

# OCTOBER

Happy Birthday to:-

3<sup>rd</sup> Anne Graham  
11<sup>th</sup> Tracy Howes  
17<sup>th</sup> Paula Jackson

and Best Wishes to anyone else celebrating this month.

Flowers

Hilary Horner &  
Jackie Green



## Door Stewards

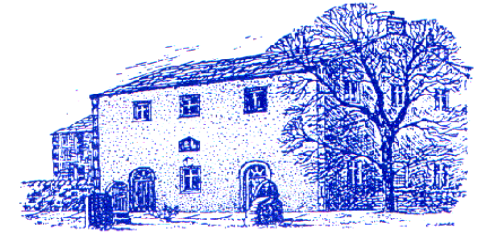
4<sup>th</sup> Barrie and Janice Calvert  
11<sup>th</sup> Doug and Jackie Green  
18<sup>th</sup> Rod and Jean Slater  
25<sup>th</sup> Ken Brand

## Communion Stewards

Jim and Alyson Gill



Grassington  
Congregational  
Church



## OCTOBER

Dear Members and Friends,

At this time of year the focus of our church and that of many churches up and down the land is Harvest, in several church magazines over recent weeks I have read announcements about themes, dates and times. Our Harvest which is this weekend will focus on the parable of the sower. One of very few within scripture that gets an explanation as to its meaning. Soil, seeds, farmer, birds, rocks, good soil, fruit all combine to create a wonderful message. Questions like, What soil are you ? How do you receive the word ? How do we share the word ?

If you look at the passage and context of these words many of the disciples instantly formed a picture in the minds as to what Jesus was talking about, some of them have no idea. “ Don’t you understand this parable ?” Jesus asks them. Mark 4 v 13

We face similar problems these days, mention the word ‘church’ and people have a picture in the minds of what they think it’s likely to be like inside. They will make their minds up before giving it a try or considering it may be different from what they remember from years ago. Give a go with some other words, what picture do they create for you, what picture emerges as you say the words, as you hear the words ? Love, Peace, Home, Family etc, etc...

The uphill struggle to change people's perceptions and judgements has challenged me for several decades, ideas, initiatives and missions have consumed time, financial resources, hours of prayer and heart searching, all in the name of trying to invite people to walk with you on a journey. Jesus had a limited time frame, roughly three years. Within that time he rarely followed a mechanical list of things to do. He attended wedding feasts that lasted for days. He let himself get distracted by any 'nobody' he came across. Two of his most impressive miracles ( Lazarus and Jairus's daughter) took place because he arrived too late to heal the sick person. He would accept almost anybody's invitation to dinner, and as a result no public figure had a more diverse list of friends, ranging from rich people, Roman centurions, and Pharisees to tax collectors, prostitutes, leprosy victims and so many others.

It was about being himself and confident in the knowledge of who he was, not just the perceptions, judgements and criticisms people heaped upon him. The 'church' may have an image problem, we may have a problem getting people to understand what we are on about, even the concept of what we are there for, yet it's about each one of us, you and I.

Ask God to continue to use and work with us, despite who we are, no matter what people think or however many judgements they seem to make. Sow the seeds of love, joy and forgiveness and watch them grow.

Every blessing,

Yours in Christ name,

*Peter*



## WHAT'S THE STORY ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
7.30pm – 9.30pm

Trinity Hall, Duckett Street, Skipton  
Registration, Coffee, Browse from 7.00pm

### A SHOWCASE EVENT

*With Anne Cayton*

from Otley Christian Resources Hub

An opportunity to learn about an exciting interactive storytelling project ideal for schools, churches and community.

- You may recall that last year Jean, Alyson and Peter put on this event for Grassington School during the run up to Christmas. It was very well received and greatly appreciated by the local children



- If you would like to attend please have a word with Peter, this is a fantastic opportunity.

