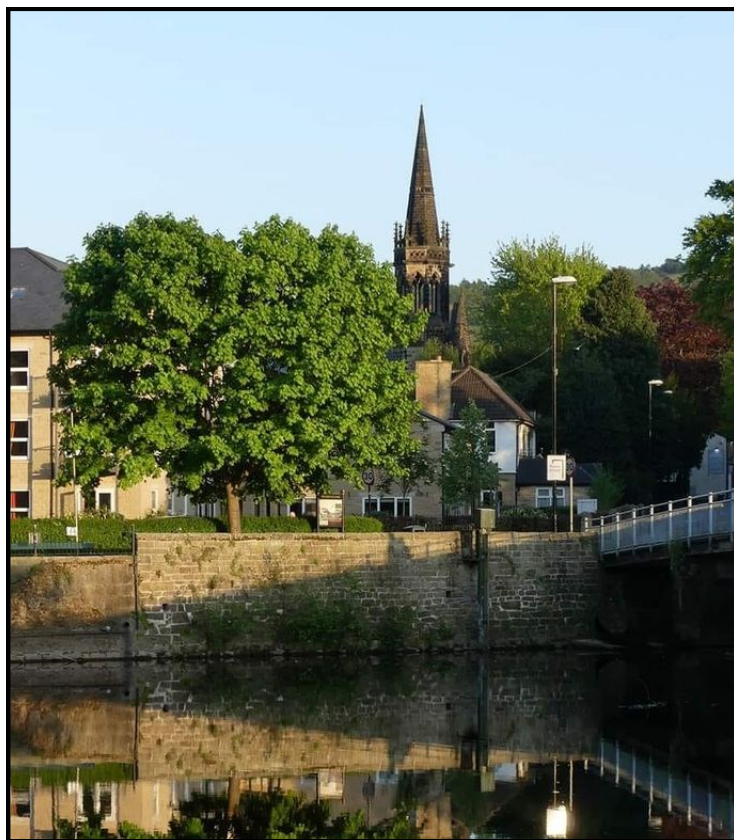


April - May 2024

Number 700

# The Messenger

The magazine of the Bridge Church, Otley



## The Bridge Church

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN OTLEY

The official Magazine of the  
Bridge United Reformed Church, Otley  
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## **Messenger letter**

Dear Friends,

Now that we have celebrated Easter the liturgical year moves into a period of transition as the followers of Jesus become the church. Between Easter and Pentecost our exploration of Scripture will follow two paths: in the Gospels we will hear stories of Christ's resurrection appearances and seek to understand what they tell us about the resurrection life to which we are called and in the Acts of the Apostles we will hear stories of how the followers of Jesus moved on from those resurrection encounters and built a new community. That community gathered in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost and God poured out the Holy Spirit upon them and the church was born.

Of course, the church that was born on that day bears little resemblance to what we see today but the fundamental principles remain the same. The church is a gathered group of people who share a common bond: we seek to love God, know Jesus more deeply and walk in his footsteps and we do this in the power of the Holy Spirit. Is that what you think the church is? On this journey from Easter to Pentecost it is worth pondering on what the church means to you as that will shape how it fits into your life.

Church is a community of human beings seeking to live a life of divine love. It is no easy calling! As such it can be both glorious and infuriating. In times of joy, we celebrate together, in times of difficulty, we support each other, in times of sadness, we comfort each other. When we have our differences, we face them but above all we worship together, seeking to keep our focus on God and on the life

that God reveals through Jesus.

What does the church mean to you? Between the two great festivals of Easter and Pentecost, it is a question worth thinking about!

With love,

Jason



## MINISTER'S REGISTER

### BAPTISM

3<sup>rd</sup> March                      Summer Rhodes

### FUNERALS

21<sup>st</sup> February    Mr Graham Halliday    Rawdon Crematorium

1<sup>st</sup> March            Mr David Cooke            The Bridge Church

19<sup>th</sup> March           Mrs Mary Haigh            The Bridge Church  
Otley Cemetery

20<sup>th</sup> March           Mrs Audrey Mason    Rawdon Crematorium

21<sup>st</sup> March           Mr Fred Lister              The Bridge Church  
Otley Cemetery

26<sup>th</sup> March           Mrs Brenda Leeming    The Bridge Church  
Otley Cemetery

8<sup>th</sup> April              Mr Tony Simon              Rawdon Crematorium

## David Cooke

*This Eulogy has been slightly abridged, was written by David himself*

I was born on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1936 in Gilgit near the Chinese border of Peshawar, N.E.India.- now Pakistan, the third of four children. For my first 9 years the family moved from posting to posting with my dad's job as legal officer with the Indian Political service. I remember living in Tonk – on the fringe of a desert, on a houseboat at Srinagar, Kashmir where of course I fell in!! and then in cities like Delhi and Calcutta.



The family returned by sea at the end of World War II and spent V.E.Day in Gibraltar – bells ringing, flags flying and guns firing. So, the family moved to a new home in Bristol. My elder brother and I started as day boys in my dad's old school Clifton College. My mother who had lived all her married life and all her childhood with servants suddenly had to cope with housekeeping, wartime rationing and 4 children all on her own. My father did not return until Indian Partition in 1947. Luckily schoolwork was no problem and was balanced by sport-rugby and boxing in particular.

My dad teamed with a neighbour who had just returned from Nigeria to buy a market garden in Jersey. Money was tight but they lived frugally and fortunately I won open scholarships to The Queens College in Oxford where I studied Engineering Science. Before University I did National Service in REME in North Germany overseeing a vehicle repair and service depot. During time off I went sightseeing in battle torn Germany.

At Oxford 8 students who lived on the same staircase, all studying different subjects, became firm friends. Camping in Europe on a shoestring budget in the long vacs was tremendous fun We kept in touch for years and later, when family had flown, we met every two years for a weekend in or around each of our homes. I enjoyed university life, gained a boxing blue and rowed for my college 8 .

Happily, I gained a first-class degree and took up a post graduate apprenticeship with English Electric.

