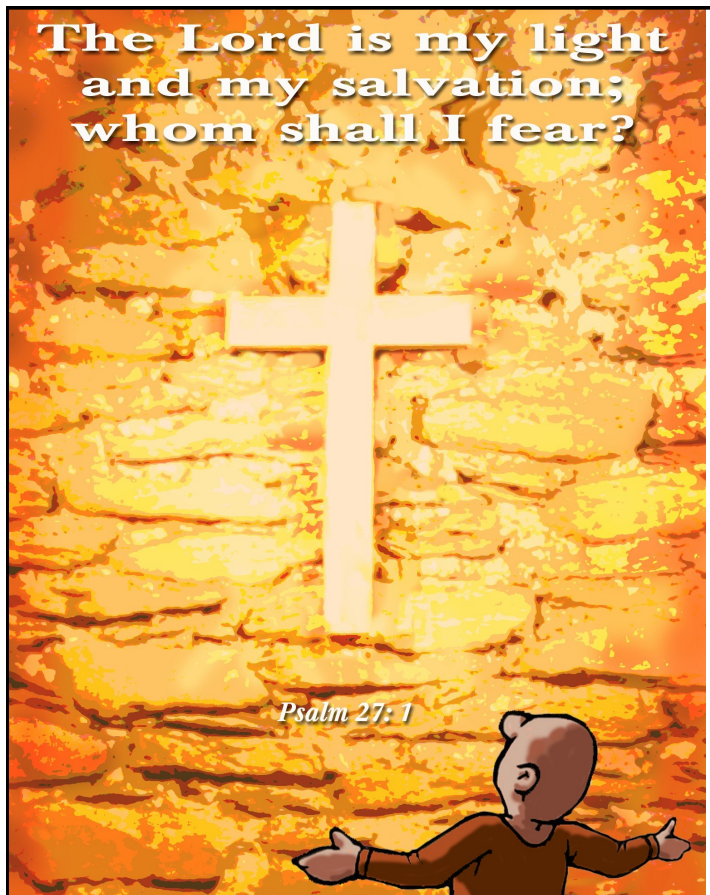


February - March 2024

Number 699

# The Messenger

The magazine of the Bridge Church, Otley



## The Bridge Church

The United Reformed Church (URC) in Otley



The official Magazine of the  
Bridge United Reformed Church, Otley  
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Email: [jason.mccullagh@otleybridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:jason.mccullagh@otleybridgechurch.org.uk)

## **Messenger letter**

Dear Friends,

At the very start I feel I must confess to writing this in the warm, sunny Canaries whilst you, apparently have been frozen and buffeted here in the UK.

By mid-February we will probably have endured most of the winter and already have observed or ignored Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and entered the Church's famous (if grimmer than normal) season of Lent.

Do you think we will be doing the usual this year?

- *Giving up something*—like swearing, smoking, alcohol, using the car, chocolates (probably Jason is best qualified to answer the last one!)
- *Taking up something*—like getting fit, reading the bible, praying more, a bit of volunteering.

Actually, the Bridge Church has two such opportunities tailor made for us:

- Giving Groceries and toiletries to Shine Bradford - starting Saturday 17th February.
- Taking up Bible Study with Jason - starting Tuesday 20th February.

But, to ask a familiar question, what would Jesus do? The thing is, we're aware what he actually *did*: in a deserted place, for forty days, facing three big temptations or tests.

So what was happening? We know that by then he was a young man (probably late 20's) who had been acutely aware of God, "his Father", since childhood. His "ministry" followed right after these testing times so it seems he was sorting out his future, testing out what he might do and say and the best way of saying it, and living it.

So we might we be best advised to do something similar? Take stock and sort ourselves a bit; what should we prioritise; what would we say; how best we could say it, etc.

Sticking in the traditional channels it might still mean us giving up something, or taking up, something new or different. But with a difference; it might last with us not for forty days, but for a lifetime - isn't that how it turned out for Jesus?

Thank you for reading and thinking through this with me.

Love to all.

