

June - July 2023

Number 695

The Messenger

The magazine of the Bridge Church, Otley



The Bridge Church

The United Reformed Church (URC) in Otley



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

Dear Friends,

It has been said that travel broadens the mind. I do not know who said that, but my experiences tell me it is true. I was eighteen when I first travelled abroad, and I caught the travel bug. Since that trip I have been able to travel to so many different places, for pleasure and for work, and every experience has broadened my horizons and deepened my understanding of the world in which we live.

In July I will begin another trip as I fly to America. When I took my first Sabbatical in 2010, I spent a month at a Church in St Charles, Chicago and made deep friendships with members of the congregation there. I have returned many times in the intervening years because I now feel part of a wider community. In July I will make a slightly different trip for this time I am exchanging jobs, cars, and houses with the Reverend Dr Rich Kirchherr. I am excited about this possibility. I am looking forward to meeting new people, developing new relationships and seeing, and sharing in, a faith community living and serving in a different culture.

I know that I will learn much from this experience and that I will not be the same person when I return that I will be when I depart. Travel certainly does broaden the mind! I hope that the time that Rich spends with you here in Otley will enable you to get to know him and learn something about his experiences of ministry in Chicago and his theological views, and, as you do, to become aware that you, too, are part of a larger faith community that reaches across the Atlantic Ocean.

To gain an insight into the larger picture is not something that we can easily do when we are, as we must be, focused on the challenges in our own lives and in our own faith community. We have just celebrated the Feast of Pentecost when we remembered how the Spirit was poured out upon the disciples enabling them to see something of the bigger picture of God's plan that they were to be part of. In the melee of peoples of different cultures and languages that filled Jerusalem at that moment, the Church was born, and the message of the Gospel was carried into the wider world! We are part of that story and one of the wonders for me of being a member of the United Reformed Church is this ability to embrace differences but to still stand united.

Over the summer I shall be looking forward to being in different faith communities, both in Chicago and in New York, as well as time spent with the friends that I have made in my previous trips. I hope that you, too, will have an opportunity, whilst Rich is among you, to explore something of the bigger picture of this Spirit filled movement we all belong to.

I wish you a very happy summer, I shall hold you in my prayers and look forward to being with you again in September as we continue this adventure of faith.

With love,

Jason



The
**United
Reformed
Church**



PREACHING PLAN
18th June – 20th August 2023

Sunday 18th June – Third Sunday after Pentecost
Morning Service

Service conducted by the Reverend Mirella Moxon
Jason is leading Junior Church

Evening Communion

Reverend Jason McCullagh
Matthew 9.35-10.23

Sunday 25th June – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Service conducted by the Reverend Mirella Moxon
Jason is preaching elsewhere in the Synod.

Sunday 2nd July – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Holy Communion
Reverend Jason McCullagh
Matthew 10. 40-42

Sunday 9th July – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Reverend Alan Griffiths
Jason is on exchange in Chicago.

Sunday 16th July – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Reverend Rich Kirchherr
Jason is on exchange in Chicago.

Sunday 23rd July – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Reverend Rich Kirchherr
Jason is on exchange in Chicago.

Sunday 30th July – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Mrs Sheila Ackerman
Jason is on exchange in Chicago.

Sunday 6th August – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Holy Communion
Reverend Ashley Evans
Jason is on exchange in Chicago.

Sunday 13th August – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Reverend Mirella Moxon - followed by Church Meeting and Picnic.
Jason is on chaplaincy duty in New York.

Sunday 20th August – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Reverend Mirella Moxon
Jason is on holiday in Chicago.

News of the Family

Marriages

On the 13th of April, Jessica Finlay and Robert Spivey were married here at the Bridge Church. Jessica is the eldest daughter of Alison and Dean Finlay. A special day for Michael Rhodes too as he was sufficiently recovered from his recent operation to be able to play the keyboard for his Granddaughter's wedding.

On the 23rd of April, Jenny Paterson and James Nicholls were married at the Tithe Barn in Bolton Abbey. Jenny is the daughter of Christine and Iain Paterson and it was obviously a very special St George's Day this year for them! Both Jessica and Jenny have previously been very actively involved within the life of our church, progressing through Junior Church, young people's groups and uniformed organisations. Whilst Jenny's whole ceremony was at the Tithe Barn, Jessica and Rob's reception was held there too.