My first project was on a hydro power station in North Wales. Company lodgings were in a Welsh speaking community where curtains twitched! My landlady would not give me a key and fines were imposed if I returned later than 11.00pm. To escape I took to hill walking and enjoyed listening to music. From Wales I moved to Liverpool to engineering design work and lived in Crosby. My landlady got used to my head being under the bonnet of ancient

vehicles. One I proudly put back together with 4 reverse gears and only 1 forward. So much for my Engineering Degree. I helped in Liverpool dockland youth clubs and learned the art of Head Butting and how to avoid it. I also played tennis and squash.

From Liverpool I moved with English Electric to Thornbury, Bradford. I lived in a company flat up the hill from Greengates and made many close friends who we often visited later in life. A sideways move took me into early computer programming and system design. In my spare time I helped at a youth club, played rugby for the company team and played tennis and squash at the Heaton Lawn Tennis Club. Here I met Tricia. We both enjoyed the 'great outdoors' and music. My dad suggested I took her on a wet week's camping to see if she could manage adversity – so I did – to North Wales – and she survived still smiling!! We married in Bradford Cathedral in February 1966 – before Lent- and so qualified for the 4<sup>th</sup> of April tax rebate cut-off. Money was scarce before a mortgage to cover on our new home in Idle. It snowed before the wedding weekend and some family were stuck in Derbyshire, Tricia's chief bridesmaid was struck down with glandular fever – a good start which seemed to uncannily repeat itself throughout our turbulent lives together.

Then we parted company – Tricia to our new home and me to complete a works course in Morecambe. We were to meet the following Friday in Manchester Station after work to drive to Liverpool for a Regimental dinner in full regalia. Sadly, my third hand red and much loved TR3 sports car blew a gasket on the wet journey south so I limped into Manchester station car park 2 hours late in a cloud of steam, to meet a new wife who thought I had deserted her. Married life has always been bumpy and colourful. We learned a lot about life.

Jonty was a year old when I moved to a better paid job with STC and bought a partially renovated house in Hatfield. Damian was born to hammering when we tacked on the garage. Poor soul, He has never enjoyed DIY- maybe that's why. I continued to play squash and we enjoyed walks through the park round Hatfield House. Work moved to Kent. The 2 hour journey each way was no fun. Opportunity came for me to join my former boss at Honeywell Computers in Lanarkshire, Scotland, and we jumped at the chance. We chose to live in Stirling, the ancient capital, but now a new University Town. I made friends playing squash at the university and together we obtained planning permission to build squash courts at a nearby tennis club. Then I became a squash coach and was co-opted onto the Stirling Sports Council. We joined the local Methodist Church and worshipped there for several years.

We loved the outdoors and explored the local hills and valleys on

foot with a toddler in tow and another in a backpack. Lochs looked inviting so I built a long 2-seater wood and canvas canoe. Our first floor flat had a huge entrance hall that easily coped with the 19ft frame. However, we moved to a doer-upper end terrace with fabulous views to Stirling Castle and Ben Lomond . The hall was smaller, so the canoe frame had to stick into the kitchen doorway to be covered in canvas. The finished product was well worth it except the keel was not quite straight, so it was difficult to keep moving in a straight line.

Sadly, Honeywell pulled out of Scotland, but they gave me enough warning to study at night to become a Chartered Secretary. When the crunch came, I trained with Deloitte's Chartered Accountants in Glasgow.

Courtesy of my brother, we spent some marvelous holidays in India and Nepal, Germany and Snowdonia. In Wales under his kindly but tough scrutiny I completed my Mountain Leadership Certificate. Short breaks for R&R in Cyprus, Greece, Tunisia, Turkey and Morocco have been fantastic. I visited Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Malaya and Borneo where my brother ran an Outward-Bound School. Later came North America and Chile. More recently our son remarried in Hong Kong so a week being guided round that amazing ex colony with Jonty and Simeone was breathtaking in more ways than one.

In the late 1970s we became hooked on Orienteering as our main family sport. Our old VW camper van, canoes on the roof, took us to club events all over England and Scotland - even the Dalby Forest near Pickering. Camping Holidays both to the Scottish Islands and the east and west coast beaches were wonderful breaks from everyday life.

After qualifying as a CA, I became treasurer of the Forth Valley Orienteers and then the Scottish Orienteering Association. We were busily involved in the biannual Scottish 6 Day events that moved around different Scottish Regions. Many foreign competitors came to join the 3000 or so Brits for the week.

Once or twice my Mountain Leadership Certificate allowed me to accompany parties of young schoolboys into the Mountains with a member of staff. One midsummers day Scotland did its usual thing - sunny bright start so boys left hats and gloves in the minibus, clouding halfway up, snow and biting winds at the top and a grey misty descent. Weather for 4 seasons in a day - and a lesson well learned.!!

I was asked to be the Hon Treasurer of the local Abbeyfield Homes for the elderly and was also co-opted onto the board of the

Aberlour Childcare Trust as its Financial Watchdog. They ran Children's Homes and family support centres in several towns – quite a responsibility. I also looked after the accounts for the Civic Trust and was elected to the Stirling Guildry. When the Stirling insulation company for whom I worked in accounts moved south, I was luckily taken on by a Glasgow Investment Company to introduce computer technology. 9 happy years were spent there until a new director changed policy. Luckily, I was able to join Stirling Council as a basic accountant that kept the wolf from the door. Boys were growing up and moving on to Uni and Tricia's mum became frailer. So, we moved house again to a lovely dormer bungalow overlooking the Field of Bannockburn and extended it to provide a Granny flat. The boys were livid as home was now 40 minutes' walk from their favourite watering hole - sobering in more ways than one.

We began to worship with other Guild Brethren at the historic Holy Rude Church near Stirling Castle. I was then asked to be church treasurer and finance officer – a complicated task with several Trusts and tied funds. This I did for 19 years with some help in later years with the treasury function. Gradually knees became more arthritic, and I had to stop running but continued till 1999 when I was the Hon Treasurer for the World Orienteering Championships in Inverness. This was a huge job with 5000 incoming competitors – but just 50 elite runners who needed good accommodation and special diets to be provided.

