

October - November 2023

Number 697

# 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  
Minister:- Reverend Jason McCullagh  
Telephone: 01943 465509  
Email: [jason.mccullagh@otleybridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:jason.mccullagh@otleybridgechurch.org.uk)

## **Messenger letter**

Dear Friends,

I write this letter having just put the finishing touches to the Harvest Festival Service whilst downstairs people are getting the Hall ready for our Harvest Supper and Ceilidh. My mind is filled with Harvest hymns, prayers, reflections, thoughts, and memories of Harvests gone by. We live in an incredibly beautiful world, a world that we believe God created, a world in which, we believe, God has called us to live in as stewards of that creation. This is what we celebrate and remember at Harvest time, there is an abundance of food in this world and there always will be if only we share it, there is an abundance of life in this world and there always will be if only we live in harmony with it, there is great potential in this world if only we embrace it.

All of this has been swirling around in my mind, but it has been clouded with anger for at the beginning of the week the British Prime Minister, whilst acknowledging the terrible impact of climate change that has ravaged the world over the summer, scrapped some of Britain's key commitments to addressing that climate change. In response the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches issue a joint statement saying: "We are dismayed that the Prime Minister is delaying the implementation of policies to achieve net zero. As a country, we have moral and legal responsibilities to show leadership in tackling the climate emergency together." Christian Aid also issued a statement following the Prime Minister's decision: "People on the front line of the climate crisis have been waiting decades for polluting nations like the U.K. to take action on climate change. And yet Rishi Sunak is preparing to water down these future

targets. Deadlines spur action and pushing them back will see the UK heap further pain on people suffering from devastating droughts in East Africa or killer storms in the Pacific. The UK has the eighth largest historical emissions in the world, that means, as a country, we have contributed more to the climate crisis than most. By undermining our climate commitments Sunak is showing a woeful disregard for the world's most vulnerable people. It's utterly reckless."

As a Christian, celebrating the abundance of God's creation and heeding the call to live in harmony with God's creation, I utterly condemn the decision of the British Government to row back on these important measures. Yes, such measures will cost us, yes, we are going to have to make sacrifices, but we have lived well for so many years at the expense of others surely it is time to stand shoulder to shoulder with brothers and sisters across the world and ensure they too can life live to the full.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September 1962 President John F. Kennedy made a speech in which he said: "we choose to go to the moon." There was little understanding of how that was going to be achieved when he made that speech and yet on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1969 Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon! If we do not set ourselves challenging goals, how can we ever hope to achieve anything worthwhile? We put a man on the moon, we put rockets into space, we have made huge advances in technology, and all the while wealthy nations have grown wealthier and poorer nations have grown poorer. Is it not time to use this wealth, this technology, and this knowledge to tackle the very serious crisis ravishing the planet, a crisis that impacts on each one of us, and to do so by setting ourselves challenging goals that will ensure we remain focused!

Personally, I will back every campaign that challenges the Prime Minister's decision, and I will make every sacrifice that I can to ensure I help heal this planet and make life better for my brothers and sisters who live in dire situations that I have helped to create.

If we believe that God created this world, if we believe that God called us, and calls us, to be stewards of this world, if we believe that, then we must act. We must speak out when

decisions are made that damage our world, we must change the way we live so we can heal our world, we must ensure that our Harvest Festival songs and prayers do not remain in Church after worship but flow into the world as actions. If we believe, then we must think big and act boldly and we must think big and act boldly now!

With love,

Jason

The full text of the statement issued by the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Church is reproduced in full on Page 8 of this edition.

**PREACHING PLAN**  
**8<sup>th</sup> October – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Reverend Jason McCullagh

Exodus 20. 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 & Matthew 21.33-46

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Morning Service**

Service conducted by the Reverend Mirella Moxon

Jason is leading Junior Church.

**Evening Communion**

Reverend Jason McCullagh

Matthew 22.1-14

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

Reverend Jason McCullagh

Exodus 33.12-23 & Matthew 22.15-22

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Reverend David Bachelor

Jason is leading worship elsewhere in the Synod.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Sacrament of Holy Communion  
Reverend Jason McCullagh  
Micah 3.5-12 & Matthew 23.1-12

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Remembrance Sunday Parade Service  
Reverend Jason McCullagh.  
Amos 5.18-24

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Reverend Jason McCullagh.  
Matthew 25.14-30

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November – The Feast of Christ the King**

Reverend Jason McCullagh.  
Psalm 95. 1-7a & Matthew 25.31-46

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Advent Sunday**

Sacrament of Holy Communion  
Reverend Jason McCullagh and Mr Edward Convery  
Isaiah 64.1-9 & Mark 13.24-37

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday in Advent**

Gift Service Parade Service  
Reverend Jason McCullagh.

