

**WEYBAY NEWS**

A monthly what’s on

** **February 2024**

Lord for the years your love has kept and guided,

Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,

Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,

Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

 Weymouth Bay is part of the Dorset South and West Circuit

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Dear Friends,

I’m writing in the second week of January and the news headlines have been focussing on the injustices which hundreds of sub Post masters have suffered as the result of the Horizon computer malfunctions. It has been 10 years since it was acknowledged that the computer system was at fault, not the people.

Last week the ITV series Mr Bates v The Post Office so stirred a public sense of injustice at the long-suffering of the people affected that, today, the government have announced plans to pass legislation that will exonerate those who were convicted of fraudulent activity.

The power of a TV drama to influence such dramatic action in the cause of justice is truly staggering. Often we think that we are powerless in the face of the slow moving engines of authority, to make things change; this week has seemingly proved otherwise, at least in this case. For Mr Bates and others, it has been an extremely arduous and long journey on which they have had to persist in the cause of justice.

In 2023, the Methodist Conference received a report on the ‘Walking with Micah’ project, named ‘A Justice seeking Church’. This report reaffirms the Methodist Church’s long-standing commitment to be a justice-seeking church. It shares what we can learn from our theology, our hymns, our past and present practices and helps us to think about what justice might look like in our communities today and the part we can each play in bringing that vision to fruition.

Lent begins on the 14th of this month; that period of reflection, prayer and action in which we take the opportunity to re-assess our life with God, and with our neighbour near and far and make changes where we are prompted by the Holy Spirit.

A question we may like to ponder is whether or not, in our lives both individually and together, we actively seek justice for the poor, the oppressed and the disadvantaged.

The path of discipleship, which includes seeking justice for all, is inevitably one of change as Jesus calls us to follow him into the new life that he is preparing for us and invites us to. The Covenant Prayer which we have prayed, joins us together in our commitment to serve God in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. In response to everything that God has done for us in Jesus, we yield our lives to his divine direction, guidance and enabling.

A Methodist Way of life includes challenging injustice as one of the things we try to do as disciples of Jesus. As we continue to travel into 2024, I pray that God will help us and give us the courage and tenacity to do just that.

Blessings

Ruth

**PREACHERS AT WEYMOUTH BAY for February:**

4th February Rev Jane Wilson (Cafe Church)

11th February 10.30am Rev Ruth Lownsbrough

11th February 6.30pm Richard Lownsbrough

18th February Jacqui Trent

28th February Chris Warren

**Rev Barrie Snook**

Our dear friend Rev Barrie Snook died on 19th December 2023.His funeral service was held on 4th January at United Church Dorchester where Barrie had previously been a Minister before his retirement. The service was led by Rev John Yarrien assisted by Rev Ruth Lownsbrough and Rev Gwyneth Owen. This was a service filled with happy memories of Barrie, his beautiful smile, inspiring preaching and sense of fun. Barrie and his wife Grace first came to us at WeyBay in 2010 and we were blessed when Barrie stood in for Rev David Plumb during his sabbatical the following year. David gave the tribute reminding us of the double act he and his “buddy” Barrie made together, including starting Chaps and Chips and the story of Everard the flea! Our love and sympathy goes to Grace, their daughters Nicola and Louise, and son-in-law Simon. We miss Barrie but give thanks for the time he spent with us at WeyBay.

We send our congratulations and prayers to Jayne Newton our Community Outreach Worker based at Westham. On Saturday 6th January Jayne was ordained as a Baptist Minister at Weymouth Baptist church . As Rev Jayne she will be a Pioneer Minister working in the community and we are pleased that she will also be continuing with her role at Westham.

**REGULAR EVENTS**

**Coffee morning** – every Wednesday, coffee and cake served from 10.00 until noon. We also have books and jigsaw puzzles that may be borrowed*.*

**A short time of prayer in the chapel** every Wednesday before the coffee morning. This is a time for you to bring your own anxieties before the Lord and also to pray for the life of our church here at WeyBay and how we can go forward with God. This is a very simple time of prayer beginning at 9.50am for about 15 – 20 minutes only. Please join us.

**Grace Notes** singing groupmeets every Wednesday at 10.30am. New members welcome. Come and sing and have some fun.

**Cameo** a fortnightly group for women meeting at WeyBay at 2pm on Wednesday. You are very welcome to come along to all meetings or just when you are able.

Coming up this month:

February 7th: A speaker from **Dorset Search & Rescue**, a charity that works with police and coast guard in search and recovery of missing persons.

February 21st: Rev Ruth Lownsbrough

**Miscellany,** themusic group which meets in the church every Wednesday from 5-6 pm. This is for anyone who plays a musical instrument, however brilliant or rusty you may be. Why not give it a go? If you are interested speak to Rosemary or Ailsa for further information.

**Dementia Cafe:** Friday 2nd February from 2pm – 4pm.

An afternoon providing a welcome to visitors and carers for a joyful afternoon of activities and music.

More details from Esme on 01305 812637

**Bible Study** meets on Thursday at 2pm. We are currently looking at theWalking with Micah project, “A Justice seeking Church” that Ruth talks about in her message this month. In the second half of February we will begin our Lent Study. This is a very informal group with plenty of opportunity for discussion and we welcome anyone who would like to join us.

**COMING UP AT WEYMOUTH BAY**

10th Feb: Bridport Big Band

9th March: Mike Denham’s “Elite Syncopations” with

Trevor Whiting (clarinet/sax) and Steve Graham (trumpet),

Tickets £10 in advance from Pete 01305 812637 or £12 on door.

All concert begin at 7.30pm

**Drinking from my Saucer**

By John Paul Moore

I’ve never made a fortune and it’s probably too late now.

But I don’t worry about that much, I’m happy anyhow.

And as I go along life’s way, I’m reaping better than I sowed.

I’m drinking from my saucer, ‘cause my cup has overflowed.

I don’t have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going’s tough.

But I’ve got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his blessings and the mercies He’s bestowed.

I’m drinking from my saucer, ‘cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.

So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I’ve hoed.

I’m drinking from my saucer, ‘cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough.
I’ll not ask for other blessings I’m already blessed enough.
And may I never be too busy to help others bear their loads.

Then I’ll keep drinking from my saucer, ‘cause my cup has overflowed.

With thanks to Kathy Pask