Spare time after retiring quickly vanished by auditing local charity and ethnic group accounts. Also, I became more involved in the visitor welcome service at our huge old church which was kept open all summer season. Famous for the coronation of the 1-year-old king James IV of Scotland- James I of England- income from visitor donations and sales kept the church maintained and heated.

My painful knees were replaced so I could no longer run. Instead, I took to the hills with the Yoyos – a group of some fifteen 70-year-olds. I completed all the Munros just before my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. In recognition of the varied voluntary work, we had both undertaken Tricia and I were given Civic awards in Stirling Castle in 2011.

Moving away from my beloved hills and so many good friends after 47 years to be nearer our sons in London was a huge wrench, but Otley neighbours and the people of the Bridge Church have been so welcoming that we felt at home very quickly. We have also been able to pick up threads with a few friends from our early married days. Memory and physical energy faded but I still enjoyed music, singing and outings to beauty spots in the gloriously varied Yorkshire countryside. It has been a life brim full of ups and downs, +s and -s but lots to be grateful for. So, I give thanks for my life and long marriage.

**PREACHING PLAN**  
**21<sup>st</sup> April – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Morning Service**

Reverend Mirella Moxon  
Jason is leading Junior Church.

**Evening Communion**

Reverend Jason McCullagh  
Acts 4. 5-12

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Reverend Alan Griffiths  
Jason is on holiday.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Reverend Jason McCullagh  
Acts 10.44-48  
John 15. 9-17

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Reverend Jason McCullagh  
Acts 1. 15-17  
John 17. 6-19

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March – The Feast of Pentecost**  
**Parade Service**

Reverend Jason McCullagh.  
Acts 2.1-12

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Trinity Sunday**

**Taste and See Service**

Reverend Jason McCullagh.  
Jonah 1

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Second Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Reverend Jason McCullagh  
1 Samuel 3. 1-20

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Mrs Helen Windsor  
Jason in preaching elsewhere.



# News of the Family

## Births

We were delighted to learn of the safe arrival of Jasper Michael Pender on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, weighing 7lb 8oz in Bath hospital. Jasper is the first baby for Abigail Finlay and Lawrence Pender, first Grandson for Alison and Dean Finlay and first Great-Grandson for Angela and Michael Rhodes. A time of great joy and pride for the whole family.

## Baptism

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2024, a baptism service was held after morning worship for Summer Rhodes. Summer is the 14-year-old daughter of Tim and Linda Rhodes and the youngest granddaughter of Angela and Michael Rhodes. She was supported by her family and friends, some of whom had travelled down from Scotland, and it was good to have them all in morning worship with us beforehand.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversaries

We have two happy couples within our church family who have recently celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversaries.

Daphne and Malcolm Wainwright were married on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 1999.

Alison and Dean Finlay were married here at the Bridge Church on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 1999.

We understand both couples enjoyed celebrating their special dates and we send our congratulations to you.

## Scouting Awards

Three of our Scouting leaders are to receive awards in recognition of the long and outstanding service which they have given and continue to give to Scouting. Iain Paterson has been awarded a Bar to go with his Silver Acorn award. Because he has attained this, he is invited to the King's Scouts St George's Day parade at Windsor Castle. Also, John Paterson and Sue Dockar are both to receive their Award of Merit.

We send congratulations to all for your well-deserved achievements.

Do please continue to pass on any items of good news you have to the Pastoral Elders, it is good to have celebratory news to share!  
Margaret Armitage.

## **GETTING TO KNOW - MOLLIE BETTIE**

### **How long have you lived in the UK, and what brought you here?**

I came to Leeds in 2008 to study a Masters degree, then stayed on at Leeds University for my PhD.

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

When Richard and I got engaged in 2011, we started looking for a church to join. We wanted to be part of a congregation, not just get married in a church where we didn't know anyone. When we visited the Bridge Church, everyone was very welcoming and friendly, and we got married a little over a year later.



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

George & Paul's baptisms. It's been lovely to see our boys welcomed into the church family—they have so many honorary aunts, uncles, and grandparents!

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

Be Thou My Vision—I love the Irish melody, and the message of asking God to guide you.

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

I'm inspired by the ways other churches have adapted to meet the needs of their community, like Shine. I'd like to see a continued emphasis on reaching out to families and young people. I'm really pleased to see that the Toddlers group and Messy Church are so well-attended.

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

I'm currently an adjunct professor at Richmond International Academic and Soccer Academy, based at Weetwood Hall. I teach courses in digital media and visual communication to undergraduates, mostly from the States. It's a small, close-knit programme and I really enjoy teaching! From 2011-2019, I taught at University of Leeds during and after my PhD.

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

I love reading—British Library Crime Classics and Georgette Heyer are current favourites. We visit a lot of English Heritage and National Trust sites, and I write them up on my travel blog & Instagram. I also enjoy running and I've done the Leeds 10k a few times now.

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

It might sound a bit boring to say Yorkshire, but it's true! I grew up loving the Brontës and James Herriot books, so Haworth and Thirsk are high on my list. York is always a lovely day out, walking on the city walls and visiting the Minster. I also love getting out into the Dales. Malham Cove is one of my favourite walks.

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

Indonesia - I have a friend from Jakarta, and Bali looks like paradise!

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

Brené Brown, Michelle Obama, and Oprah Winfrey—their books and podcasts have had a huge influence on my thinking. They are brilliant, but also seem down-to-earth.

### **Message from the Editors**

Welcome to the (not the) 700<sup>th</sup> edition of the Messenger. Andrew Howard will reveal all in his historical article!

Included is an obituary for David Cook, which he actually wrote himself - this is somewhat abridged and in slightly smaller font. To cut it any further would not do justice to such an interesting life!

There has been a lot of activity at the Bridge over the past couple of months and we have tried to reflect that in this issue and as a result we may not have done some events justice. However, it does no harm to reflect on the spectrum of events we have had. As a result some articles have had to be cut or omitted - we apologise wholeheartedly for this. But please keep your articles coming!

