

## BARNABAS GROUP

Slight change of dates due to holidays and Bank Hols: Our **April meetings** will be on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> (a week earlier than originally suggested) and on Monday 25<sup>th</sup>. This leaves Mon 18<sup>th</sup> free to go to the Mulbarton Annual Meeting in Harvest House. We meet c/o Jill Wright at 22 Birchfield Gardens at 7.30 for a cuppa, followed by a short Bible study and prayer, finishing at 9pm.

ALL WELCOME

Jill Wright

## Love your pigeons!

Why is it we people love to hate things? Yet one person's weed is another's flower; one person's pest (pigeon?) is another's pet.

We do it with each other all the time. I have witnessed appalling treatment of people with mental health problems, the homeless, migrant workers, Gypsy & Traveller families, gay people etc. But what about those we **all** seem to loath? 'Politicians', 'local government', the 'highways agency', 'the diocese'?! You can add your own examples. These are all God's children too, usually doing the best they can from the best of motives. Let's not assume the worst of people nor label them by their outward appearance, sexuality, title, role or behaviour. Let's pray for us all equally in the sight of God.

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matt 25.40 NIV

Remember a squirrel is a rat with good public relations!

Vivienne Clifford Jackson

## From The Registers

11th March 2016 Barbara Laws Burial at Mulbarton

17th March 2016 Margaret Wilde Funeral and Burial at Mulbarton

18th March 2016 Norman Fenn Funeral and Burial at Mulbarton

This months editor Chris Carter

Articles in The Mardle do not necessarily reflect the views of the church leadership

# The Mardle

## APRIL 2016

Newsletter of Mulbarton, Bracon Ash, Hethel & Flordon Churches

Church website <http://www.mulbchurch.org.uk>

Rector Rev Adrian Miller: Tel 01508 571167

## Welcome!

Over Lent this year, we completed a thought-provoking consultative course on the theme of welcome. We explored what our churches are like for newcomers, in terms of how people discover and connect with us. We went on to think about our physical buildings and publicity. Then we got personal, as we reviewed how well our welcome is, as people reflecting the welcoming heart of the living God. Finally, we spent time on how people move from connecting to us as newcomers, through having a good experience of the church premises and people, and onto really belonging and contributing within the family of God's people. The course was put together by Bob Jackson and George Fisher, who have been researching church growth for many years. Let me give 3 simple reasons why this matters so very much...

**Welcome grows the church.** After years of studying church growth, Bob Jackson came to a conclusion that surprised him. He reflects: "The main problem and opportunity for the growth of the church today is how well we who are already in the church welcome the people whom God is sending us to join the church. It is as surprisingly basic and simple as that.

**Welcome is central to the gospel.** In a world where some people are more welcome than others, the Christian church is called to be different. Bob again: "In the faithful Christian church, it does not matter whether or not your face fits - we have a gospel of reconciliation, a core value of radical inclusivity, a community of welcome to all...flowing from the supernatural love that God and his church already have in their hearts for you." As Paul writes about welcome and reconciliation in 2 Cor. 5:18, he says it simply: "All this is from God" (Continued on page 2)

**Welcome makes disciples.** Welcome is not only about the experience of newcomers - but characterises the whole journey of discipleship, and without welcome permeating the whole life and culture of the church, discipleship suffers. Final word from Bob: "Making contact with people, befriending them, welcoming them into membership of the community of Christ and nurturing them into Christian discipleship can only be achieved when the quality of the life of the whole church measures up to the task in hand."

Forty five people from across our benefice engaged in the process over the 4 weeks. We've had mystery worshipers visit our churches and report their experiences of worship on Sundays. We've collated checklists from people who attended on the evenings, and are beginning to form a picture of what we're doing well, and where we have room for improvement. We've had some great ideas surface about things we can do right away, as well as bigger changes that we could plan towards longer term. We'll be collating all this and sharing more later, and will arrange a follow-up session after Easter to work out the nitty gritty of what we'll do to sustain the ministry of welcome over the long haul.

Thanks for the privilege of journeying together in this,  
Adrian

### **Youth Update**

Following Danny's departure, Sarah and I took on leading the youth work in the benefice, ably assisted by Tim & Liz. So far this year, I've been giving a lead to the youth work, with Tim and Abi helping out.

We meet weekly on Tuesday evenings at Harvest House, from 6:30pm to 8pm. This is open to secondary-school-age young people. We begin with a simple meal, and then have some Bible study, discussion, fun and prayer.

