

News from the Pews

Time to Say Goodbye

I am sure you all know that this will be my last contribution to NFTP as Minister of Roeburndale and Wray chapels. My last Wray service is at the end of July and my last at Roeburndale will be at the end of August.

From Sept 1st Rev Roy will be starting to 'find his feet and his way around' and I am sure you will welcome him and his wife, Gladys, as warmly as you welcomed me. Living nearer, you will see him more than you could see me, but I will always look back fondly on my many hours in your communities, homes and pulpits.

Whatever else you might say about these last six years we can certainly say there have been some changes! Obviously, the transformation of the chapel at Wray, plus the upgrade of the school rooms, has been the most major improvement. There have been new people join both chapels; some people move on to pastures new and some much missed loved ones 'promoted to Glory'. There have been countless hours of time donated to the life of the chapel by so many of you.

Another 'change' is in the development of children into young adults. I can remember some of you in junior school and now you are going into 6th form or work or college. Some have been baptised and some of you even got to a Cup Final!! Are you ready now to take over leading some activities???

Some of you have been to Capernwray Bible schools or overseas missions to various countries. Many of you have taken part in Sportsreach events, both as participants and as leaders. Your faith has developed and you have helped others develop their faith.

You have continued to run much loved events like the quizzes and the fellowships; the Drop-In; Barn Rallies; youth services and After Eight. You have started new areas of outreach such as Come for Coffee and Lancashire Sings Christmas. We share in joint village Remembrance Day and carol services with the Parish Church.

Some of you have moved homes; some have had operations or major pastoral

Who's Who at Roeburndale and Wray

Minister:	Rev Keith Borwick, 122 Lancaster Rd, Garstang	01995 605012
Wray Leaders:	Judith Sanderson Peter Gorst Edmund Park Michael Preece Andrew Wright	01524 811139 22303 21753 71986 21652
Wray Treasurer:	Andrew Wright	21652
Wray Stewards:	David Huddleston George Longton Michael Preece Andrew Wallbank Alan & Andrew Wright Thomas Whitfield	62170 22026 71986 37720 21652 61230
Roeburndale Steward:	George Preece	21618
Fellowship:	George/Ruth Longton	22026
Wray Sunday School:	David & Dawn Huddleston	62170
Drop-In:	Andrew Wright	21652
Youth Fellowship:	Richard & Hazel Preece	21285
Wray Pastoral:	Margaret Wright	21652
Wray notices:	Kath Fawcett	01524 811193
News from the Pews:	Peter Gorst	22303

From Rev Keith:

As the current Minister of these churches, I would like to welcome you to this magazine and invite you to share in worship or in some of the other activities mentioned. We passionately believe that Jesus was a man of the people and so, in serving him, we serve our community.

Should you wish to know more about us or simply want a chat, just ring me on the number above.

issues in your families and I have been privileged to be trusted by many of you in these issues. Pastoral visits often go unseen but are a vital work of Jesus, whether done by Ministers or congregation. Ethel taught us the value of this.

In all these areas of the work of Christ, in your two chapels and the village, I have tried to serve you as best as I can, using the gifts and graces God has bestowed upon me. I really appreciate the many favourable comments I have received from so many of you for the worship I have led. I know my ministry has been formulative for some; challenging for some; inspiring for some but please remember, IF I have helped anyone in any way (and it can only have been a little), it was NOT me but the Holy Spirit working through me. Thank God, not me.

Can I close with a challenge to anyone reading this? It was only 20 years ago, aged 40, that I received a call to preach, despite being active in the Methodist Church since a toddler. It was only 17 years ago at 43 that I received a call to full time work for Jesus. And it was only 14 years ago that God called me into the Ministry and the Methodist people tested that call and affirmed the call of God on my life.

At 46, God called me to pack in a good managerial job; called my wife Joanne to leave her nursing job; called me to sell up and move my young family from the primary school, nursery and chapel to which they belonged, into a big unknown world as a Methodist Minister. Despite never studying for an A Level or going to University, God said "I want you to work for the Methodist Church and share Christ's ministry" with the people called Methodists and the communities they serve in his name.

If God can call me, at my age and with a very young family, to "leave what you know and follow me," despite my lack of qualifications and lack of adventure (I had lived 40 + years in the same town), what could God be calling you into? More of the same or something new?

Maybe you could work with Rev Roy to test any callings you feel God is prompting you to answer!

You never know, one day, YOU might be MY

Methodist Minister!! Praise the Lord!

Thank you for your support, guidance and prayers.

