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the messenger

the magazine of the Bridge Church, Otley



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The official magazine of the Bridge Church URC, Otley

THE MESSENGER

Minister: Reverend Anthony Gardiner M.A.

February 2012

Dear Friends,

So at last it's come and gone – 'Guys and Dolls', I mean – and, despite the odd frustration during rehearsals, 'a great time was had by all'! I shall remember this production above for its memorable performances and mammoth scene-changes, but, perhaps because I had to learn them and say them, it is the words of 'Harry the Horse' that will stay longest in my memory. And, of course, there is one line in particular that I shall never forget, for when Sky Masterson is trying to persuade the 'sinners' to turn up at the Mission prayer meeting Harry retorts, 'I don't want to waste no evening in a Halleluiah joint!' Not a bad line, I reckon, for one who has been forty years a minister! And it certainly got some titters. But it did also set me thinking. I wonder what those 'outside' think of *us*. I can't imagine many of them would describe us as 'a Halleluiah joint' – the language is a little bit too 'transatlantic' for a start and the grammar is rather shaky too – but how *do* they perceive us? And what's more to the point how would we *like* them to perceive us?

Of course it is all too easy to 'caricature' the Church, to dismiss us as a 'holy club', 'God-botherers', or whatever, but beyond the caricatures what is the reality? Whenever I think of the Church two phrases almost spontaneously spring into my mind, for they seem to me to offer an insight into what the Church *should* be. Interestingly they both have their origin from within the Iona Community. The first was coined by the founder of that community, George McLeod, to describe the island itself. He called it 'a thin place', by which he meant, he said, a place where the 'veil', if you will, between earth and heaven is at its thinnest, most translucent, and the light of God shines through in a special way. But isn't that what the Church should be...a 'place' where the presence of God is revealed in the life of the community of faith that gathers here, in our love and gentleness, our

warmth and welcome? Isn't that what we hope and pray?

The second phrase, by contrast, wasn't invented by the Iona Community, but was simply used by John Bell as the title of one of his worship songs – 'a touching place'. That also says something about the nature of the Church at its best – that it is to be a place, a community, where people are much more than 'ships in the night', passing one another at arm's length, speaking perhaps, but never really 'touching' or sharing anything of themselves. The Church, surely, must be a place where lives do 'touch', where there is real trust, a real sense of belonging, for without that what is left?

Actually I don't mind us being described as 'a Halleluiah joint' if that phrase describes the vitality of our worship, the fact that we are truly 'a people of praise'. But I also want us to be so much more than that. Praise, alone, is not enough. We must also be 'a thin place' and 'a touching place' – a people who are close to God and to one another through whose common life the very life of the Kingdom is revealed in all its glory!

May the presence of God bring you both peace and joy.

Tony

9 o'clock Kick-off!

1st and 3rd Sunday in the month at 9.00am for breakfast

It will be... fun, relaxed, informal

There will be... new songs, surprises, activities for all the family.

Please join us for refreshments

following the 9 o'clock Kick Off Service and before the 10:30 Service. It gives us an opportunity for everyone to meet between services.

News of the Family



Congratulations.

Andy and Heather Gilmour on the Birth of their daughter Emily Jane; to Andy and Kathryn Hutchinson whose baby daughter, Emily Rebecca was born on 21st of January, love goes to the families including Anne and Andrew Howard, proud grandparents; Peter and Carol Smith on the birth of their 1st Grandson Leo Peter; Roy and Christine Pollard on the birth of their 4th great Grandson.

Baptism

15th January, Charlie Jonathan Medley son of David and Leanne. We trust family and friends enjoyed their time with us and send love and congratulations to parents and grandparents.

Bereavements.

A service to celebrate the life of Millie Stott was held on 25th January. Millie was a much loved and active member of our church and will be sadly missed. Dianne Driffill's beloved brother Paul Mitchell died early in January. We send condolences to members of both families.

In our thoughts and prayers.