We understand that both couples had wonderful days supported as they were by very proud family and friends. We wish Jessica & Rob and Jenny & James much happiness in their future lives together.

Do please pass on any good news that you would like to share with our church family to any of the pastoral elders.

Margaret Armitage

SUMMER FUN!

On Saturday 1st July you are invited to a Games Night and BBQ. In the hope that this will be something for everyone it will begin at 5pm and finish at 8pm. There will be silly games to play, fellowship to share and food to enjoy!

It will be helpful to know who is coming so the right amount of food can be bought and the games can be tailored to those present, so please look out for the sign-up sheet! Please do come along!

Jason



Dear Friends

We would like to express their thanks to members & friends at the Bridge Church for their good wishes and cards on the occasion of of their 60th wedding anniversary.

We became members of the Bridge Church two years prior to our marriage, so for over 60 years we have been part of the church family and we have experienced pastoral care in difficult times and fellowship in happier times.

May we continue to do so.

Ann & Geoff Swift

Dear Friends

Thank you to everyone who supported my Easter fundraising for St Gemma's Hospice at Moortown.

The usual sum of £300 in total was achieved.

Thank you!

Phyllis Heslop

FAITH ALIVE AND ACTIVE

In the Autumn a new activity will begin in the life of the Bridge Church. Lifting a phrase from the U.R.C.'s Nature Faith and Order Statement, it will be called 'Faith Alive and Active' and will aim to mix faith and current affairs. The evening will begin with a meal and then be followed by a speaker who will be asked to address a contemporary issue. Then there will be the opportunity for questions and discussion. Here are the dates, and topics, arranged so far:

Thursday 12th September – Environment

Thursday 8th February – Sexuality and Gender

Thursday 13th June – Racism

Please put the dates in your diary and come along!

Jason.

MINISTER'S REGISTER **19th MARCH – 31st MAY 2023**

BAPTISM

16th April Roman Cluderay-Moore

WEDDINGS

13th April Robert Spivey and Jessica Finlay

FUNERALS

29 th March	Mr Hedley Fawcett	The Bridge Church Skipton Crematorium
11 th April	Mr Andrew Rhodes	Rawdon Crematorium
3 rd May	Mr Mark Wainwright	Nab Wood Crematorium The Bridge Church
10 th May	Mr George White	The Bridge Church Rawdon Crematorium
19 th May	Mr Dennis Leeming	The Bridge Church
23 rd May	Mrs Mary Anderson	Rawdon Crematorium
31 st May	Mrs Joyce Wood	The Bridge Church

ORDINATION AND INDUCTION OF ELDERS

Our service on 7th May included the ordination and induction of elders.

Pictured are our Minister Jason with Carolyn, who was ordained to the eldership following election at our AGM and Jason and Carolyn with Margaret and Colin who were elected for a further 5 year term back in February.



Messy Church – ‘church with a difference’

On four Saturdays from September 2022, we have welcomed increasing numbers of families through the church doors into our new Messy Church. We have shared God’s love for us all and celebrated Harvest, Advent and Easter.

It is a joy to see everyone arrive for a busy morning of fun and activities based around a Bible theme. Over 30 families have come together to make, to eat and to celebrate.

Families are getting to know us and relationships are growing. Some have come because of their connections with Junior Church, uniformed organisations or the Toddler Group including those who have been brought to church by their parents for baptism. All are welcome and some have come to the church for the first time.

We start the session in the hall, which buzzes with chatter as the children explore all the activities for an hour before moving into the church.

In church the fun continues. Often the children are sent on a trail around the sanctuary before they hear a Bible story, sing and pray before returning to the hall for lunch.



All this happens because a committed team who hold a preparation meeting beforehand and then prepare all the materials in advance of the day. We never know how many will attend but we try to prepare enough varied activities to appeal to all.



We aim to introduce Jesus through hospitality, friendships, stories, craft and worship.

With your support we have made a start. “Come and join us for a whale of a time” is our invitation to the last session before the summer where we explore ‘saying sorry’ through the story of Jonah – the excitement continues in September.

Urgent: Serving Coffee after worship

I will shortly be compiling the rota for the next few months. We are really short of people to help. If we are to continue offering refreshment week by week, then we need more volunteers. Please get in touch with me or Jennifer if you are willing to go on the rota. It would be a shame if we have to discontinue offering refreshments every week, because we don't have enough volunteers.