## **Some News form TCV Hollybush and from the Learning Disability Project who we are supporting this year.**

The Learning Disability Project Team are busy preparing for the Harrogate Spring Flower Show at the end of April.

Work has been continuing over the last few weeks. We cannot give too much away (it is a competition after all!), but we thought people might like a sneaky peek at the beautiful bench the woodwork gang have created from recycled wood.



Project members have also been busy in the polytunnel getting ready for the warmer days ahead, pictured are members weeding and tidying up the Hollyhocks they sowed from seed last year to get an early start on this seasons plantin

The Harrogate Spring Flower Show takes place at the Great Yorkshire Showground from Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

## **Blue Plaque celebrating Joseph Whitwell to be unveiled at Hollybush.**

We're very proud of the long and varied history of the Hollybush site, most notably as the former home and farm of Joseph Whitwell, gentleman rhubarb farmer, reported by the Royal Agricultural Society in the 1870s to be the largest grower of forced rhubarb in any single location. Over the last few months we've been working with Leeds Civic Trust and are delighted to be able to announce that on Wednesday 5th June we'll be unveiling a blue plaque at Hollybush, dedicated to Joseph Whitwell. We'll be combining the unveiling with our annual volunteer celebration, to recognise all the hard work that continues to take place at Hollybush!

# Food and Friends

We continue to enjoy our monthly meetings with great fellowship and lovely food provided by our volunteers and of course the speakers bringing very interesting topics.

In February, Martin Johnson spoke about Children's favourites- reminding us about the gentle music we used to enjoy before 'Heavy Metal and Garage Music' assaulted our ears as teenagers!

In March, Robert Stewart brought a talk about 'early interest in crime', a resume of his career as a solicitor and some of the cases he had dealt with.

Both these events were very much enjoyed by all our members and volunteers.

We still have capacity so if anyone would like to join us please speak to me at Church or give me ring on either 01943 512194 or 07368 819972.



## Enid Taylor

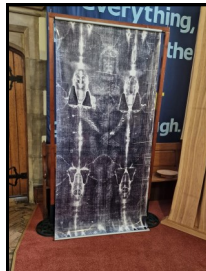
### Shroud of Turin Exhibition

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

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



Admission Free  
Discretionary donation if desired  
Refreshments available



# New Members

During our morning service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March we were pleased to receive Maureen Stringer into membership of the Bridge Church.

Pictured with Maureen is our Minister, Rev Jason McCullagh and our Church Secretary, John Eveleigh.



## ***Prayer for Zimbabwe partners***

Dear God,

We pray for the resilience of our partners who continue to work in a political and economically challenging environment, that they may be strengthened to stand for the truth despite threats to their lives and the existence of their organisations.

We also remember beneficiaries of the Christian Aid partners' work in Zimbabwe, that they may be receptive of the education and support offered to them, especially those living in poverty – so that they may escape the trap of poverty and become self-reliant.

We pray for the safety of the Christian Aid partners as they do their work in Zimbabwe during this election year and for peace during general elections. We ask God for wisdom, so that our partners can work in continued shrinking civic space. We pray that our partners continue to strengthen their benevolence and solidarity with people living in poverty. We pray for resources to take the work forward.

Amen



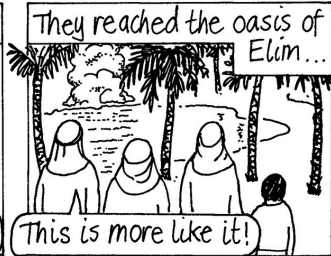
# Young Peoples Pages

## Bible Bite

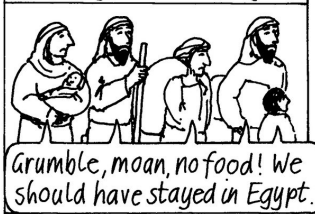
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapters 15: 22 to 19: 2

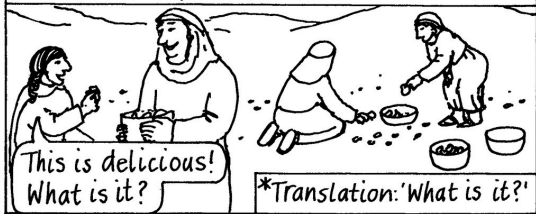
God had rescued the Hebrews from Egypt, and was leading them to their new land. But after 3 days....



but they couldn't stay...



God gave them quails, and manna\* to eat as bread.



At Rephidim, God gave them more water to drink.



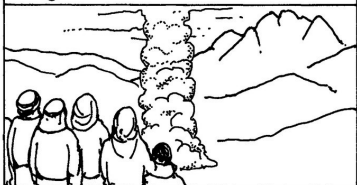
They were attacked there by the Amalekites, but

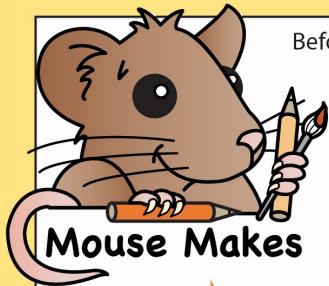


Moses' father-in-law brought his family to him...



After two months of travelling they arrived at Sinai mountain.





