



If you look really, really carefully you will see Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, in the crowd at the Christian Aid march to lobby on climate change.

# OCTAMAG

**YARM METHODIST CHURCH  
MAGAZINE  
Summer 2019**



**Our Mission Statement**

To love Jesus Christ  
To live Jesus Christ  
To share Jesus Christ  
In this community and beyond

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We have a very interesting and varied collection of articles for you in this edition, most of them from members of our church family, and for this we are very grateful. Contributors range in age from James Craven to Arthur George, and James' story shows a great new talent in our midst. We are always very pleased to receive your contributions, so please keep them coming.

There is a request from Gideons UK, and maybe some of you will be able to help them.

Of course, this is the last time we have a letter from Moira; we thank her for all the work she has done for our church over the last ten years, and we wish her peace and happiness in her retirement.

We wish everyone a happy and refreshing summer and look forward to our new Methodist year beginning in September, with the changes that will bring.

Jacqui and Isabella

**YARM METHODIST CHURCH WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**



<b>Sunday</b>	
Worship and Junior Church (all ages)	10.30 am
Second Sunday in the month: Youth Event Y7 and above	6.00-8.00pm
<b>Monday</b>	
Women's Fellowship	2.00 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	
Bowls Club	7.00-9.30 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	
Parent and Toddlers' Group	10.00-11.15 am
Ladies' Friendship Group	2.00-3.30 pm
Brownies (age 7-10 years)	6.00 -7.30 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	
Octago	10.00-12.00 noon
Zumba	6.00-6.45pm
Youth Club	7.00-8.30pm
Choir Practice	7.30-9.00 pm
<b>Friday</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	
Coffee	10.00-12 noon

If you have a story, memory, poem or an experience to relate, send this to Jacqui Fyfe by 21 September 2019  
 Email: [helmutbaer@btinternet.com](mailto:helmutbaer@btinternet.com)  
 (a Word attachment is best)..

The next edition of Octamag is to be published in October 2019

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**LETTER FROM THE MINISTER**

Dear friends,

Jesus said,

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

The Beatitudes; 8 sayings of Jesus from Matthew’s Gospel are well known but the 18<sup>th</sup> century poet Alexander Pope added another well known saying which he called the 9<sup>th</sup> beatitude; “Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed” Is it true?

What should we expect from God? One answer is to be blessed. One of the things I don’t like about the Good News Bible is its use of “happy” instead of “blessed”. Happy is a feeling, blessed is a fact. Those who mourn cannot feel happy but in their sadness can find the peace and blessing of God.

We pray that You will bless us during the wonderful months of summer. May we all help make our home a place of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety. May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves, but helping others enjoy the blessings of summertime.

The God who came to us in Jesus offers us life, love, hope, faith and strength: not necessarily an easy journey but a safe landing.

Perhaps a better or more important question would be "what does God expect from us?"

In Christ,

Moira.

As you may know, Methodist ministers don't retire, they sit down . . . so we wish Moira a long and blessed sit down. But will it be A or B??

A



B



**M**ay your  
**O**bvious  
**I**ntellect  
**R**emain  
**A**lert

**P**lease  
**E**njoy  
**T**he  
**E**xpected  
**R**etirement  
**S**erenity

Tune now changes to "Thank you for the music" (Abba)

SO WE SAY . . . . .

Thank you for the Service and Dedication  
Given to this congregation,  
Comforting, supporting, we ask in all honesty  
Where would we be,  
Without your hard work and Tenacity,  
So we say Thank you Reverend Moira  
From all this Company.

Thank you for the spectrum your work embraces  
Your defence of Parking spaces  
Coping with Staff shortage, we ask in all honesty . . .  
Where would we be,  
Without all your hard work and Tenacity,  
We all say Thank you Reverend Moira  
From all this Company.

*Some cheering thoughts for those old enough to retire:*


Kidnappers are not very interested in you.

There is nothing left to learn the hard way.

Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.

In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.

Your joints are more accurate predictors of the weather than the meteorological office.



## MOIRA'S FAREWELL - by Arthur George

Tune: St. Denio

Immortal, invisible, - neither of these  
Relate to the Minister here, because She's  
Most active, supportive, our strength and our stay,  
Who guides and inspires us and shows us the way.