**MINISTER'S REGISTER**  
**31<sup>st</sup> MAY – 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**WEDDINGS**

1<sup>st</sup> September Damien Attwood and Chani Mortimer

8<sup>th</sup> September Joss Cluderay-Moore and Alice Ramsay

**FUNERALS**

19<sup>th</sup> June Mrs Betty Pick Lawnswood Crematorium



Dear Friends

I write to thank the Church flower arrangers and elders for sending me such a lovely bouquet of flowers just after I moved into Mayfield View permanently. It was such a kind thought. Those of you who have been around for quite a few years may remember that I was the editor of The Messenger for many years, so I know the value of a word of appreciation.

I am now happily settled and would welcome visits from Bridge Church members and friends.

In loving thanks.

**Pat Hunt**

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all our friends at the Bridge Church for the cards, letters, emails, phone calls, visits and flowers you sent after Roy passed on the 5th August. The last 2 weeks of his life were extremely difficult and it was comforting to know so many people were praying for us.

I would like to thank Rev. John Parker for conducting a very personal funeral service. John had been friends with Roy and I from our teenage years.

Thank you to everyone else who took part in the service and everyone who attended the service.

It is lovely to know I am a member of such a caring Church.

Love from **Christine Pollard and family**

# News of the Family

## Engagement

Congratulations go to Abigail Finlay and Lawrence Pender following the announcement of their engagement in August. Abigail is the younger daughter of Alison and Dean Finlay and granddaughter of Angela and Michael Rhodes. Needless to say the whole family are delighted! Abigail and Lawrence have also just recently moved to Bath, so we wish them the very best of luck as they settle into their new home together and for their future happiness together.

Do please continue to pass any good news you wish to share to any of the Pastoral Elders (listed on the back cover of The Messenger)

Thank you,

**Margaret Armitage**



**The front cover image this month is from a poster at Trinity Baptist Church in Derby, and- was spotted by one of our members!**

**The United Reformed Church, Baptist Union of Great Britain and The Methodist Church in Britain issue the following statement in response to the Prime Minister's recent announcement on net zero policies.**

"We are dismayed that the Prime Minister is delaying the implementation of policies to achieve net zero. As Christian leaders we are deeply committed to encouraging all within our sphere of influence to be ambitious in reaching net zero as we seek to care for God's creation. This transition must be rapid, equitable and just.

"At a time when so many people are struggling financially, the government has a crucial role to play in ensuring the cost of transition to net zero does not fall most heavily on those least able to afford it. Delaying measures to insulate homes will have the opposite effect, and slowing efforts to reduce fossil fuel use will increase climate impacts on vulnerable communities around the globe.

"Extreme weather events this year have demonstrated the urgency of the situation. The independent Climate Change Committee have assessed that even current policy measures are insufficient to meet the UK's climate targets. The government needs to urgently demonstrate how it will get the UK back on track to reach net zero before 2050.

"The commitments made at COP26 were instrumental in providing confidence to industry, investors and civil society that the UK was serious about rising to the climate challenge. It is a source of extreme disappointment that the Prime Minister's announcement will damage that confidence and undermine our collective efforts. As a country, we have moral and legal responsibilities to show leadership in tackling the climate emergency together."

**Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson**, Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church

**Revd Lynn Green**, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

**Revd Gill Newton**, President of the Methodist Conference

**Deacon Kerry Scarlett**, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference



## Women's Meeting

**On Monday September 11<sup>th</sup>** it was our opening service which was taken by our president, Jason.

Starting with a hymn and a prayer, we talked about how things have changed over the years, records to cassettes to using our phones for music! We talked about how coins have changed from farthings and finally thre'penny bits to our new pound coins and 'plastic' notes.

How books and toys have changed, even Jason's Aunts bear Edward even put in an appearance.

Then after the birthdays, three in all, one very special one for Dorothy Clegg, we had another hymn and closing prayer.

Tea and biscuits were served as usual, very welcome on quite a warm day for September.

**On Monday 25th September** we were treated to a talk by Denise Adlard on 'The Brontes of Haworth'. In her usual unique way Denise talked about the parents of the well known authors, Patrick and Marie; Denise said that she had had her eyes opened to the whole family at the Bradford Literary Festival before Covid.

Patrick Bronte was born in Ireland in 1777 and came from a poor Roman Catholic family - he was one of 10 children. His surname was Prunty or sometimes Bruntree but when he came to England, he changed it to Bronte. Horatio Nelson was one of his heroes and that was one of his titles! At this point Patrick Bronte had become a member of the Church of England and later became a curate.