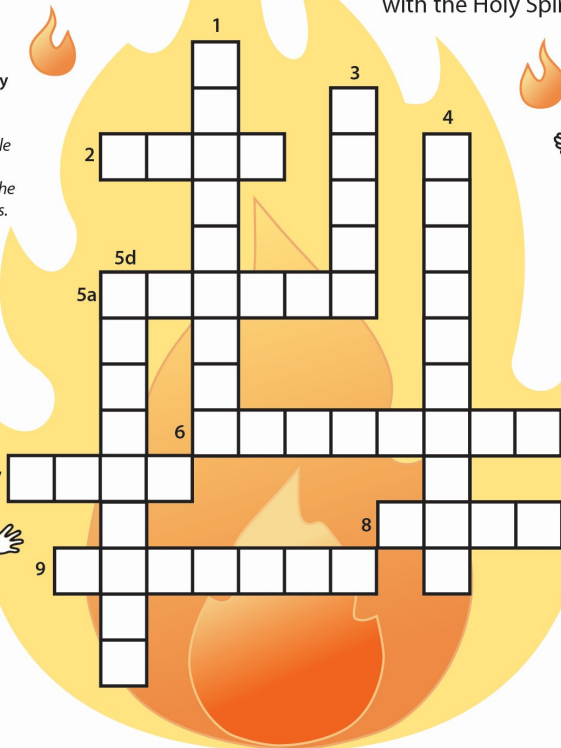
Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples  
 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit  
 has come upon you, and you will be my  
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea  
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...

...When the day of Pentecost arrived,  
 they were all together in one place,  
 and they were all filled  
 with the Holy Spirit."



READ the story  
 of Pentecost  
 in Acts 1-2  
 Look up the Bible  
 verses to find  
 the answers to the  
 crossword clues.

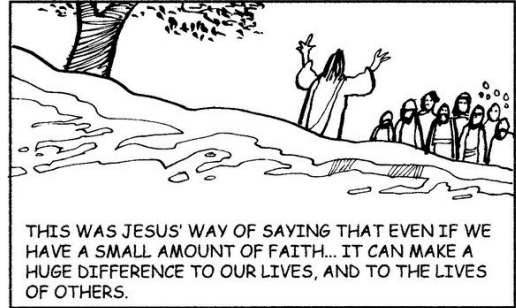
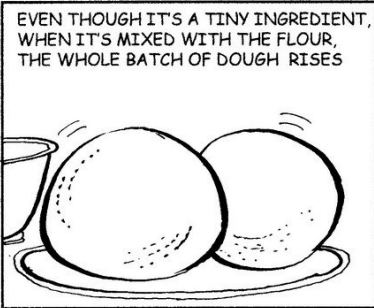
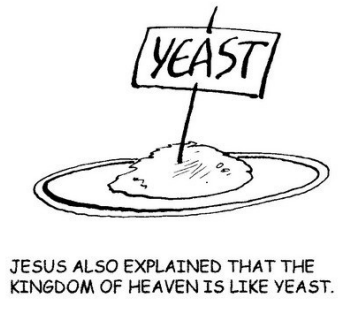
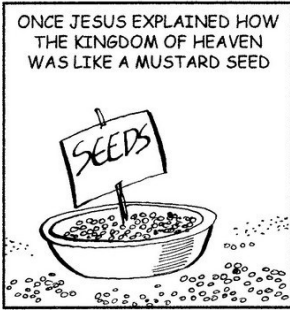
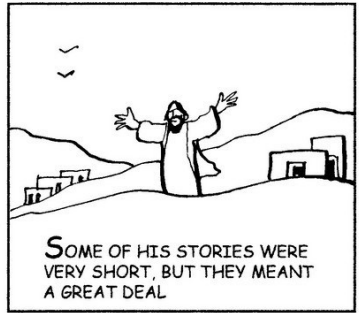
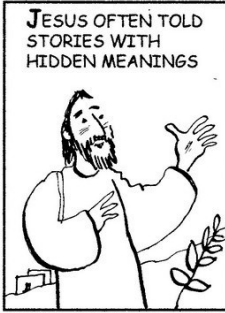
How many  
 words can you  
 make from  
 the letters of:  
 DAY OF  
 PENTECOST

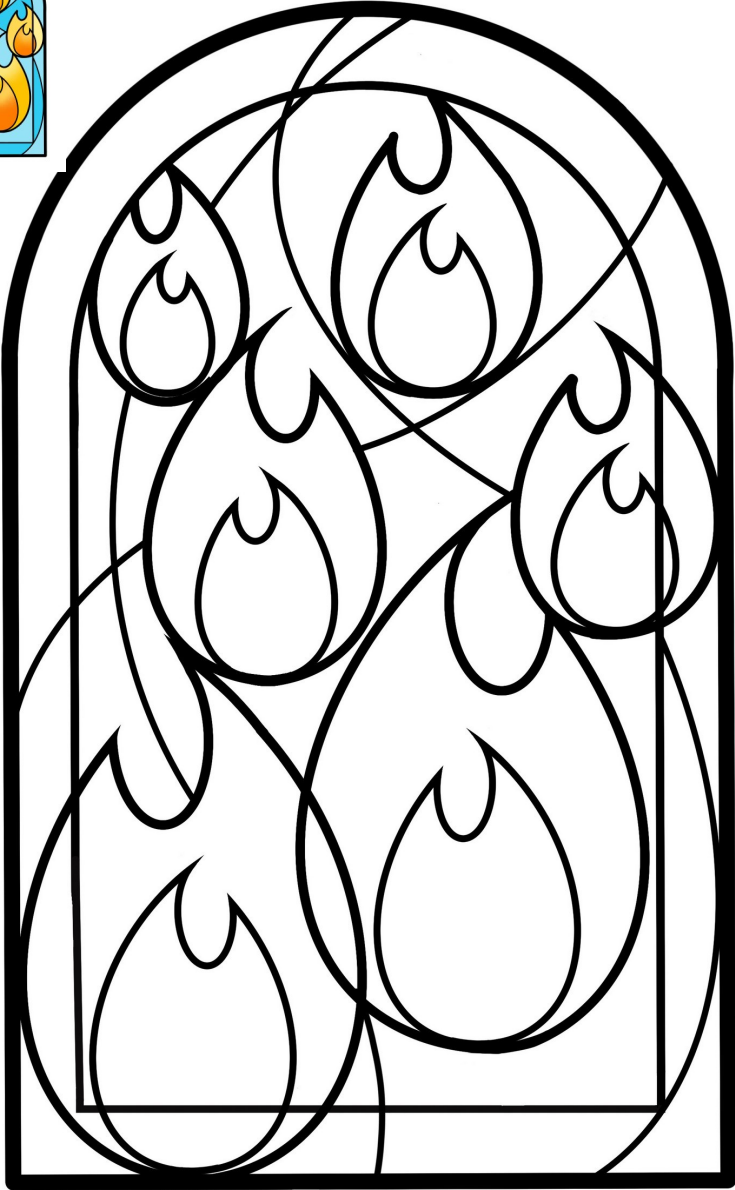


- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? *Acts 1:12*
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? *Acts 2:3*
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? *Acts 2:14*
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? *Acts 2:4*
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? *Acts 1:14*
- 5d Which special day was it? *Acts 2:1*
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*
- 7 Who had prophesied this? *Acts 2:16*
- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? *Acts 2:2*
- 9 What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*



