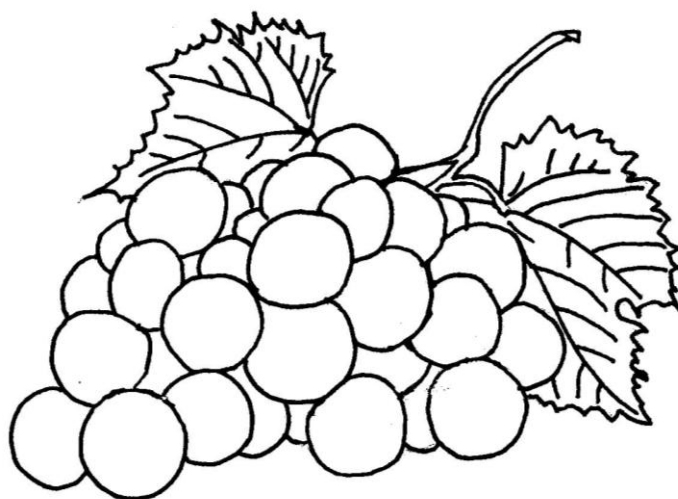


GROVE VINE

Online Edition

**The Magazine of
Grove Methodist Church
Horsforth, Leeds**

February 2022



**The Grove Methodist Church is called to respond to the
Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its
discipleship in worship, service and mission**

Minister – Rev Mark Godfrey

Phone: 0113 258 2678 or email: revmgodfrey@gmail.com

Minister's letter

Dear Friends,

I was involved in a discussion recently that focussed on how we speak of our faith to those who are uncertain or who have no experience of God. At times we do have opportunities to discuss matters of faith with those who are outside the life of the church and it is important we do have something to say. I would like to share two particular thoughts on the subject.

The first is that each of us should be able to say very simply what our faith means to us. It doesn't need to be an impressive theological argument, indeed it shouldn't be, because it needs to be true to us and based on our own experience. It is vital that we have something to say when we are asked, as occasionally we are, why we are Christian or why we go to church. What would you say in answer to those questions?

The second thing is that we must be prepared to face the awkward questions that challenge our faith or trouble those with whom we are talking. It isn't just a matter of quoting from the scriptures or the creeds, for those outside the church often won't regard such sources as authoritative. In such discussions we need to be open and honest and try to answer the difficult questions as best we can. We don't know all the answers and we shouldn't pretend to, we won't argue many people into the faith. It is much better to be honest and say "I don't know" rather than try to be evasive.

There are occasions when we do get the opportunity to talk about our faith with those outside the life of the church. We need to be open and honest but we also need to be able to say in a few simple words what we believe and why it is important to us.

This may be the last edition of The Vine, at least for a time. I would like to express my personal thanks to those who have edited the magazine over the last few years and for all the hard work that has gone into it. It has made a significant contribution to the life of the church.

Best wishes,

Mark

Thought for the month

.. peace comes from God and the realisation of God's presence with us: the central place for prayer... the need for silence and meditation to balance the constant clamour of much modern living; the affirmation of human continuity; crossing barriers of race, culture and creed to express a common deep desire for true peace and justice based on love. These are all part of the spiritual life which will help to overcome violence and build peace.

John Johansen-Berg

Church Family News.....

Please remember in your prayers all those known to us who face a variety of difficulties; bereavement; health problems; anxiety about loved ones and loneliness.

Funeral

December 6th Margaret Waterhouse

Services at The Grove in February

| | | |
|--------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday 6th: | 10.30 | Local Arrangement |
| Sunday 13th: | 10.30 | Parade Service. Rev Mark Godfrey |
| Sunday 20th: | 10.30 | Rev Madeleine Andrews |
| | 4.00 | Messy Church |
| Sunday 27th: | 10.30 | Mrs Christine Martin |

It is still not too late!

If you would like to try using Bible notes written by people from all over the world who can help our journey into the unknown, please contact Jean Orton (2589093) as soon as possible.

Anne B Blackburn (nee Quibell) 1930-2022

“Good”, she would reply with unequivocal assurance in response to the news of someone's passing. “Good”, she would say, “then they'll be with the Lord!” Anne Blackburn possessed a deep faith shaped throughout her life by a close walk with her Lord. From this grew a strong and healthy appreciation of the Church Triumphant, that body of witnesses who, having died, can be said to be enjoying eternal happiness brought about by union with God. And so it will be of no surprise that such firm convictions had foundations that were laid in early life.



