

August - September 2023

Number 696

# 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)

Dear Friends of the Bridge Church,

I want to take a moment to thank you for your hospitality, kindness, and warm welcome to Otley. Clare and I have had a wonderful time worshipping, conversing and enjoying a cup of coffee with you. Our whole family felt so warmly received at the luncheon you prepared. They loved meeting so many of you, and we have loved Yorkshire -and Otley in particular.

It was such a joy to be in worship with you, and I'm grateful for your flexibility! Many of you said you enjoyed "choosing the opening hymn", and sharing your joys and concerns. It was a gift to sing, pray and proclaim the good news with you. Bridge Church felt like a home away from home. I felt comfortable here the moment John and Chris greeted us at the manse upon our arrival. You are a special community.

Clare and I have loved exploring Yorkshire. Whether shopping or enjoying a coffee or pork pie in Otley, hiking up the Chevin, enjoying Shakespeare at Bolton Abbey, walking the Moors at the Brontë home-and, of course, sharing in the praise of God with you- we have simply been delighted by our time in Otley. You are a loving and faithful congregation and being with you has been our pleasure and joy.

The 14th-century mystic, Meister Eckhart, once wrote that, "if the only prayer you ever say is, thank you, that will suffice with God."

So, thank you. Thank you for your warm Yorkshire

hospitality, your willingness to try a few new things in worship, and for making us feel so warmly welcomed. We take our leave, as grateful people, and hope to see you again.

Blessings,

Rich and Clare



**PREACHING PLAN**  
**13<sup>th</sup> August – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August**

Reverend Mirella Moxon - followed by Church Meeting and Picnic.

Jason is on chaplaincy duty in New York.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August**

Reverend Mirella Moxon

Jason is on holiday in Chicago.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August**

Service conducted by Helen Windsor

Jason is on holiday in Chicago

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Reverend Jason McCullagh

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

Reverend Jason McCullagh

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

Service conducted by John Eveleigh

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September—Harvest Festival**

Reverend Jason McCullagh

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Reverend Samantha Sheehan

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

Reverend Jason McCullagh

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

**Morning Service**

Reverend Mirella Moxon

Jason is leading Junior Church.

**Evening Communion**

Reverend Jason McCullagh

# News of the Family

## **Golden Wedding Anniversary**

Congratulations go to our good friend Rev Alan Griffith and his wife Isabel as they celebrate 50 years of marriage. Alan and Isabel were married in Staines on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1973. We hope you both enjoy celebrating your special anniversary with your family.

## **Uniformed Organisation Awards**

Many congratulations go to Les Marsden, Richard Paterson and Paul Howard who have all received the Award of Merit from the Scout Association. This has been awarded for distinguished service over many years, so thoroughly well deserved!

We were also very pleased to learn that four of our Brownies have worked for and attained their Silver Award badge. This is the first time that a Silver Award has been achieved by one of our Brownies from the Otley 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> pack, so to have four girls who have been presented with it is quite special. We send our congratulations to the four Brownies and wish them well as they now work towards their Gold Award.

## **Education News**

Congratulations go to Emily Anslow who has successfully graduated with a BSc Honours degree in Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Wellbeing from Edge Hill University. We wish you well Emily in whatever you do next.

Congratulations also to Noah Dockar who will be Head Boy at Prince Henry's Grammar School from September. Part of Noah's selection process included being interviewed by the Heads of School, making a speech in front of assembly, and undertaking enterprise tasks. Some of his duties as Head Boy will be to organise the School Prom, make speeches at Open Day, run the School Council and be involved in fund raising for the school charity. He is certainly going to be in for a busy year! We wish you the very best of luck.

We hope all our young people enjoy their summer holidays and we wish you well as you start your new academic year in September.

**Margaret Armitage**



Dear Friends

On behalf of the Dockar family, I would like to say a very big thank you for all the support and prayers they have received whilst Jack has not been well, it has all been very much appreciated by all the family.