Every month, we open the circle wider to young people aged 10 or over, and move location to Bracon Ash Village Hall for a youth club social event. Here we have hot dogs, tuck shop, pool, darts, a lego building competition, fun and games. We encourage our youth to invite friends! If you know anyone who might enjoy, please do be in touch.

This summer, Tim Hayward will be leading the group of young people from our church to New Day youth camp, 1-6 August. Please be in touch if you'd like more information about this excellent event.  
Adrian

If you want to know more please get in contact and I'd love to share more of the stories.

In my next update I'll be including more about my exciting plans for the next few months so look out for that. Thank you so much for all your, love, support and prayers, I value it massively as I know the huge difference it really does make.

Prayer Points:

- o Peace and clarity over the next step for me!
- o Prayer for the students as they transition back into life at home and the next season in their life

Katrina Taylor

### **Brexit - Exploring the issues**

On 23rd June, the nation will decide its future. There are voices on both sides prophesying "nightmare" scenarios of either outcome. There are also a number of resources out there, seeking to help us identify key issues and to think Christianly about them, so that when we put our "X" down on paper, we'll do so from an informed and thoroughly debated position.

If anyone would care to gather and explore these issues ahead of the referendum, please be in touch with Adrian asap, so we can get a date in the diary.

Possible dates would be a Saturday between 30th April and 21st May or an evening, Mon 9th or Wed 11th May.

In the meantime, check out: [www.reimaginingeurope.co.uk](http://www.reimaginingeurope.co.uk)

Adrian

### **Digital Radio Retune**

If you have trouble getting your favourite Christian radio station, please note there has been a major revamp of the digital radio network and you need to retune your digital radio; unfortunately it seems that Premier Christian Radio is no longer available on DAB in our region (but is on Freeview Channel 725 and on-line) UCB 1 can be found on DAB Radio

### **Something for our Younger Adults**

Check out <http://www.theexploreexperience.co.uk/> - a website mentioned on Christian Radio for our young people to explore the realities of marriage and lasting relationships in our society today.  
Marina

## Update #5 - 4th March 2016 from Katrina Taylor

Hello Friends and Family!

It's been a wild 3 months since I wrote my last update but I am now safe and sound, back from the top of the world to this small island in the middle of the Pacific. Hopefully I can attempt to capture a few of the many memories we made while on outreach.

Being back in the Himalayas for the second time was amazing. I think what made it even better was staffing and having the privilege of seeing my students experience the beauty of the nation for the first time. Whether it was loving on the local people; stepping out in crazy faith or simply standing in awe of the natural beauty, but God moved us all in so many ways. During the two and a half months we got to do ministry in slums, schools, with the homeless and with orphans. We saw salvations, over 100 people healed and many set free from years of torment and lives lived in fear. We also got the opportunity to pray over government officials and pray from the old palace where there was a massacre of the royal family back in 2001. Countless doors were opened for us to build relationships and disciple the people while we were there and I believe that this is one of the most fruitful things we could have done on outreach.

I'm just going to share a couple of the wild testimonies from our time away:

One day a group from my team got the opportunity to pray for a lady who was unable to walk. She was healed and able to stand for the first time in 53yrs!!!

Another day, while on prayer walk, we found a group of Nepali believers who lived in a hostel together. Most had been rejected by their families because of choosing to follow Jesus. After talking to them about how we could serve them, we planned to go back every Monday evening and do teachings with them on the Holy Spirit. It was amazing seeing God show up every time, seeing lives totally transformed and hearts being set free from years of shame and guilt. We were able to teach about hearing God's voice and by the end they were even prophesying over each other! As our time with them came to an end it was clear that this group of Nepali strangers we met at first were more like a family to us! Three of the kids who weren't actually believers also chose to give their lives to Jesus during this time. For me this opportunity at 'Grace Home' was a highlight just because not only were lives changed by it but I got to see those who I had been discipling go on to disciple others. This had been a dream of mine from the very beginning.

## NEWS From Hethel

**Messy Church** meets again in the Easter holidays! On **Thursday 7 April** we will be gathering in **Mulbarton Infant School** from 10 am to 12 noon.