**Malcolm Wainwright**



## **MINISTER'S REGISTER: DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024**

### **FUNERALS**

11 <sup>th</sup> December	Mrs Maureen Dawson	Rawdon Crematorium
9 <sup>th</sup> January	Mr Steve Halliwell	The Bridge Church Lawnswood Crematorium
17 <sup>th</sup> January	Mrs Jean Hodgson	The Bridge Church Otley Cemetery

**PREACHING PLAN**  
**18<sup>th</sup> February – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February – First Sunday in Lent**  
**Morning Service**

Reverend David Batchelor  
Jason is helping to lead a Synod Youth Day.

**Evening Communion**

Reverend Jason McCullagh  
Genesis 9.8-17, Mark 1.9-15

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Second Sunday in Lent**

Reverend Jason McCullagh  
Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16, Mark 8.31-38

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Third Sunday in Lent**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Reverend Jason McCullagh  
Exodus 20. 1-17, John 2.13-22

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Mothering Sunday**

Reverend Jason McCullagh  
Numbers 21.4-9, John 3.14-21

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**Parade Service**

Reverend Jason McCullagh.  
Matthew 19.13-14

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday**

Reverend Jason McCullagh.  
Mark 11.1-11

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Easter Sunday**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Reverend Jason McCullagh  
Mark 16.1-8

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Second Sunday of Easter**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

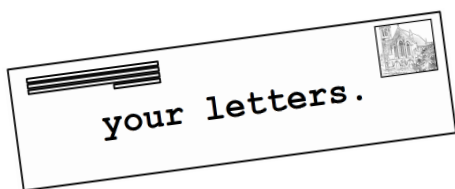
Reverend Jason McCullagh  
Acts 4. 32-35, John 20.19-31

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Third Sunday of Easter**

Reverend Jason McCullagh  
Acts 3.12-19, Luke 24.36b-48

# News of the Family

It was with great joy that on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 Beth and Darrell Good announced the safe arrival of Jasmine Eve, weighing 6lb 0.5oz. Jasmine is the second daughter for Beth and Darrell, baby Sister for Emilia and second Granddaughter for John and Hilary Eveleigh. We send love and best wishes to the whole family.



Dear Friends

Thank you friends so much for the flowers, cards , kind words and support we have received through a difficult year health wise for Roger. It was lovely to receive cards and flowers for my 80th birthday and for our Diamond wedding anniversary.

We are hoping for a more enjoyable year this year and wish a Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone.

**Jacqui Blackburn**

# The Bridge Church Lent Challenge 2024

**Will you, during Lent, commit to donating to the Shine Foodbank?**



**WE WOULD APPRECIATE  
DONATIONS OF:**

SHAMPOO, TOOTHPASTE,  
TOILET ROLLS, CLEANING  
PRODUCTS, ROLL ON  
DEODORANTS, SUGAR,  
LONGLIFE MILK, RICE, OIL,  
CORNED BEEF, TUNA OR  
BISCUITS

**THANK YOU**

**We will be open each Saturday in Lent  
(17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March)  
from 10am to 12pm  
to receive donations  
and serve refreshments.**

SHINE WEST BOWLING CHARITY NUMBER 1153518

## BRIDGE CHURCH IN NUMBERS

Each year, the Church Secretary submits the church's statistics to the United Reformed Church – the numbers in the table below are the figures submitted for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Total number of church members (at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023)	103	107	114
Average attendance at Sunday morning worship	95	92	71
Average attendance at Midweek (Quiet Communion)	15	15	-
Average attendance at Messy Church (children in attendance)	52	-	-
Average attendance at Messy Church (families in attendance)	28	-	-
Number of serving Elders	15	14	14
Number of non-serving Elders	18	18	16
Number of Baptisms conducted at the Bridge Church	2	3	3
Number of weddings conducted at the Bridge Church	4	1	2
Number of funeral services held at the Bridge Church	17	19	10
Number of memorial services held at the Bridge Church	0	1	3
Number of followers of Bridge Church Facebook page	756	-	-

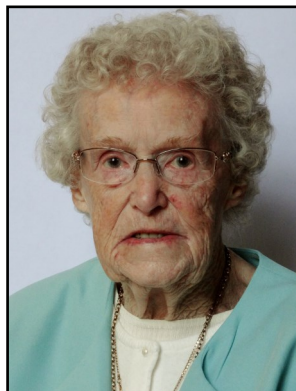
**WELCOMING ALL IN  
FAITH AND LOVE**

## **MRS JEAN HODGSON**

*This is part of the eulogy which Jason delivered at his funeral.* Jean worshipped here for many years, becoming a member in September 1974, she was faithful until a combination of the pandemic and her declining health made that impossible. She remained, always in our prayers. So, it is fitting that we gather here to remember and celebrate the life of Jean Hodgson, a life filled with love.