# The tale of the Mustard Seed & the tale of the Yeast





## **MRS BRENDA LEEMING**

*This is the eulogy which Jason read at Brenda's funeral.  
It was written by Brenda's daughter, Julie.*

Florence Brenda Leeming. My beautiful, lovely mum who liked to be known as Brenda, she hated Florence. I should be reading this myself, but I don't think I would get to the end, so Jason is very kindly reading it for me.

Mum was born on 26th July 1938 to Horace and Doris Dibb who lived at Midge Hall Farm low Snowden, Low Snowden, they were farmers, and this is where her love of farming and sheep started. Mum was the eldest of three children, she was soon joined by brother Colin and little sister Doreen.



Over her childhood years she attended Askwith Primary School and worked alongside her dad in the fields, hay making, tending sheep, and milking cows - a time she used to look back on fondly. She had quite a few uncles, aunts, and cousins in the Askwith area, not to mention friends, all of whom were involved in farming, this then led to her and some friends becoming founder members of the Askwith Young Farmers Club where she followed her love of sheep by showing at local Agricultural Shows. Mum eventually found work away from the farm and became wages clerk at Dawson, Payne, and Elliot's in Otley.

Together with all her friends she used to enjoy dances in local village halls and whist drives where she eventually met, and married, Keith Daniel. Dad was also involved in farming, and together they succeeded in their ambition to have their own smallholding and eventually bought Quarry House Farm at Old Pool Bank. Then along came two children, Nigel in 1964 and me in 1966 on my mum's birthday, and we spent every year together after that celebrating our birthday.

Mum took to showing bantams with Nigel, I was mortified as a teenager, she used to bath them in the kitchen and blow dry their feathers while sat on the dining room chairs, they both did rather well, travelling miles to show them.

Over the years mum worked on the farm rearing calves, piglets, and turkeys for Christmas, but as farming was a difficult trade to be in, she eventually had to look for work away from the farm. She took a job at Bramhope school working in the kitchens. Nigel and I went to Bramhope school, so she was never very far away from us. From there she found a job working for Gardiner Merchants at AE Turbines near the airport where she was in charge of the works canteen.

She was a very proud mum when I married David and Nigel married Melita. Unfortunately, things didn't work out with dad, but she found happiness again with Dennis whom she married in 1994 and they moved into 104 West Busk Lane. Dennis was a keen golfer and introduced mum to the sport and this is where her love of golf started, she must have played just about every course in the UK, not to mention a lot abroad as well.

First, she joined Braken Ghyll then Oakdale in Harrogate and finally moved to Otley where she thoroughly enjoyed playing for leisure but was also very serious about competitions. Now I don't know a lot about golf but from what I can gather she was rather good, what I do know is that she absolutely loved it and her friends from both Oakdale and Otley.

Her family had grown by now as Julie and David had a daughter Samantha and Nigel and Melita had a son Adam, she was a wonderful grandma taking them on trips to the seaside, having them round for tea and even collecting Samantha from school every week.

Sadly, we lost Nigel in 2017, mum was devastated, but she and Dennis were regular worshippers at this very church, together with them, Dennis, David, Samantha and I and her wonderful friends at the golf club she found the strength to pick herself up, dust herself down and get on with life.

In 2022, her wonderful smile was set on her face all day, her darling granddaughter got married to Johnny, she was so proud she was fit to burst, then the icing on the cake, 2023 brought her treasured great grandson Ralph whom she absolutely adored.

However, sadness was to come again for mum when she

lost Dennis in April 2023, having looked after him selflessly for almost four years. Again, she picked herself up and just got on with it, immersing herself in her golf, art classes which she also loved and going out on trips and for lunch with me, David, Samantha, Johnny, and Ralph. Mum was an amazing lady, she was kind, loyal and a wonderful loving mum, mother-in-law, grandma, and granny. We are all totally blessed to have had her in our lives, we will miss her zest for life and joyous nature, and I was very proud to call her my Mum.

Mum left a message, it reads: Many thanks for all the happiness and love you have given me over the years. Love to you all, Brenda.

*Brenda Leeming died on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 aged 85 years. Her funeral service was held at The Bridge Church on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024.*

**The Bridge Church Story**  
Two Hundred Years of Service & Christian  
Witness in Otley 1821 - 2021

The United Reformed Church  
By Andrew Howard

**AVAILABLE NOW**  
**PRICE ~~£8~~ £5**  
from Andrew Howard

There are still copies available of the book written by Andrew Howard to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bridge Church.

It is well worth a read, and is now reduced in price from £9 to £5. A bargain!

If you would like to purchase a copy please contact Andrew.

## MESSENGER 700

In the last 'Messenger' the editors indicated that this edition would be number 700 and perhaps we could make this a bumper edition to celebrate 700. As I am the Church Archivist, I thought that I would have a look back at its origins.

When I read that it would be 700, I had to have a little smile to myself, because previous editors have not always been very careful with the numbering! Between June 1958 and March 1959, they accidentally re-used the numbers of the magazines from July 1957 to May 1958. Therefore, this edition of the Messenger is really the 711<sup>th</sup> edition, but never mind, let's celebrate anyway!

The very first edition of a church magazine for what is now the Bridge Church (then Salem Chapel) was published in 1892 and was named 'The Congregational Magazine & Home Messenger'. This comprised two parts – in the centre a national publication called The Congregational Magazine and a few pages (usually 4 pages) of local news, printed locally by either Walker's or Sinclair's, on the outside. The Home Messenger pages contained advertisements for local businesses.

