

June - July 2025

Number 707

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
Minister:- Reverend Jason McCullagh
Telephone: 01943 465509
Email: jason.mccullagh@otleybridgechurch.org.uk

Messenger letter

This months message is taken from Parish Pump and is written by Canon Paul Hardingham, who is also the author the 'What's the big idea' synopsis of books of the Bible that we have been featuring in 'The Messenger'.

This month we remember St Barnabas, whose real name was Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. However, he was better known by his nickname which means '*Son of Encouragement*' (Acts 4:36). Throughout Acts we see him encouraging others in different ways.

Barnabas was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of an already caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we known as somebody who is generous to those in need around us?

Barnabas later *encouraged a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and knowing his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch where he '*saw the evidence of the grace of God*' (Acts 11:23). It was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, do we rejoice when we see God doing new things in people's lives? Are we also willing to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Let's be prepared to ask the following questions: *'Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?'* and *'How can we be encouragers to others?'*

BAPTISMS

FUNERALS

**7th May Mrs Sasha Williams The Bridge Church
Lawnswood Crematorium**



THE BRIDGE CHURCH
PREACHING PLAN
15th June – 10th August 2025

Sunday 15th June – Trinity Sunday

Morning Service

The Reverend Jason McCullagh and Mr Malcolm Wainwright
Psalm 8; John 16. 12-15

Evening Communion

The Reverend Jason McCullagh
Psalm 8; Romans 5.1-5

Sunday 22nd June - Second Sunday after Pentecost

The Reverend Jason McCullagh
Psalm 22. 18-27; Galatians 3. 23-29

Sunday 29th June – Third Sunday after Pentecost

The Reverend Jason McCullagh
Psalm 16; Galatians 5.1, 13-25

Sunday 6th July – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Reverend Jason McCullagh
Galatians 6.1-11

Sunday 13th July – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Jason is leading the Synod Young People's Sabbath
Gathering
The Service will be conducted by the Reverend Michael
Mewis

Sunday 27th July – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

The Reverend Jason McCullagh
Colossians 1. 1 - 14

Sunday 3rd August – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Reverend Jason McCullagh
Colossians 1. 15 - 28

Sunday 10th August – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

The Reverend Jason McCullagh
Colossians 2. 6 - 19

News of the Family

Baptism

On Saturday the 19th of April 2025, Stephen Sebastian Davies, known as Phen, was baptised. Phen is the baby son of Stephen and Hollie, and the fifth grandchild of Diana Davies. Phen was supported by a good number of his family and friends, and it was lovely to welcome some of them in church to worship with us on Easter Sunday. A very special baptism day for Phen as it was also his first birthday. We send love to all the family.

Congratulations

Well-deserved congratulations go to Andrew Howard who has been made an Honorary Citizen of Otley.

Andrew was presented with his award by Otley Town Mayor Cllr Paul Carter at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council on Monday the 12th of May 2025.

Andrew and Anne are pictured here with Andrew's certificate. Andrew joins the select 'band' of Honorary citizens at The Bridge Church.



Do please pass on any items of good news you wish to be shared in the Messenger to any of the Pastoral & Fellowship elders.

Margaret Armitage.



Dear Friends,

I would like to say a very big thank you for the care and concern shown to Roger and myself over recent weeks, and also for the flowers and prayers.

Roger is now settling into Wharfeside Care Home and your support has been much appreciated.

Love from,

Hilda Bareham

Dear Friends

Thank you for the support you have given to my Easter fundraising for St Gemma's Hospice.

Very much appreciated.

Thank you.

Phyllis Heslop

New Member

At our morning service on the 1st June we had the pleasure of welcoming Claire Wilkinson into membership of the Bridge Church.

Claire is pictured here with Jason, Tina (Claire's Elder) and Alison (Church Treasurer).





SUMMER FELLOWSHIP AFTERNOON

**THE PASTORAL AND FELLOWSHIP ELDERS
WILL BE HOLDING A FELLOWSHIP
AFTERNOON IN THE LARGE HALL ON
WEDNESDAY THE 13TH OF AUGUST 2025
FROM 2.00pm – 4.00pm.**

**A CHANCE TO COME AND SHARE IN A TIME
OF FELLOWSHIP WITH CHURCH FRIENDS,
ALL ARE WELCOME.**

**SHEETS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SIGN UP
NEARER THE TIME, JUST TO HELP WITH
CATERING NUMBERS.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU,
SO DO COME AND JOIN US!**



We continue to enjoy our monthly meetings – hopefully the members enjoy coming as much as we enjoy organising them! The food is always lovely and much appreciated by everyone.