God Bless

Rev Keith

Zimbabwe/Ethiopia update

On June 24th we will be having our annual Strawberry Fund-raiser at 2 Roeburn Terrace, Wray with all the usual delicious eats and good company that characterise this event. We hope you will come with your family and friends and enjoy the riverside atmosphere.

God is good! Last year we donated all the money raised between three projects:

The Ethiopian women's fistula/prolapse project in Western Wollega. 11 women benefited through operations, although costs have gone up considerably and I had to add on to what we raised. \$2000 US was given towards this.

Secondly, **The Zimbabwe Women's Training Programme** for whom I work received £1000. This helped assist some women with top-ups for college fees and enabled them to graduate this year and go out into their communities as knowledgeable and capable leaders working with women, youth, children; influencing their husbands and families and promoting a healthier lifestyle. This programme is entirely self-funded in Zimbabwe and the Director uses many ways to raise funds to give the teachers a small contribution to fuel costs. We also held a Strawberry Fund-raiser in Zimbabwe at her home and we plan another this year in July if strawberries are still available. But cash is hard to find, even if you have money in the bank. But God is good and He is with us in the uphill struggle.

Thirdly, we contributed to the rent for **Stedfast Park**, a youth camp site in the Matopo's National Park. The authorities keep trying to increase the rent and this year it has doubled to \$1000 per year. Unfortunately, the economic crisis in Zimbabwe means that we cannot charge much for youth and children using the site as they just don't have the resources, but they need the training, fun and relaxation it provides. So to maintain this facility we must top-up what we get from the users in order to keep the site functional. Only the caretaker gets a small stipend and food provided. Everyone else who works to keep the place going is a local volunteer. Unfortunately one of our elderly sponsors has just been diagnosed with cancer so we are not sure how long we will have his contribution. We would like to have a Sportsreach team come out and use this facility in the school holidays. Football is big in Zimbabwe and our Minister is a

soccer player so we are hopeful we can organise this whilst he is with us.

There is a new project that I have become part of due to the death of the organiser, who was my friend and colleague. Last year I was asked to take the session for a group of very poor ladies in Emganweni called 'Arise and Shine'. I taught them various aspects of health and they are also involved in gardening and income generating projects, some of which include recycling paper to make firelighters and plastic which they crochet into mats for the floor. I visit weekly to take their meeting and collect paper and plastics, wool and other resources. We need to make more brick moulds as they only have 1 between 30+ women. We need one between 2/3 women so need to make about 10 more. Each costs about £25 as they are made from steel. I hope that we can include these in this year's fundraising.

So this year's funds will support these four 'good causes'. If anyone would like to become a regular supporter of a child in primary school, there are some single mums whom I know who are basically destitute and cannot afford this 'luxury'. It would include payment of fees, levies, uniforms and some food and total £35 per month. If you are able to assist on a regular basis with this I and they will be very grateful. Please see me personally to arrange this. Unfortunately with 85% unemployed and no cash on the streets, even the most motivated of people cannot find work. We live in an economic downward spiral and Zimbabwe is now one of the world's poorest countries.

Today, as I write it is Africa Day. Today at 12 midday, the nation's Christians will stop to pray for their country Zimbabwe. Please join in regular prayer for Zimbabwe and Ethiopia and the people on the ground, sharing the love of God to those around using the funds that you have provided. We thank God that He continues to use His worldwide family to support and enrich each other. May God bless you for your part in His work throughout the world.

Janet Kenyon

Christian Aid

The Wray village collections for Christian Aid in May collected a total of £513.24 of which £275 was Gift Aided. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to help the disadvantaged of the world.

Special Dates

Roeburndale Chapel Anniversary – Sunday 4 June at 2 and 6.30pm with speaker Sue Gilmore from Capernwray.

Roeburndale Barn Rally – 7.30pm Friday 9 June, led by friends from Bentham, speaker Ian Ellershaw.

Wray AGM – 7.30pm Tuesday 13 June, including the election of the Leaders Team.

Circuit Meeting – 7.30pm Thursday 15 June at Scotforth Road, Lancaster.

Strawberry Fundraiser – Janet Kenyon is hosting her annual fundraiser from 10am on Saturday 24 June at her home at 2 Roeburn Terrace.

Wray Family Service – 10.30am Sunday 9 July with Rev Keith, followed by a Jacob's join lunch.

Sportsreach – Wednesday 2 to Sunday 6 August – details opposite.

Welcome service for Rev Roy Burley and Rev Emma Holroyd at 7.30pm on Thursday 31 August at Bare Methodist Church, speaker Rev Paul Davis, Chair of District.

