



NEWSLETTER NO.13 March 2022

Up-coming events

This month with the Tuesday evening meetings we have the first of our talks by an external speaker. Marcus Newton will be taking us on a (virtual) 'Tour Through 900 Years of Sheffield History'. Marcus is a (real) walking tour guide to Sheffield. His talk this month will take place in the Methodist Hall (the effect of the decoration being in the past we hope) at 8 pm on Tuesday 15th March. Later in the month Marcus will be leading an actual tour taking in the two Cathedrals of Sheffield. If you would like to join this tour Marcus will meet you in the Winter Garden in Sheffield at 10 am on Thursday 31st March (make your own way there). The cost will be £10 payable on the day. Marcus estimates that the tour will last about 2 - 2.5 hr. If you are interested in joining our party tell John Monahan at the meeting on 15th March or on 621708.

We will be holding our postponed Christmas meal for 2021 on Tuesday 22nd March this year at 7 pm in the Shoulder of Mutton. The cost will remain at £12.50 payable on the night by card or cash. The options are : Meat and Potato Pie with Peas and Gravy or Cottage Pie and Peas or a vegetarian option. The choice of sweet is from: Ginger Sponge, Eton Mess and Lemon Tart, followed by Tea or Coffee, If you have not already signed up for the night you may do so by contacting John Monahan on 621 708 on or before the 8th March.

This month's Newsletter includes a short piece written over 20 years ago about George Fletcher. The second piece is a reprint of Rev Keith Osborn's feelings on arriving in Bradwell with his family and how they set about settling in the Manse. Keith's thoughts were first published in the *Bradwell News* for October 2004. We also report on the transfer of Infant School logbooks to the County Records Office at Matlock.

George Fletcher

Round about 20 years ago Shirley Archer, past chair of the BHS and head of Bradwell Infants School asked John Ibbotson to produce a memorial note for George Fletcher to appear along with some artifacts that were to be displayed in St Barnabas'. The note is shown below and owes much to the input of Eric Gill whose name appears in the text and as 'a friend' at the bottom of the piece. Does anybody know what became of the artifacts referred to?



George Fletcher

Kings Own Scottish Borders 1st Airborne
Division

Died of wounds in the airborne landings at
'Arnhem' Holland, on September 22nd 1944.
Only Bradwell lad to be killed in the 1939-45
War.

In this envelope are his personal belongings.
Sent back to his parents in Bradwell, and
when they died, handed on to me Eric Gill, as a
friend of George before the War.

Forage Cap, Lanyard, photographs of George
and his Grave at 'Arnhem', Mouth Organ,
which he always had with him on his walks
around Bradwell before the War and which
was found in his Tunic Pocket when he died.

Eric Gill (friend)

Life at the Manse 2004

Is there life at the manse? Certainly, since 16th August we have seen something in the region of sixty visitors, some friends from down south, some new friends welcoming us and some here on business delivering, reading the meter or come to see me on pastoral matters. On one level life in the manse is no different from our life before, we still have fun together as a family, we still row occasionally, and we share times of sadness together. On another level life is very different, now my office is in my home and people phone me up at all times of day and night, we never know whether the call will be a friend, a colleague or someone with a problem. We eat together, we watch television together, and even enjoy music together. We all agree that homework should be banned and that someone should invent an automatic room tidier. Does anyone know the box my best sweater is in? We found the hospital in Chesterfield at 10.30 pm one night after my daughter fell down stairs, she was fine, but needed to be checked over. We found the doctor and dentist when a sore face turned out to be a tooth infection and to-day we found a letter left by Geoffrey and Hazel Senior (*previous minister and his wife*) telling where all the local amenities are, someone had opened it and put it on a pile for future reference, we could have done with that over the last month.

Before anything else this is our home, it is where the four of us live and life is never anything but exciting. You are always welcome here, though we do prefer you to ring first, just to make sure we are in. As I close I want to thank the people of Bradwell for their very warm welcome, not just to me as Methodist Minister, but for the whole family, it is so good to walk down the Village and have many people stop and talk.
Rev. Keith Osborn

Keith was the last Methodist Minister to reside at the Manse in Bradwell. His wife was Margaret and his two children were James and Susannah

In a safe home

Following the clearing of Doreen Andrew's house after her passing John Monahan received five Infant School log books dating from the late 19th C to the early 20th C. These were going to be difficult to store and catalogue by the Society and so John contacted the County Records Office in Matlock. He asked them whether they would take custody of the tomes and they responded in the affirmative. John then spoke to the two friendly men on the Mobile Library and they agreed to take the books to their HQ in Buxton from where they could be sent by the County Courier Service to Matlock. John has been assured of their safe arrival. The process of archiving is not complete but in general what they contain can be seen online at www.calmview.derbyshire.gov.uk/CalmView/Record followed by a search for 'Bradwell School'.