Jean was born, Jean Elizabeth Jackson, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1931, the eldest of four siblings: John, Sheila, and Margaret. Jean attended the National School before moving on the North Parade School.

She left school at fourteen and worked for six months at Marsdens before moving on to Woolworths. It was at a Woolworth's Christmas Party that she met Bill, who was serving in the army and was based at Farnley Park.



They were married in December 1950 when Jean was 19 years old, Bill 21 years old. Their marriage was blessed with four children, Brian, Linda, Stuart, and Maria.

As Maria was starting school Jean and Bill started fostering and they fostered for 21 years. They also adopted Jean and Jeanette. Pauline, who came and lived with them stayed until she was married. Jean and Bill's family grew, they had fifteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. This is how Jean remembered her own life!

Her family would like to add some further memories.

As we have heard, Jean's family grew, 15 Grandchildren and a growing number of much loved and welcomed Great-Grandchildren. Maria was able to take her newborn Grandson, Albie, to meet his great-Grandma Jean in hospital. Jean loved getting to know them all and they will greatly miss her.

Growing up Brian, Linda, Steven, and Maria remember lots of family holidays, mostly on the East Coast but also visiting relatives in Cambridgeshire. They also recall fun times at home, with lots of music and games with their Mum.

There were hikes up the Chevin and visits to Wharfe Meadows Park as well as exploring Weston Woods and the Clifton area.



After Bill's early retirement Jean and Bill explored the wider world, visiting America, Russia, and taking coach tours across Europe. The last time that I spoke with Jean she was reminiscing about her time in America as I shared with her my experiences of my summer there.

Jean always had pet cats and she adopted many a stray, giving them a cat's life of luxury.

In later life, when she was mostly housebound, she enjoyed watching re-runs of old crimes series on TV. She also had a varied interest in TV sports coverage, especially snooker, cycling, and the occasional football match. Her ever-expanding family visited her regularly and always made sure she had a fresh mug of tea by her side!

*Jean Hodgson died on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 aged 92 years. Her funeral service was held at The Bridge Church on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.*



### **OTLEY CHURCHES TOGETHER – LENT LUNCHES**

The 2024 Lent Lunches programme is out, and will take place as follows;

Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February - 12noon – 1.30pm	Otley Catholic Church (Parish Centre)  Speaker – Grace Cowley from CAFOD
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March – 12noon – 1.30pm	Otley Methodist Church  Speaker – Mark Atkins from Leeds Faith in Schools
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March – 12noon – 1.30pm	Otley Parish Church  Speaker – Dwayne Hutchinson, Lead for Racial Justice for the Leeds Church Institute.

# Food and Friends

Our December meeting was a lovely Pre-Christmas celebration. We were entertained by the "Ukeladies" who always give a great performance, this one being a selection of Christmas and popular 'Sing Along' music.



The event was so enjoyable and the kitchen volunteers produced a delicious 'Christmas Meal' - this was very much appreciated by the guests and the 'Ukeladies' who always enjoy coming to the Bridge Church.

The speaker at the January meeting was Sarah Ward who gave an insight into the 'Bee Keeping' year. She and her husband have quite a number of hives and hearing about the amount of work involved throughout the year looking after them was very interesting and quite surprising. Their understanding of the habits of bees is amazing, it certainly isn't a question of -just leave them to get on with the work and we will enjoy the honey!! Bees are fascinating creatures who organise themselves so well by using body movements and natural instincts to navigate and direct each other to and from sources of nectar And of course there is no way we could feed ourselves without them.



Our speaker at the February meeting will be Malcolm Johnson who will talk about 'Children's Favourites' in the 1950's

Our volunteers do a wonderful job in the Kitchen and helping to set up and serve the drinks and of course to clear up afterwards so many thanks to them all.

