


TODMORDEN BAPTIST HERALD

December 2020 - January 2021

VALE BAPTIST CHURCH

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ROOMFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

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Vale Pulpit Supply

6 th Dec	10.30 am	Claire Ashton - Communion
13 th Dec	10.30 am	Rev Kath Lawson Christmas Remembrance
20 th Dec	10.30 am	Rev Irene Greenman
24 th Dec	11.30 pm	Jim Haughey - Midnight Communion
25 th Dec	10.30 am	Deacons - Christmas Day
27 th Dec	10:30 am	Simon Keane
3 rd Jan	10:30 am	TBA - Communion
10 th Jan	10:30 am	Claire Ashton
17 th Jan	10:30 am	Simon Keane
24 th Jan	10:30 am	Les Philips
31 st Jan	10:30 am	Howard Ellison

***Bidden or
Unbidden
God is
Present***

Erasmus

**A JOYOUS
COVID FREE
CHRISTMAS
FROM
THE HERALD
TEAM**



During lockdown and following, while we haven't been attending church, David and I have been joining in the worship of a Baptist church in Ohio, USA. We heard their senior minister, a Scot called Alistair Begg speak many years ago when he led the Bible Studies at a Baptist Assembly, or it may have been Spring Harvest. We were impressed by his good solid and above all interesting teaching, so we decided to tune in to their service on YouTube. It also meant we could sing along with their reduced and suitably distanced worship group. Bonus!

A major theme running through his preaching has been the pitfalls of relying on humans in extreme circumstances and the hope which is only to be found in trusting God. I was born soon after WW2 and have clear memories of the restrictions following the war. It must have been a source of deep disappointment to the people of this country to find that having won the war they were losing the peace. While there is no real comparison, I found myself reflecting on how I feel, 8 months further on, to find we are no nearer solving the problem of Covid-19. I was beginning to feel helpless and hopeless, along with other people no doubt.

The overriding feature of the world we live in is, for many, a sense of hopelessness. We have lost touch with our origins as creations of God, created for him, to worship him and find in him what the pleasures of this world cannot give. This is the message that the church has to offer; that there is hope and there is a future. This is the message of Christ's coming to this world as a baby.

Someone once said there is nothing wrong with this world that the right kinds of humans cannot solve. Jesus is that human. He came to meet us in the middle of our mess and he continues to do so. He comes to help us become the right kind of humans through the power of his Spirit not our own. This is what we celebrate at Christmas. The circumstances may be different but the message is the same. Christ in us the hope of glory.

Kath Lawson

Vale News

Family News

We lost a dear friend when Hilda Mycock died on October 6th after she went to hospital on September 27th. Hilda came to Vale when services ceased at St Michael's church where she'd been a loyal part of the congregation and Mothers' Union. She loved attending our services, Lent groups, the Luncheon Club, the Ladies' Guild when there wasn't a Tuesday service at St Michael's and many social events. Her lovely smile and little wink when she had a biscuit or cake at Elevenses and loving, warm personality will be long remembered. Hilda's funeral was held on October 30th. Had it been possible for her service to be held in the village, it would've been 'standing-room only' but sadly, that was not to be. Our deepest sympathy to her family and everyone who knew and loved Hilda.



On behalf of all our family, I would like to thank everyone for their support with prayers and messages over the last months. Even though she was so ill, Auntie Hilda was aware of all the love and concern you had for her. It was lovely to see so many of her friends watching her pass by. Having the cross outside St Michael's was such a thoughtful tribute. Thank you also for the donations made to Vale in her memory.

Joyce

Sweet Memories (The poem on the back of Hilda's picture at her funeral)

Beautiful memories are just like jewels or gold
Sweet to remember when we're growing old
When we think of our loved ones who have gone on before
Such memories are part of life's richest store.

We think of the days of our youth without care
When time did not matter wherever we were
The years rolled on by as if in a dream
We lived out our days until sunset's last gleam.

When life's book of dreams is closed at the last
We recall all the good times that made up our past
We remember the love that we gave and received
For love never dies, if we only believe.

Hilda Mycock – A glimpse of a life.

St Michael's church may not have been the most important thing in Hilda Mycock's life; that place of honour belongs to her family; but I think that it was up there in her top 3.