Joan Thornton who was taken into hospital on the 8th Jan and we pray for a good recovery. Lois Barltrop is now doing well after the operation on her foot, also Gordon and Gwen Wooliscroft, Maureen and Neville Birch, and Daphne's granddaughter. Maureen Mason had a fall and has broken a bone in her wrist. Sophie Thompson who is doing voluntary work in Kenya, David Thompson who has had a hip replacement; Gladys Kennedy and Mary Grace

Also in our thoughts and prayers are all our friends who are not able to come to Church because they are unwell, we look forward to seeing you soon and hope that the more spring-like weather to come will

help to lift their spirits.

Also congratulations to Christine Pollard on her 70th Birthday and Edna Andrews on her 100th Birthday, Happy Birthday!

Please let the Pastoral Elders group know of any concerns as well as good news you may have.

Barbara Scholes & Pat Overend



38 Farnley Lane
Otley
1.12.11

Dear friends,

Once again another year has flown by and when you stop to think, you wonder where the time has gone.

Last year was particularly challenging for us and we valued greatly the friendship, love and kindness shown to us by so many of you. I had several lots of flowers which were beautiful and helped to cheer us up and spur us on during our hardest times. Thank you so much.

We are glad to say that the silver lining round the clouds is now much brighter and we have lived to fight another year with all its challenges.

As in previous years, we sent a cheque to Great Ormond Street instead of sending Christmas cards. I have been particularly thrilled that the G.O.S.H. team of surgeons have managed to separate 2 sets of conjoined twins and that all 4 children are doing well.

We hope you all had a very happy Christmas and wish you health, peace and happiness for the year 2012.

With kindest regards and good wishes,

Lois & Keith Bartrop

First of all a very big 'thank you' for praying for the RETAS (Refugee, Education, Training and Advisory Service) Christmas party. It all went amazingly well. During the morning and later afternoon rain kept coming and going but when our guests got to Otley at 12.00 noon there was sunshine and it was just fine. We walked down by the river and they loved it.

We started with an Indian curry meal with dessert provided by many helpers and friends from the Otley Christian community. After that, Christmas crackers for all, a puppet show by Charles Birch and then sharing by the manager of RETAS interviewing one of the volunteers. This was followed by an extraordinary drumming exhibition with people joining in dance and expression with obvious enjoyment.



Everyone seemed to have a good time and sensed a positive atmosphere of harmony and acceptance. At the end a number of those who came said a very profuse 'thank you' which was heart warming.

You who were able to be there to bake or wash up sweep up collect plates and generally serve the guests know that it couldn't happen without a reliable team. A very big thank you to you all. If anyone would like a DVD of the event please contact Jean by email or telephone.

So, thank you for your prayers, they really made a difference.

Peter and Jean Wilkinson

First of all we would like to thank everyone who was concerned after Maureen's stay in hospital, and wish everyone a belated Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Grateful thanks to Tony and Karen.

We hope to see you all soon.

Maureen and Neville Birch.

Many of you will be aware that we have lost our co-editor of the Messenger, and the role now falls solely to me.

Alex Skerratt has made the decision to attend the Bethel Church and devote his energies there for the time being. Alex's association with Bethel developed from meeting people from Bethel when we were at Keswick almost two years ago.

Alex was invited to house groups back in Otley and from there began attending evening services at Ilkey Playhouse, and in recent months also started to attend their morning services at The Whartons Primary School. Alex has found the worship and fellowship meets his needs, and there are people who are in his age group for him.

I, and I am sure the rest of the Bridge congregation, wish him well on his journey of faith and he goes with our blessing and encouragement in his faith journey.

We hope that he will continue to keep in touch and visit us from time to time; we might appreciate a visit in around eighteen months time when the next production is being planned—for those of you who don't know, Alex played Sky Masterson in Guys and Dolls.

We will miss Alex for his endless enthusiasm, ideas and willingness to help out wherever he could.

Alex—our door will always be open, and you will always be very welcome.