**Enid Taylor**

# Young Peoples Pages

## Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2

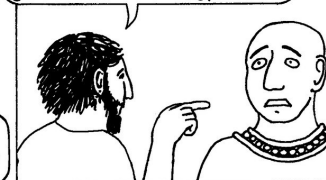
Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.

The next day...



Why are you beating up one of your own people?

Are you going to kill me like you killed that Egyptian?



Moses had to run away from Egypt.



He went to Midian, got married and looked after his father-in-law's sheep.



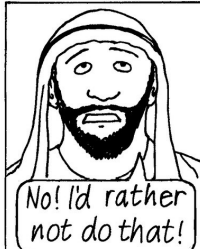
One day, on Sinai Mountain, he saw a burning bush that didn't burn up. Now God had got Moses' attention, He said..



You will go to Pharaoh and tell him to let my people leave Egypt.



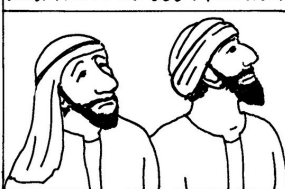
No! I'd rather not do that!



It's not a choice. Your brother Aaron can help you



Aaron and Moses met up and went to see Pharaoh



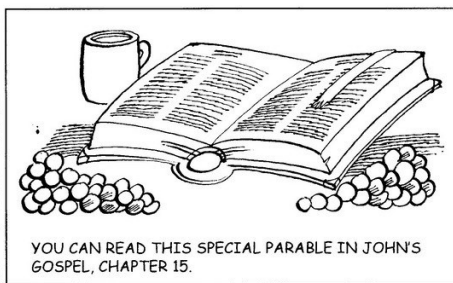
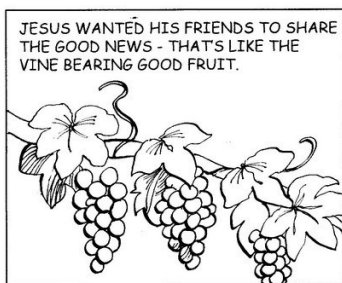
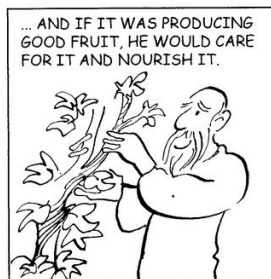
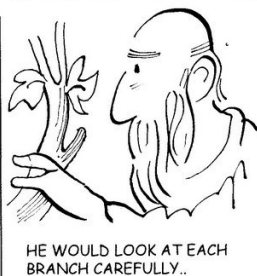
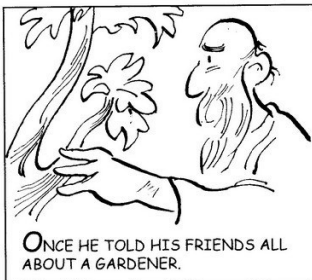
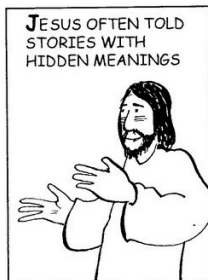
Our God says you must let all his people leave Egypt.

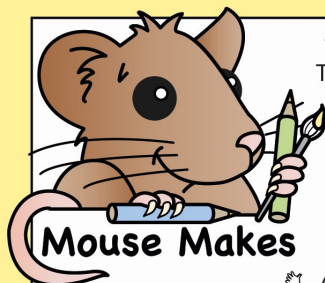


Your God means nothing to me. I will never change my mind. Your people can never leave!



# The gardener and the Vine





"I am the **resurrection** and the life.  
The one who believes in me will live  
even though they die."

John 1:25



READ the Bible  
passages to find  
the answers to the  
crossword clues

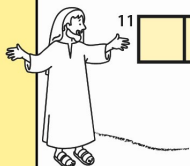
Matthew 21:1-11

1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?



Matthew 26:17-29

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?



Matthew 27:27-61

17. What was Jesus' crown made of?
9. What was Jesus crucified on?
14. Who's tomb was Jesus buried in?
13. What did they wrap Jesus' body in?
16. What did they roll in front of the tomb?