Born Anne Boyd Quibell, she was descended from a long line of Wesleyans. Not only does Wesley Memorial Church, Epworth, contain memorials of all of her great-grandfathers, but during WW2 Anne, when evacuated to Ilkley, lived with Granny Holmes, herself the daughter of a Local Preacher, William Oliver Quibell, who proved to be such a great influence upon her. Anne benefitted from a loving Methodist family and a closeness to immediate and wider members always remained important to her. This Methodist inheritance was honed through an early education at Queen Margaret's School (Woodard foundation), where teaching was firmly based on the Christian religion and where she was to become head girl. Anne always said that going to an Anglican school made her a good Methodist!

On leaving education Anne worked as a secretary in her father's company. Wider interests included teaching in the Sunday School at Egham Methodist Church and starting to train as a local preacher in the Staines and Feltham Circuit. It was here, in September 1951, that she became fully accredited. This outworking of faith was to remain central to her life barring only a short period when the children, Peter and Sarah, were young. Also at this time Anne's love of dogs developed into a passion for breeding and showing Airedale Terriers.

By 1955 Anne had moved on to work in the Youth Department at Methodist Mission House in London. And it was here, in that year, that a Methodist minister on furlough from his placement in Jamaica gave a talk to staff about his experiences. The Rev'd Philip Blackburn was introduced to Anne and a life-long friendship made. However, this burgeoning relationship was not without its testing. On his first visit to his future in-laws Philip was greeted at the gate by three Airedale Terriers; only after passing muster was he accepted by the Quibell family. Anne, on the other hand, had been told to

pass her driving test, an essential for anyone seeking to live in Jamaican countryside. At her test drive the examiner asked why she wanted to drive; she replied that her fiancé would not marry her if she could not do so and so he duly passed her! By now it was July 1957 and the two, after marriage, returned to Williamsfield, near Mandeville accompanied by one of the treasured Airedales.

Anne and Philip were to prove to be a winning team - with Anne wholeheartedly entering into the life of each of Philip's churches and ably supporting her husband in his mission. She said that when she married Philip she also married the Methodist Church. As the minister's wife she enjoyed gardening and transformed many a manse garden. She was an excellent cook, and could make a meal for four extend to five or six at a moment's notice if someone visiting the manse needed feeding. She was very resourceful and generous to a fault. On Philip's death she continued to welcome into her home many people who needed a friend to get them back onto their feet.

After Jamaica, the coming years saw life move to Nassau, Bahamas, and then back to England and Roundhay, Horsforth and Harrogate. Anne, however, was more than a willing support. She shone as an inspired enabler in her own right. It was whilst she was in Nassau that she became involved in another defining feature of her life: Girl Guiding, and this involvement remained wherever she found herself. Her formidable abilities marked her strength as a leader. She was to serve and train leaders for 6th Horsforth, prove instrumental in founding the 17th Horsforth and eventually became District and Divisional Commissioner. As one guider commented, "When Mrs Blackburn tells you to do something you do it!." Anne valued the many friendships she made through Girl Guiding and loved camping with the guides. On retirement she continued as a loyal member of Trefoil Guild and never lost her trust in those who had come through guiding. "If you ask a Guider to do something," she would always say, "you know it will be done properly."

Ever active and always seeking to follow her faith, after Philip had died, she continued to play a full part in the circuit. Anne was famous for her marmalade and jam that featured at Central coffee mornings, and for her Grove Fellowship Group for which she would often organise the mid-week lunches. She was a staunch supporter of the Bible Society and acted as Local Representative, never missing an opportunity to raise awareness of the Bible and the Society's needs. She helped with Grove J Team, as she had done years before whilst at Shadwell in the Leeds Northeast Circuit, where she restarted the Sunday School. She became the meeting secretary for Monday Network Women's Fellowship and for many years was a valued Trustee on Grove Church Council.