Our speaker at the February meeting was Wendy Eccles who talked about work in the mills in Lancashire. She had actually worked in a mill, so was very knowledgeable about working conditions and how they improved over the years. During the Victorian period of course, children did some very dangerous jobs scavenging under working machines and many became ill (from inhaling dust particles) or died in horrific accidents. The working hours were long and the work was physically demanding, not many workers lived to an old age.

In March unfortunately our speaker was unable to come, so, at the last minute so Mike and myself put together a talk about our experiences as foster carers. This seemed to go down well with the members but if I had realized that I was the speaker I doubt if I would have had much sleep for a few nights before!! However all went well fortunately.

In April David Aldred gave a fascinating talk about his Safari in Tanzania. This was very interesting as he is a very good photographer as well as an entertaining speaker. He is very well travelled so we will, no doubt, be hearing more from him in the future.

Our speaker in May was Mary Holmes who spoke about Elizabeth Wolstenholme. This lady was a pioneer in the movement for change in women's rights. She fought against 'male tyranny' at a time when women had very little say in anything that happened to them. It was quite shocking to think how half the population had no rights in law or anything else. We will certainly be hearing from her again.

We will be hearing from the Hollybush charity in June and the Choir from Prince Henrys School will be entertaining us in July. We are reviewing whether to meet in August, so keep an eye on Sunday notices!

We do have a few places available if anyone would care to join us just get in touch.

Enid Taylor

Young Peoples Pages

The story of Pentecost is found in Acts 2. After the Ascension of Jesus, the disciples had obeyed His command to stay in Jerusalem and to 'wait for the promise from the Father'. Jesus said this would be the 'baptism of the Holy Spirit', but the disciples had no idea what that meant. They soon found out! Acts tells us that at about 9 o'clock one morning, a sound like a rushing wind from heaven suddenly filled the house, and divided tongues as if of fire rested on each one of them. The Holy Spirit had come down and filled them with His divine power! Praise, preaching and witnessing followed that morning – and the Church was born.



Pentecost
Trinity
Jerusalem
Disciples
Praying

Tongues
Power
High
Fires
Flames

Languages
Praise
Drunk
Wine
Nine

Morning
Glory
Waiting
Place
Wind

Father
Son
Holy
Spirit
Eternal

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 2:1-12, Mk 9:1-8, Lk 5:17-26

The Pharisees had come to Jesus' home in Capernaum to make sure he wasn't breaking any of their religious rules...

So many came to hear Jesus speak that they filled his house...



and the streets outside.

Four men brought their paralysed friend to Jesus for healing

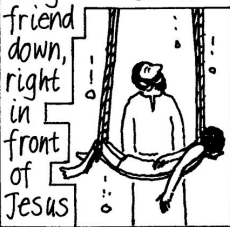


But the crowd wouldn't let them get close



so they climbed up to the roof and took off some tiles.

They lowered their friend down, right in front of Jesus



Jesus was so impressed by their faith, he said to the paralysed man



Your sins are forgiven.

The Pharisees were shocked!



Only God can forgive sins...so this fellow is insulting God!

But Jesus knew what they were thinking.



Why are you thinking such wrong thoughts?

Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'?



But I want you to know that I do have the authority to forgive sins...

Get up, take your mat and go home!



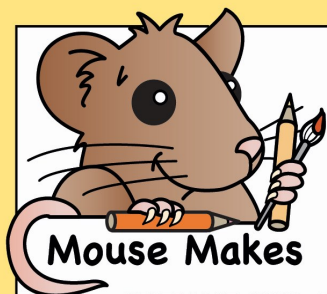
He got up, picked up his mat and walked home, praising God



The crowd was amazed...



We have never seen anything like this!



Mouse Makes

PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE
 HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED
 JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS
 HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK
 HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES
 ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA
 JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
 ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
 EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
 ROME • CRETANS
 ARABIANS • GOD



READ
 Acts
 2:1-41

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

It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages**

as the Spirit enabled them. The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language.