It wasn't possible to have Hilda's funeral in church but we who knew how much St Michael and All Angels meant to her gathered along the road outside church, in a guard of honour, as her funeral cortege passed slowly by. The processional cross was held aloft in her honour and I was able to give a liturgical blessing when the hearse stopped briefly by the church gate.

When the cortege had passed I was invited to go into church to 'Come and see what we have done for her'.

It was beautiful. The church was swept and dusted and the brasses were gleaming, just as Hilda liked them to be. Candles were lit on the altar and around it and another flickered by the memorial book. The chair on the front row, where Hilda used to sit, was covered in white silk and lace and a posy of white roses was laid on the chair.

The Social Centre was laid out as if a Eucharist was to be held. Hilda told me often how much she missed the beauty of the Anglican liturgy, especially that for Holy Communion. We prayed and thanked God for Hilda and all that she brought to life and prayed for those who will miss her so very much.

Hilda touched so many lives it would be impossible to record everyone's tribute but I hope that we are able to make an opportunity, when Covid is controlled, to put together a memorial service and take time to share our memories.

For years I have had a piece that Hilda wrote in my files, intending to use it at her funeral. As I wasn't able to do that I share it with you here. May she rest in peace and rise in glory when Our Lord comes again.

Hilda wrote:

"I had a very happy childhood in a large extended family where Grandad was 'BOSS'.

We all lived in a cluster of 2up-2down houses and all children were brought up together and taught to look after each other. Sadly, air raids and bombed homes divided our family. We all keep in touch.

My marriage to Tommy (the love of my life and my one and only) was also very happy in spite of tragedies. I miss him so much.

I thank God constantly for my life and consider myself to be extremely lucky in my friendships as well as my family."

Her love touched us all.

Irene Greenman

Rene Wilson has done splendidly following her hip replacement in November 2019. After recuperating and isolating with Lyn and Brian, she has moved to Roomfield House. We'll miss you at Vale, but are pleased you've settled in happily and looking forward to enjoying spending time with Anona and Peggy and making new friends.

Hilda King returned home from Huddersfield hospital on October 9th after having her 2nd hip removed. We send you lots of love and pray you will be much more comfortable now.

We would like to send a belated Happy Birthday wish to Eddie on his 90th birthday in November from all his family and his friends at Vale.



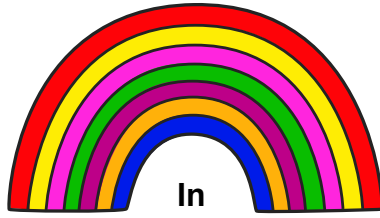
As a result of your generous donations, we have been able to send £340 this year to B.M.S. through the Birthday Scheme. It will be used for health ministries and projects in the poorest countries. Thank you to everyone for your support. Joyce

I want to thank everyone who collected crisp packets for me over the last 12 months. I sent 5 boxes down to Girls' Brigade headquarters whilst they were collecting them for funds from Walkers Crisps. Unfortunately due to the fact Walkers then wanted the packets put in certain sized boxes, and the amounts GB were receiving, they couldn't accommodate them at their offices.

Fortunately, I found out that the RSPCA shop in Hebden Bridge were collecting them, so a few weeks ago took them 5 large carrier bags. It's surprising how many crisps packets will fit into a Morrison's carrier bag! Thanks once again for your support. Joyce Brierley



On Remembrance Sunday, November 8th, the church was open for private prayer then we went outside (socially distanced) to hear Rev Irene Greenman read out the names of local men lost in two World Wars. Lance and Eloise Lucas placed a poppy wreath on the war memorial.



Be a rainbow

In

someone's cloud

Would organisers of nativity plays please take note of the following restrictions, as found on www.gov.uk

Herald angels and heavenly hosts are forbidden to sing

Shepherds may only abide in the fields if they are from the same household

Wise men may traverse afar if there is an agreed travel corridor and will have to self isolate for 14 days

Inns must close at 10 pm to comply with the curfew, unless the innkeeper has been furloughed, in which case they will not open.

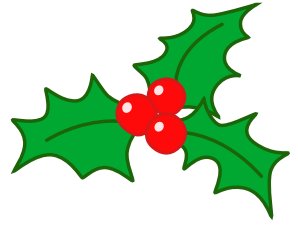
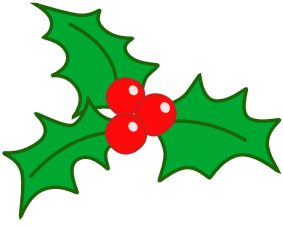
Please also note that the "rule of six" applies to drummers drumming, pipers piping, lords a-leaping, ladies dancing and maids a-milking.

Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas in T U T. (These Uncertain Times)

Christine Clark (Compliance Officer)

As for Rudolph: with that red nose, he should definitely be self-isolating and taking a test!





The
Innkeeper's
Wife

We were full to the rafters
when they knocked, so late,
Joseph was anxious - babies don't wait.
She smiled through her pain,
trusting God had this planned;
I offered our stable and he took her hand.

With so many visitors, how could I know
Who would be with us before the dawn's glow?
That across the night skies I would hear angels sing,
And shepherds would come from the hills, chattering?

If I'd had one notion, one notion at all,
I would have slept in our messy old stall,
Insisting that Mary should take my own bed,
Comfy and warm, for her labour, instead ...

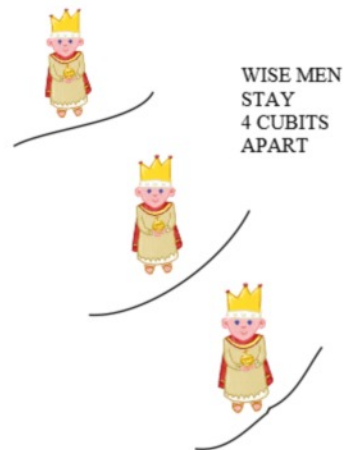
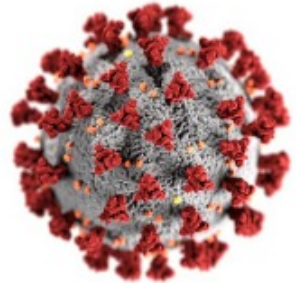
They called for me shortly before she gave birth,
While above us, a star blazed like nothing on earth.
I welcomed him into this world, my life blessed;
He lay in our manger, and all was at rest.

Marian Cleworth



50 ways to beat the virus (sung to "50 ways to leave your lover")

Covid can wreck your life, we all agree
This airborne killer's about the worst we've ever seen
It knows no boundaries, takes life indiscriminately
But you know there's 50 ways to beat the virus
Just slip on a mask. Jack
Keep washing your hands, Stan
Don't hang with the boys, Roy
Just listen to me
Yeah, don't hop on the bus, Guss
Don't need to discuss much
Stay away from the pack, Jack,
Sneeze into your sleeve, Steve,
To keep virus free.
Stop touching your face, Grace,
Keep washing your hands, Stan,
Don't visit your Gran, Jan,
Wipe down every toy, Roy,
Don't hoard all the food, dude,
Please buy sensibly.
Keep wipes near at hand, man.
Stay home if you're sick, Dick,
Just follow the rules, fools,
And stay virus free!
Stay six feet back, Mack
Don't forget the soap, Hope
User a lot of gel, Mel
The way to keep yourself virus free!



Dear church at
Vale Baptist

Thank you for walking with CICS through 2020. Since the schools went back in September our workers have been extremely busy, to such an extent we have appointed a 4th part time worker to help with the demand for a listening ear. One worker was asked to walk alongside a student to get her back into school (when outsiders were not encouraged). They have all honed their IT skills and are finding new ways to help the students.

Your donation as a church of £110 over the last academic year has helped these young people, as have individual gifts, support and prayer and hosting a CICS Meet up. We know that it's impossible to find the gap between work/church/cics when it's all God's work. Thank you for everything you are doing for the young people of Todmorden

With grateful thanks,
Rosemary

Life came into being because of him, for his life is light for all humanity. And this Living Expression is the light that bursts through the gloom - the Light that darkness could not diminish. John 1:4-5



To our friends at Vale Baptist

*Thank you for your support of CICS
prayerfully, financially and practically*

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas
in these interesting times*

From the workers, trustees and volunteers of CICS



cicscalderdale.org.uk



A NEW YEAR THOUGHT

When The Road Is Rough And Steep

Fix Your Eyes Upon Jesus

He Alone Has Power To Keep

Fix Your Eyes Upon Him

Jesus Is A Gracious Friend

One On Whom You Can Depend

He Is Faithful To The End

Fix Your Eyes Upon Him

Norman John Clayton