



Lidgett Link

Lidgett Grove Methodist Church
Newsletter
Issue 1 March 2015

NEW STYLE LIDGETT LINK

Welcome to the first issue of the new-look Lidgett Link. The aim of this newsletter is to give a quarterly update on the many exciting developments that are happening within the church. As a community focused church there are many things which we should feel proud of and thankful for. As the church continues to develop links with the local community, God's love touches more lives as we further the church's mission to serve in the local community.

It is the intention that this newsletter will provide everyone with further information about the different church and community groups that are based in the church building. Each issue will give a general update on developments, as well as focusing on the work of a selection of groups, to give a flavour of the wide-ranging activities that are taking place.



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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The worship spaces in hospitals these days are designed to be spaces that are spiritually uplifting to all faiths. For that reason crosses are often either removable or absent and can be readily substituted, as required, by other religious symbols. One alternative solution I saw in a hospital in Exeter was to use two large wall hangings instead of the religious symbols. One depicted a dandelion in full bloom, and another a dandelion clock with its seeds beginning to be lifted by the breeze. I thought it was a powerful symbol in many ways. It spoke to me of life going on. It raised questions for me like what is the beginning and what is the end? Is the dandelion clock a dying flower, or a vast collection of soon to be flowers with all the potential for new life and possibility? Which has the most purpose and meaning, the bloom that attracts the bees, gathers nutrients from the earth and gladdens the eye, or the clock that disperses those seeds in the breeze?

You could ask similar questions about the events of the cross. Are they about Jesus' death, the end of his ministry and defeat as it first seems to be, or actually do we see instead the seeds of new life, extraordinary life, life that spills out to all humanity? Is the cross, perhaps the culmination of Jesus' work and a new beginning for his ministry rather than the end of it? Jesus' resurrection on that first Easter wants to leave us in no doubt; this is a new beginning, a new thing that God is doing. The cross was a turning point, not just for Jesus, but for us all.



When we live in Christ, most things we might previously have counted as endings, turn out to be new beginnings and new opportunities for us. This newsletter is one way we hope to communicate with you the new life and community that is forming within our church building here on Wheatlands Grove. We have been really blessed by some enthusiastic partners who have given many hours of passionate assistance. We have also been blessed by lots of lovely people from our neighbourhood coming and enjoying the cafe, clubs and activities we host here. We have moved a long way from the community survey we undertook a couple of years ago to see how we might serve our community, to where we are today with a vibrant building full of activity. Rest assured we have lots of plans and ideas still in the pipeline! Even this newsletter, which we'd stopped publishing some time ago has been 'resurrected'. We've stuck with the old name, because 'The Link' always was about celebrating the ties between our church and the community around us. We want to celebrate this building and the activities within it, which unite both church and community and help you to discover with us the full potential God has in store for us.

Rev Andy



Lidgett Grove Methodist church is a community-orientated church, aiming to provide a positive experience for people of all ages and backgrounds. We are a Christian community, which provides a place in which people can make new friends and explore for themselves what being a Christian may mean, in a friendly and safe environment.

Our building is being modernized to serve as a community hub. With our partners, we are developing a programme of events and activities for all ages and all tastes and to provide a place for people to meet up with their friends, make new friends and enjoy a variety of pursuits.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Background

During 2012/13, we completed an extensive community survey in the local area, building on the research the Joseph Rowntree Foundation had completed previously in the area. The aims of our community survey and the subsequent work we have engaged in and continue to offer is set out in the following objectives:

- Deepen our understanding of the local community
- Ensure that the research identifies real needs
- Create a sense of local ownership and participation
- Avoid unnecessary duplication of provision
- Give local people a say in the future of their community
- Create a platform for relational evangelism

Partners

The Community Partnership Project was formed to help achieve these aims. Our partners are Carr Children's Centre, Carr Infant School, Carr Junior School, City of York Council, Dementia Forward, Explore Library, Family Matters, Healthwatch, Here Now Dementia, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Timebank, York College, York High School, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Community Policing team, CYC Carr Estate Housing Manager, CYC Community Involvement Officer and York CVS.