Thank you

**Susan Dockar**

Dear Friends

Through the Messenger I would like to say a big thank you for prayers, cards and flowers and to all those who helped in so many ways when Frank was ill. It's been a source of strength to me and my family.

God Bless you all,

**Margaret Bradley**

Dear Friends

Isabel and I thank you all at the Bridge Church for the beautiful display of flowers sent to us on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary. It was lovely surprise and we feel greatly blessed with so many friends, and for reaching the half century!

Love and best wishes

**Alan and Isabel Griffith**

Dear Friends

Many thanks for the flowers you sent me after church on 6<sup>th</sup> August. I must have been in a deep sleep as I did not hear the bell!

I am now at home after surgery with lots of family and neighbours practical support.

God bless and many thanks again.

**Diana Davies**

### **A Franciscan Blessing**

May God bless us with restless discomfort  
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,  
that we may truly live, from deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger  
at injustice, oppression, and the exploitation of God's  
creation,  
that we may work together for justice, peace and integrity.

May God bless us with tears  
to shed for all who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and loss,  
that we may reach out our hands to comfort them  
and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness  
to believe that we can make a difference in this world,  
that we can do what others claim cannot be done  
and live in kinship with all our fellow-creatures.

Lord, hear our cry as we raise our voices in compassion and  
for the sake of justice.  
Bless the decision-makers with wisdom, insight and courage.  
And may your will be done. Amen.

This prayer was submitted by Malcolm Wainwright.

## **HARVEST SUPPER AND CEILIDH**

Make a date in your diary for the annual Harvest Supper on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September starting at 7:00pm.

This year we are having the Capstick Ceilidh Band who will lead us through the evening and the supper will be sausages and mash (veggie option available by prior request) and dessert.

Admission is by donation on the night so that no one needs to feel excluded. We are suggesting £8.00 per person which will cover costs and allow us to make a donation to the church charity – you may of course pay more if you would like to.

Ceilidhs, or Barn Dances, are a fantastic way to bring people together in a relaxed and sociable setting. The Capstick Ceilidh Band play an exciting and wide range of folk music from across the British Isles, Ireland and America and provide a caller to explain all the dances.

Here are a selection of popular dance sets which they regularly include in their ceilidhs. All the dances are carefully explained by the caller and are great fun for everybody to

Blaydon Races	Foula Reel
Bridge of Athlone	Galopede
Circassian Circle	Gay Gordons
Circle Waltz	Lucky 7
Coming Round the Mountain	Saint Bernard's Waltz
Cumberland Square Eight	Strip the Willow
Dashing White Sargeant	Virginia Reel
Eight-some Reel	Winster Gallop

# Harvest Supper and Ceilidh

**Saturday 23rd September  
at 7:00pm**

**Dancing, food ..... and more dancing!  
You are welcome to bring your own drinks!**

**For catering purposes,  
please sign up on the list  
in the transept from mid-  
August if you will be  
coming along**

**Supper will be  
Sausages and Mash  
(veggie option available by  
prior request)  
and dessert**

**Admission by donation on the night, so that no one is excluded.  
We suggest that £8 per person would cover the cost and allow  
us to make a donation to the church charity**



## Women's Meeting

The last meeting of the session in June ended on a high note, when we were pleased to welcome the Church's own Singing for Fun choir, under the leadership of Anne Wigglesworth.

The audience enjoyed the varied programme of songs, interspersed with humorous readings by Chris; poetry by Jennifer and Geoff, and a soothing piano solo by Malcolm.

There was technical assistance from Colin, but Anne also moved competently from conducting to playing the piano when required. We do extend our sincere thanks, and hope for a repetition next year! Finally, we all enjoyed cream cake and strawberries.

The next session for Women's Meeting will begin on 11th September, when Jason will conduct our opening service, followed by a fortnightly programme.