Many thanks.

Christine Paterson- 07929600473 - chris.pat53@sky.com

THE BRIDGE CAFE

Have you recently upgraded your laptop or are you thinking of doing so?

If the answer is yes then the Bridge Cafe could make use of your old one provided it has a disk drive.

We can use it to show DVDs in small groups that tell stories of holidays, work and school in the past which many of our visitors will remember. They can be great conversation starters.

If you can help please have a word with Margaret Hollinrake or Anne Wigglesworth.

Thank you.



Food and Friends

Our monthly meeting continues to be very popular with everyone, we usually have approximately 45 people attending.

At our meeting on March 1st the speaker was Denise Adlard who explained what OCD is and how she (and her partner) cope with the condition. Apparently there are certain rituals that she has to go through every day although her condition is mild compared to that of many sufferers who develop mental health issues. Her talk was very light hearted although she managed to convey the seriousness of OCD which can seriously affect relationships and working life.

Tony Burkitt spoke at our meeting on April 5th about his many walks in The Lake District. He showed some amazing photographs of the area and talked about the difficulties of walking in some of the very rugged areas.

Our meeting on May 3rd was a celebration for the Coronation of King Charles 3rd and Queen Camilla. The volunteers in the kitchen produce a 'Royal' meal of coronation chicken and salad, followed by the trifle made to the recipe that was produced for the Queen's 70th Jubilee. The entertainment was provided by the Ukelele players who are part of The Trefoil Guild in Leeds. We enjoyed some 'sing along' music, ending of course with The National Anthem.

As ever all our volunteers, especially in the kitchen made the meeting memorable – so many thanks to them.

Enid Taylor

TEAS ON THE LAWN (Carnival Day) Sat 17th June

Our famous Teas on the Lawn are back - watch the Carnival go by in style and bring your friends for tea, sandwiches and cakes- raising money for our church charity for the year - Christian Aid.

Young Peoples Pages

The tale of the RICH FOOL



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

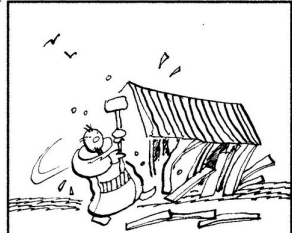
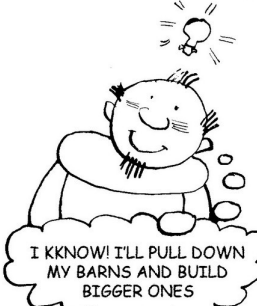


ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN
WHO HAD LOTS OF LAND WHICH
GREW WONDERFUL WHEAT.

I HAVEN'T ANYWHERE TO
KEEP ALL THIS FOOD

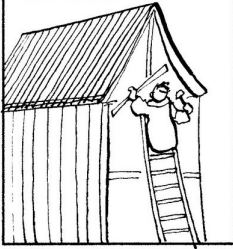


I KNOW! I'LL PULL DOWN
MY BARN'S AND BUILD
BIGGER ONES



THE MAN DEMOLISHED HIS
OLD BARN'S...

...AND BEGAN TO BUILD
NEW ONES.



SOON I'LL BE THE RICHEST
MAN IN THE TOWN!



I'M SO LUCKY - I CAN
EAT, DRINK AND BE
MERRY!



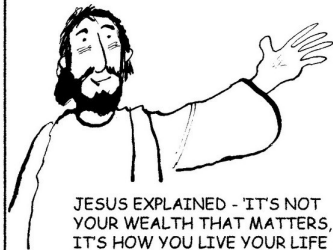
BUT THAT VERY NIGHT,
THE MAN DIED!



WHAT GOOD WERE HIS
RICHES NOW?



JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S NOT
YOUR WEALTH THAT MATTERS,
IT'S HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE
THAT'S IMPORTANT



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Genesis ch 25:19-33, 27:1-42

Jacob had cheated his father and brother, and had run away to stay with his uncle Laban. On the way there..

Jacob saw angels and heard God.

I will be with you



At Laban's house, Jacob met his cousin Rachel



Work for me for 7 years and you can marry her

7 years later



Can I marry Rachel now?

But Laban tricked him into marrying her sister Leah



So Jacob worked 7 more years to marry Rachel



Then he said to Laban

As you aren't paying me wages, can I have the black sheep?