Colin Whitaker
Editor

Womens Meeting

Joining the ladies on Monday 28th November at the Methodist Church was a departure from our normal weekly meeting place, as in times past we experienced a beautiful advent service; the theme this year being "Listening for God" which included a drama presentation entitled "Christmas Voices".

Taking the form of pairs of participants in a question and answer session showed a different slant on the age old story, by revealing the reasons for certain happenings at the advent period.

A particularly striking scene was a set piece comprising an advent crown, this being used to literally light up the story as the candles glowed at the four main points, and it was a most moving fresh approach to the events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

Rounding off a most enjoyable afternoon, and thanking our friends of the Methodist Church, we then enjoyed tea together in the company of the Ladies Wharfedale and Aireborough Circuit.

The subject for the talk on 5 December was actually very topical, following closely after the anniversary of Armistice Day. The speaker, Irene Willis, is a dedicated worker for the British Legion, and is responsible for the organisation of the highly successful annual brass band concert at Prince Henry's Grammar School. This year, the proceeds from this concert and that at Yeadon Town Hall yielded £8000 for the Poppy Appeal. 2011 has been a special year - the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Poppy Appeal.

Since childhood, Irene has been very motivated to support the British Legion, in the first instance by the death of an uncle in the First World War, and then by the shocking treatment of her brother in a prison camp in the Second World War. She pointed out how the British Legion is there to help those injured and traumatised by war, and that such welfare is still needed today, with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Legion runs convalescent homes, residential homes, and facilities for those with dementia. A high point of her activities has been the bringing of Chelsea Pensioners to her PHGS concerts, and this year they returned the compliment, and invited Irene for a short stay with them in London.

Fundraising is hard, but Irene is passionate about its necessity, and vows to continue as long as she is able. A truly inspiring talk.

Mr Fred King was the speaker on Monday 12th December 2011 Nepal, top of the world, coronation year, triumph of Hilary and Tensing; these few words will bring back the feeling of pride experienced by us all at that time.

Today Mr Fred King took us to the real Nepal in all its' beauty and squalor ranging from breath taking pictures of Everest down to the practicalities of farming in difficult conditions e.g. oxen ploughing terraced hillsides to overcome their steepness, very few roads, well trodden paths encountering rope suspension bridges etc.

People supporting heavy loads on their backs via the "do ka", which is a headband on the form of a saddle thus leaving hands to be free to perform other tasks.

Fred, a seasoned traveller turned vegetarian at the sight of confined chickens in baskets at the obvious butchers block open to all the elements.

Southern parts tend to be flatter giving rise to the sight of rickshaws of various construction and propulsion methods i.e. "mandrolic" bicycle pedals. People scrape a living from the tourist trade are more fortunate than some poor souls picking through the rubbish tips attempting to salvage some small vestige of useful material "heaven only knows what". Why, oh why, do humans use the banks of the river to deposit their rubbish causing more water pollution, bearing in mind the river has a sacred duty in transporting the remains of the dead to the blessed Ganges?

There is some mechanical transport in the form of incredibly overloaded buses, it is much more comfortable hanging on to the outer surfaces than squashed inside hot and smelly interiors "according to Fred".

This gentle people belie their strength, living lives of great hardship, and I suppose most of us only know of their fine Ghurkha Soldiers.

Fred's efforts today showed us another face of a most loyal people deserving of our utmost consideration.

The Autumn session of the meetings was brought to a close on 19 December with the annual Carol Service. Readings and carols set the scene nicely for the forthcoming festivities.

We reopened on 16 January, and this proved to be a very joyful occasion. Our speaker was the Rev Mirella Moxon, who came with a warning and an exhortation! The bad news is that time flies, but the good news is that each of us is our own pilot. Through a series of stories, prayers, poems, songs and hymns we were encouraged to value every minute of every day, to value friendship, and remember that God's love underpins all. We certainly had a vibrant start to the year.