How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?

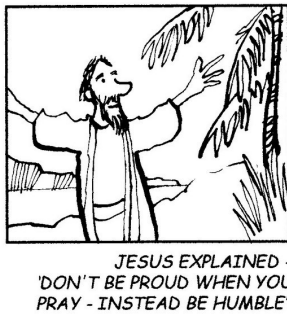
DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

The
Tale of the
**TWO MEN
SAYING
THEIR
PRAYERS**



**THE OTHER WAS A TAX
COLLECTOR. (NOT A POPULAR
MAN IN JESUS' DAY!).**



Try Something New!

Do you want to try something new?

Make new friends?

Urged on by the T Club AGM, Jason and I want to start a new group.

Completely social, open to everyone.

To include Theatre visits, Film nights, Meals out, Parties and Quiz nights.

Why not come along on Thursday September 25th at 7.30pm to the large hall to voice your ideas and tell us what you would like to do?

We hope to start at the end of January 2026 continuing on the last Thursday of every month until June.

As yet the group has no name and we have no idea if this will work but please come in September and let us know what you want.

Anne Howard

JUNE 21st JOIN US FOR JUNE 21st

**TEAS ON THE CHURCH LAWN
OTLEY CARNIVAL DAY**

Hot & Cold Drinks, Sandwiches, Cakes, Scones available.



The Bridge Church

The United Reformed Church (URC) in Otley

Women's Meeting

On Monday 31st March our guest speaker was Michelle Morris who came to talk to us about 'Winter in Mongolia'. Last year Michelle and her partner joined a group who spent three weeks in temperatures of around -30°C . The average temperature ranges from between $+30^{\circ}$ and -30° , but can go as low as -50° ! The population of Mongolia is around 3.3 million people, but there are 4 million horses! It is known as the Eternal Landscape and it's capital city is Ulaanbaatar.

Part of the trip was 3 days riding on sledges; the horses had spikes on their hooves to grip, and the group had to wear many layers of clothes - the top layer being animal skin. They stayed with families in Gers (like Yurts). The accommodation was basic with several beds in one room and again the beds had animal skin; the toilets were located outside in -27°C . There was no running water so this had to be brought in from outside. Food comprised meat with noodles, rice or pasta etc.

Many people visit Mongolia from Russia and China and there was an ice festival taking place which included ice wrestling, a huge ice slide and tug of war - there was no grip on the ice which they heard cracking, but they were assured that it was around 6m thick. They also visited an eagle festival, national parks and a huge statue of Ghengis Kahn.

It was an interesting talk and we made a donation to a charity for Woman called Farm Africa who Michelle supports.

Carol Smith

On Monday 14th April we welcomed Jo Lyons from the eco-friendly shop 'Like Nana Did', which she first opened five years ago in Newmarket, but later moved to slightly larger premises just around the corner.

Things are now about to change as it is becoming a Community Benefit Society where members buy shares and are entitled to vote. In the meantime, Jo will still be there, and you can take your own containers (including plastic, as long as it is not thrown away).

Business is going really well and to date it has saved a million pieces of plastic going into landfill - just one shop! Everything is sold by weight, herbs are really good value; we were treated to samples of lovely sweets and chocolates that are available!

Jo made it more like a question and answer session and we were very well informed about the new arrangements. A very interesting afternoon concluded with the usual tea and biscuits.

On Monday 28th April we had a 'musical afternoon' when Ros, Ruth and Rachel (The three R's) came to play for us - Ros on the piano and Ruth and Rachel on recorders. Ros opened with a piece called 'Cuckoo'. It was written originally for the harpsichord! Then Rachel, accompanied by Ros, played a Cornish piece and then Rachel and Ruth played together small ditties which we could sing to! Ros followed with some French pieces, one about puppets and the other about a little white donkey—the piano came alive!!

We had more duets from Ruth and Rachel and Ros then played a romantic piece by Mendelssohn; we were certainly woken up after that sleepy piece when Ros finished with a couple of pieces by Scott Joplin!!

A really lovely afternoon concluded with tea and biscuits.

On Monday 11th May we held our AGM with Jason in the Chair. He opened the meeting with a hymn and a prayer. Jason then mentioned that while much the world had changed since our last meeting, the Women's Meeting largely stas the same.