Her visiting schedule, carefully itemised,  
Includes frail and housebound, and the hospitalised,  
There's meetings, more meetings, by day and by night  
With synods, committees and Sermons to write!

Demands for Home Visits turn the pressure up more,  
She drives her car hard, puts her foot to the floor,  
With gender rules changing perhaps we shall see  
Our Reverend preacher in the British Grand Prix!

But now to retirement, her decision is made  
For years overworked and for years underpaid!  
She may be surprised but we will hazard a guess  
She'll work just as hard now but be paid even less!!

To Musical Greatness Moira did not aspire,  
Like some predecessors not allowed in the Choir.  
Her exercise programme was a must, she declares,  
Ensuring she made it up those steep pulpit stairs.

She'll move out of Teesside and there's e-ve-ry sign  
T'll be further north to be nearer the Tyne.  
Way 'Aye Moira Hinny, from your new home you'll see  
That Big Rusty Angel smiling down upon Thee.

cont.



Som and Thor were married in Chiang Rai in Thailand on 29 December 2018. They are pictured after their marriage was blessed at Yarm Methodist Church on 7 April 2019.

We congratulate them and wish them every happiness in their life together.





## THE BALL AND THE BEAST

*This story is by James Craven, a member of our church family. He was chosen as a finalist in the BBC 500 words story competition, and he was one of fifty selected out of about 140,000 entries to go to London to the live broadcast from Windsor Castle. His mum, Kate, says "We are immensely proud of him."*

The match wasn't going well. Leven's losing streak was continuing. Tabley United had scored a hat-trick, shot after shot, left, right, down the middle. Leven had a single goal, a lucky strike that bounced in off the post.

Thomas passed to Jimmy. Jimmy sprinted down the pitch, dodging the Tabley players until he was in front of their goalkeeper. Jimmy paused, choosing the spot, and the ball flew like an arrow into the bottom corner.

The crowd erupted, parents and teachers shouting and cheering. Even the Tabley parents clapped quietly. It was the noisiest that a Leven crowd had ever been. That's what woke the beast.

He had been asleep under the grass for a hundred thousand years, snoring loudly (though everyone had thought the noise was traffic) as he dreamed delicious dreams. He unfolded his long, furry legs, blinked his eight owl-like eyes, and came roaring up through the half-way line, the ground cracking over his horrid head.

The crowd screamed and fled, abandoning coats and bags. The beast stretched out his humungous legs and clasped with his claws at everybody he could reach,

## 4TH AUGUST—ST. SITHNEY'S DAY

You know how some men find women's interest in romance and clothes hard to cope with? Well, Sithney (or Sezni) should be the patron saint of all such men.

According to a Breton folk legend, Sithney was a hermit of long ago, minding his own business, when one day God told him that he was going to make him the patron saint of girls. Sithney was horrified. He foresaw a future where thousands of young women were forever plaguing him to find them good husbands and fine clothes... The thought of it appalled him. So Sithney begged God for some other job, something more peaceful, than dealing with young women. "Very well," said God. "You can look after mad dogs, instead."

Sithney replied cheerfully: "I'd rather have mad dogs than women, any day." And so it was. Since that time, young women have pestered other saints to bring them husbands and fine clothes, while sick and mad dogs have been taken to drink water from the well of St Sezni, patron of Sithney, near Helston in Cornwall.

### FUNERALS

Mrs Gill Mason	died 6.5.19
Mrs Anne Robinson	died 8.5.19
Mrs May Kelly	died 1.6.19
Mrs Margaret Watt	died 7.6.19
Mr Eddie Perry	died 25.6.19



## **A THANK-YOU LETTER TO YARM METHODIST CHURCH FROM TEARFUND**

**Thank you so much for your gift of £50. Your generosity is helping to bring God's transforming love to people living in desperate need, and creating new opportunities for people like Siret.**

Amidst the bustling city of Nazareth, Ethiopia, Siret faced some big challenges. Without work, she and her husband had been struggling to provide for their family.

**Then Siret joined a local Tearfund-supported 'self-help group'.** As part of their regular meetings, each member would bring small amounts of money – as much as they were able to afford – and add it to a group savings fund. Then, as their savings grew, they began offering small loans to one another.

**When the time was right, Siret made her own pitch for a loan.** She dreamt of starting a small business, making and selling injera, a local flatbread.