A steering group, made up of all the project partners meets on a regular basis to give all the stakeholders an opportunity to discuss issues to guide the further development of community facilities at Lidgett Grove.

COMMUNITY NURTURE TEAM

Church Council has appointed a Community Nurture Team, which is small group, chaired by Graham Carter. Their remit is to help develop and improve relationships between the church and the diverse community groups that use the church buildings. Reporting to Church Council and the Leadership Team, the group has been asked to pick up on issues that arise and deal with them as quickly as possible.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The very popular Community café, held every Wednesday from 9:30–11:30 continues to grow from strength to strength. It is a time for people of different ages to get together for a chat, whilst enjoying a drink, home-made cakes, tea cakes and bacon butties.



There are crafts, toys and song time for the children, a baby area and knitting, book swaps and papers to read for the grown-ups. Each week we are joined by different organisations offering information and advice. Recent groups have included Age UK, Health Watch, Community Support Officers and the Carr Community choir.

Join us over the Easter holidays, when, in addition to the normal activities, there will be crafts for older children, a tuck shop. We are very excited to have live animals for the Community Farm on 1st April.



See the church website or Facebook page for details of future events.

Community Farm: Special Easter Event Wednesday 1st April, 9 am to 1pm

Come and see an alpaca, a calf, lambs, goats, a miniature donkey, a shetland pony, rabbits, guinea pigs, ducks and chickens. There will be a raffle, as well as usual holiday crafts and a variety of stalls.



MESSY CHURCH

The newly introduced Messy Church has been a great success thanks to the commitment of Katy and the team. Since the first session in November, there have been about 45 people a month attending, including families from the congregation, Community café, cubs and others from the local community. The feedback has been very positive and families/friends have enjoyed spending time together, learning more about Jesus in an interactive way in a relaxed, friendly environment.

Each session is based on a theme; so far we have looked at Noah's Ark, Christmas, Creation, Who loves us? and Mother's Day. We begin with a welcome session with refreshments and colouring activities, before moving onto the themed crafts and worship, based on songs and a bible story, before sharing a meal together. We meet once a month on the second Saturday of the month between 3-5pm.

If you are interested in helping or would like to find out more, contact: katy.messychurch@yahoo.co.uk.

COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

The Community Art Project has now been running for a few weeks and has proved very popular, as a group of 15-20 people of varied ages and artistic abilities meet on a Tuesday afternoon. The group would like to produce some large-scale art work for the church. Ideas are currently at the developmental stage, but it is likely that the group will be divided, to develop two sets of artwork. One group would like to develop a mural for the corridor, based on the history and traditions of local buildings, whilst the other group are thinking of developing a theme based on footsteps leading into the church. In addition to developing a large scale piece of artwork, the group are also working on smaller scale ideas, such as the flowers that decorated the church at the All Age Café service and the Mother's Day Messy Church.

CAFÉ STYLE ALL AGE WORSHIP

An informal, café style service is held every month, usually on the second Sunday. It is an opportunity for people of all ages to get together to worship in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Beavers and Cubs also join us for their Parade service. Refreshments are served, so families and friends can enjoy sitting round tables, sharing ideas and worshipping together, whilst sipping their tea, coffee or juice.

Why not try it for yourself at the next All Age Café service on 12th April, 10:30 am?

VOCAL FLOURISH

Vocal Flourish is a fun, friendly, dynamic new choir for people with dementia and their carers, who get together on a Friday morning. As well as singing together, they enjoy socialising over refreshments.

YOUNG CHURCH

Young Church have moved! We are now based in the Old Games Room and the young people are excited to have been given the responsibility to develop the room as their own space. They are looking forward to decorating and furnishing the room. Plans are currently at an early stage, but may include purchasing a rug, bean bags and developing art work for the walls.

At the March All Age Worship service, some of the youngsters confidently led a quiz and presented information they had researched about the origins and traditions of Methodism, which was both informative and enjoyable.

