

PARISH REPORT FROM BOYTON METHODIST CHURCH – MARCH 2024

This is the first report I have given since Covid which, as with many organisations, initially had an affect on the way things were done upon our return to the Chapel building. As with many places of worship, congregation sizes have decreased, however we continue to use our limited resources to reach out into the community. The bi-weekly coffee mornings attract an average attendance of 25. In conjunction with those run here at the Church Hall, they continue to be popular for many members of the community, and in the autumn and winter months especially, provide a warm space. Last Autumn we hosted a hot lunch which attracted approximately 60 people with many asking when we will host another!

The primary school have used the building for their Christmas productions together with the PTA hosting Coffee Mornings when there is a fifth Thursday in the month.

We have had a good response to special services eg Harvest and Christmas with members of the community attending and we are hoping to start a prayer/bible study group soon which would be open to anyone wishing to attend. Ecumenically we have joined together with the Church for the annual Remembrance service over the last couple of years. We have supported the local food bank by donating throughout the year, but especially at Harvest, together with donating well over 100 Christmas gifts from our Toy Service.

We have been very thankful to the Boyton Solar and Wind Farm Fund over the last few years who have awarded us money to ensure our public building is electrically compliant allowing us to continue community work, together with funding to ensure the area around the disabled access is safer through re-surfacing.

We were honoured that the President of the Methodist Conference, Rev Gill Newton (nee Duke), who hails from Boyton and grew up attending the Chapel before moving away for work, was willing and able to come to Boyton at the end of April. This, however, may now have to be reviewed, as, in recent weeks, our activities have been restricted by a small area of ceiling coming down, meaning everything has moved from the main worship area to the Sunday school room. However, we shall go on in faith and continue to reach out into the community giving all a warm welcome to Boyton Chapel.

Thank you, on behalf of Boyton Methodist Church,

From Lorraine Sluggett.