**Sylvia Sutcliffe**

### **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 power to our witness  
Help our Church grow in numbers,  
In spiritual commitment to you,  
And in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# Young Peoples Pages



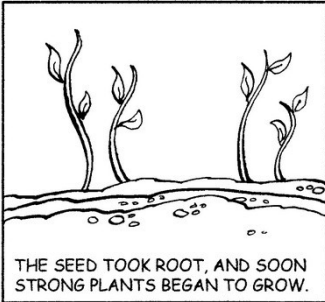
The tale of  
the  
Wheat  
and the  
Weeds



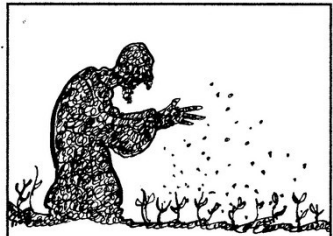
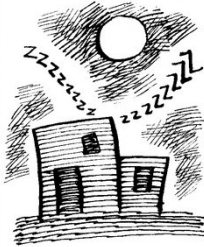
**JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS**



ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO  
SOWED SEED IN HIS FIELD.

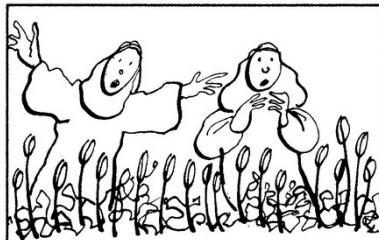
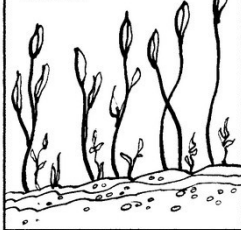


BUT ONE NIGHT, WHEN  
EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP...



... AN ENEMY OF THE MAN, CREPT  
INTO THE FIELD, AND SOWED  
SEEDS AMONGST THE WHEAT.

AS THE WHEAT BEGAN  
TO GROW, SO DID THE  
WEEDS.

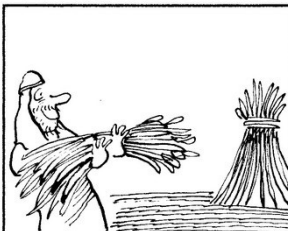


WHEN THE SERVANTS SAW THE WEEDS  
THEY SUGGESTED RIPPING THEM OUT.

NO, LET'S LEAVE THEM  
UNTIL HARVEST TIME!



IF YOU PULL THEM UP NOW,  
YOU MIGHT KILL THE WHEAT  
TOO. WE'LL SORT THEM OUT AT  
HARVEST.



WHEN THE WHEAT WAS  
READY, IT WAS HARVESTED  
INTO HUGE BUNDLES.

BUT THE WEEDS WERE  
BURNED IN A LARGE FIRE.



THE PARABLE TELLS US THAT  
ALTHOUGH WE LIVE  
ALONGSIDE BADNESS, WE  
CAN KEEP SEPARATE FROM IT.

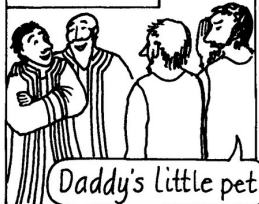
# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Genesis chs. 37:1-36, 39:1-20

Jacob had 12 sons but his favourite was Joseph, his beloved Rachel's son. He even gave him special clothes to wear...

His older brothers hated him.



Daddy's little pet

I dreamed the sun, moon and eleven stars bowed down to my star



Really?

He means us, doesn't he?



Not if we can help it!

Joseph visited his brothers as they looked after their flocks of sheep.



Let's kill him!

Put him down this dry well for now



Then some Ishmaelite slave traders came by



We'll sell Joseph instead!

What will we tell Father?



Put some goat blood on Joseph's fancy coat.

So they tricked Jacob

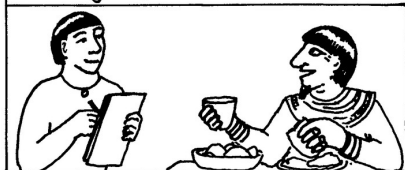


An animal must have killed him.