Ever important to Anne was her calling as a Local Preacher for which she was highly regarded. She stood out in the high standard she set herself and saw it as important to retain an open and active mind, ever exploring the depths of her faith. Always scrupulous in her presentation, she was meticulous in her preparation and would preach a direct and challenging message that allowed her Lord, Jesus Christ, to shine through. Anne was always willing to share her insights and widespread experience. She mentored local preachers who thank God every time they take a service for her humble and clear guidance and she inspired a small local preacher luncheon-study group that encouraged discussion on chosen topics.

Encapsulating such a multifaceted lady is difficult but Anne summed up her inner convictions at her funeral service through her choice of Bach's chorale known in English as 'Jesu joy of man's desiring'. Not only does the title betray her steadfast faith but her guiding principle is the heart of the German text that translates literally as:-

'Jesus remains my joy, my heart's comfort and essence, Jesus fends off all suffering, He is my life's strength,'

There can be no more fitting epitaph to this truly memorable lady who will be sadly missed by all.

Peter Mawson

with acknowledgements to contributions from Peter Blackburn and Sarah Reeve

Movement for Recovery and Change" in Leeds,

15 February 7.45 pm on Zoom

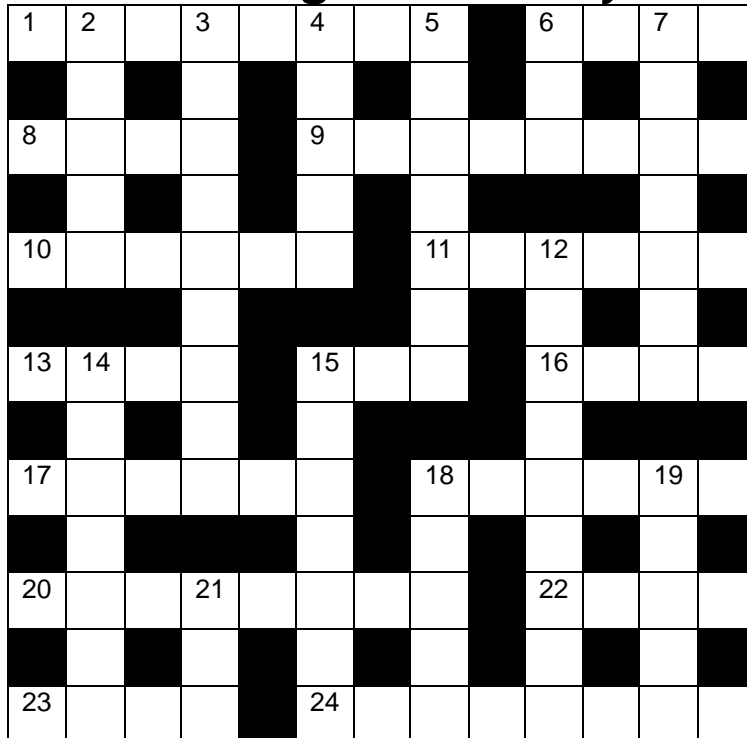
An event hosted by Gather Leeds and Leeds Church Institute. The aim is to connect Christians from across Leeds, to support what each other is doing and, together, to work for the good of the city as we emerge from the pandemic. Last year Gather Leeds hosted 'Pandemic Response and Recovery', a Zoom meeting with over 100 people attending. We're excited to be running a follow-up event this year.

You can watch an introductory video here: <https://youtu.be/NP5kzy1TJs0>

Bookings can be made via the Eventbrite link

here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/movement-for-recovery-change-in-leeds-tickets-219100554657>

Puzzles Page: from Tony Orton : 1. Small Crossword 11



Across:

1. Agreement (8)
6. Singing group father (4)
8. Ancient Christian symbol (4)
9. Sixth son of Jacob (8)
10. Official head count (6)
11. Place of worship (6)
13. Early Indian scripture (4)
15. The whole lot (3)
16. The very first garden (4)
17. Holds burning incense (6)
18. Peter, the rock (6)
20. More than just a follower (8)
22. Really not bad (4)
23. Long white vestments worn by some priests (4)
24. Helped (8)

Down:

2. Tree grown mainly for its oil (Hos. 14: 6) (5)
3. Paul wrote them a letter (9)
4. High priest (Luke 3: 2) (5)
5. Current (7)
6. Appropriate (3)
7. Accept as true (7)
12. Supreme court of ancient Athens (Acts 17: 19) (9)
14. A major prophet (7)
15. This Herod once reigned over Judea (7)
18. Musical staff symbols (5)
19. Make amends, or is it time for lunch? (5)
21. Greek island lettuce? (3)