**That was 10 years ago. Since then Siret's injera business has thrived.** Her natural business skills came to the fore, and with periodic loans from the group the business has grown far beyond her original vision.

Siret now employs three women and was able to buy a shop. She also runs a recreational centre with one staff member, where locals gather to play pool. Siret and her husband have enough to provide for their children, provide employment for others, and help other family members in need.

**It is only with your support that work like this is possible.** Together, we can empower many more communities like Siret's to flourish. Thank you for joining us as we follow Jesus where the need is greatest.

shovelling them into his cave-like mouth, sharp teeth crunching and scrunching, saliva dribbling down his chin and splatting onto the wet, muddy ground.

The players for Leven and Tabley stood still, shocked at the horrible thing that had been beneath their boots.

None of them knew that a thousand years ago, parents had told children playing near the grass to 'Leave Alone', not to wake up the evil thing waiting under the mud. The children had told their own children and grandchildren to 'Leave Alone'.

Eventually the boys and girls had just called it 'Leven' and everyone had forgotten about the beast.

It remembered the people. It remembered how they tasted.

Oliver moved first, whacking the ball into one of the beast's angry eyes. The eye shut, and the spidery thing turned to catch him. Tom from the Tabley team took the rebound, smacking the ball into one of its legs. Imogen back-heeled the ball into the beast's face again, and it snarled, revealing its dripping fangs. Tabley again, and Archer chipped the ball: it bounced over the beast's back and tapped its tail. The beast turned, confused. Jessica toe-tapped the ball hard, another leg gone. Ben, the Tabley goalkeeper, took a throw: another eye. The beast slowly stepped backwards.

It was the referee, Mr Beadnall, who finished it off, throwing his red and yellow cards straight at the beast's bottom, shouting "Get off my pitch, you beastly beast. There's a match going on!"

Now it was the beast's turn to flee: it wobbled back to the hole in the pitch and hurried inside, pulling the grass back in after it until there was no sign that it had ever been there.

James Craven

*Congratulations, James, from all of us!*

### Too grand a piano

The story is told how after the concert hall at Broadcasting House was built there was doubt whether the door would admit a concert grand. "Try it," said somebody. But the musical director objected on the ground that if his beautiful Bechstein got stuck it would be damaged. So they instructed the carpenter to take measurements and make an exact replica in plywood. This was done, and then they found they couldn't get the model out of the carpenter's shop. *(from Parish Pump)*



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My son has done his three years plumbing at college but never been able to get an apprenticeship. He needs to go back to do a year of NVQ 3 to pass his gas but needs a year's apprenticeship!"

*Iain Baird spotted this post on the Ingleby Barwick Facebook group.*

## THE TIME IS NOW!



Methodists from all over the country were among people of faith from across the religious spectrum who took part in the Walk of Witness, organised by Christian Aid, from St Martin in the Fields church in Trafalgar Square past Downing Street to Parliament, to join a mass lobbying of MPs along with 15,000 other people.

They urged MPs to support measures that would end the UK's contribution to climate change by 2045.

Paul Toplis joined them to represent Stockton Circuit and can be seen here relaxing with Stockton South MP Paul Williams (after giving him a hard grilling of course!)





## MONEY MATTERS



To bring you up to date, recent financial transactions have included the Easter offering envelopes which amounted to £285. This was sent via Methodist Women in Britain (formerly Network) for overseas missionary work. We have also sent £95 to the Teesside branch of The Samaritans following the retiring collection in May. The Church Project for the Butterwick Hospice stands at £1,558. We are very grateful for recent donations from the Bowls Club, Choir, Ladies Friendship Group, Octago and Yarm School.

Thank you to everyone who has changed to Standing Orders for paying your offerings. This means we now know what regular income we have. You may be interested in knowing where your money goes. On an annual basis, the biggest amount of £54,000 goes to the Circuit. We then pay £2,509 for Insurance and up to the present time this year we have paid £1,724 for gas, £1,150 for electricity, £92 for water rates, £671 for the phone, £510 for lighting, £948 for the copyright licence, £828 for stationery, £1,864 for cleaning, and we are about to make the Connexional payments of £2,000 to Methodist Headquarters making a total of over £66,000! This is without repairs and refurbishment, and we still have two and a half months of this financial year to go! If this has spurred you on to thinking that you could increase your offering, we would be very grateful. We know that some of you consider this at the beginning of September which is the start of the Church's year.