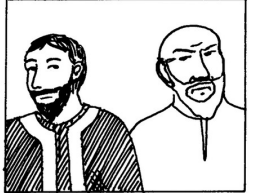
Laban agreed, but that day he moved all the black sheep far away



But God blessed Jacob and his black flock grew



Laban became very jealous of Isaac



Your father doesn't like me any more. We need to go back to my home.



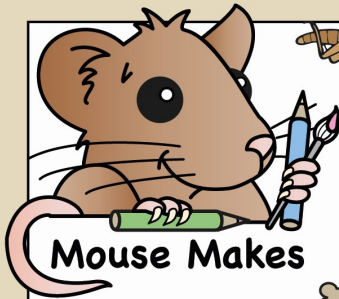
They waited until Laban was away..



but he was told ...

Jacob!





The Lord said to Moses,
 "Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh
 to let the people of Israel go out of his land...
 The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord
 when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."

As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the
 Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...



1

Water turns to Blood

Which water turned
 to blood?

Read - Exodus 7:19

2

A Swarm of Frogs

In which
 places were the
 frogs found?

Read - Exodus 8:3-4

3

A Plague of Gnats

When Aaron struck his
 staff on the ground
 what became Gnats?

Read - Exodus 8:16-17

4

Swarms of Flies

In which land were the
 flies not be found?

Read - Exodus 8:22

5

Death of Animals

Which animals that belonged
 to the Egyptians died?

Read - Exodus 9:2



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

GOD • PLAGUES • MOSES • AARON
 WATER • BLOOD • STAFF • RIVER • NILE • FISH
 FROGS • SWARM • GNATS • DUST • FLIES
 GROUND • DEATH • ANIMALS • SOOT
 BOILS • PEOPLE • HAIL • THUNDER • FIRE
 MAN • BEAST • LOCUSTS • WIND • LAND
 DARKNESS • FIRSTBORN • MIDNIGHT

6

A Break out of Boils

What did Moses throw into
 the air before boils appeared
 on people and animals?

Read - Exodus 9:10

7

A Rain of Hail

What also rained
 down with the hail?
 Where did it not hail?

Read - Exodus 9:24-26

8

A Swarm of Locusts

Where did the wind
 come from that brought
 the locusts to the land?

Read - Exodus 10:13

9

Darkness over the Land

How many days did
 it remain dark?

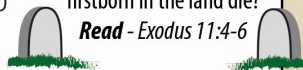
Read - Exodus 10:21-22

10

Death of the Firstborn

At what time would the
 firstborn in the land die?

Read - Exodus 11:4-6



WELCOME TO THE BRIDGE CHURCH TO RICH KIRCHHERR

At the beginning of July the Bridge Church will be experiencing a 'Ministerial exchange', with our own Minister travelling to Chicago to minister to the First Congregational Church of Western Springs, part of the United Church of Christ (UCC) in the USA, and a sister church to our own United Reformed Church!

In return we are pleased to be welcoming their Pastor, Rich Kirchherr and his wife Clare Kralovec, who will be staying at the Manse. Rich will be leading worship on two Sunday morning services in July and will also lead two of our midweek communion services.

Whilst in Otley Rich and Clare's family will also be visiting them.

Plans are still being formulated, but we hope to organise a social evening where we can get to know Rich and Clare and they us!



This is what the First Congregational Church of Western Springs website has to say about Rich;

'Rich began serving as our Senior Minister in 1998. Prior to that, he was one of our associate pastors for 10 years. Rich received both his Masters of Divinity and his Doctorate of Ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary. He continues to serve the seminary as an adjunct professor in preaching and is a life member of its board of trustees and has served on numerous other boards, including Plymouth Place, a UCC related retirement community. As Senior Minister, Rich serves as the head of our staff, works with our finance and stewardship ministries, coordinates our adult faith exploration, men's ministry and provides the primary coordination for our worship services. Married to Clare Kralovec in 1986, they are the proud parents of three adult children.'

So, a big Bridge Church welcome to Rich, Clare and their family, we look forward to your time with us and pray that you will find it a time of blessing!

MR DENNIS LEEMING

This is part of the eulogy, written by Brenda, which Jason delivered at his funeral.

