

October 2016

Sunday October 2nd had me preaching at Sutton Village Church – our old Herbert Street Chapel. It was good to preach God’s word to an attentive and hungry congregation. The transformation of this church from years gone by is a testimony to God’s provision, faithfulness and love, as well as to the willingness of His people to trust Him in dire circumstances.

Friday 7th was our regular Admin Meeting, followed on the Saturday by Friars Green’s Christmas Craft Fair and Coffee Morning - a now yearly event which is much anticipated by all!

Sunday the 9th saw Sue and I heading over to Bingley I.M. for the Yorkshire Circuit Visit. The weather was good and the roads were clear – we do thank the Lord for His travelling mercies upon our journeys. The welcome at Bingley was warm and Spencer excelled in giving me a potted history. We were told a light lunch would follow the service and we truly were well provided for – I’m not sure I could have managed a “full lunch”. I hope they were spiritually fed from the Word in as good a measure! The afternoon involved a short trip to Dewsbury and the leading of Worship there, followed by a very tasty afternoon tea! Sue originates from Yorkshire so, in a sense, it was like returning home and we are truly thankful for the way that we have been well received and cared for.



(Above: Friends from Bingley and Dewsbury, together at Dewsbury I.M.)

The following Saturday was Connexional Committee, hosted by Barnoldswick Church. The meeting sought to navigate through some sensitive issues and see the work move forward to the glory of God and the extension of His Kingdom. Please pray for the Connexion, it’s

officers and it's trustees at this time. Barnoldswick looked after us with a great feast for lunch and fellowship around the table was good – My thanks to all.

As a side note, Barnoldswick Chapel is probably one of the biggest in our Connexion as a building and great change has taken place. The last time I was there the balcony was closed, it smelt of damp and there was a suspended net to stop falling debris... Now it is truly immaculate – A testimony to much hard work and the willingness to apply for external grants!



The 23rd October was the occasion of the Liverpool Circuit visit and it was a joy to visit our Long Lane Chapel. The Church were welcoming and receptive as we explored God's word together. Light refreshments afterwards were a time to get to know one another more and drill down a little into that message of love.

The last weekend in October was a busy and blessed one indeed. Our friends in the North East had invited my wife Sue, Ken Irwin and I to a Ceilidh on the Saturday evening... Len was the MC and no one had told the folk that I had two left feet and didn't dance! My sincere apologies to all whose feet I trod on – I promise I won't do it again – dance that is! Sunday morning, after a suitable rest, I was preaching at Stanley Street Chapel in Seaham – the welcome was warm and the word well received – it was good to see old friends and make new ones. After a lovely meal with Eric and Anita Southwick and the family, I was off to preach at Greatham for the afternoon service – It was encouraging to see the renovations that are well underway, funded, in part, by the Connexion. The evening service was at Hetton-le-hole and it was a joy to meet with Shaun Newton, Gill and the church there... I was most struck by the number of young people in the service – I understand none were from church families – and yet they were attentive and well behaved throughout – Maybe it

was the light and laughter party that was to follow afterwards. Ken Irwin also preached morning and evening – Those folk in the North east truly know how to get the most out of a visit! My thanks to all for the warmth, hospitality and love that was shown to us in overflowing measure.



(Above: Friends at Greatham Church – sorry no pictures of dancing!)

God has given us one another – We are family! Family however, is not always easy, but it is worthwhile – Jesus will see us built up, strong together – If we endeavour to love each other as He loves us.