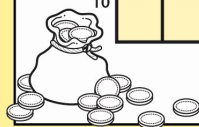
Matthew 26:36-75

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?



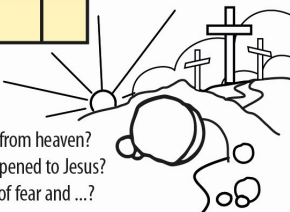
Matthew 26:14-16

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?



Matthew 28:1-10

5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?



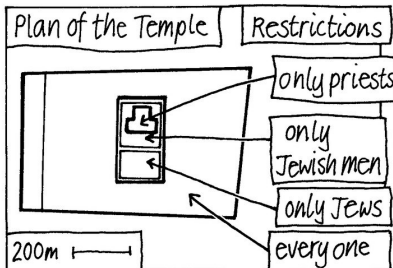
Mar24 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

# Bible Bite

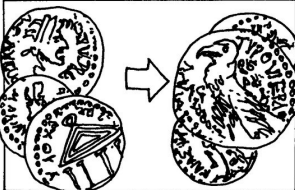
## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Mt 21:12-16, Mk 11:15-18, Lk 19:45-48

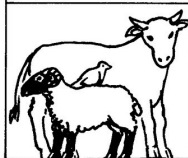
When Jesus reached Jerusalem he went to the Temple, built as a place where everyone could worship God, but with restrictions...



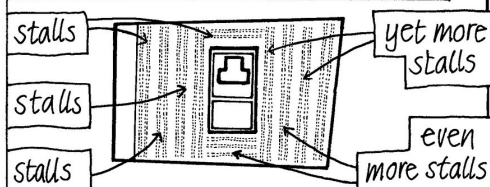
Visitors had to change their money to shekels



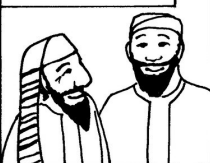
They had to buy special animals to sacrifice...



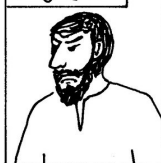
and the stalls filled the only place that non-Jews could come to worship God



The chief priests had no problem with this...



but it made Jesus very angry...



so he drove them out





# Mirella is in Print!

## 'A Most Unlikely Friendship'

The Burley Téréli Friendship Trust's first full length publication. **On Sale now.**

BTFT are delighted to announce that the story of the remarkable Millennium Link with a village in The Dogon Region of Mali West Africa, which has developed and thrived over the past twenty years, is now in print.

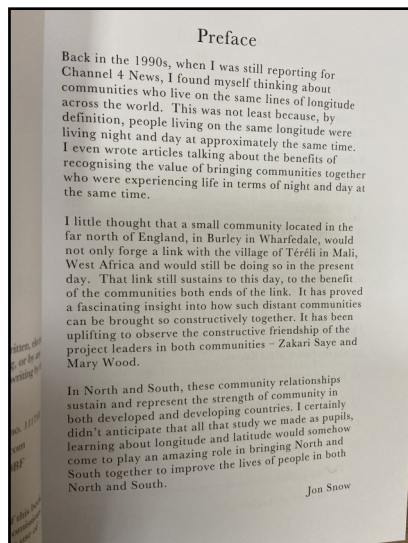
With wonderful full colour photographs and a preface by journalist and broadcaster Jon Snow, it is an inspiring story of Friendship.



'A Most Unlikely Friendship' is available from Mary Wood whose archive has been the source of the detail and the photographs (Telephone 01943 864404) and from Mirella Moxon.

**All** the proceeds from the sale of the books will be given to BTFT to support projects. We hope to raise £2000!

Copies and a free complementary bookmark are on sale for £10. Postage and packing £3.





## **Mark Atkins Leeds Faith in Schools Update**

To the wonderful members of the Churches in Otley, it really is my privilege write to you and update you on the incredibly exciting work that is happening with young people in the town in my role at Leeds Faith in Schools (LFiS). For more than 20 years, LFiS has provided Schools workers, based in Prince Henry's, seeking to be a Christian presence in the school and living out our vision of being 'Good News to the school' – its students, and the staff.

As a team of 6 we have Schools workers based in 10 different schools in and around Leeds and for the past 2 years I have worked in Prince Henry's on a Tuesday doing several things, including: 1-1 mentoring, boy's groups, a lunchtime club as well as the after-school drop-in youth club at Bridge Church.