## Prayer,

- It is with great sadness that we announce the death this week of Richard Horner, (funeral arrangements to be announced.) Richard and his wife Hilary have been members of our church for some time and his passing will be deeply felt among us. We pray for Hilary and the wider family at this time.
- We pray for those who are continuing to battle with ongoing illness and hospital treatment. As we journey together we pray for comfort, encouragement and love.
- We hold before God those who are affected by war and violence around the world, those who flee their homes, land and livelihood. This is very much an ongoing difficulty across the world and each day there are many needs of so many people.
- We give thanks for family and friends and the people who share our lives, we give thanks for the ongoing opportunities to share something of our faith through the action and attitude of our lives.
- We pray that God may grant us opportunities to share our resources, time and talent in the community.
- We acknowledge and give thanks for the provision and blessing of our faith and trust in God, the journey of those who walk with us, and the freedom to express that faith.
- We pray for young people who begin a new journey at University over the coming weeks. Parents and wider family members.
- Pause, read a scripture and pray, give thanks, ask forgiveness, praise, think of others, lift up your offering to God and ask his blessing upon your life.

## WAGs Corner

The WAGs met for the first time, after the summer break, at 12.00 on Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup>. In the coffee lounge.

We enjoyed a shared lunch together and it was lovely to see each other and settle down to enjoy a good 'catch up'.

Andrew Wilson, the newly elected 'chair' of the Town Hall, then chatted to us about a little bit of background history of the Town Hall and then, on to what we can expect to be happening during the forthcoming year at the Town Hall.

Already there are new 'zumba' and 'ballroom dancing' classes being held on a weekly basis plus, table tennis, badminton and bowls. The Town Hall hopes to establish a monthly event of a show, similar to the recent 'Grassington's Got Talent', or a dance or disco.....So it's a case of 'watch this space' to make sure you don't miss out on anything.

Andrew was also keen to get ideas and suggestion of what people want to see happening at the Town Hall and take names etc of anyone wanting to volunteer to help at forthcoming events.

Altogether, a very informative afternoon. *Jean*

The next meeting is: Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup> 12.00 noon for a shared lunch and an opportunity to buy cards and gift wrap from the 'Phoenix' charity cards and also 'Aloe Vera' gift sets, followed by a talk at 1.00pm: (*Men welcome to attend*)

'The Human Touch'

Anecdotes of a Financial Advisor by John Currie

Dates for 2015-16 programme are found elsewhere in magazine

## WAGs Programme 2015—16

- Tuesday November 10<sup>th</sup> ‘The Calendar Girls’  
A ‘talk’  
by ‘Calendar Girl’ .....Tricia Stewart  
12.00 for lunch  
1.00pm for the ‘talk’

- Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Lunch  
The Grassington House Hotel  
12.00 for 12.30  
£18 (inc. tip)

Names, deposits and menu choices initially at the Oct and Nov meetings

Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup> Casual Lunch at ‘The Retreat’ 12.00noon

- Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup> ‘Living and Working Abroad’  
By John Wright

Men are invited to come along to this session by John.....lunch will be provided at 12.00 followed by the ‘talk’ at 1.00pm

- Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup>.....TBA
- Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup> Visit £10.....  
leaving Church at 1.00pm

‘The Daphne Corbin Hat Collection’

at Halton Hall with the Elegant Ladies of Littondale

## Thanksgiving News and Views

- Upstairs room, many thanks to those who helped with the installation of some new facilities and preparation of hot and cold water, decoration to the room and ongoing work.
- Our series of Sunday sermons continue with a journey following the life of Joseph. His story is found in Genesis chapter 37-50. Fantastic reviews so far, thanks.
- Charities, you will be aware that each year we donate 10% of our income to charity. Over the past 4/5 years we have brought various nominations to the church meeting and as members we decide upon two, one from overseas and one from home. At our monthly meeting in September it was suggested that we think of ways to have a more strategic support and ongoing help for charities, please give this some thought as we will be discussing it at our next meeting in October.
- Deacons, we are delighted to receive both Shirley Moorhouse and Paula Jackson into their role as deacons. Many thanks for your support and ongoing prayers at this time.
- Many thanks to those who were able to help and volunteer for events and shows over the 1940’s weekend, it was good to welcome many visitors and appreciate once again the ongoing work of the village, roll on, or is it, next stop Dickensian...steady !!!
- Happenings, if anyone can give some help this week with the packing of cards and boxes please shout up. Peter is set to present his ideas at the Christian Resources Exhibition in October 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> at Birmingham’s NEC, this is a wonderful opportunity to share and network with people from around the country.