On 23 January, Fred Land made a welcome return with more thoughts on daily life in America, and then we were treated once again to a very interesting travelogue. It began with a 450 miles journey North from his home in Florida, to Pensacola on the Gulf of Mexico, and continued to Baton Rouge in Louisiana. Here, Fred and Maureen walked on the levee above the Mississippi, and enjoyed watching the river boats, and the singers and dancers taking part in a Fiesta. The State capital

building is the tallest in the U.S.A. On West through Texas to Galveston, which entailed a 40 mile journey on a raised motorway on stilts over a vast swampy area, where some people try to eke out a living. One of the delights of Galveston was the proximity of their hotel to the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, from where they could watch pelicans. From here it was South West to Corpus Christi, and then North to Austin, the State capital. On the way, Fred recounted a humorous anecdote about buying petrol, and being serenaded with “God bless America”! Lyndon B. Johnson was born in Austin, and a lake has been formed from the Colorado River (not the Colorado of Canyon fame) and named after Ladybird Johnson. A footbridge across the Lake sported a piano, and whilst Fred and Maureen were considering this, someone came by and played it! A less attractive feature of the bridge was a dreadful smell, and they were told that this came from one and a half million bats under the bridge, which are tolerated because they consume mosquitoes as a main part of their diet.

The journey continued North to Fort Worth and Dallas, with its 109 acres of Botanic Gardens, and National Cowgirls Museum, then to Tulsa in Oklahoma (a vast aquarium here, with sharks) and Kansas City in Missouri. Previously, cattle used to be driven from Dallas to Kansas City to get to the railway terminals for both East and West America. From here, Fred turned East to Independence, a departure point in the mid 19th century for thousands of people setting off on the trails to the West. Next on the tour was St. Louis, where the Gateway Arch is 630 ft high – 130 ft higher than Blackpool Tower. A scary ascent, but wonderful views of the city from the walkway on top. Still travelling East, Louisville, Kentucky was next, and then to Chattanooga in Tennessee, (with its choo-choo museum), and Greenville in South Carolina. From here it was South to Augusta in Georgia, and the final stop before home was in St. Augustine in Florida, the oldest town in the U.S.A.

In 3 weeks, Fred and Maureen had travelled four and a half thousand miles, surely another wonderful experience to add to those other exploratory journeys they have already made. We look forward to their 2012 trip!

(Thank you to Kath Thornton and Sylvia Sutcliffe for these reports from their meetings)

Water, water, everywhere

A line from a poem of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's, regarding water, comes to mind when I recall a Christian Mission trip I took to Thailand in September.

Together with Peter Wilkinson and Tim Whitley of *Churches Together in Otley* I was invited to undertake a fourteen day trip that included visits to various Thai and Burmese churches, the infamous River Kwai Bridge of World War 2 and Mercy House Christian Orphanage which The Bridge Church helped in 2006. The mission, which took several months to organise, happened to co-incide with some of the worst flooding that had occurred in Thailand, especially Bangkok, for many years. The BBC TV, in their own imitable manner, covered it such a way as to create the impression that all travellers were in immediate danger. So much so that people who knew where I was kept asking Amy if I was OK. They need not have worried too much. Yes we did see floods, we were held up a little but what the BBC failed to do was to balance the news by showing that whilst some areas were very badly affected there were many areas (which fortunately we were in) that escaped the worst excesses. So whilst the journey was not without mishap and some inconvenience it was not as dangerous as people at home were led to believe.

In fact the overall impression and memories are of gratitude for the Christian people we met, were able to minister to but also, and most importantly, learn from. It was truly a case of listening and learning from people of a different culture from ours but also becoming really aware that "*in Christ there is no East or West*".

Water again!

But this time a very rewarding and interesting one when we left Bangkok and took a six hour coach journey to the North Eastern Region of Korat. A fascinating and ever changing drive passing shacks with rusty corrugated iron roofs, to modern two story villas and modern office blocks. And at intervals huge (12-18ft high) golden statues of the Buddha and ornate Buddhist Temples with the occasional Chinese Temple.