In school, the demand for mentoring has grown significantly. In the wake of the pandemic and with school budgets becoming increasingly tighter we have been able to offer to take on some of the burden of schools' enormous backlog of students needing extra pastoral support, these students are referred to us as they may be struggling with anything with their mental health, their behaviour, and issues both at home and within school itself.

Mentoring provides the unique opportunity to build strong, trusted relationships with some incredibly vulnerable students. Oftentimes we are the first people to hear the deeply personal and, unfortunately, tragic reasons why these young people have been 'acting out' or showing other negative behaviours.



Mentoring enables us to show God's love to them in such a practical way. Many of the lads I see in Prince Henry's on a regular basis are at risk of permanent exclusion - many of them are involved in anti-social and/or criminal behaviour out of school. All have a lot of difficulty fitting in at school, some of them struggle with substance abuse and all of them have experienced some kind of major family breakdown.

At LFiS we are passionate believers in creating joy and fun wherever we go which is why we create spaces for young people to thrive in as we know how important it is for their development. Not only this but it also helps them open their hearts to us as followers of Christ. Drop-in provides an incredible safe space for young people to come and meet new people and enjoy themselves away from the pressure of school. I'm incredibly blessed to have a team of volunteers from Otley Parish Church (including Maria, the new youth worker), Bridge Church, Otley Methodist, New Life and Otley Catholic Church to help me run it.

I believe God's Kingdom is ready to break-through in Otley, and especially in the lives of the young people here. The churches have such an open heart to them and we are praying for God to do more.

If you'd like to hear more about the work we do, how you can get involved or support us, please feel free to contact me

## **PRAYER FOR GROWTH**

God of Mission  
Who alone brings growth to your Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give  
Vision to our planning,  
Wisdom to our actions,  
Joy to our worship,  
And poer to our witness.  
Help our Church to grow in numbers,  
In spiritual commitment to you,  
And in service to our local community  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Women's Meeting

On Monday December 4<sup>th</sup> we were entertained by Margaret Crossfield. Margaret demonstrated in her own unique way how to make a Christmas Table Decoration with a red candle and red and white roses, holly and gypsophila. In fact she actually made four!!!

We were all given a raffle ticket and the winners (drawn by Jason) received one of the decorations. We then all enjoyed our tea and biscuits - a good start to get us in the mood for Christmas!

Margaret was given a box of 'Roses' (very appropriate) chocolates as a thank you.

At our meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December we were entertained by the 'Ladies Please' choir, who were resplendent in their diamante scarves - some lilac and some royal blue. They were ably conducted by Dorrie Clark and their pianist Mike. They sung a series of Christmas songs and carols. We were asked to join in with 'While Shepherds watched' to the tune of 'On Ilkley Moor Baht at'. Then Mike played some songs with new arrangements - wonderful.

Caroline played her clarinet to 'Walking in the Air' accompanied by Mike and the choir.

It was certainly a lovely afternoon for the run up to Christmas, followed traditionally by tea and mince pies!

At our first meeting of 2024 on Monday 8th January, Mirella Moxon led the meeting. After a hymn and a prayer Mirella shared some of her Christmas chocolates and one or two Christmas cracker jokes!

Then we were introduced to Mary Wood from Burley in Wharfedale who explained to us the Tereli-Burley project. We were shown slides to show how this project had supported the people of Tereli in Africa over the past 20 plus years in providing cleaner water, toilets and a birthing room. Proceeds from the yearly calendar has funded many of these projects.

We were informed that Burley school children are very much involved with the project and have met a man from Tereli who came over and Mary herself has been to Tereli twice and saw the difficult conditions they lived in, and now much improved.

We finished off the meeting by celebrating a few birthdays and sung 'Happy Birthday', especially to both our secretary and treasurer who both had special ones! Then we had a cup of tea and special chocolate biscuits brought by a member.

**Pam Bradley**

### **"The voice of prayer is never silent . . ."**

Ever since my early twenties – when I first became aware of the Rev John Ellerton's words in his hymn "The day thou gavest Lord has ended . . ." I have found the couplet in verse 3 **"The voice of prayer is never silent, nor dies the strain of praise away"** reassuring and uplifting. The words still come to mind during the day and at night.