"Dennis was born in Leeds and had two sisters but unfortunately lost his father in the war and was brought up by his grandparents. His grandfather was a coal merchant mother had a laundry business, he often told me he had to do errands when he came home from school and also his homework before he could go out and play.

Dennis attended Burley National Boys School Leeds and played rugby for the school and was a follower of Leeds Rhinos. He also attended church and was a choir boy. His National Service was in the Royal Air Force, mostly abroad flying aircraft in Kuala Lumpur - hence the love for aircraft! On leaving school Dennis went as an apprentice with Pearl Insurance Leeds and stayed there till he retired as a loss adjuster. Dennis represented the Pearl in many golf competitions playing off a handicap of seven and winning quite a few trophies. Later Dennis got married had two sons, Mark and Paul, and has five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. In 1994 Dennis and myself got married and have had 29 years of very happy years together where he gained a stepdaughter, a stepson, two grandchildren and now a great grandson - 9 weeks old.

During our married life we travelled a lot seeing other countries: America, Canada, the Hawaii Island, and the Caribbean Islands. We spent holidays abroad with Julie, David and Samantha and then on the Norfolk Broads on David's boat. He often talked about these holidays and how much he enjoyed them.

Golf was Dennis' hobby so I learned to play and we played abroad, mixed golf competitions, open days and golfing holidays . . . how he loved his golf, come rain or shine.

We attended the Bridge Church and became formal members in 2006. Dennis would collect ladies and take them to church coffee mornings and return later and take them home. He also drove me to deliver flowers after church services for people unable to attend. Dennis your last words to me were: "I'm alright, see you in the morning. Goodnight." Now it's goodbye my love and thanks for the happiness we had and the memories we made."

Dennis Leeming died on Wednesday 19th April 2023 aged 90 years. His funeral service was held at The Bridge Church on Friday 19th May 2023.

MRS JOYCE WOOD

This is part of the eulogy Jason delivered at her funeral.

Mary Joyce Wood was born on 8th July 1924. She had two older brothers Kenneth, who had been born in 1918, and Wallace, born in 1920. Later she was to gain a younger brother after the birth of Donald, born in 1927. Sadly, Joyce's mother died in January 1933, when Joyce was just 8 years old and in October of the following year her dad re-married and Rose became Joyce's stepmother. More sadness was to come in March 1936, when Joyce was just 11 years, and her father died. Sadly, Joyce would also outlive her three brothers.

Joyce began life on a rented farm, Fairfield Farm, on Arthington Lane, Pool-in-Wharfdale. Later Rose and the four children moved to live on a farm at Castley.

On 4th November 1952 Joyce married Arthur Wood at Leathley Church and they settled at Springfield Farm, East Chevin. They lived, and worked, there until Arthur retired in 1976. In November 1976 they moved to 53 The Gills where Joyce lived for the rest of her life. Joyce and Arthur had three children, Colin, Linda, and Peter. Joyce and Arthur enjoyed rural life, going to local agricultural shows in Otley and Kilnsey and particularly enjoyed watching horse jumping and the trotting races. This interest often took them to Green Hammerton to watch the horse trotting races.

Joyce maintained her interest throughout her life and watched the horse racing on TV on Saturdays. Her neighbour, Steve, will miss this now as he could hear it through the wall!

Two days after their 33rd Wedding Anniversary, in 1985, Arthur died. Joyce often commented that with 33 years of marriage and 37 years as a widow she spent more time on her own than married. A few years after Arthur's death Joyce became involved with the Over-60s Club, joining in 1991. She spent many hours volunteering for the Club and for Otley Action. She attended the Tea Dances on a regular basis and helped with the Film Club which later moved to the Courthouse.

Volunteering gave Joyce a new lease of life. She enjoyed going on coach trips, short breaks, and holidays, often to Scotland, and she even got a passport and went to Amsterdam. She travelled with friends she had made through her voluntary work, friendships that became invaluable to her over many years.

For many years she attended worship here but stopped when her general health and mobility declined. However, she remained a regular at other church events, Food and Friends, Women's Meeting, and every social evening, which she always enjoyed wholeheartedly! Most of this was made possible by her good friend, Phyllis.