On arrival in the remote rural village (hamlet) of Non Tako we were welcomed and stayed in a traditional farmhouse with no walls downstairs and an upstairs bedroom with no furniture except for cupboards along one wall and 2" thick mattresses on the floor. The food was mostly locally produced or caught in the surrounding fields and consisted mainly of rice, pumpkin stalks, green beans, cucumber and small sardine type fish from the rice field reservoir.

The welcome from a Christian family in the Buddhist village was however very warm and the highlight of our first full day there was in baptising five people (by total immersion) in a local lake which irrigates the rice fields. Peter, Tim and I officiated in a simple but very moving ceremony. Then a quick swim and drying off in the hot sunshine by the newly baptised Christians! A very moving experience in a village which was also preparing for a celebration (merry-making they call it) for a local man who was going to be a Buddhist monk.

The House Group worship in the evening, led by two guitar players, included 16 people in the open-walled farmhouse with others free to walk in and children wandering in and out as they wished. It was respectful, friendly, formal as well as informal – all in all an experience not to be missed. The proximity of Christians/Buddhists is interesting and shows a prevailing tolerance.

The River Kwai and Christian Churches

On our way to Kanchanburi and The Bridge over the River Kwai we stayed overnight at a Christian Hotel in Bangkok where to the astonishment of many of the guests we swam in the open air pool at 8 am in the morning. Cold by Thai standards but to us quite warm and refreshing. I suspect the guests who looked on thought we were either very brave or mad (probably the latter!). However because of this we met the President of the hotel and when he found out about our mission he gave us £200 to give to Mercy House Orphanage when we went there after the River Kwai.

The bridge itself is no longer the original and I won't try and describe my feelings on seeing the "funfair" souvenir, mini-town that has grown up around such a dreadful monument to 'man's inhumanity to

man'. The 'funfair approach' epitomised by a brightly coloured children's type train which takes tourists over the bridge is in complete contrast to the beautifully kept cemetery in memory of 6,892 men from Britain, Australia, Netherlands and many other countries who died as a result of the cruelty and barbaric treatment by the Japanese. As Christians we are taught to forgive but can we, should we forget? A point to debate.

This was brought home the next day when we worshipped in the local Thai Evangelical Fellowship church where the Pastor (Preecha Kirdyoo) is a half-Japanese Thai married to a Japanese woman. A warm welcoming environment which included short talks from the three of us followed by Communion. Perhaps rather unusual was when I danced in the aisle with a little Thai girl and her father. I'm not so sure my performance was up to "Strictly Come Dancing" standard ! but it certainly helped in getting to know people better.

Then after a church lunch and a short rest at the hotel we went to a Burmese church catering for displaced Burmese who are employed in jobs not wanted by the Thai's. The Burmese feel very marginalised and are finding it very difficult, financially, to cope.

Peter, Tim and I were asked to pray, and lay on hands for many individuals on a one to one basis. We used Thai, Burmese and English in what was a very moving (and for me at least – an unusual but mind expanding experience). I would love to return and help the Burmese one of whom moved me because he is suffering, very bravely and uncomplainingly, from a dental dis-order which here in Britain would not be a problem. I do not know whether I can help or if God wishes me to but the prayer is there.

The Bridge Church and Thailand

The next stage of journey took us to in Pranburi known to us in that we helped to raise money in 2006, which has been wisely and usefully spent in building a workshop to provide practical work training for the orphans of Mercy House (a Christian run orphanage). The initial appeal for £600 for a very simple 'lean to' amounted in the end to £8,000 and this was matched by a Swedish Pentecostal Church. The

£16,000 in Thai terms was worth far more and a very substantial building and training facility was thus provided. This facility is a cause of great joy to the Pastor and his wife who work so hard without pay to care for the orphans in their care. So thank you to all who contributed through coffee mornings and other activities. Truly God, if we place our trust in him, works in a wonderful way.

All work and no play (and water again!)