Maria Bronte came from Penzance in Cornwall and came up to Yorkshire to help her aunt at a school in Apperley Bridge; Maria was from a wealthy family. Patrick was teaching at her aunt's school and love flourished!!

Patrick and Maria married and they had six children, Ann, Emily, Charlotte, Maria Elizabeth and one son named Branwell. Maria sadly died at the age of 38 and her sister Elizabeth came up from Cornwall and brought the children up. Patrick outlived all his children and was 84 when he died - a good age in those days. It was so interesting to hear of the parents rather than the children.

**Pam Bradley**

# Getting to know: our Church Secretary, John Eveleigh

## **How long have you lived in Otley?**

35 years now – we moved to our first house in Otley (on The Gills) in February 1988!

## **What first brought you to the Bridge Church?**

Hilary and I met in a URC/Methodist Church in London, and when we moved to Otley we decided to try out a few of the churches. As the Bridge Church was the nearest, we went there first, we were made so welcome that we never got to try any of the other churches!!

## **Please share a favourite memory of the Bridge Church?**

I have quite a lot – but I suppose my best memories are from Family Church Weekends, when there is a real sense of unity.

## **What is your favourite hymn and why?**

I love so many hymns but if I was really pushed I would probably say Charles Wesley's 'And can it be' to the tune Sagina. Or, for a more modern hymn, I would probably go for Graham Kendrick's 'Beauty for brokenness' – extremely powerful words.

## **How would you like to see the Bridge Church develop?**

Wow! I don't know whether there is enough space! I think we have made huge strides over the years but I think we must always work hard to be a welcoming and inclusive church. Inclusivity means accepting all for who they are and ensuring that everyone has a voice.

Clearly, the way we 'do' church is changing and we need to adapt to changes in society – the church needs to become more of a 24/7 operation – expecting people to all come at 10.30am on a Sunday is no longer realistic, and we need to work out ways of giving people opportunities to be part of the church family on days other than a Sunday!

Obtaining the 'children and young people friendly' designation was important and we need to work hard to ensure that we live up to this. I think we will need to give serious consideration to employing a children's and family worker.

I would like to see the church building becoming more of a community 'hub' – delivering services and hosting groups who

will make a difference to people's lives – we already do a lot – the Bridge Café, the Toddlers Group, the Youth Drop-In, and all the Uniformed organisations – but I think there is the potential for us to do more in partnership with others; to do that I think we will need to attempt to utilise the whole of the building better. That would mean that we would need to take a fresh look at the whole building and ask the question – does this room offer the flexibility we need to be a blessing to our community?

### **What can you tell us about your working career?**

I am proud to have worked for over 42 years in the National Health Service – I started work as a clerical officer in the Medical Records Department at Essex County Hospital in Colchester, and after working in a couple of other hospitals I applied for a job at St James's University Hospital in Leeds. When I retired in October 2020 I was the Head of Corporate and Health Records in the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (based at St James's but covering all seven of the hospitals in the Trust)

### **What hobbies do you have?**

One of the young people who attends the Youth Drop-In asked me this question a couple of weeks ago and I said 'football' – he said 'watching, I assume as you're a bit out of condition!!!' All my family hail from the East End of London and so West Ham is in my blood – since moving to Yorkshire I have become a season ticket holder at Bradford City. Sadly neither team are particularly successful – but at least the Hammers won a European trophy last season!!

### **Where is your favourite place in this country?**

Being a Londoner, I like going back to London (but wouldn't want to live there again) – as a child we had many holidays in Northumberland – and that is pretty spectacular.

### **Where in the world would you like to visit?**

I have no real ambitions to visit anywhere as such – but somewhere like South Africa would be interesting.

### **If you could invite 3 people to dinner (dead or alive) who would they be and why?**

Sir Trevor Brooking – my footballing hero growing up.  
Desmond Tutu – a man of faith and enormous courage  
Tony Benn – although he claimed to be an 'agnostic' he was inspired by Jesus the man, and influenced by his mother and other giants in the Congregational Church.

# Food and Friends

We have only had one meeting since the last Messenger was published. Our speaker was Jean Crawford who is a volunteer at the Otley Courthouse. Jean described various (historical) cases - mostly murders and violent assaults!!! Our group were very interested as many of them have lived in Otley most of their lives, and remembered the more recent ones, but knew much of the historical ones as local history is obviously of great interest. The Courthouse is now an arts centre with many different activities taking place there.



In October the speaker is from the Shine Project in Bradford, this will be interesting as, when we donate to Charities, it is good to know what it is all about.