Following her 95th birthday, in 2019, Joyce contracted pneumonia and had a stay in hospital followed by a period of rehabilitation at Yeadon. Early in January 2020 she returned home! A stairlift was fitted, something she was delighted with, and this enabled her to continue living independently at home. In June 2022 she was hospitalised again and spent her 98th birthday in hospital. But she returned home again and her social contact with the Tuesday Lunch Club, and Phyllis' regular visits helped maintain her independence. She continued to trundle into Church functions with her trusty walker and always with a smile. She suffered with hearing loss and wore hearing aids, but she would often say that they did not work, and she was better off without them! Her family suspect there may have been some selective hearing!

Joyce was an independent character - small but with a great personality. She had big family, three children, four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, the youngest born two weeks after Joyce's death. Joyce enjoyed word searches, reading and television. Strictly Come Dancing was a great favourite, as was horse racing, snooker, and tennis. She loved the Repair Shop, farming programmes, Master Chef, and quiz shows, especially the Chase.

Joyce was loved and admired and will be greatly by family and friends alike.

Mary Joyce Wood died on Sunday 7th May 2023 aged 98 years. Her funeral service was held at The Bridge Church on Wednesday 31st May 2023.

Women's Meeting

On Monday 20th March our meeting was all about the Sue Ryder Charity. The meeting was led by Michael Tarbatt, who is a Community Fundraiser at Wheatfields Hospice, there were also contributions from two volunteers, Christine and Simon, who have had loved ones cared for either in the hospice or at home.

Born Margaret Susan Ryder in 1924 in Scarcroft near Leeds. She helped her mother Mabel with social working the slum areas around Leeds. During the war she worked in Poland, she was married and widowed by the age of 19. She later served in North Africa, Italy and eventually Germany. In 1952 she set up a care home there. In 1959 she was awarded an OBE. In 1959 she married Leonard Cheshire and they had two children.



The Leonard Cheshire Disability charity is still in existence today, supporting thousands of disabled people in the UK and 50 other countries. As a result of her work there are now seven hospices (two near to Otley - Wheatfields and Manorlands at Oxenhope) and four neurological centres in the UK.

She was made a peer in 1979 and took the title Baroness Ryder of Warsaw. She died aged 76 in 2000 leaving, behind a lasting legacy, care is provided in eight countries and has a network of 400 shops. A really interesting talk into the life of an amazing woman.

On Monday 3rd April Michelle Morris took us on her trip by bicycle across Cambodia.

Starting at her brothers wedding in Bangkok, Thailand. The wedding ceremony started at 7.a.m. and carried on until about 11.00 a.m. It was followed by a western style wedding! The Thai men in the wedding party looked so tiny against the British men, who were tall men anyway. Then the next day the trip to Cambodia began, catching a train from Bangkok at 4 a.m. with bikes in tow they followed the lake

down to Phnom Pen. They had no trouble at the borders they had their visas. A further train trip with puppies, shopping and bikes ensued, it was very humid but they had no trouble. Then they cycling along country lanes, cattle grazing on the grass verges, the locals were collecting hay with very little machinery to help them, always a smile for Michelle and her partner as they cycled past! They arrived at a village with temples as far as the eye could see, lots of monks in their orange tunics and the famous Angkor Wat Temple—amazing!

After a six hour boat trip, passing all the houses built on stilts they arrived at Phnom Pen. They saw where the atrocities were when 20,000 people lost their lives in the 'Killing Fields'. It wasn't until 1979 that Cambodia got their country back, and it is very noticeable that the population is mostly younger people. They went to the islands and off the tourist track, to see local crafts, silk making, etc. Hygiene was almost non existent so they drank cans of coca cola or coconut milk straight from the coconut.

The litter was shocking, animals on worktops, little children asleep on tops amongst raw meat! Everywhere they stayed was full of lizards and the beaches were full of crabs, difficult to walk through. An experience never to be forgotten.

At the end of the trip they arrived back into Thailand and then caught a bus to Bangkok, with their bikes underneath.

It was a most interesting talk and we asked lots of questions.

On Monday 17th April we had our meeting entitled 'Laugh with Liz', which was entertainment by Liz Sharp. Liz started with an hilarious story about an older woman choosing a swimsuit! Another about Facebook without a computer, sharing with people what she ate, tales about her family pets and eventually ending up with four followers—2 policemen, and doctor and a psychiatrist. Then followed a series of Irish jokes, delivered with an Irish twang!