Is a well known saying and after travelling many hundred of miles by public transport and meeting with Thai, Burmese, Japanese and other Christians in many different situations Tim and I had a break and stayed at a Missionaries Rest House (*The Juniper Tree* – see 1. Kings 19:5-6 KJV) for two days. This Rest House caters for Missionaries who need rest and a break after working in some very socially deprived (by our standards) areas. The luxury of a real bed (instead of the floor), bread, cereals and western style food (after every meal consisted of some form of rice) was very pleasant. Once again water was prominent as we took full advantage of a full size swimming pool but this time with sun loungers, towels, sun umbrellas and other refinements we sometimes take for granted. But whilst relaxing it was interesting to talk to American and German missionaries about their work in Thailand.

Peter Wilkinson, who was a missionary in Thailand for many years and speaks the language fluently, continued southwards to meet up with an old friend of his and to visit the Sea Gypsy children whilst Tim and I relaxed. Another interesting story in itself but enough for now except to say that after all that water I didn't develop web-feet!

Ron Sweeney.

CATERING NEWS

Not everyone will have noticed it, but we now have a new electric cooker in the small kitchen, replacing the old gas one. Now we do not have any gas appliances in the two kitchens, which is a good thing from a safety aspect. Also, it means that for small, uniformed organisation events, the small kitchen may be sufficient for their needs. Over the coming weeks, we will transfer some pans and cooking utensils into the small kitchen, for such events.

Whilst the ladies were cooking for the November Food & Friends lunch, we had a visit from the Leeds Council Environmental Health Food Standards Inspector. This visit went well and we were given a clean bill of health and told we would retain our 5 star rating! This is a tribute to Jennifer and the team of helpers who are obviously doing everything right and to our caretaker, Craig who keeps the kitchen spotless. There are several places locally, who do not gain a 5 star rating, so we should work hard to maintain this high standard.

At the November Church Meeting, it was reported that the Elders, at their meeting the previous week, had decided we should have coffee following worship, every week.

At present, all our weekly activity groups are on a rota for preparing and serving coffee. Parade services are taken care of by Uniformed Organisations. With coffee every week, we need other people to be involved and it is suggested that people who do not belong to any of these groups might like to support this. Ideally we need 4 people every week.

Following the church meeting, we had 9 volunteers to go on the rota so it is hoped others will come forward in the near future. This will obviously reduce the number of times each group will be required to prepare coffee, each year. With the number of groups we now have, it will come round about 4 times a year. Anyone interested in helping is asked to contact the Swifts.

Many thanks to all those who helped with refreshments for Guys & Dolls. Serving all those people in such a short time, was no mean feat! During preparations for the above, it was noted that one large teapot and one large plastic jug are missing from the kitchen. Please let us know if you have any idea where they have gone. Thanks.



You know what I dislike about looking through

the Magazine racks in the Newsagents or at the Supermarket, is that there are shelves of magazines for women, but nothing remotely interesting for us blokes!

And then one day two years ago I stumbled across a magazine which sounded interesting, I couldn't find it in any of our local shops but on the internet – "Sorted. For Men. For Life." A Christian magazine for MEN.

My initial thoughts were that this was going to be very dull and very boring, but how wrong I was!

An example of who writes in this magazine – Bear Grylls – the Chief Scout, the man who can survive anything, and yet a Christian!

An article about a climber who is trapped by a falling rock in the desolate canyons of Utah, after five days of dehydration, starvation and hallucinations, he makes the decision to cut off his own right arm with a penknife to free himself from the boulder. Once free he still has to abseil and walk his way back to safety. – Wow!

Articles on Business, Gadgets, Sport, Men's Fitness, Food, How lives have changed, the Bible explained in layman's terms and why it is relevant today, Music, Television, Gaming, Lifestyle, Travel.

My advice to you buy one and see what you think, I don't think you'll be disappointed.

There is something for every bloke.

www.sorted-magazine.com

Roger Smallwood

(There are some copies of "Sorted" at the rear of the Sanctuary - please take one and pass it on to someone when you have read it, or take it to work or leave in a public place for others to read!)