We didn't have a meeting in August but even though this has happened for a number of years it was very much missed so I will look into

doing something in August 2024.

We still have some spare spaces if anyone would like to join us in the future, I have to say that the food is excellent, and we are a very friendly group.

**Enid Taylor**

# Young Peoples Pages

## The Good Samaritan

JERICO

ONCE, A LAWYER TRIED TO TRICK JESUS WITH A CLEVER QUESTION.

...WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

JESUS REPLIED BY TELLING THE LAWYER A STORY.



A MAN WENT FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICO. ON THE WAY...

HE WAS ATTACKED BY ROBBERS!!



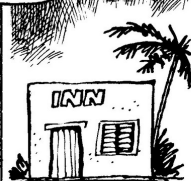
THEY TOOK EVERYTHING HE HAD AND LEFT HIM FOR DEAD!



LATER A PRIEST PASSED BY, BUT DID NOTHING TO HELP - NOR DID THE REIGIOUS MAN FROM A TEMPLE!



BUT A MAN FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY STOPPED TO HELP THE INJURED MAN. HE DRESSED THE MAN'S WOUNDS, AND EVEN PAID FOR HIM TO STAY AT AN INN.



JESUS THEN ASKED "WHO WAS THE NEIGHBOUR?"

- ☐ PRIEST
- ☐ TEMPLE MAN
- ☐ FOREIGN MAN

WHICH DO YOU THINK WAS THE ONE THE LAWYER CHOSE?

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Genesis chapters 39:20-41:44

Joseph's brothers had sold him as a slave  
and he had ended up in Egypt. Then he was  
wrongly accused and was sent to prison.



Joseph was trusted to look  
after the other prisoners.

Then Pharaoh's butler and baker were sent to  
the prison. One night they had strange dreams.



...I made  
juice from the grapes  
and gave it to Pharaoh..

...all the  
bread in my baskets  
was eaten by birds.

God knows what your dreams mean -  
you will be pardoned .... but you won't.



The two men  
left the prison.

Don't forget me!



But they did

Two years later  
Pharaoh had a dream

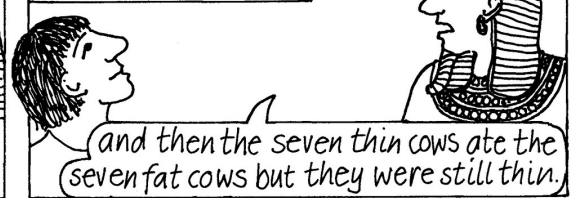


None of his advisors could  
explain it...



...then his butler  
remembered Joseph.

So Joseph was cleaned up  
and sent to Pharaoh



and then the seven thin cows ate the  
seven fat cows but they were still thin.

God says there will be  
seven bumper years, then  
seven years of famine.