There was lots of laughter at this very amusing selection. Then a story of how to give a cat a pill!! Liz ended with a poignant story about a mother talking to her son, the title was 'Did I tell you?'. It was good to hear the laughter in the room at these very amusing stories,

On Monday 15th May Andrew Howard took us to 'Old Otley Revisited' although this was a week later than planned due to the coronation of King Charles III, it was worth the wait!

It was amazing how much Otley has changed since the eighteen hundreds . The many factories and grocery shops now no longer with us. Also Churches that have been demolished, some replaced but not all.

Large Houses demolished and replaced by blocks of flats , because of the large plots they had.

I think we all found the talk and slides most interesting and hope Andrew will be able to come and tell us more at a later date, fingers crossed!

On Monday 22nd May we had Pam Parkinson and Natasha from the 'Caring for Life' charity. We were told how it all started 36 years ago by the Rev. Peter Parkinson who co-founded it with Esther who had managed a care home.

It is Christian based and run with the proceeds of the restaurant, coffee shop and selling plants from their base at Crag House Farm in Cookridge. It is looking after people with a troubled life, no home support and the homelessness etc. One volunteer, Julia has written a book, 'Help people find a home'.

Every week 90 people help with catering, horticulture, the horses and music. They support around 200 people out in the community. Sadly the Rev. Parkinson passed away two years ago, he must rest in peace knowing these wonderful people are carrying on his legacy.

Pam Bradley

THE SCARECROWS ARE COMING....

During the six week school summer holidays a group of scarecrows will take up residence again in our church grounds - we hope that you will drop by and say hello!

We are also hoping to serve tea/coffee/juice on each Wednesday morning and on Saturday mornings and afternoons throughout the summer holidays.

SPONSORED SILENCE!!!

Well we can confirm that Margaret Crossfield has successfully completed her sponsored silence!!

No one can quite believe it, but not a single word passed her lips from 9am this morning to 5pm this evening.

We will update you in due course with the amount raised, but as of Sunday 4th June Margaret believes that she has raised over £900 for the church's charity for the year - Christian Aid.

WELL DONE MARGARET - WE'RE ALL PROUD OF YOU!



New Members

During our service on 28th May we were pleased to receive three new members into the Bridge Church.

They were also welcomed into membership by the Church Officers, John Eveleigh and Andrew Howard, and their Elders Gill Chapman, Christine Paterson and Alison Anslow.



Pictured with Jason, our Minister are, (L to R) Rhona Smith, Joan Hopwood and Jane Watson.

CHURCH DIARY - JUNE - AUGUST 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 - Will resume in September

Food and Friends 1st Wednesday of each month at 10.30 a.m.

March 1st and April 5th.

T Club - 4th Thursday of each Month

June 22nd - Summer Outing

Supper Club—3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m.

June 15th - Annual Dinner, Royal Oak, Dacre Banks. Coach leaves the Bridge Church 6.30 p.m.

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

19th June, 3rd July, 17th July

Messy Church - will resume in September.

NEXT MESSENGER

Material for the next edition of the Messenger should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 30th July and will be available for collection on Sunday, 13th August 2023.

If possible, please send by e-mail to:

messenger@otleybridgechurch.org.uk



THE BRIDGE CHURCH BECOMES A CHILDREN AND YOUTH FRIENDLY CHURCH.

During our service on 21st May we were pleased to be acknowledged as a Children and Youth Friendly Church.

Pictured are Isobel Evans, who was responsible for the Bridge Church's application, Rev Samantha Sheehan, Minister to the 18-25's and University Chaplain, Daniel Raddings, Yorkshire Synod Youth Representative and our Minister, Rev Jason McCullagh.



Extract below from the Yorkshire Synod Website

The Bridge Church in Otley gained its award after it demonstrated the ways in which it strives to link the activities and foundation of all they do to the church's mission statement, which includes being welcoming and loving. It also has a five-year plan that includes a vision for children and families.

Isobel Evans, Parents and Toddlers Organiser, said: "Our time with the children and young people is used to help them to feel that they are loved by God and the church community, and to understand how they can 'Love your neighbour as yourself'."



In the future, the church hopes to take steps to support parents and carers in developing their faith, and better reflect the age demographic of its community among its members and services.

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Comments and statements printed in the Messenger
are not necessarily the opinions of the Editor or
the Bridge United Reformed Church (Otley)



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