Young church caters for children and young people from the age of 3. We meet each week during the morning service and learn about God in an informal way through stories, crafts, games and discussions.

COMMUNITY GARDENING PROJECT



The volunteer gardeners were lucky with the March sunshine for their Big Plant, although the strong wind sent them chasing around after plant-pots. The team had fun planting seeds into plant-pots; the seedlings will be replanted in the big boxes outside the church later in the spring.

Some of the box-planters have been adopted by different church and community groups, including Young church and Beavers/cubs.

We are currently looking for more volunteer gardeners to develop our community garden. If you are interested in helping, please get in touch with Anna (contact details on the back page).



CHURCH SERVICES

Morning Worship with Young Church— Sunday, 10:30 am
All Age Café Style Worship—2nd Sunday in month, 10:30 am
(next on 12th April)

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday All Age Worship : 29th March , 10:30 am
Maundy Thursday : 2nd April, 7:30 pm
Easter Sunday: 5th April, 10:30 am



MESSY CHURCH

2nd Saturday of month: next session on 11th April, 3pm—5 pm

We are always looking for more willing volunteers to help in various aspects of church life. If you are able to get involved in any of the following activities: serving coffees after the Sunday service, Sunday door steward, helping at Young church, Messy church, Community cafe or even by becoming a Church steward, your help will be greatly appreciated.

BUILDINGS UPDATE

Room 1 has been transformed, thanks to York City Council and a private donation, with the addition of new flooring; a mix of vinyl carpet. A new sink, toilet and storage unit have also been fitted to make the room more self contained for hiring out, particularly to children's groups. There is also a ball pool, donated by Hob Moor Oaks school. The room is being used as a crèche whilst family and adult learning courses are being held in the building.

A new screen and projector that were funded by the City Council have been installed in Room 2, improving it's facilities as a Conference room.

A commercial dishwasher has been installed in the kitchenette, allowing for faster and more hygienic cleaning of crockery.

The toilets at the front of the building were improved during December when they were painted and new mirrors added, creating a much more pleasant environment.

The Old Games room has been cleared and is now being used by Young Church.

A new lockable storage unit has been purchased and put outside near the wheelie bins. This will house the gardening equipment.

A Fire and Risk Assessment and a Dementia Audit have also been carried out in response to the wider use of the building by the community.

FACILITIES FOR HIRE



A fully equipped Conference/Meeting Room with a projector screen is available.

Room 1 is ideal for children's groups as the flooring is a mix of and vinyl (for messy activities) and has a ball pool, toilet and sink.



The main church is used by many groups, and is equipped with a small kitchen, which is used for the cafe during the week. It has projection and AV equipment available.

The church hall can also be hired for parties.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday

York Light Youth (2pm)
York Light Opera (2:30pm)

Monday

Fight Fit (7:30 pm)
Harmonix (7:45 pm)
Leisure Group (fortnightly at 7:30)

Tuesday

Childminders (8:45 am)
Keep Fit (9:30 am)
Community Art Project (12:45 pm)
Let's Dance (4 pm)
Kettlecise (6:15 pm)
York Light Opera (7:30 pm)

Wednesday

Community Café (9:30 am)
Beavers/Cubs (5:15 pm)
Slimming World (7:00 pm)

Thursday

Kettlecise (6:15 pm)
York Light Youth (7 pm)
York Opera (7:30 pm)

Friday

Vocal Flourish (10 am)
Music Group (10 am)

Saturday

Coffee morning (1st of every month at 10 am)

Coming Soon:

Children's Dance and Fit Steps, from Wednesday 15th April
Children's Art classes

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information about anything in this newsletter, please contact Anna Harrison on 07516 708325, or email admin@lidgettgrovemethodistchurch.org.uk

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, or you want to include an article in the July newsletter, email Lidgettlink@yahoo.co.uk

Visit our website at www.lidgettgrovemethodistchurch.org.uk or see our Facebook page