This magazine continued in this format until 1938 when it ceased publication. During the Second World War there was an occasional 'newsheet', but nothing that resembled a magazine. It wasn't until 1950 when the Rev. S Leon Cook began his ministry that the idea of a magazine reared its head again. Leon called it a 'Monthly News Letter' and in a nod to the previous magazine he named it the 'Salem Messenger'. Although the church was now known as 'Otley Congregational Church', the Salem name hadn't quite been consigned to history. He gave it a number – No. 1, the first of the current number series. This was professionally printed at Printerdom on Kirkgate – home of Walkers Printing Works. It ran to four pages. It was published in November 1950 and cost 1d to readers. The front page had a photo of the church and a list of services and meetings (what was the Men's Fireside Circle which met each Thursday evening?). The next two pages were the minister's letter and the final page consisted of 'News Items'. It was all put together by Mr Cook.

Otley

# Congregational Church

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## SALEM MESSENGER



*Minister* : Rev. S. LEON COOK  
Alveston,  
Otley.  
Tel. 3058.

*Secretary* : Mr. F. ROUTH,  
28, Cambridge St.,  
Otley.  
Tel. 2171.

*Treasurer* : Mr. J. C. DACRE,  
High Dykes,  
Otley.  
Tel. 2047.

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**Editor** : REV. S. LEON COOK.

NOVEMBER, 1950.

Price 1d.

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### SERVICES AND MEETINGS

- SUNDAY.** Divine Worship at 10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Holy Communion the First Sunday morning each month.  
Sunday School at 2.15 p.m.  
Fellowship Meeting at 7.30 p.m.
- MONDAY.** Mothers' Meeting at 2.45 p.m.
- TUESDAY.** Fellowship of Young Congregationalists at 7.30 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY.** Choir Rehearsals at 7.30 p.m.
- THURSDAY.** Men's Fireside Circle at 7.30 p.m.
- FRIDAY.** F.Y.C. Social Night at 7.30 p.m.
- FRIDAY.** Badminton Club Night.
- SATURDAY.** F.Y.C. Badminton, at 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Church Meetings are held on the Wednesday in the week before the first Sunday in the month, 7.30 p.m.

What did Mr Cook have to say to a church which at the time was at a low ebb? He is keen to thank everyone for the welcome he received on coming to Otley and indicated that he was doing his best to get round to meeting everybody. He was enthusiastic about youth work and the potential that existed. He thanked Mr Alan Wood and Mr Eric Mawson for their help with this (the fathers of two of our current members, Daphne Potter and Anne Wigglesworth). He was pleased to see so many men involved in the church life, and he looked forward to working with the Scouts, Sunday School, and Choir in addition to other groups. He bemoaned the lack of a printed street map of Otley!

The Messenger continued in this format for a few issues but somewhere between numbers 4 and 7 (5 & 6 are missing) it changed format. I assume they decided it was too costly to have it printed professionally and therefore the changed format was typed onto stencils and printed on a duplicator. The name 'Salem' also disappeared. It maintained this format until the fire of 1993 when the duplicator was lost under gallons of water pumped onto the building to extinguish the fire! The fire wasn't going to stop us producing the magazine, so the Messenger reappeared as A5 size and produced on a photocopier. Initially the printing was outsourced until the church purchased its own photocopier. Of course, there was nowhere to put the photocopier until the rebuilding was complete, so it took up residence in the then empty manse (we were in vacancy), and the manse dining room became an office.

Apart from the first ten years of the magazine (1892-1901) we have copies of most of the magazines – there are a few missing, but the majority of the magazines still exist in the archive. These have all been scanned and they all exist in a digital archive, so ensuring their future even if the paper copies decay and fade away. A lot of effort goes into producing the magazines and over the last 132 years we are extremely grateful to editors, ministers, contributors, typists, printers and distributors (in the old days) for all their tireless work in keeping the congregation informed.

I look forward to celebrating the 811<sup>th</sup> edition of the current Messenger!

**Andrew Howard**



# Photos of some of the events that have happened at the Bridge Church over the past two months:

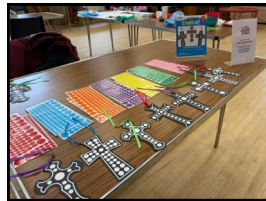
These include; Faith, Alive and Active, Mothers Day Afternoon Tea, The Shine Appeal, Messy Church, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.



**Easter Sunday**



**Palm Sunday**



**Messy Church**



**Shine Appeal**



**Mother's Day Afternoon Tea**



**Faith,  
Alive  
and  
Active**

# Women's Meeting

**On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** we had Tracey Blackwell presenting her talk in slides - 'A Dry Stone Wallers Odyssey'. Tracy was born in Surrey and started her working life in the theatre world, working as a stage door keeper at the 'Old Vic'. In 1989 she moved to Wharfedale, then she acquired an allotment.

In 2000, when she did a training weekend on Dry Stone Walling, her whole world changed! She travelled to many countries to train others to build monuments, etc. She went to France in 2006, Italy in 2009, then Mallorca where they dry stone wall differently; they import the stone and interlock them. Tracey spent two weeks at Balmoral, Scotland when she worked with massive granite blocks. There are Cairns built for each national event. The largest commemorates Prince Albert!

In 2012 she went to Ontario, Canada where they built an amazing stable now used for weddings, etc. It took a team of six and required two visits. She taught offenders (six to eight at a time) over a two year period on weekends.

Now after a major spinal operation due to lifting stones that were really too heavy for her, Tracey enjoys gardening and playing the ukulele! It was a really interesting afternoon enjoyed by everyone.

**On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February** we had a very interesting talk with slides by Katie Burnett on the opening of Courtyard Planters almost 19 years ago.

Katie was born in Otley and went to university in Canterbury; however, eventually Otley started calling and she returned! When their house in the courtyard was being renovated she and her husband, Tom, began 'Courtyard Planters'.