We are very grateful to Jenny Prior who has been Youth Treasurer for a while. Now that Jenny has moved to St Andrew's Church, Hardwick, she feels it would be better if someone from Yarm felt able to take this role on. We can assure you that there is far less work involved in this job than in the post of Church Treasurer! If anyone is interested or would like more information please contact one of us or Jenny.

Thank you.

Joan Rivers, Church Treasurer  
Michael Salmon, Secretary of the Finance Team

## **GIDEONS UK, N.YORKS & S.TEES BRANCH**

The work of Gideons International covers 200 countries and its aim is to distribute Bibles in such places as secondary schools, hospitals, care homes, prisons and uniformed organisations. Gideons UK is an independent organisation for any women and men who have a passion for distributing Bibles and talking about the Gospel.

Help is needed in four areas:

**Prayer:** especially that "closed" schools would respond to e-mails and phone calls, and invite us to offer Bibles to year 7 pupils.

**Contact with schools, hospitals, care homes and uniformed organisations in your locality:** sometimes we can't get into an institution because we know no-one with whom to make contact. If there are teachers, nurses, care home staff, guide leaders in the church, they may be able to arrange an invitation for us to give a presentation.

**Finance:** The Bibles given out are almost entirely paid for by contributions from members and friends of Gideons UK and from churches.

**New members:** We are a small branch of about 6 members covering a large area. If there are people in the church who might be well suited and interested to join in the work, please get in touch.

If you would like a copy of Gideon News, or would like a Gideons UK member to speak at a service, or a mid-week study group, please let us know.

Andrew Killick

andrewkillick@btinternet.com

**“IT’S NOT THE SAME ANY MORE!”** (submitted by Gilbert Springett)

*(A tongue-in-cheek poem that may resonate with some of us/you!)*

They’ve brought you up to date, Lord,  
Down at St. Celia’s

They’ve pensioned off the organ,  
And they’re praising with guitars.

They’ve done it for the young ones,  
We want to draw them in,  
But I do wish they could worship  
without making such a din.

For I’m growing rather deaf, Lord,  
And when there’s all this noise,  
It gets so very hard, Lord,  
To hear your living voice.

They’ve written brand new hymns, Lord,  
With tunes that I don’t know,  
And I hardly ever sing now,  
Though I did love singing so.

My mind’s not quite so agile  
As it was some years ago,  
And I miss the age-old beauty  
of the words I used to know.

It’s very clear to me, Lord,  
I’ve overstayed my time;  
I don’t take to change so kindly  
As I did when in my prime.

But it can’t be very long now  
Before I’m called above,  
And I know I’ll find you there, Lord,  
And glory in your love.

So, till then I’ll stick it out here,  
Though it’s not the same for me,  
But while others call you “you”, Lord,  
Do you mind if I say “thee”?

Copied, with permission, from Eggescliffe Church Magazine



**CIRCUIT MISSION TEA**

The Circuit Mission Group held an afternoon tea on Saturday 1 June. To call it refined would be an understatement. The small tables were covered with tasteful retro cloths and the crockery was delicate and beautiful - just as you got at your granny’s! Tiered plates held a variety of sandwiches (with the crusts cut off of course), delicate slices of quiche and sausage roll, and both cheese and fruit scones - naturally accompanied by a choice of jam, butter, cream or all three if so desired. Then came the cakes: meringues, éclairs, mini battenbergs, drizzle cake, macaroons. There was a seemingly endless supply of tea and coffee brought to the tables. As if that wasn’t enough, we could take home anything we’d not eaten.

While we ate, we were entertained by pianist Helen Weighell and we had the opportunity to chat with people from the other churches, as well as friends from Yarm.

The event was held at Norton, but the excellent catering was done by Yarm Road. Through All We Can, it was to help the people of Malawi who have suffered cyclones and floods, and £750 was raised.

If you missed it, those who attended can certainly recommend going along if it takes place again.



Why did Karl Marx hate Earl Grey tea?  
Because all proper-tea is theft . . .

Have you seen the awesome video of a koala drinking tea way up in a tree? It's super high koala-tea.

What kind of tea can be hard to swallow? Reali-tea.