2. Add a letter

Rearrange the four letters and insert another letter to make up a five-letter name from the New Testament. For example, with the addition of S, LISA could produce SILAS.

| | |
|------|-------|
| LISA | SILAS |
| FURS | |
| OMIT | |

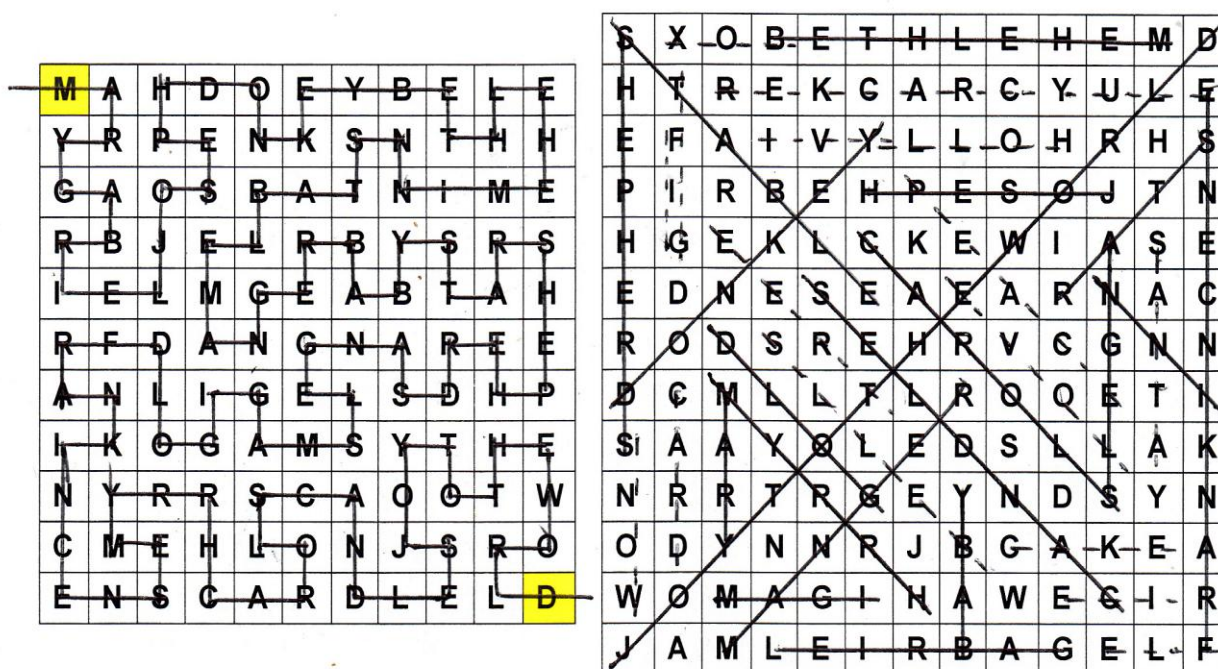
| | |
|------|--|
| LADY | |
| HARD | |
| JOAN | |

3. Number conundrums

| Use +, −, ×, and ÷ (/) with the given numbers to reach the target. | Given numbers | | | | | | Target |
|--|---------------|----|---|---|---|----|--------|
| | 25 | 75 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 396 |
| | 25 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 432 |

Last Month's Puzzle Solutions

Follow the Nativity Pathfinder Trail & Christmas wordsearch



Bank Branch Closures

The Church Treasurer, Bryan Whitham, has issued the following note and a further repeat can only help to ensure that everyone in the Church is aware of the pending difficulty.

"I'm sure everyone is now aware of the number of banks closing or already closed on Town Street. Virgin Money, which previously operated as Yorkshire Bank, is one of the banks that has closed. This is the bank that the Church has its day-to-day operating accounts with. The closure of this branch will create some problems for paying in money, especially that received in the weekly collections.

In order to ease the problems this will throw up, it is possible for people to pay their collection money by bank transfer, either as a regular direct debit or by manually doing a transfer at times that suit the individual. Doing this would help in many ways to ease the pressure of taking cash to the Post Office. Virgin Money (as with other banks) have an arrangement with the Post Office but this is severely limited. Cheques paid in at the Post Office necessitate separate paying in slips for each cheque - time consuming and burdensome for those volunteers paying the funds in. I would therefore ask that everyone consider the idea that paying their collection money by transfer or regular direct debit.