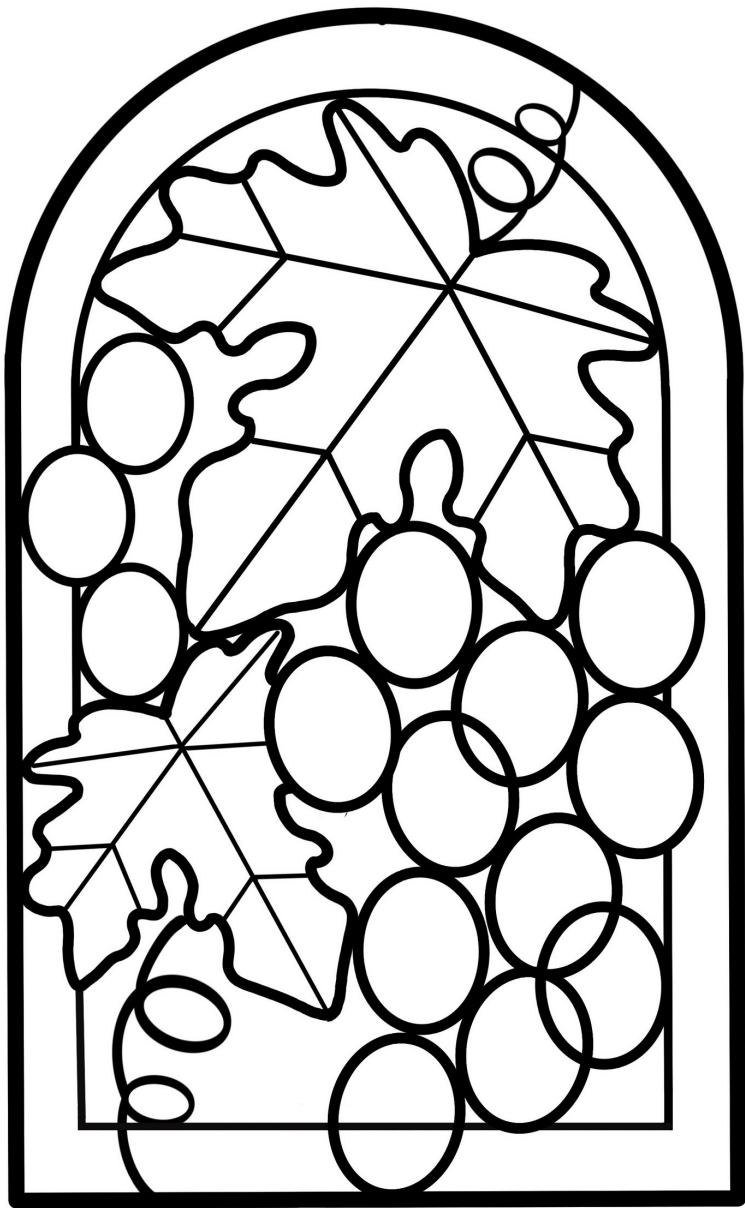


You must choose someone  
trustworthy to store the  
spare food in the good years

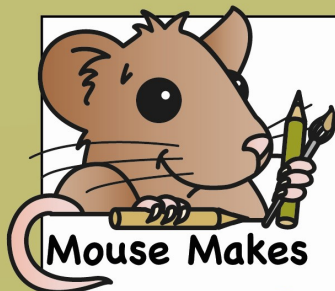
Pharaoh was so impressed  
he gave Joseph the job!



**Grape and Vine Colour in!**







### CONNECT THE BIBLE FOOD PAIRS

MANNA	HONEY
OIL	WINE
WATER	FISH
LOCUSTS	QUAIL
LOAVES	FLOUR



What drink ran out at the wedding?

and what did Jesus use to make more?



John 2:3 and 7

What food did God supply for his people in the wilderness?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers 11:7-9 and 31

After Elijah came to visit, what never ran out?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_



1 Kings 17:14

What food did the ravens feed Elijah?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 17:6

What food did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 3:4

What did the boy give Jesus to feed 5,000 people?

Five \_\_\_\_\_

and two \_\_\_\_\_

John 6:9



### FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

NBO TIBMM OPU  
MJWF PO CSFBE  
BMPOF, CVU PO  
FWFSZ XPSE UIBU  
DPNFT GSPN UIF  
NPVUI PG HPE.

NBUUIFX 4:4

### DID YOU KNOW?

As Lot escaped Sodom with his family an angel told him not to stop or look back, but Lot's wife did look back and became a pillar of salt.

READ Genesis 19 v15-26

Find the words below and the answers to the questions all in the word search

OLIVES • CHEESE  
FIGS • DATES  
MUSTARD  
RAISINS • WHEAT  
SALT • GRAIN  
FRUIT • GRAPES  
VEGETABLES

E B R E A D H O N E Y Q J S F  
L O A V E S G Q W A T E R C I  
M Q I W M F R U I T F I S H G  
E U S H A L A A N O L I V E S  
A I I E N O I I E G R A P E S  
T L N A N U N L O C U S T S Y  
M U S T A R D E I H D A T E S  
E V E G E T A B L E S A L T H



## **SALEM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

For a small Church Salem achieves a great deal but we can always do with a bit of help! We could do with some help at strengthening the numbers attending our events, so I invite you to join us:

### **Salem Social Evening (7pm)**

Beetle Drive - 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Quiz - 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Whist Drive - 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

### **Cinema (7pm)**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April

### **Bric-a-Brac**

A big source of our income is the Coffee Morning on the first Saturday of the month and the bric-a-brac stall run by Edith Robson. She can sell *anything*!

If you have anything that you are thinking of giving away please think about giving it to Salem and you can do that through me.

## **HARVEST GIFTS FOR RETAS**

At our recent Harvest Festival we had goods donated and these were supplemented by families attending Messy Church. These were delivered by Margaret Armitage gratefully received by RETAS.

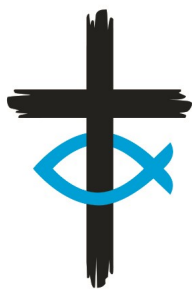


# HOLYHABITS

Many members and friends have attended the recent house groups centered around 'Holy Habits', which comprised six sessions hosted by members of the Bridge Church. What is Holy Habits you may ask? This is taken from the Holy Habits website ([www.holyhabits.org.uk](http://www.holyhabits.org.uk)):

*'Holy Habits is a way of life for those exploring or already actively living out the call of Jesus to 'follow me'. It is a way of life for all ages and cultures; a way of life based on Luke's portrait of the community of followers of Jesus that we see in Acts 2:42-47; a way of life that nurtures whole-life, missional discipleship; a way of life that, when lived faithfully day by day and fruitfully both personally and collectively, encourages others to join the adventure of following Jesus'*

The Holy Habits is split into 10 modules and The Bridge Church chose to do prayer first. The module has now concluded, but there will be a supper for those who have attended to share experiences, this will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October.