In Egypt, Joseph was sold to Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's Royal Guard



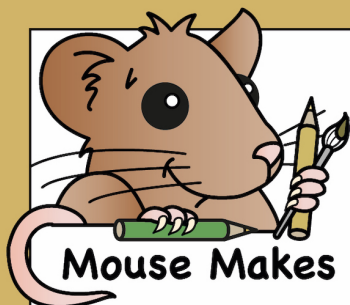
Potiphar was very pleased with Joseph's hard work and put him in charge of his household, but..



Potiphar's wife made up bad stories about Joseph..

so Joseph was put in prison





## Mouse Makes

Who sows the good seed?

Matthew 13:37

What does the field represent?

the \_\_\_\_\_  
and who is the good seed?

The people of the \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 13:38



### READ

the parable in

Matthew 13 v24-30,  
and v36-43



At harvest time the weeds  
are gathered, bundled then

but the wheat is stored  
in the \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 13:30



Who sows the weeds?

The \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the harvesters?

The \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 13:39



"He who has  
ears, let him  
\_\_\_\_\_"

Matthew 13:43

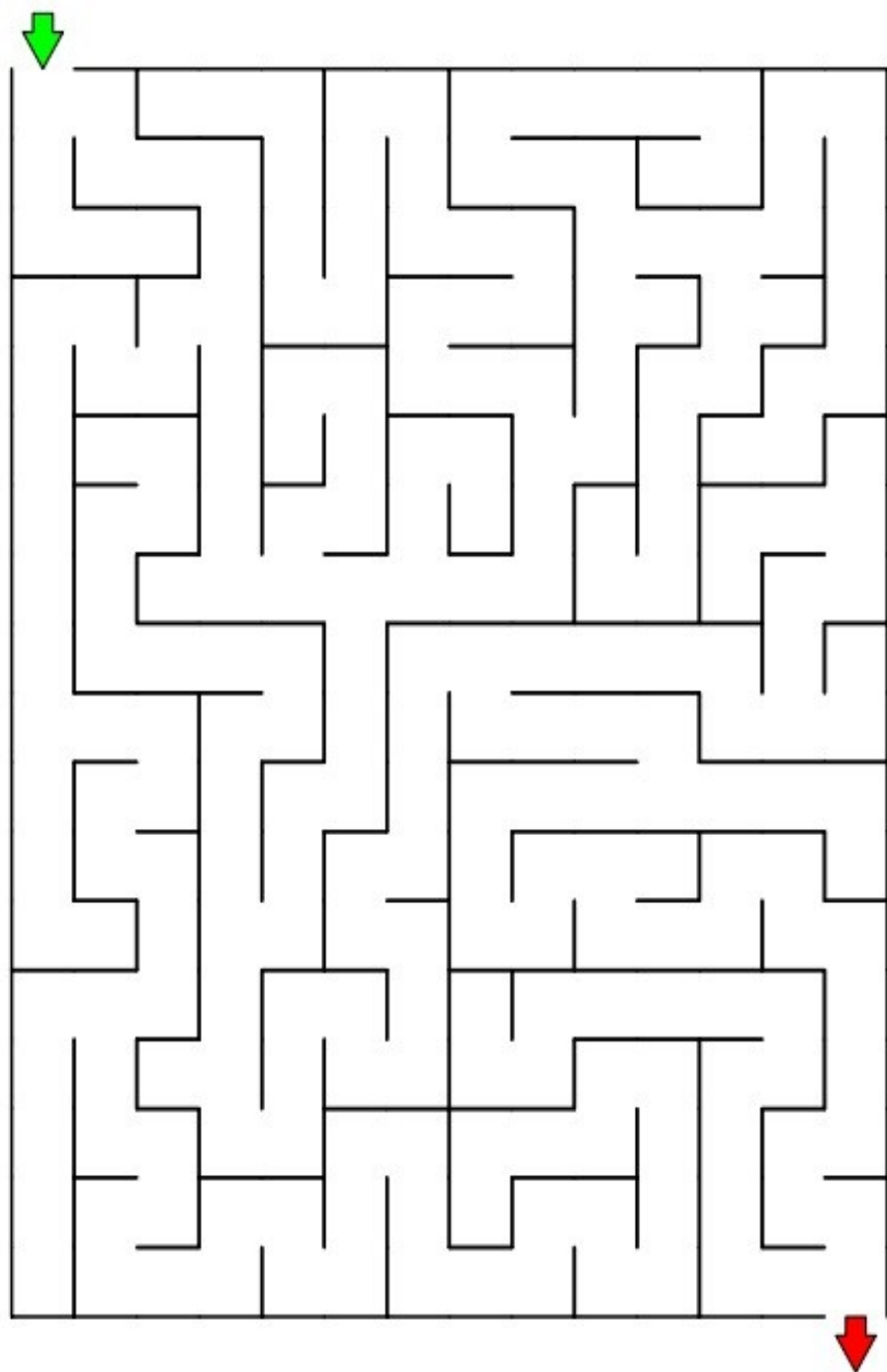
T O G E T H E R S H E A R  
D S O X F I R E P E N G T  
P E O P L E W B A A D E N  
E E D L B E H A R V E S T  
G D G A T H E R A E V I L  
R K T I E K A N B N I P G  
O Y I N D I T W L O L E R  
W C M B U N D L E B V J A  
E N E M Y G V I N U F E I  
E W O R L D E S W R I S N  
D E A R S O W E D N E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