If you feel you are able to do this or would like more information, please contact me to get the bank details (0113 2583590 or email 007firstcontact@gmail.com). Several people have switched to this system and it is much appreciated.

Thank you to everyone for continued financial support . *Bryan Whitham, Treasurer*

Looking Back.....

Albert Jewell's article about the winter of 1962/63 has prompted further reflections on that year and some retrospective items from 1952 and 1972.

1952

King George VI died on February 6th and Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen. And, as we know, there will be celebrations and pageantry and parties (we hope) in June to celebrate her remarkable 70 years on the throne.

In complete contrast, the Government announced that Britain was to develop nuclear weapons.

1962

As Albert suggested, those of us who endured the winter of 1962/63 will not forget it. Having started in December 1962 it proved to be - supposedly - the coldest for 200 years. Many thought 1947 had been colder - but it wasn't, apparently. What made 1947 so bad was that coal for heating homes was rationed. And very few homes had any form of central heating in 1947.

We remember 1962/63 winter as being one of clear blue skies too. We went hiking, with others, throughout. There was a bus service from Ilkley to Bolton Abbey (roads were kept clear of snow because of its being a bus service). On one occasion we hiked up Simon's Seat, the hill above the Abbey, passing the spectacular frozen waterfall in the Valley of Desolation. But it was on the way down from the top that made for a truly memorable day.

Our clothing then was nothing like today's items. Some had cycling capes as their waterproofs. As we came down Howgill the snow banks seemed to get deeper. In fact, they were perfect for improvising the capes into a form of sledge. So, we spent 30 minutes or so taking turns to scoot down the slopes into the snow bank at the bottom. Like big kids - but we've never forgotten.

On one occasion in 1963 we went to Swaledale (the snow cleared at the side of the road was over 6ft deep). That day was marked by the sight of Army helicopters dropping bales of feed into farms further up the hills and Dale.

The River Wharfe at Otley was frozen solid at times.

1972

We asked Peter Mawson if he had access to the Grove Church Council Minutes for this year - and what were the subjects under discussion. Peter says that our Minutes would be 'archived'. But he has given the following excellent summary of what 'made up' the Grove in that year.....

The Grove - Focus on February 1972

Officials:

- * Minister: Rev. George Sully (1968 - 1974)
Rev. Philip Blackburn (1974 - 1982)
- * Church Secretary: Stanley Long (1950 - 1981)
- * Church Treasurer: Cyril O. Manley AACCA (1967 - 1981)
- * Organist and Choirmaster: Fred N. Walker (1965 - 1974)

The lengths of service suggests a time of very stable commitment.

Youth Centre: (youth work was a very real strength in the sixties and the seventies)

* Mid 1960s, an increasing need for an up-to-date facility to cater for young people - original plans were revised to include the 'Junior Wing' to take the pressure off the Main Hall.

* It was sited on chapel land where tennis courts had been.

* Foundation Stone laid 25th January 1969;

Opening Saturday 24th January 1970.

* By 1972, the new Centre was functioning. Youth work flourished e.g. 9th Airedale second Cub Pack (Friday) was started in January 1973 due to ever-growing numbers, with Jean Inglis as Akela. Beginning in the 1970s the Airedale Scout Troop and Venture Unit had repeated successes in the Six Dales Walking Challenge - and enjoyed successful camps in Abersoch and on completing the Dales Way long distance walk in 1972. In January 1971 a second Guide Company (14th Horsforth) was formed to cater for increased numbers.

* The youth activities in the early 1970s was so successful that the Youth Centre was extended in 1976.

There were twice-weekly Youth Club discos in the Centre.

Horsforth Grove Methodist Amateur Operatic Society:

* Many successful productions and in 1972 their sixth was 'Hello Dolly'.

Memories:

* Prior to the Narthex improvements in the later 1970s, it is reported that "The entrance porch and lobby was a dark mysterious place where a steward would hand you a hymn book and reverently open a green baize lined door to usher you into the sanctuary." (says *Paul Birtwistle, Youth Club member whose father was a Grove Trustee at the time*).