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

available.

You may also wish to know that resources are available on the United Reformed Church website for those who wish to explore their faith further. There are Daily devotions which include suggested bible readings, a reflection and a prayer. There are also regular podcasts and printable booklets

To access these resources go to <https://devotions.urc.org.uk>

## OTLEY VICTORIAN FAYRE - SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER

Once again this year the church will be supporting Otley Victorian Fayre on Sunday 3rd December, and we shall be having our usual stall - serving mulled wine and running a 'chocolate' tombola!

Over the course of the coming weeks we will be looking for:

- Donations of chocolate for the tombola stall
- Volunteers to help on the stall.

Look out, in due course, for the collection points in church and for the volunteer sign up sheets.

### OTLEY VICTORIAN FAYRE

Have you heard?

Otley Victorian Fayre is on  
Sunday 3 December 2023

All your favourites are back including

• Santa • Reindeer • Stalls • Fair •  
• Choirs • Entertainers • Otley Brass Band • Roasted  
chestnuts • Food stalls • Christmas wreath stall •  
Mulled wine •

Follow us here for updates, new attractions  
and full details of the programme  
nearer the time.

## READING IN WORSHIP

Please can I thank everyone who is currently on the rota to read from the Bible during our acts of worship. If you are not on the rota and would like to be included, do please have a word with me. Our new rota will commence in January and new readers are always welcome!

Thank you,

Shirley Vincent

The Manchester Choral Society  
Musical Director: Jill Henderson-Wild

**Simply Sublime Singing**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm  
(doors open at 7pm)

The Bridge Church, Bridge Street, Otley, LS21 1RW

**Tickets £10 in advance - £12 on the door - U16's Free**  
available from the Choir using the QR Code, from the Church  
when open and Otley Courthouse Box Office

**The Bridge Church**  
THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN OTLEY

QR Code

## Ministry And Mission Fund - Annual Letter To Local Churches

### To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Dear Friends,

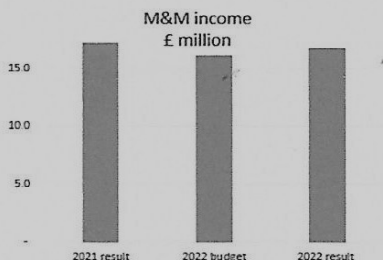
#### When will normal service be resumed?

As we are writing this letter and closing off the URC's accounts for 2022, the country is still torn with industrial disputes, mostly notably with Health Service workers, rail industry workers, teachers etc. etc. Whatever your view as to the wisdom or justice of such action, we suspect all of us are affected by the disruption to some degree.

In church life too, are we back to "normal life"? Some churches no doubt have returned to something like their pre-Covid level of activity and attendance numbers. Quite a few have recommenced their activity but find their numbers have reduced. Some churches have found re-opening too difficult and have decided to close.

Whatever the "new normal" was to be, we suggest its arrival has (like many trains) been disrupted, delayed, or cancelled all together.

The URC's finance officers had concerns that the late arrival of the return to normality would impact very significantly on the giving to the M&M Fund in 2022. However, the churches responded magnificently and the giving to M&M was £600,000 ahead of budget. It was also only 2.5% down on 2021's result.



So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2022 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With normal service not yet resumed, 2023 is not going to be an easy year either. We now have the added disruption of high inflation, pushing up wages and overhead costs. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God?

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

**Ian Hardie (Immediate Past Treasurer)**

**Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)**

## **SHEENA BEADLE 1944-2023**

Sheena left Otley in 2004, but had played a large part in the life of the Bridge Church up until that time, and therefore I was asked to write this article to reflect on her contribution to the life of the Bridge Church.

Sheena Mitchell was born in Otley on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1944, the daughter and first child of Alex and Eileen Mitchell. Her brother Robin and sister Gill came along later. Sheena's maternal grandmother was a member of the Barker family who had been among the founders of the Bridge Church in 1821 when they met as Independents in the Assembly Rooms on Bondgate. Her maternal grandfather was a Robinson, another long-standing Congregational family and through them she was also related to the Sinclair family. Sheena was therefore bound to be brought up a Congregationalist.