PARABLE • HEAVEN • SOWED • GOOD • SEED • FIELD • ENEMY • WHEAT • GRAIN

GROW • TOGETHER • TIME • HARVEST • GATHER • BUNDLE • TIE

PEOPLE • DISCIPLES • JESUS • EXPLAIN • EVIL • FIRE • END • AGE • EARS

Find the words from the questions too!



# Food and Friends

Our monthly meetings continue to be popular with our regular attenders. After our May meeting with the 'Ukeladies' we received a lovely thank you letter from them saying how very welcome they felt and how much they had enjoyed both, performing for us and the delicious lunch. I do find it pleasing when the speakers and the regulars feel at home with us – the 'friends' part of our title is most important as we do aim to make everyone feel happy and to have a very sociable experience.

Rod Dimbleby spoke at our June meeting telling stories and poems in Yorkshire dialect. It was surprising, even though most of them are from Yorkshire, how little we actually know about the origins of the many usual expressions. It is always interesting to hear more stories about this beautiful county and how much our accents differ depending on which part of Yorkshire we were born and brought up in.

We were entertained at our July meeting by the 'Ladies Please' choir. A group of ladies who meet and sing together purely for the pleasure of singing. The quality of the music and the harmony is excellent and the pianist is absolutely brilliant. The musical director provides a range of songs either classical or pop to entertain all tastes and musical preferences.



Our volunteers in both serving and the kitchen do a wonderful job and we thank them for the great effort they put in to make it a good experience for everyone.

We do have spaces if anyone would like to join us. Just give me a call 01943 512194.

**ENID TAYLOR**

## **RENOWNED MANCHESTER CHOIR TO SING IN OTLEY**



The fabulous Manchester Chorale is coming to Otley for the first time on 28<sup>th</sup> October to perform a concert at the Bridge Church.

The choir was started and funded by the BBC in 1979 but has been independent since the late 1980's. Manchester Chorale has become one of the best-known names in the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year Competition with regular televised appearances in the final stages of the competition.

They perform regularly at the Bridgewater Halls in Manchester and sang frequently on BBC's Daily Service. In 2012 the choir sang with the wonderful Black Dyke Band and performed the world premiere of Karl Jenkins Peacemakers as well as making regular broadcasts on Radio 3 and Radio 2.

In 2020 they gave a performance of Will Todd's "Mass in Blue" at St Margaret's church Prestwich to a packed house, accompanied by a 5-piece jazz band. This was the last concert before the Covid-19 lockdown.

The Bridge Church is very pleased to welcome the choir as David Robinson, the Deputy Musical Director and Accompanist of the choir, is the son of Judy Roberts and it is through his visits to the church that the idea of the concert came about.

Tickets for the concert at the Bridge Church will cost £12.00 if bought on the door but just £10.00 if bought in advance.