We continue to explore the *Stories Jesus Told* and will be getting messy and being creative with the Parable of the Sower. Crafts, activities, quiet zone for little ones, refreshments, time to meet others, re-telling the story, praying, singing and eating lunch together. Another action-packed morning! Do come along, bring friends and join in. More information: Cyndy Bowles (578510) or Cathy Nicholls (570557)

Want to be part of a new adventure? **4th Sunday @ 4** starts on Sunday afternoon **24 April** at 4 pm at **Hethel Church**. A short (30-45 mins) family friendly service on the 4th Sunday of each month. Children and adults of all ages participate together exploring God's story and God's world and enjoying activities, storytelling, music, praying, asking questions, stillness. Do pray and come and be part of a place where through laughter and encounter we might deepen our faith for life together. More information Cathy Nicholls (570557).

**Hethel Church Annual Parochial Church meeting:**  
Wednesday 27 April at 7 pm at Hethel Church.

Dates ahead:

**Beating the Bounds** on Sunday 1 May. A walk with prayers around the boundaries of the parishes of Hethel and Bracon Ash will begin at 2.30 pm from Hethel Church. At 4.30 pm there will be tea and cakes in Hethel Church followed by a Songs of Praise service at 5 pm. Do come to all or as much as you can. Dogs (on a lead) welcome! More information: Peter Nicholls (570557).

Bracon Ash and Hethel will be holding their **Community Barn Dance** on **Saturday 4 June** from 7.00-11.00 pm at **Hill Farm, Hethel**. Watch this space for more details! Contact: Cathy Nicholls (570557).

# APRIL 2016

## Monthly Calendar

Please check Pews News for info and changes

**Sunday 3 8.00am Mulbarton Holy Communion**  
**9.00am Bracon Ash Morning Prayer**  
**10.30am Café Church @ Mulbarton Village Hall**  
**4.00pm Prayer Ministry Afternoon Tea at Harvest House**

Mon 4 7.30pm Barnabas meeting at 22 Birchfield Gardens  
( See Page 8)

Thurs 7 10.00am Messy Church at Mulbarton Infant School  
( see Page 3)

**Sunday 10 8.30am Hethel Holy Communion**  
**10.00am Mulbarton All Age Service**  
**10.00am Flordon Morning Prayer**

Tues 12 2.00pm Bracon Ash Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
at Bracon Ash Village Hall

Weds 13 7.30pm Heritage Group meeting at Hanover Gdns on  
'The 8th in the East: progress of a project to  
map American influence in our area in WW2'

Thurs 14 2.30pm Mid Week Service at Hanover Gardens

**Sunday 17 9.00am Bracon Ash Holy Communion**  
**10.00am Mulbarton Holy Communion**  
**6.30pm Flordon Evening Prayer**

**COPY FOR MAY MARDLE BY TODAY—SUNDAY 17th APRIL  
TO BECKY TAYLOR PLEASE!**

Mon 18 7.30pm Mulbarton Annual Parochial Church  
Meeting at Harvest House

**Sunday 24 8.30am Flordon Holy Communion**  
**10.00am Mulbarton Morning Worship**  
**10.30am Hanover Gardens Church at Hanover**  
**4.00pm Hethel 4th Sunday at 4 (see page 3)**

Mon 25 7.30pm Barnabas meeting at 22 Birchfield Gardens  
( See Page 8)

Tues 26 7.30pm Flordon Annual Parochial Church Meeting at  
Flordon Church

Weds 27 7.30pm Hethel Church Annual Parochial Meeting at  
Hethel Church

### New Wine Leadership Lunch

10am-2pm, Wed 27th April, Fountain of Life Church, Ashill - this  
lunch event, with Rev Malcolm McDonald, is open to all involved at  
any level of leadership in the local church.

### Adults At Risk Training

The training that was cancelled in the winter due to bad weather  
has been re-scheduled for Wed 18th May, 7-9pm at Diocesan  
House.

Please contact Adrian if you would like to attend these events

## Looking Ahead

**Sunday 1 May. Beating the Bounds** on A walk with prayers  
around the boundaries of the parishes of Hethel and Bracon Ash  
will begin at 2.30 pm from Hethel Church.

At 4.30 pm there will be tea and cakes in Hethel Church followed  
by a Songs of Praise service at 5 pm. Do come to all or as much  
as you can. Dogs (on a lead) welcome! More information:  
Peter Nicholls (570557).

**Monday 9th May** Mulbarton Parish Council Annual Meeting at  
Mulbarton Village Hall

**Saturday 4 June** Bracon Ash and Hethel will be holding their  
**Community Barn Dance** from 7.00-11.00 pm at  
**Hill Farm, Hethel.** Watch this space for more details! Contact:  
Cathy Nicholls (570557).