She went to Sunday School but when some of the other children started pulling her plaits she decided to attend adult church services and was eventually received into membership in 1960. After school in Otley and Leeds, Sheena went to study at teacher training college in Hull. It was there that she met her future husband Ray Beadle. Ray came from Stanhope in County Durham. They were married in February 1968 at Otley Congregational Church (as we were then known) by Rev. Leon Cook. Riverdale on Riverdale Road became their home – a house which had been built by Sheena's Great Grandfather. They had two daughters- Sally and Hannah. Sheena taught at All Saints Junior School and made many friends with the staff and all the pupils who passed through her classes.

The whole family entered into the life of the Bridge Church and Sheena was elected an elder in 1978. It is impossible to fully describe all that she offered by way of the eldership, Junior Church, Every Person Challenge, T Club and the many Family Church Productions. She led many acts of worship, particularly during ministerial vacancies. It was probably her pastoral care for people which really defined her. She quietly kept in touch

with many people, supporting them, praying for them, and offering practical help.

Each August the Beadle family would adjourn to Bridlington, spending every day on the beach whatever the weather. They were joined by their wider family and friends in an ever growing beach community (including the Howard family). Sheena would organise everybody for the daily swim in the North Sea, join in the building of sea-stoppers and judge sandcastle competitions in a very diplomatic way.

Sally & Hannah eventually settled in Scarborough and after Sally's marriage and the birth of Sheena's first grandchild, Ray & Sheena decided as they were now retired they would move to Scarborough to be with their family. So, in 2004 they said goodbye to Otley and the Bridge Church. As their daughters worshipped at Ebenezer Baptist Church they became members there and Sheena & Ray entered fully into the life of that Christian community. Sheena was elected a deacon and then an elder, becoming part of the Leadership Team. Their family grew to six grandchildren and two sons-in-law.

When Sheena became ill earlier this year and she knew her earthly life was nearing its end, she was determined to fit in two things – an attendance at the Keswick Convention which she managed, and a trip to Bridlington Beach where they celebrated her grandson Isaac's birthday on the beach. She died on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 at home, surrounded by her family.

A celebration of Sheena's life was held at Ebenezer Baptist Church. The church was full, including many from Otley. It was said in the worship that 'although life was good to her, Sheena was good to life' and many remarked how Sheena had touched their lives in many ways.

**Andrew Howard**

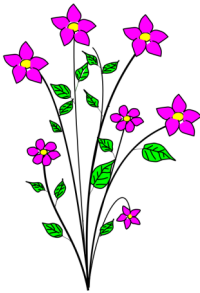
## CHURCH FLOWERS

Each Sunday we have beautiful flowers at the front of church, and we are very grateful to the rota of ladies and a gentleman who arrange them. However, we are always ready to welcome new arrangers onto our rota!



The flowers are appreciated by everyone, both in church and by those people who receive them afterwards. It does not have to be a formal arrangement - a simple vase of flowers is just as effective and appreciated.

We are also very grateful to everyone who continues to contribute to the flower fund. For anyone not aware of it, there is a list on the noticeboard where anyone who wishes to contribute an amount of money for a particular week can do so. You may wish to choose a poignant date for you to remember someone, or for a celebratory date.



Thank you also to everyone who currently helps to distribute the flowers after worship.

This is an important part of our pastoral care, and the flowers are always very much appreciated when received, whether they are to cheer or to console. Again, we are always grateful for new volunteers wanting to join our rota.

If you would like any further information about any of the above items or would like to be included on either of the rotas, do please speak either to Margaret Crossfield, or to myself.

With thanks

**Margaret Armitage.**

# Church Charity

At the August Church meeting The Hollybush Centre was chosen to be our Charity. Here is a bit of background about the charity and what they do!



## Introduction

Hollybush in Kirkstall is an environmental volunteering centre that has been running for over 40 years. Our volunteers help to manage green spaces across Leeds and beyond. We welcome people of all backgrounds and experience.

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) set up their West Yorkshire branch at Hollybush in 1979. TCV have 60+ year history of conservation activity in the UK, read about the history of the organisation [here](#).

Hollybush itself also has a long history. As a Conservation Centre it has been operating in Leeds for over 40 years, running training and education programmes, facilitating volunteering and improving green spaces. As a building Hollybush dates back to at least 1700 when the site was a farm. To celebrate 40 year of TCV at Hollybush the Friends of Hollybush set up a website and published a book on its history.

## The Hollybush Project

We have been running and developing group activities for adults with learning disabilities at Hollybush Conservation Centre since 2003.

The Hollybush Project is open to people (aged 18+) with learning disabilities who are eligible for day care through Leeds City Council Social Services.