She did a correspondence course on gardening, and they now grow tens of thousands of plants a year at their fairly newly renovated nursery, which was originally stables; it took lots of hard work to make it a viable place. It is based near the Chevin, and they grow and sell cut flowers from March/April onwards on Market Days at the shop on

Westgate. Plants are their main source of income, they do delivery and also mail order.

A wonderful afternoon, brightened up by slides of flowers, etc on a drizzly day!

**On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February** we were entertained by Lindsey Hurst in 'Making Music'. Lindsey opened the meeting with her choice of hymn and a prayer.

She says that singing is good for you and that everyone can sing!! You can make music by hitting things (drums, xylophones, etc), blowing things (trumpets, recorders etc.).

We were shown all the different types of recorder and then onto the clarinet and oboe. The string section followed and Lindsey played classical guitar and sang for us.

Explaining that the piano is a percussion instrument, she finally played the piano and sang 'Jerusalem', a fitting end to our musical afternoon. This was followed by birthday celebrations, tea and biscuits.

**On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March**, it was our Annual General Meeting. We started our meeting with the usual hymn and prayer, followed by birthdays! Sylvia gave her secretary's report, followed by Carol with the treasurer's report.

We were then treated to tea and delicious homemade cakes. We then had time to chat and discuss the past year and look forward to the year ahead.

**On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March**, we had Jason to speak to us on his 'Sabbatical Highlights 2022'. It should have been in 2020, but of course Covid put paid to that! It was a very frank story of his time away, when he had question marks about being in the ministry. He spent a couple of days here and there visiting friends and family covering much of the country. A particular highlight was Osborne House on the Isle of Wight and eventually the Isle of Iona. He travelled by car, boat and train, encountering problems with the lateness of some transport - it was not always an easy time!

Eventually whilst on Iona, Jason came to the view that the ministry was still for him, which is wonderful for us as he is our president. I know that this insight into Jason's journey was very well received, an enjoyable and very revealing talk.

**Pam Bradley**

**RE-CYCLE YOUR BATTERIES  
AT THE BRIDGE CHURCH**

Thank you to everyone who has been recycling their used batteries through the Bridge Church.

We recently had our first emptying of the receptacle in the foyer - so we're ready to go again!



Please continue to add your used batteries to the container.

Hilary Eveleigh

**Prayer  
Breakfast**



**OTLEY CHURCHES  
TOGETHER**

**PRAYER BREAKFASTS**

*The next Prayer  
Breakfasts will be held  
as follows;*

**SATURDAY 4th MAY  
- Otley Methodist  
Church**

**SATURDAY 1st JUNE  
- venue to be  
advised**

*Prayer Breakfasts meet  
from 8am - 9.15am*

*Food and fellowship*

## **NEWS FROM OUR MISSION & CARE GROUP**

The Bridge Church is part of a wider group of churches in a Mission & Care Group. Each quarter the churches provide an update for the Synod Pastoral Committee, which details their work and mission. The following is a précis of the reports provided by each of the churches.

Please pray for all of the churches in our Mission & Care group.

### **BILTON GRANGE URC – HARROGATE**

- Their Minister, Rev Alan Crump retired in February
- Held a recent 'Mission Intentions' meeting to determine their mission in their setting.
- Started two new groups – to meet a need in their community one for children with disabilities and special needs and one Dads and their children.
- They received new members into their church in February.



### **SALEM URC – BURLEY-IN-WHARFEDALE**

- Experiencing some problems with their building (water leak).
- Had some good, well attended events over Christmas – including 'Carols and Cake'
- Monthly prayer group has started
- Several social events planned throughout the year.
- They host a regular 'meet and eat' session for people in the village to attend.



### **DACRE URC**

- Continues to serve the small Nidderdale village.
- Rev John Belderson, who was their Minister during the 1990's died recently; he had been in membership at Dacre. His notable works of art included the 'stained glass' effect windows in the chapel.



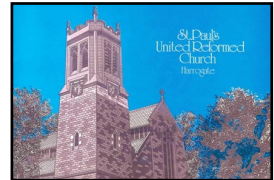
## **KNARESBOROUGH URC**

- Their Minister, Rev Alan Crump retired in February
- Working with Bilton Grange URC, they are hosting a 'Walk through the Bible' event.
- They have been exploring what their mission will look like in the future



## **ST. PAUL'S URC, HARROGATE**

- After a 3 year interregnum they are delighted to have a new minister, Rev Joe Amoah will be inducted in the summer
- They are working positively with their neighbours at West Park URC, and held joint lunches throughout Lent
- They have re-established their Bible Study groups
- They host a monthly youth club.



## **WEST PARK URC, HARROGATE**

- West Park organised the Mission & Care Group Christmas meal – which was enjoyed by 64 people!
- Joint work with their neighbours at St Paul's is going well with a number of joint services and activities held.
- Their building is hosting a number of significant exhibitions, and is getting a reputation for this in the town.



## **ST COLUMBA'S URC, YORK**

- Currently experiencing 'boiler' problems which has affected their heating (and so they have been meeting in the church hall for worship)
- Had a successful Advent and Christmas period, with usual services and food featured – 'Friday Feast' and a Christmas dinner!
- They have a regular Food and Fellowship meal.



## CHURCH DIARY - APRIL—MAY 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***

April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Changes in journalism over the years - Mark Dexter

May 13<sup>th</sup> - British Heart Foundation - Sian Dixon

June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Setting up schools in rural South Africa - Doreen Hodgson

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

May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

April 23<sup>th</sup> - Name that Tune - Brian Sutcliffe.

May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Aspects of China - Jackie and Gordon Justham.

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

April 18<sup>th</sup> - Stained Glass - Ian Tomlinson.

May 16<sup>th</sup> - Bowls evening.

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

22<sup>nd</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> June

***Messy Church - 22<sup>nd</sup> June.***

Material for the next edition of the Messenger should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> September and will be available for collection on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2023  
If possible, please send by e-mail to:

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