The doors will open at 7.00pm and the Concert starts at 7.30pm

Proceeds to be shared between this years Bridge Church Charity and the Manchester Chorale.

# The Manchester *Chorale*

Musical Director: Jill Henderson-Wild

**Simply Sublime Singing  
at**



**The Bridge Church**

The United Reformed Church (URC) in Otley

**An evening of music from  
around the world and through  
the centuries**

**Saturday 28 October, 7:30pm**

Tickets £10 in advance from the Bridge  
Church, or scan the QR code  
£12 on the day, U16s free



## **BRIDGE CHURCH BROWNIES**

This year Brownies have been working well at their 6 challenges which are:

- Take Action;
- Know Myself;
- Express Myself;
- Futures skills;
- Be well; and
- Have adventures.

For this they needed to carry out four skill builders, one interest badge and three hours of unit meeting activities. From September we worked towards the Have Adventure challenge where we learnt about camping and campfire skills.

The interest badges for this challenge were Archaeology, Aviation and Space. We ended the term with starting a campfire without matches and cooking marshmallows, with the assistance of the scout leaders Ian and Les. We had a great evening as six Brownies made their Promise.

After half-term we moved on to the Know Myself challenge and the skill builder was all about first aid. The interest badges were Collection and My Rights. For this we visited the toy museum in Ilkley where we did a quiz as we went round. It was an amazing look at toys over the years for teddy bears to cars.

In this half-term we were assisted by Hilary Eveleigh in learning carols for a concert and tombola raising funds for our Brownie pack on the first week in advent. Which gained the Brownies their performance badge. Brownies then finished the term with making Christmas decorations and cards.

At the start of 2023 we began our Express Myself Challenge in which the skill builders included learning the sign language alphabet, the phonetic alphabet (Charlie Bravo) and making a new emoji.

For some of the unit meeting activities we had a torch

light tour, made tent theatres (the scenery for a fairy tale or play) and made a home for a hedgehog. We finished the term with Easter crafts.

The summer term brought us the Fifty Challenge badge to celebrate Leeds becoming a county area. There were five challenges: Learn, Explore, Experience, Discover and Surprise

Challenges ranged from learning a skipping rhyme from fifty years ago, laying a trail for the unit to follow, flying a kite, making a boat that floats, painting to music, keeping a malteser on a straw for fifty seconds having an evening with no electricity or technology and making an edible bonfire.

One Challenge was to collect fifty items for the food bank. The Brownies did this by doing jobs at home and being paid with an item of food. This then grew as many of the Brownies then asked to do the Charity badge for the Take Action challenge and started the Take Action Challenges. The pack did their painting badge over three evenings which was enjoyed by everyone, making a mess and some beautiful abstract art created. Thanks to Geoff Swift for his donation of art paper.

In June, Donna, our Division Commissioner, came and presented four girls (Ava, Niamh, Iona and Alex), with their Silver badge for working through 4 Challenges, skill builders, interest badges and twelve hours of unit meeting activities. A great achievement for all the B

rownies.

We ended the summer term by having an evening of fun and games.

Tina Johnson

## THE WORDS OF TWO UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

During our morning service on 25<sup>th</sup> June we heard a very moving account from a Ukrainian refugee Titiana Bondarenko, who has settled in Edinburgh.

Her words were all the more moving because they were read by Karina, another Ukrainian refugee who has settled in Otley.

These are Titiana's words.....

*'The morning of February 24, 2022 forever changed the lives of my people. A full-scale war was at our doorstep. The days of mourning, grief and despair had come. Days when you do not know what awaits you, days when all your plans are destroyed in an instant, days when you are constantly afraid for your loved ones, days when you can lose everything in an instant.*

*What can help in such a situation? Who can help in such a situation?*

*I, probably like all people, experienced fear at the beginning of the war. On the first night, I didn't know how to go to bed. What awaited us? And the only thing that gave peace and hope was my Lord and faith in God, being in God's love! Perhaps I can say in the words of David, "Have mercy on me, Lord, for I call on You every day." It was prayer and hope in God that supported me.*

*"For You, O Lord, are good and merciful and have great mercy on all who call on You." (v5).*

*If you have a day of sorrow today, call the Lord into your life and entrust your life to the Lord! "For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God" (v10).*

Titiana continues.....