Dear ladies,

I would like to invite you to join me in going Cherish Women's Conference at Leeds First Direct Arena.



to

You can find out more about the conference by following the

<http://www.lifechurchhome.com/conferences/cherish/>

It is Thursday 2 - Saturday 4 June 2016 during the school holidays and if we book before December 19 the cost is £60.00.

This is a fantastic opportunity to join 1000's of women to worship together and hear some great speakers. I went on my own several years ago when the conference was in Bradford, but the conference has grown so much in the last few years that it was held for the first time this year at the Leeds Arena and will be again next year.

I am prepared to organise a group booking so if you would like to go please can you let me know by Sunday 11th October.

I look forward to hearing from you.  
Helen

*PS. The Church may be able to offer some financial assistance through its outreach programme for anyone who would like to attend, or for a group.*

## Is it the end..... ?

By the end of the October half-term, Peter will have been made redundant from Niscu. ( Northern Inter Schools Christian Union) Having worked for the organisation since January 2003 it is a deeply upsetting time and a bitter blow to his moral, in particular when you consider the enormous and ongoing opportunities that are available across local schools. It was Peter's predecessor, Pastor Graham Adams who had alerted Peter's attention to the work and invited him to apply for the job and move into the area. Peter had previously worked with Graham and his wife Andrea during their ministry in Warwickshire.

In those days Niscu only operated in secondary schools, offering assemblies, lunch clubs and a summer camp. The schools work was supported by a number of individuals, churches and groups across the area who contributed through regular donations and prayer. The local support group also met with Peter on a bi-monthly basis for prayer and reports.



Within the first few months of Peter's employment it became obvious that the work provided excellent opportunities and it soon expanded into Primary work, initially in six schools. The awareness of the work gained considerable momentum as people became aware of Peter's enthusiasm, commitment and ministry. This brought further opportunities and regular bookings, the work is now established in twenty schools, only this year Kildwick, Christchurch and Carleton have benefitted from Peter's input, along with Boyle and Petyt and Bradley. One thing

is certain, the work has greatly developed and changed. Schools are now calling upon Peter to lead RE days, spirituality sessions, curriculum advice, lesson plans, thought for the day guides and student support, all this in addition



to

assemblies and clubs. The scope for the work is enormous and invitations often outweigh the time Peter can give, juggling diaries is a big challenge. Even further changes have also been in evidence in the way people support. Some churches have faced falls in membership and regularly review their giving patterns, others have employed their own youth and children's workers, family workers and ministry. Trusts have adopted ever-more stringent criteria as to who can apply and who is eligible for funds. As a result income has dropped and pressure upon finances has greatly increased. Being a senior employee has also put pressure upon finances as employer's liability, pension changes, additional costs and expenses have all increased.

So what next ? Well, as the work continues to grow, Peter has bookings well into 2016, and the credibility of the work across the area remains strong, Peter is an outstanding asset to the local schools and both children, young people and staff across Craven appreciate his input. The intention is to set up a new charity to continue the work. As Niscu, has made the post redundant, they cannot just simply employ somebody else to do the same work, there are ongoing discussions as to whether the work in the North of the area at Ingleton and Bentham could be covered by other areas at South lakes or Lancaster. This would mean that the work

in the South of the area (Skipton end) would stop unless some means was made to carry it forward.

From a schools perspective they will notice little or no change, Peter can still take up invitations on a regular basis and his links with the churches is strong. This could enable development with groups, youth workers and others across the area who carry out similar work. At present there are regular visitors from among the local clergy and youth workers who go into schools each week and have done for some time.

Peter has also developed a link with Cornerstone Christian books in Skipton, who make use of his creative talents for ideas and resources along with using him for presentation evenings and showcases. The situation remains fluid and we would ask that you continue to pray for Peter and his family at this time.

If you could help financially, prayerfully or by simply encouraging that would be wonderful. Please have a word with Jean in the first instance and we will let you know the outcome of some discussions at our church meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October. We will advise you of the up to date position and seek some help as to the next step and way forward. We have ideas, you may equally have some input to offer.

Peter is an enormous asset to the church, the area schools and local community and if you/we can help in anyway please give it some thought. In the mean-time continue to pray. Is it the end ? Or probably just..... the beginning !