Regular Activities

- Sunday 10.30 **services** at both Wray and Roeburndale
 10.30 **Sunday school** – weekly at Wray, fortnightly at Roeburndale
 6.30 **service** at Wray.
 8.00 **After Eight** young peoples' meeting at Wray, second Sunday of the month.
- Monday **Come for Coffee**, first Mon each month 10-12 in Wray schoolroom.
- Thursday 7.30pm **Prayer Meeting** .
- Fri/Sat 7.00-9.30pm **Drop-In**, monthly in Wray schoolroom. Age 9 upwards. Games, tuck shop, etc. Contact Andrew Wright.
 7.30pm **Youth Fellowship**, monthly as announced. Year 9 upwards. Contact Richard & Hazel Preece.

WRAY SPORTSREACH

SOCCER & NETBALL SCHOOL 2017

Wed 2nd - Sun 6th August

on

Wray School Field

(by kind permission of Wray Endowed Primary School)

Open to Boys and Girls
Football **7-14 yrs** & Netball **8 -12 yrs**
Total Cost **£30**

Timetable of Events:

Wednesday-Friday - 6pm-9pm
Soccer & Netball coaching

- - -

Saturday - 10am onwards
World Cup matches,
Parents/Friends v Coaches match
followed by a barbeque

- - -

Sunday - 10.30am onwards
Award ceremony
held in the Methodist Church, Wray
with lunch to follow

For more information please visit our website

www.wraymethodistchurch.org.uk

Or contact **Andrew Wright**

Phone - **015242 21652**

Email - wraymethodistchurch@gmail.com



Sportsreach League Trophy Final

Longton 5-2 Wray

The night started with a message from Will Marsden speaking about life's greatest substitute of Jesus taking the place of our sin in front of a large crowd at Squires Gate FC ground in Blackpool.

The match started with both teams obviously evenly matched and struggling to adjust to a large, dry and smoothish pitch (something were not used to!). The first breakthrough came to Longton before Wray quickly equalised through George Whittaker. The game continued with half chances for both teams before Wray took the lead after Mark Ellershaw volleyed home but Longton quickly equalised.

Wray dominated the start of the second half with George and Will both denied by Longton's keeper before Longton scored two quick goals against the run of play. As the half wore on Wray tired and Longton added a 5th late on to make the game look more one sided than it really was.

A big thanks to everyone who came to support us on the night; we definitely had the bigger support despite the travel. Hopefully we can go one better next year.

Ben Wallbank



PeerTalk

PeerTalk aims to establish a UK wide network of volunteer facilitated peer group support meetings for people who experience depression and their families.



The preliminary work was done by Rev. Stephen and Philippa Normanton, superintendent minister in Settle Circuit and his wife, who talked to many professional people about mental health issues and how to support those living with depression and their families. Philippa herself has lived with depression for many years. The Methodist Church awarded a Connexional grant which enabled the PeerTalk project to be funded for two years and part funded for year three. All the work is overseen by a management committee who are committed to delivering the aims of the project.

Initially the focus of the project was hosting District/Regional day conferences addressing the churches' response to mental health issues and specifically depression. It is often the case that people who experience mental health issues also face difficulties in wider society through discrimination, intolerance and injustice. The aim of the conferences is to inform and equip individuals to be confident in supporting people through such issues and enabling the Church to challenge the stigma associated with depression and mental health illnesses. To date these Awareness Days have been held in Huddersfield, Preston, Penrith, Newcastle and Warrington. These events also serve as a means by which PeerTalk recruits volunteers to act as facilitators for the support group meetings.

For each PeerTalk support group meeting there are two trained volunteer facilitators. It is the aim to have a duty rota of 6 to 8 volunteers for each group, a minimum commitment of three consecutive weeks per quarter to provide some continuity in the group. Recruiting and training volunteers is central to successfully achieving the outcomes of the PeerTalk groups. So far this year three peer support groups, in Bradford, Preston and Newcastle, have been established, all meeting weekly on a Thursday evening.

You are invited to support this work in a practical way. Thomas, Robert, Liz and Matthew are hosting a Charity Barbecue on Friday 9th June at High Park House from 7p.m. There is no charge but donations can be made to PeerTalk. To help with catering please let one of them know you can come.

For more information, see website www.peertalk.org.uk or contact Liz Whitfield: admin@peertalk.co.uk

Circuit and District Matters

Rev Roy Burley and his wife, Galdys, will be moving to the Brookhouse manse during the month of August ready to assume pastoral charge of Brookhouse, Quernmore, Roeburndale and Wray from 1 September. There is a welcome service at Bare on Thursday 31 August when we will also welcome Rev Emma Holroyd.