* In the sanctuary in 1972, there would be two more rows of pews at the back where the narthex now stands and the transepts had pews in them too.

* In 1972 the key fundraising activities each year (until Mr Blackburn's Stewardship Campaign) were likely to have been the Annual Grove Bazaar for which all groups and organisations were expected to contribute and to work on running stalls etc. By 1975 these were crowded events with the local community also attending, together with contributions from the Anniversary

Gift Aid Appeal, when members handed their donations to the Minister. (Two years later, when Mr Blackburn was Minister, he would sit in the vestry to accept those gifts).
Peter Mawson

And, in 1972:

- *Horsforth School opened on Lee Lane.
- *The Miners' Strike lasted from January 9 to February 28.
- *Leeds United beat Arsenal 1-0 in The F.A. Cup Final.
- *£1 was worth £16.48 at today's value - and - apparently - it was worth £ 24.53 in 1962, and £36.61 in 1952.

Gordon and Mary Mellor

Dear Vine Readers:

Can I encourage you to focus on your breathing?

How about.... breathe in (count 2,3 in your head) then breathe out (count 2,3).

Do this a few times in a steady rhythm.

Now try 'in' 2,3,4..... 'out' again for a few times.

Fortunately breathing is an automatic function of our bodies that doesn't need us to think about it. We only become aware when we are 'out' of it or 'short' of it! There are several techniques that incorporate consciously thinking about a regular pattern of breathing as an aid to relaxation.

So how about using this framework to think about our spiritual life?

Breathing in represents the ways in which we 'take in' spiritual nourishment. How would this be for you? Prayer; meditation; bible study; Christian reading; attending worship; listening to sermons; singing through your mask; enjoying the countryside on a walk; sharing with friends..... add to this list what works for you.

Breathing out represents our work for God in the world around us. Leading church groups; looking out for neighbours; that pastoral phone call; text or visit. Being able to share snippets of our faith with others as the opportunity arises. Add your own work for God to this list.....

Our church magazine is called The Vine. This is no accident, but came about in response to John's Gospel verses 1-15.

"I am the true Vine" says Jesus, "and my father is the vine-grower".

"I am the Vine, you are the branches".

"Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing".

Take time now to look up the chapter. use it as "breathing in time".

This could well be the last edition of the Vine. We thank the three sets of editors who have faithfully compiled this magazine for us to enjoy. Will there be another? I am not holding my breath! But I am staying 'attached' to the Grove Church Community as I breath in and out as outlined above.

Keep in touch

Phil Maud

Will The Brightest Memory of 2022 Be The Platinum Jubilee? If so.....What Is Platinum?

Platinum is a dense, stable and rare metal. It is often used in jewellery but is also invaluable in medical, chemical and electronic applications due to its unique chemical and physical properties.

It is more than ten times rarer than gold.

The total annual supply of platinum is around 250 metric tons - most of which is mined in South Africa.

Extremely resistant to tarnishing and corrosion; it is soft and malleable and easy to shape. It can be drawn into wire; does not oxidise and is unaffected by common acids.

Perhaps its most beneficial applications today are its uses on catalytic converters (about 50%); electrical contacts (it is an excellent conductor of electricity); pacemakers and drugs.

One website suggests that half of cancer patients currently use drugs containing platinum. Platinum isn't readily found in large amounts and producers must dig deep with consequent high production costs.

A cylindrical 'lump' of the metal is used as the international standard for measuring one kilogram. Some 40 of these lumps are spread worldwide.

Platinum became fashionable in jewellery in about 1900.

And....

In sporting events and in the arts, gold is regarded as the top prize. Except in the music industry - where platinum seems to be the highest accolade. The award of a Platinum Disc is for sales reaching 1,000,000. For a

Gold Disc the sales have to reach a mere 500,000 and for a Silver Disc a trifling 250,000!

The first Silver Disc was to George Formby for his recording of 'When I'm Cleaning Windows' in 1937. The first Gold Disc was to Glenn Miller in 1942 for 'Chattanooga Choo Choo' And The first Platinum Disc was Elvis Presley's 'Don't Be Cruel'.

