us *God's* call to holy living and be among us as one who awakens the careless and strengthens the faithful?

Revs. David Bonny, Barbara Glasson and Ian Griffiths respond:

I will. I ask *God* to help me, and I invite you all to join with me in commitment to the way of *Christ*.

May we reveal Christ's way through our words and example.

Will you hold before us *God's* commitment to human community, to our neighbourhoods and all who live within them, and to the world that *God* has made?

Revs. David Bonny, Barbara Glasson and Ian Griffiths respond:

I will. I ask *God* to help me, and I invite you all to join with me in sharing *God's* all-embracing love.

May we respond to Christ in all we meet.

The Rev. Graham Carter invites the deacon to make her promises:

Julie, will you hold before us the story of *God's* love and mercy,
above all, the *Gospel* of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and will you be among us as one who makes known the *Good News*,
by deeds and loving service?

Deacon Julie Portland responds:

I will. I ask *God* to help me, and I invite you all to join with me
in proclaiming the *Gospel* of life and hope.

Through Christ, we have Good News to share.

Will you hold before us *God's* call to serve the needs of others
and be among us as one who ministers Christ's love and compassion?

Deacon Julie Portland responds:

I will. I ask *God* to help me, and I invite you all to join with me
in commitment to the way of Christ.

May we reveal Christ's way through our words and example.

Will you hold before us *God's* commitment to human community,
to our neighbourhoods and all who live within them,
and to the world that *God* has made?

Deacon Julie Portland responds:

I will. I ask *God* to help me, and I invite you all to join with me
in sharing *God's* all-embracing love.

May we respond to Christ in all we meet.

COMMISSIONING OF THE LEAD SUPERINTENDENTS

(they come forward)

The Rev. Peter Whittaker presents the Lead Superintendents,

Revs. Louise Carr and Alistair Newton to the congregation and invites them to make their promise.

Alistair and Louise, to you is committed the responsibility for the life and work of these new circuits. Will you, with your colleagues, lay and ordained, care for its people, inspire its witness and watch over its life in the name of Christ?

Alistair and Louise respond: I will, and I ask God to help me.

**We will support your leadership in prayerful and practical ways.
May God bless you and equip you for your work.**

PRAYER

Generous and loving God

we hold before you all who will work in these two new circuits

and those called to work with us in the District -

Presbyters, Deacons and Lay Employees -

those just taking their place amongst us

and those who have been part of our life for some time.

May they and all our people sense the guidance of your Holy Spirit

as we seek news ways to serve

and also remain faithful in our response

*to the call of Jesus for today. **AMEN***

CIVIC WELCOME by The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Bradford
Councillor John D Godward

ECUMENICAL WELCOME by The Dean of Bradford
The Very Revd Dr David J Ison

DISTRICT WELCOME by the Synod Secretary, The Rev. Jacky E L
Hale and the Lay Stationing Representative, Mr John H Robinson

HYMN: This, this is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchangeable friend,
Whose love is as great as his power,
And neither knows measure nor end:

'Tis Jesus, the first and the last,
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise him for all that is past,
And trust him for all that's to come.

(Joseph Hart 1712 - 68)

VISUAL PRAYERS

Praying for the world.

It is said that in Bradford, the world has come to us, the world is here.

The world is here with life and vitality, commerce and creativity.

The world is also here in need, mistrust, in the struggle of the poor and the exploitation of the vulnerable.

As you view the images before you, pray for the world in which we live and to which we minister.

And when it comes, join in the response - **Come Holy Spirit, in your renewing power.**

Praying for the church

It is said that the task of the church is to see what God is doing, and join in.

We know that church is not bricks and mortar but flesh and blood.

As you view the images before you, pray for the church, people of God seeking to do the will of God.

And when it comes, join in the response - **Come Holy Spirit, in your renewing power.**

Praying for ourselves

It is said that the church is a peculiar people, made up of peculiar persons.

Each one of us is unique, yet each one is made in the image of God.

As you view the images before you, pray for yourself, that God's image might be clear to see in the life you live and the person you are.

And when it comes, join in the response - **Come Holy Spirit, in your renewing power.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name;

thy kingdom come; thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: Love divine, all loves excelling,

Joy of heaven to earth come down,

Fix in us thy humble dwelling,

All thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesu, thou art all compassion,

Pure, unbounded love thou art;

Visit us with thy salvation,

Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise!

(Charles Wesley 1707 - 88)

BLESSING

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

We express our grateful thanks to:

Bradford Cathedral and its helpful staff

the Planning Group that has made this service possible

the Team of Caterers from Baildon Methodist Church

all who have taken part in or contributed in any practical way to
this evening's celebration

The words of "As the deer" and "Brother, sister" were reprinted by
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