In a recent newsletter, published by the Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer (FCP) – a widespread prayer movement throughout the United Kingdom - I read the words below, written by the fellowship's chaplain, which reiterated the thoughts expressed in the poet's hymn in Rejoice and Sing 584.

**" . . .wherever you are, you are not alone but part of a worldwide network of prayer."**

More information about the FCP is available from the website [www.contemplative-prayer.org.uk](http://www.contemplative-prayer.org.uk).

**The above was provided by Wes Kennedy**

# Shroud of Turin Exhibition

Including a full  
sized replica of  
the world famous  
Shroud of Turin

**16<sup>th</sup> February  
to 1st March 2024  
10:00am to 4:00pm  
(Excluding Sunday)**

**Admission Free  
Discretionary donation  
if desired**

**Refreshments  
available**



**The Bridge Church**

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN OTLEY

**Bridge Street, Otley, LS21 1RW**

©1978 Barrie M. Schwartz Collection, STERA, Inc.



# Hollybush Project

## **Harrogate Flower Show, April 2024.**

We thought you would be pleased to hear some exciting news from the Hollybush Project. We have been accepted to the Harrogate Flower Show in the 'Creative Borders' category.

We had a short time to place an entry. The learning disability team have created mood boards for their ideas and the creative borders design has been based on this, incorporating edibles in the form of a small 'square foot garden' area, a wildlife area incorporating a variety of grasses, a small pond and various wildlife habitats including a log pile, an insect hotel and a hedgehog house. A small bench provides a place to sit and relax with colourful planting in this area to stimulate the senses.

This will also allow us the opportunity to exhibit some of the woodwork and willow crafts created in house by the Hollybush team.

We are all very excited and we will get to planning properly in the new year.

Best wishes

**Carrie**  
**Project Officer and part of the Hollybush Project Team**

**THE NEXT EDITION OF THE MESSENGER WILL BE THE 700<sup>TH</sup> - LET'S MAKE IT A BUMPER EDITION - ANY IDEAS PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITORS!**

## **CHURCH DIARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2024**

### **Weekly events:**

***The Bridge Cafe*** - Every Thursday at 2p.m.

***Parents & Toddlers*** - Every Thursday and Friday at 9.30 a.m.

***Quiet Communion*** - Every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

### **Regular Events:**

#### ***Women's Meeting***

February 19<sup>th</sup> - Making Music - Lindsey Hurst.

March 4<sup>th</sup> - AGM followed by tea and cakes.

March 18<sup>th</sup> - A sabbatical of Friendship and Faith - Rev. Jason McCullagh.

April 8<sup>th</sup> - Life and Work as a Hairdresser - Rhona Smith.

#### ***Food and Friends 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 10.30 a.m.***

March 6<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### ***T Club - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each Month***

February 22<sup>nd</sup> - AGM and Fish and Chip Supper.

March 28<sup>th</sup> - No formal T Club, but Maundy Thursday Communion Service: All welcome.

#### ***Supper Club—3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m.***

February 15<sup>th</sup> - Aspects of China - Gordon Justham.

March 21<sup>st</sup> - AGM.

#### ***Singing for Fun - alternate Mondays at 7.30 p.m.***

19<sup>th</sup> February, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 8<sup>th</sup> April.

***Messy Church*** - 17<sup>th</sup> February and 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

## ***Bible Study 2.30pm and 7.30 pm.***

20<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 19<sup>th</sup> March

### **Christmas Gift Service for RETAS**

We were overwhelmed by all of the gifts that have been generously donated at our Gift Service in December.

The gifts were delivered to RETAS (Refugee Education Training Advice Service) in Harehills, Leeds.

Pictured below with Margaret Armitage, are Roger, Chief Officer of RETAS and Maria RETAS' Fundraising Officer.



Roger said 'we are, once again, so grateful for the Bridge Church's generosity. Your gifts will make such a difference to the families we support.'

### **NEXT MESSENGER**

Material for the next edition of the Messenger should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March (Easter Sunday) and will be available for collection on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.

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Comments and statements printed in the Messenger  
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