With thanks to Google for much of the above!
Gordon Mellor

Branching Out

As there is much talk of 'saving the planet' and the need to plant lots of trees, it is encouraging to see how many new trees are planted in Hall Park. There are lots including: Acers; Hornbeam; Whitebeam; Linden and Beech. One of the Hornbeams replaces the long-standing tree erected as a memorial for soldiers killed at the Battle of the Somme and which had been brought down in a recent storm. The original tree was to recognise the devastation in that battle when so many men were killed - and so many trees were destroyed. But one survived. A hornbeam.

Monday Lunch and Women's Meeting

We are delighted that Lunch and the Women's Meeting are to start up again; fortnightly from 7th February.

The dates are as follows: Lunch will be served at 12.15:

February 7th and 21st.....

March 7th and 21st.....

April 4th and 25th.....

May 9th and 23rd.....

**Special Jubilee Lunch - note 1pm on 30th May.*

The Women's Meeting follows every lunch: 1.30 - 2.30pm

It would be good to hear from church folk if they, or someone they know, would come and speak to the meeting - 20 to 30 minutes, giving time for chat afterwards!!! Please get in touch if you can offer..... February is taken care of, so dates are available from March onwards. There IS such a thing as a free lunch -for Speakers!

Phil Maud philmaud@hotmail.com 07305740623

The End of an Era: Last Issue of Grove Vine

In July 2021, at the opening of his address to the presbyterial session of Conference, the Rev'd Richard Teale, as outgoing President, concluded that this had been 'a very different year'. "COVID-19" he said "has changed our lives considerably." He was not wrong. In one way or another it has impacted upon millions of people across the world. Researchers at York St. John University have found that over the difficult times of this last year churches have been marked by faithful disciples doing their utmost to maintain contact across the breadth of their church membership whilst eventually starting to look outwards by finding creative ways of supporting local communities. The danger has been that neighbours might think that the church is no more than an empty building. But we know that that is not the case!

How can a church show that it is more than an empty building? It is no surprise that a church relies heavily on its many volunteers. Without them any response to the Gospel of love is Jesus Christ that a church chooses to follow will not be achieved. Since its first issue in Easter, April 2009, the Grove Vine has provided the church with an invaluable way of not only keeping readers in touch with the many events, happenings and thoughts at work within the church but has reminded each of us that as separate members and adherents of The Grove there is also a bigger picture to which we all belong.

Of course the regular magazine publication couldn't have happened over the last 13 years without the voluntary interest, time and effort of the editorial group. The Church Trustees have always recognised the work of volunteers and the importance of what they do and without whom the church would be unable to fulfil its mission. It is right that on behalf of the wider church, Church Council should now give its grateful thanks to the whole editorial team for the successful management and production of Grove Vine. Following Gill Jewell's initial inception in 2009, within months the team swelled to include Gordon and Mary Mellor. The editorial group was completed in 2014 when Paul and Jenny Redfearn joined. The editors worked together well and produced a most valuable asset and for that we can all be thankful. But times change and things move on, eras come to an end. Perhaps someone else will pick up the task of keeping the church in touch with itself, be it in the form of another magazine or a completely new venture. Whatever, on behalf of everyone at the Grove very many thanks to Gill, Gordon, Mary, Paul and Jenny for their years of service on Grove Vine. Enjoy the break!

Peter Mawson, Church Council Secretary



Perfectly Pitched



Perfectly Pitched is a series of three, free lunchtime concerts to be held at St Margaret's which is a huge covid secure space. Refreshments will be served from 11.45 before each performance which will start at 12.30.

The first concert is on **Thursday 3rd February** and will be hosted by Horsforth Churches Together.

It will be given by Avenue Ensemble, an exciting & dynamic group of professional musicians headed by Tom Greed.

Their programme will consist of a variety of classical pieces, music for film and TV shows. They specialise in bringing classical music alive, for everyone to enjoy music in a fun, social setting. See their website for more information and meet them.

<https://www.avenueensemble.com/>



Thank you

Gordon and Mary would like to thank all those who have submitted articles, etc. or helped in any way over the last 13 years. We have decided that this will be our last Issue as Editors - and we are to hang up our pencils.

Please note that Grove Vine is published online.

All Uniformed Organisations will receive copies only online - or via the Grove Website.

Premises Manager: Alan Firth
43 New Street, Horsforth, Tel: 258 2742 or 07985745525
grovebookings@gmail.com
Off duty from Saturday noon and all day Sunday

<http://www.grovemethodist.org.uk/>

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