Our site at Kirkstall has facilities to offer opportunities to enjoy the benefits of being outside in nature and in a varied working environment and try a wide range of activities



including:

- Gardening: we have raised vegetable and flower beds and a large polytunnel and grow flowers and produce for sale, to provide displays on site and at our raised beds at Kirkstall Abbey, as well as to use in our café and cook in our classroom.
- Woodwork: we have a well-equipped woodwork shop and make items for sale to the public and for use around the site and on other projects.
- Working in the café: our newly refurbished café is open to the public, and Hollybush Project participants help with baking and preparation.
- Craft activities: chance to try a variety of activities and techniques to encourage creativity and dexterity, including making cards and items to sell in the café and at events.
- Being active and supporting wellbeing: all our activities support physical and mental wellbeing and we also go out for walks in the garden and along the nearby canal as well as trying seated exercise and yoga sessions.

## **Café and Shop**

The cafe is open between 11am and 3pm on Wednesday to Friday, and on Sundays with sheltered outside seating available. The cafe sells a range of hot and cold drinks, light meals and cake, all vegetarian or vegan.

The Hollybush garden is open to the public during cafe opening hours, during which time the entrance from the canal is open. Bicycles, muddy boots, pushchairs and dogs on leads are all welcome! Our facilities include a bike-shed (bring your own lock!), pushchair storage, baby changing facilities and accessible toilets.

Our community shop sells cards and crafted items, many made by the Hollybush Project, as well as an extensive range of woodwork items made on site, including planters and habitat boxes.

## **CHURCH DIARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2023**

### **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***

October 9<sup>th</sup> - Cruising along the Rhine - Eric Songhurst.

October 23<sup>th</sup> - Wharfedale Male Voice Choir (OPEN MEETING).

November 6<sup>th</sup> - Women at War—The Barnbow Story - .Jacki and Bob Lawrence.

November 20<sup>th</sup> -Old Otley Revisited Part 2 - Andrew Howard

December 4<sup>th</sup> - Seasonal Floral Decorations - Margaret Crossfield.

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

October 4<sup>th</sup>, November 1<sup>st</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

October 26<sup>th</sup> - Remnants of Otley Railways - David Clegg.

November 23<sup>rd</sup> - Jason's Experiences in America - Rev. Jason McCullagh.

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

October 19<sup>th</sup> - Jason's Experiences in America - Rev. Jason McCullagh.

November 16<sup>th</sup> - Apuglia and Basilicata - Bernard Sutcliffe.

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

9<sup>th</sup> October, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 27<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> December.

***Messy Church - 2<sup>nd</sup> December.***



**CHURCH  
MEETING**

## **CHURCH MEETING DATES FOR 2024**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January – 12noon

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February (6.30pm)  
AGM

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May – 12noon

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August – 12noon  
(followed by picnic)

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November - 12 noon

## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

This year Mike and Enid Taylor will be providing Christmas Dinner at the Church on Christmas Day. Last year was a wonderful occasion and so once again I am extending an invitation to anyone who wants to join us to do so . . . all are welcome! We have forty places available, there is no charge although you are welcome to make a donation on the day.

I am now taking bookings and you have until 15<sup>th</sup> December to sign up!

If you are not able to join us but can offer some help before Christmas Day please speak to Mike or Enid.

If you feel you want to make a donation towards this meal, please speak to me!

**Jason**

## **NEXT MESSENGER**

Material for the next edition of the Messenger should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November and will be available for collection on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2023  
If possible, please send by e-mail to:

**[messenger@otleybridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:messenger@otleybridgechurch.org.uk)**

**The Bridge United Reformed Church**  
**Bridge Street**  
**Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 1RW**  
**[www.otleybridgechurch.org.uk](http://www.otleybridgechurch.org.uk)**

**Secretary**

John Eveleigh  
Telephone 07988 802700  
[secretary@otleybridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@otleybridgechurch.org.uk)

**Treasurer**

Andrew Howard  
Telephone 01943 461989  
[andrew.howard@otleybridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:andrew.howard@otleybridgechurch.org.uk)

**Magazine Editors**

Alan and Alison Anslow  
Telephone 07956550621 (Alan)  
[messenger@otleybridgechurch.org.uk](mailto:messenger@otleybridgechurch.org.uk)

**Church Publicity and Website Editor**

Colin Whitaker  
Telephone 07941 234849

**Pastoral Elders**

Margaret Armitage - 01943 878062  
Tina Johnson - 01943 462540  
Chris Beckwith - 01943 463856  
Christine Paterson - 01943 467159

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Find us on  **Otley Bridge Church**

 **@otley\_urc**