*I am from Odessa, Ukraine. I moved to Edinburgh in May 2022 due to the war in my country. My son and daughter-in-law remained in Ukraine, as well as some of my friends. In Edinburgh, God gave me a wonderful family that took me in, as well as a wonderful church called Bellevue Chapel! I am very grateful to the Lord for His support and hope!*

*Imagine a desert. Wherever you look, all you can see is sand everywhere. There are no trees or any other vegetation, except for dry bushes. The sun burns everything that tries to grow, and you have a long road ahead through this parched*

*land. There is nothing suitable to shelter you from the heat, there is not a single source of water along the road, only what you have taken with you. You are alone; it's just you and a boy – the son you are responsible for. There is not a single other person around who could offer you help. You wander in a direction unknown to you, no destination, not knowing where to turn, just wandering, hoping for safety. The situation is dire. What could be worse than this?*

*Many Ukrainians have found themselves in this situation during the war. You're running from danger, but you don't know where to run to. In your hands is a single suitcase, which now holds all your life's belongings. And sometimes you don't even have a suitcase – I did not have time to collect it. In your hands are the hands of your children. Who will help? Where to run to? Where can you expect help to come from? Everything around is new and unfamiliar. There are people around, but it is as if you are in a desert. Only you and your problems and no-one who could help!*

Titiana concludes....

*'This is my God, the God in whom I believe!*

*The God who knows all my difficulties and experiences, who does not leave me alone, but empathises and helps me!*

*This is the God who gives hope, and gives life!*

*In the most difficult moments of my life, my Lord supported me and gave me hope!*

*At the beginning of the war, I came across one expression that encouraged me:*

*"When I die, I will be with the Lord! If I live, the Lord will be with me. Live or die, I belong to the Lord!"*

*Call the Lord into your life!*

*And then you can say, "You are the God who sees me! You are the God who saves me!"*

Again Titiana's words were the more powerful because they were read by Karina - and the whole congregation were moved.

Karina also gave a short account of her journey from Ukraine to Otley - and paid tribute to her host Dr Verity Spencer (pictured with Karina).



## **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***

September 11<sup>th</sup> - Opening Service - Reverend Jason McCullagh

September 25<sup>th</sup> - The Brontes' of Haworth - Denise Adlard

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

October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Wharfedale Male Voice Choir (**Open Meeting**)

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

September 6<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

September 28<sup>th</sup> - TBA.

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

September 21<sup>st</sup> - Otley Railway History - David Clegg.

October 19<sup>th</sup> - American experience - Rev. Jason McCullagh .

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

11<sup>th</sup> September, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> October and 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

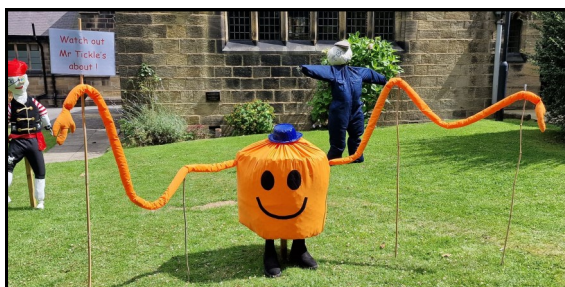
***Messy Church - 30<sup>th</sup> September.***

## The Scarecrow's Return!

The famous Bridge Church Scarecrows have returned to our lawns once again, and are attracting lots of visitors-both young and old(er). It is true to say they haven't been too happy with the recent inclement weather, but are determined to last the course!



We will be serving refreshments on every Wednesday and Saturday morning during August and early September. Why not pop along to say hello!



### **NEXT MESSENGER**

Material for the next edition of the Messenger should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 24th September and will be available for collection on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 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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