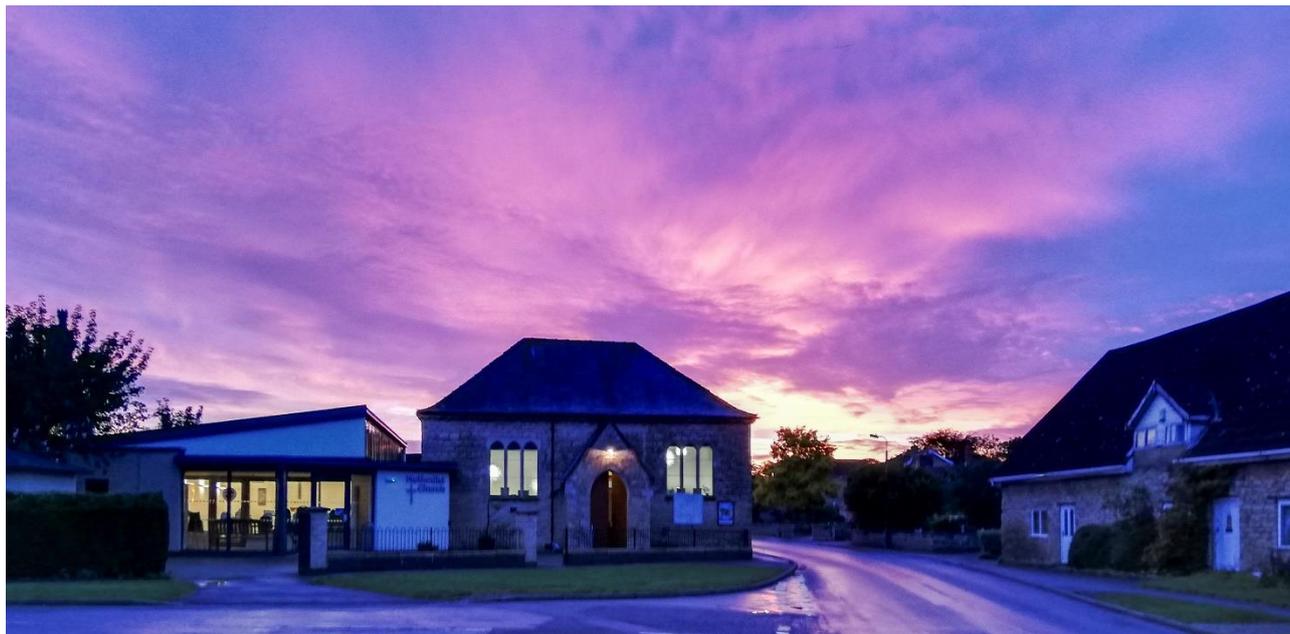


## *Methodist News*



### *New Year Resolutions*

**Another** year and another set of new year's resolutions loom. I wonder what I can possibly plan for this time round, as most of the plans I had for last year went well and truly out of the window in March 2020. For some there has been bereavement, ongoing illness, financial difficulty and an uncertain future. Yet, as ever, the darkness isn't the whole story. 2020 has also contained celebration; people have fallen in love, some have even managed weddings, babies have been born, first steps taken, anniversaries and birthdays have come and gone and the online world has opened up a new way of celebrating with those from whom we have been physically kept apart.

I'm aware that what has been good for some has been difficult for others; we have been in the same storm but not all in the same boat. We need to decide how we will choose to keep the good things 2020 brought us whilst saying a heartfelt goodbye and good riddance to the bad. So, as we bid farewell to 2020, why not think of one thing that you would like to keep or build on, and let that be 2020's legacy to you and the world around you. So I'd like to share a pick-and-mix list of some of the good things to come out of 2020 that others have shared with me.

- Community support initiatives • Simpler church services • Prioritising daily exercise
- Recognising the value of health and social care staff, food retail staff, posties, dustbin collectors and many others
  - More home baking and cooking from scratch • Switching to having milk delivered
  - Less traffic • Virtual meetings meaning less/no commuter time • Shopping local
    - More time with family • The chance to be part of my children's education
    - Having coffee breaks with my wife (apparently...) • Finding new places to walk
    - Watching the seasons pass, day by day • Lots of home improvements completed
- Enjoying gardening • The space to prioritise what is important • A simpler, calmer life
- Learning to be grateful for the basics of life • Reaching out to neighbours and others

- Recognising that church is not a building • Better attitude towards mental health
  - Savouring the many blessings in our lives • Many homeless being housed
- Huge generosity to foodbanks/community larder • Thankfulness for community spirit
- Getting to church more often, as I can watch in my slippers! • Learning new tech skills
- Getting back into long forgotten hobbies • Finding new places to nap around the house
- A greater understanding of those who are struggling, those who have lost their livelihood

My prayer for you for 2021 is that you find hope for the future, that you experience the gift of Grace without condition and that you know the love of God; for God is with us, now and always.

**Revd Dr Helen Hooley**

### *Update*

We hope you all managed to enjoy Christmas and stay safe despite all the restrictions. We were disappointed not to be able to hold our usual carol and Christmas morning services but with the virus creeping around locally it was decided the risks were too great. We did open for a few services in early December. At the time of writing we are unsure which tier we will be in in the new year and what restrictions will be necessary. Hopefully, as we all get the vaccine our lives will become easier. Our pastoral visitors and attendees have been busy during the last nine months, trying to keep in touch with people associated with our chapel and all our activities. If you know of anyone who feels that they would like some contact, please get in touch with our pastoral lady, Barbara, on 860823. It's good to keep in touch as a church and to know that prayers are being said. If you wish for us to pray for someone or a particular situation, please contact Ruth (861461) or Barbara (860823) and let them know.

#### **Pop-Up Shop**

Thank you to those who supported our pop-up shop during October. Between that and our online/ Facebook sales, we raised just over £1,000 to be shared between St Barnabas Hospice and Action for Children.

**Peter McCree  
and Kirsty Goulbourne**

#### **Community Christmas Garland**

Thank you to everyone who knitted strips for our community Christmas garland. Whether you knitted one or twenty-one, it was lovely to have so many take part. I hope you are pleased with the finished item...well, when I say finished, this is really just the beginning. We are hoping to extend the display over the coming years, so please keep the green nine inch x one inch strips coming. Please make sure the strips come to 21 Ryland Road in WELTON or call 860998 and we will collect.

Have a lovely Christmas.

**Linda McCree**



## *Christmas Toy Appeal*

Thank you to everyone who felt able to donate toys to our appeal. Once again, the people of Welton and Dunholme have done us proud. We had to make several deliveries, each time with our car jammed with your gifts. They were gratefully received by the charity and I know that on Christmas morning there were lots of happy families thanks to your generosity. My heartfelt thanks.

***Linda McCree***