Food and Friends

On Wednesday 7th December we held our Christmas party, the meeting started with coffee and biscuits followed by 'thought for the day' given by Nancy Campbell. Bernard Sutcliffe played Christmas carols and a good sing was enjoyed by all. We had Christmas stories and poetry read to us and we all took part in Christmas quizzes. We even reverted to our childhood and played pass the parcel. After the mornings entertainment we all enjoyed a delicious dinner, turkey and all the trimmings followed by Christmas pudding and rum sauce. A vote of thanks was given to Jennifer Dyson and her helpers in the kitchen for cooking us this wonderful meal.

We started the New Year with a meeting on 4th January, this was led by Fred Land. We followed our usual programme of coffee and biscuits and 'thought for the day'. Fred then showed us a film about Otley, it brought back many happy memories and showed us the time when Otley was a hive of industry. This was followed by another lovely dinner cooked by Jennifer and her team.

The highlight of this meeting was a presentation to one of our members, Edna Andrews. Edna was 100 years old on 18th January. After a rousing chorus of Happy Birthday, Tony presented her with a bouquet of flowers and a birthday cake complete with candle. Edna is a wonderful lady, we all hope she has many more years with us. Edna always makes me smile, when I meet her outside I ask her if she wants to use the ramp, she always insists on coming up the step as the ramp "is for old people".



Christine Pollard

Guys and Dolls



I do not think anyone who had the privilege to see the Bridge Church Drama Group present Guys and Dolls on the 26th to 28th January 2012 could fail to appreciate all the hard work and dedication that was put in to the production by all concerned. From the “stars” of the show, through to the back stage people it was evident that all were enjoying being part of the production.

There must be some huge sighs of relief now that it is all over, but I am sure many of those involved from those on stage to those sewing the costumes, painting the scenery, making tea or selling tickets, will now be experiencing a gap in their lives following the last few months of fellowship and working together to bring the show to fruition.

It was also good to know that each night was “sold out”, just goes to show that everyone knew it was not worth missing and they were determined to be there to see their family and friends take part.

I sure some will be saying “never again” but we will all be looking forward to the next production in 2014!



Barney's Page

Who needs a doctor?



Barney says

Hello friends

Who would have thought that holding a dinner party would cause so much trouble?

Levi was a tax collector - one of the most hated jobs in Jesus' day. They were rich because they cheated and lied, taking extra money from their customers.

Jesus called Levi to follow him and he did. To celebrate, Levi invited crooks and sinners to join him.

The pharisees (religious leaders in Jesus' day) didn't like it. So Jesus told them that he was like a doctor: helping sick people get better.

Jesus can give everyone a changed life - that's something worth asking him for!

Love Barney

Barney's jokes

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Lettuce... Lettuce
who? Lettuce in
and we'll tell you!



How do you
make an apple
turnover? Push
it down a hill!



God's word

Levi gave a large dinner at his home for Jesus ... The Pharisees [were] offended. "What is he doing eating and drinking with crooks and 'sinners'?" Jesus [said] "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? I'm here inviting outsiders, not insiders—an invitation to a changed life, changed inside and out." Luke 5:27-32 (The Message)

Colour me!



Here's a happy chef busy making a meal - why not brighten up his kitchen?



Let's talk to Jesus!

Dear Jesus, You came for everyone and helped change them inside and out. Thank you that you came for me too. Amen.

The Bridge Church, The United Reformed Church in Otley
Minutes of Annual General Meeting of
Wednesday 23rd February 2011

A short act of worship, led by Rev Tony Gardiner was held in the sanctuary prior to the business part of the meeting.

There were 50 people present.

Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 24th February 2010 were adopted.

Treasurers Report:

The Church Treasurer distributed the Statement of Accounts for year ended 31st December 2010 and gave a detailed report of the financial situation. The accounts were formally accepted. Thanks were expressed to the Treasurer Andrew Howard, David Thompson our independent examiner and Chris Beckwith for deputising when Andrew is away.

Election of Elders:

Tellers were Rev. John Parker & Rev. R Way.