The farewell service for Rev Peter Brown will be at Brookhouse at 7pm on 16 July. Peter and Carole are moving to Halesowen in the W Midlands.

The Circuit Meeting in March voted to close the work of the GYM in Morecambe after seven years. The District Synod in May confirmed the recommendation. It is hoped the work of the food bank will continue in a different location but the Circuit will be looking to sell the former Central Methodist Church, Green Street premises in the coming months.



Wray Annual General Meeting

The AGM meeting on Tuesday 13 May is an opportunity for the members of the congregation to have our say in the life and witness of the church.

Included on the agenda will be the election of the Leaders Team for the next three years. A nomination form is in the chapel porch – anyone from the regular congregation can be nominated provided they have a proposer and seconder (and they agree to serve), although it seems wise to restrict it to one Leader per household. If more than five people put their names forward, a secret ballot will be held and the five with the most votes elected.

There will also be an opportunity for small group discussions. Two proposed topics are how we encourage our young people into leadership positions – and it would be particularly helpful if as many of our young people as possible join in that conversation – and how we encourage people on the fringes of the church to make the next step of faith. If there any other topics you would like to discuss, please let one of the Leaders Team know before the meeting on 13 June.

Special Events

Preaching series on James – both Roeburndale and Wray are participating in a national scheme of services based round the Letter of James. There are four planned services each concentrating on a chapter of the book of James. The series at Wray will begin on 28 May with Rev Keith followed by three Sundays in June whilst Roeburndale have two Sundays in June.



Bike Pilgrimage – A group of Christians are cycling 750 miles from Cape Wrath in N Scotland to Peacehaven in Sussex on behalf of the persecuted church. They will be calling in at St John’s, Low Bentham and Garstang Methodist Church on the way. They invite us to join them to hear stories and share in prayer at 2.30pm on Fri 2 June at Bentham and 11am at Garstang on Sat 3 June.

More Wray Rotas					
Morning Coffee			Cleaning Fortnight		
June	4	Sam, Will, Dora, Rachel	June	5	Kath F
	11	Joan & Andy		12	Judith S
	18	Thomas, Maurice, Alan		19	
	25	Charlie Martin James Steven		26	Janet T
July	2	Jan. Lou, Annie, Seth	July	3	
	9	Family service lunch		10	Ruth L
	16	Anna, Imogen, Mary		17	
	23	Diane & Mark		24	Diane H
	30	Judith & Malcolm		31	
Aug	6	Sportsreach lunch	Aug	7	Joyce L
	13	Sarah & Peter		14	
	20	Andrew, Laura, Luke, Ben		21	Joan W
	27	Kath, Mark & Edward		28	
<p>Please bring milk, squash and biscuits. Tea and coffee are provided.</p>			<p>Cleaning fortnights start on Mondays thro’ to Saturdays</p>		

2017	Wray preachers	Wray welcome	Wray flowers	R'dale preachers	R'dale flowers/cleaning
June 4	M Capstick At Roeburndale	Ellie, Lou, Dora No service	Judith S	2.00 & 6.30 S Gilmore CA	Barbara H
11	J Hutchinson Rev PA Brown	Frank & Carol George	Susan S	J Widdess	Hazel P
18	PJ Gorst G Metcalfe YS	Jan Will P	Janet T	Wray YP	
25	A Eaton J Hutchinson	Rachel Judith	Joan W	R Battarbee	Ellen
July 2	B Fawcett No service?	Ted Amy Seth No service?	Annie D	K Borwick C	
9	K Borwick C FS Rev K Clapham	Sarah Michael	Mary W	C Wright	Grace
16	D Yates Crown Lane YS	Dorothy Laura	Linda W	J Corkish	
23	S Carter S Carter	Sam Thomas	Dorothy W	J Fox	Janet
30	E Rendle Rev K Borwick C	Kath Edmund	Margaret W	D Whitfield	
Aug 5	Sportsreach LA	Steven Andrew	Diane A	At Wray	Margaret
13	LA P&H Stobart	Luke Malcolm	Kath F	J Hutchinson	
20	D Whitfield Morecbe Praise	Chris Lois	Jan F	M Smith	Barbara W
27	M Longton Q'mre Ensemble	Andy Anne	Sarah G	K Borwick C SSA	

C - Communion

CA - Chapel Anniversary

FS - Family Service

LA - Local arrangement

SSA - Sunday School Anniversary

YS - Youth Service