Jason read the minutes of last year's AGM and also Sylvia's report. Carol followed with the Treasurers report. The Committee were all re-elected with the addition that Jacqui Blackburn who agreed to become Vice President.

We then had tea with delicious home made cakes as we celebrated the birthdays of some members! A lovely sunny afternoon.

Pam Bradley

What's the Big Idea? - An introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Acts

The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke, a physician-friend and fellow-traveller of Paul. It complements his gospel, both being written for Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1), in around AD 63, during Paul's first Roman imprisonment.

While Luke's gospel records what Jesus *began* to do and teach, Acts tells us about what Jesus *continued* to do and teach through the disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit (1:1-3).

Luke's aim is:

To present a history. Christianity has a firm historical foundation. The life and teaching of Jesus Christ are recorded in the Gospels; Acts provides an account of the spread of the Church, as the result of the work of the risen Lord and the Holy Spirit through the apostles.

To give a defence. We read speeches to both Jews (eg 4:8-12) and Gentiles (eg 25:8-11), showing us how the Early Church challenged pagan and Jewish thought, the Roman government and Hellenistic culture.

To provide a guide. We see basic gospel principles being applied to specific situations in the context of problems and persecution. These same principles are applicable for us today.

To depict the triumph of Christianity in the face of bitter persecution. The success of the Church carrying the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome and planting local churches demonstrates that it operates under the rule of the exalted Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (1:8). Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the first Christians in their witness, so He will do the same for us today!



THE Manchester Chorale
Musical Director: Jill Henderson-Wild

in concert at

 **The Bridge Church**
The United Reformed Church (URC) in Otley
Bridge Church, Bridge Street Otley, LS21 1RW

7:30pm, Saturday 5 July 2025
Adults £10 in advance or
£12 on the door
U16s FREE

**Simply Sublime
Singing for a
Summer evening**

In support of the Hollybush Project for Adults with Learning
Disabilities, Bridge Church's charity this year

'T Club'-End of an Era

This month marks the end of an era in the life of The Bridge Church - the final meeting of the 'T Club'.

The 'T Club' was founded in 1968 for the women of the Church (along with the Supper Club for the men) We understand (and apologies if this is incorrect) that both these organisations were launched to give young parents the opportunity to 'have a social 'get together', whilst their other halves looked after the children.



In 2018 we held a celebration dinner at Otley Golf Club to celebrate 50 years of both these organisations. Sadly, numbers have dwindled in 'T Club' and a decision was made to cease meetings - at least in it's current form.

The Scarecrows return!

The ever popular scarecrows will be returning to the lawns of the Bridge Church over the summer holidays.

However, over the same period the renovation of the Manor Room is taking place, which will have health and safety implications. We are currently working with the architect and contractor as to how this will work.



Bridge Street Churches 'Unity'

Those familiar with Otley will know that a hundred or so yards from the bridge over the River Wharfe are two churches (opposite one another).

Going out of town, on the left is Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church, and on the right is the Bridge Church, the United Reformed Church in Otley.



Bridge Street divides the two churches - but in a demonstration of Christian Unity Father Nicholas Hird (from the Catholic Church) and Rev Jason McCullagh from the URC reach out to show that although Bridge Street dissects us, we have more in common than that which keeps us apart!

No clergymen were injured during the posing for this photograph!

CHURCH DIARY - JUNE - JULY 2025

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

June 16th - The Bridge Church 'Singing for Fun' Group entertain followed by Strawberries and Cream.

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

July 1st and April 5th.

T Club - 4th Thursday of each Month

June 26th - Summer Dinner

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

June 19th - Summer Dinner at The Royal Oak at Dacre

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

23rd June.

Messy Church - 12th July.

NEXT MESSENGER

Material for the next edition of the Messenger should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 27th July and will be available for collection on Sunday, 10th August, 2025

If possible, please send by e-mail to:

messenger@otleybridgechurch.org.uk

The Bridge United Reformed Church
Bridge Street
Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 1RW
www.otleybridgechurch.org.uk

Secretary

John Eveleigh
Telephone 07988 802700
secretary@otleybridgechurch.org.uk

Treasurer

Alison Anslow
Telephone 0113 281 7035

Magazine Editors

Alan and Alison Anslow
Telephone 07956550621 (Alan)
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

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



Find us on



Otley Bridge Church



@otley_urc