The following were re-elected to serve the eldership for 5 years:

Nancy Campbell, Sybil Shepherd, Chris Beckwith, Michael Rhodes, Geoff Swift. Barbara Scholes was elected for the first time.

The Minister led a time of prayer for those elected.

Secretary's report:

The Church Secretary gave a report on the events in the life of the church during 2010. Thanks were expressed to Susan Richardson for her work as secretary during this year.

Election of Hon Church Treasurer:

Andrew Howard was re-elected to serve as Church Treasurer for a further year.

Election of Hon Church Secretary:

Susan Richardson was re-elected to serve as Church Secretary for a further year.

Election of officials and group secretaries:

Members listed on the agenda were elected en masse to serve in various capacities as leaders and secretaries. It was noted that there was an error on the list in that Susan Medley is now Mrs Susan Preston.

Minister's Statement:

The minister spoke about the future shape of the church, and how we endeavour to serve our local community.

Because there will not be a church meeting until after the event permission was sought by members to cancel the evening worship on 13th March so that we can attend the Harrogate Mission & Care Group worship at 4pm at St Pauls. All agreed.

Members were asked if they were committed to supporting a Family Church day, and whether the planned date of 26th March should be postponed until June.

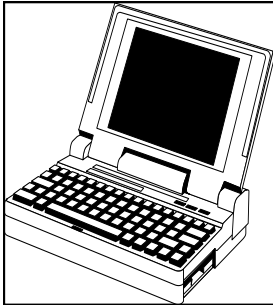
The majority voted for the date to be changed to June 25th 2011.

The AGM concluded at 8.20pm, by singing a hymn and sharing The Grace. Fellowship continued over refreshments.

The Bridge Church AGM
Wednesday 29th February 2012

Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00pm
AGM in the Large Hall at 7:30pm

Please try to attend—this is your chance to make
your opinion count and also take part in the
election of Elders



NEXT MESSENGER

Material for the next Messenger should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 26th February 2012 and will be available for distribution on 11th March, 2012



Important Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 10th March 2012 - Coffee Morning for Eating Stones Charity

Saturday 12th May 2012 – Film Sing-a-Long

21st - 23rd September 2012 - Family Church Weekend - Cober Hill, Scarborough

Full board, Adults £131.50, Child 10-13 years £88, Child 5-9 years £66. A deposit will be required by December 2011 of £30 per adult, £15 per child. Full payment will be needed a month before the booked dates.

CHURCH DIARY - FEBRUARY & MARCH, 2012

February

Monday, 13 th	2.30 p.m.	Women's Meeting: Around the world in 32 Days - A Wigglesworth
Thursday, 16 th	7.45 p.m.	Supper Club: Ecuador - Irene Greenwood
Sunday, 19 th	9.00 a.m.	9 o'clock Kick-off
	10.30 a.m.	Family Church
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
Monday, 20 th	2.30 p.m.	Women's Meeting: I'm nothing without you - Mrs. B Hutchinson
Sunday, 26 th	10.00 a.m.	Family Church
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship & Holy Communion

MESSENGER MATERIAL DUE IN TODAY

Monday, 27 th	2.30 p.m.	Women's Meeting: AGM
Wednesday, 29 th	7.00 p.m.	Church AGM

March

Thursday, 1 st		T' Club: Theatre Visit—South Pacific
Thursday, 1 st	7.45 p.m.	Supper Club: Sylvia Wright Trust - Tony Hartigan
Sunday, 4 th	9.00 a.m.	9 o'clock Kick-off
	10.00 a.m.	Family Church & Holy Communion
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship
Monday, 5 th	2.30 p.m.	Women's Meeting: Bits & Pieces - Michael Rhodes
Thursday, 8 th	8.00 p.m.	'T' Club: A.G.M. and Fish & Chip Supper
Saturday, 10 th	10.00 a.m.	Coffee Morning & bacon sandwiches
Sunday, 11 th	10.30 a.m.	Family Church & Parade Service
	6.00 p.m.	Evening Worship

MESSENGER AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TODAY

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