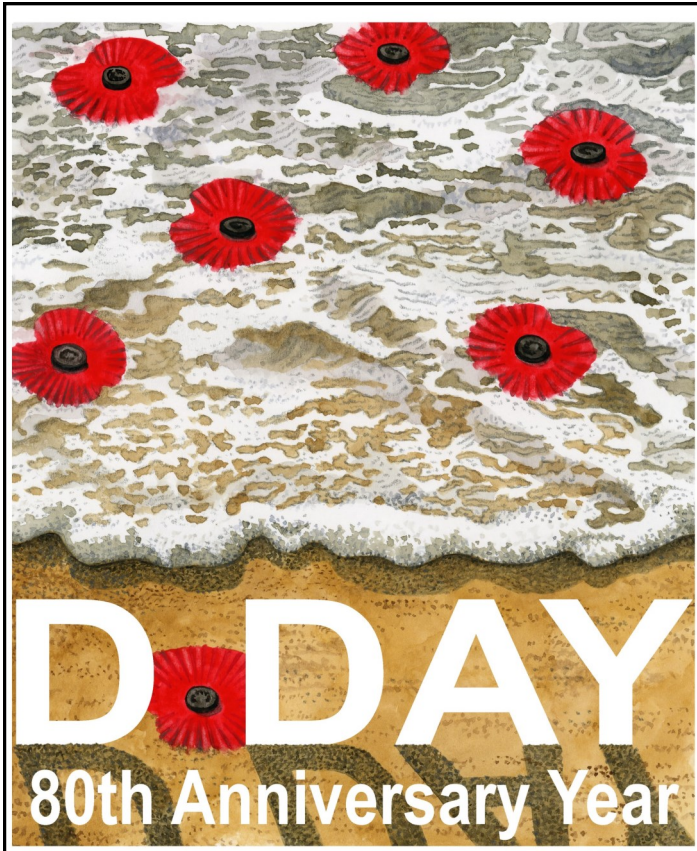


October - November 2024

Number 703

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,

Murder, adventure, romance, science-fiction, biography, history, fantasy, when you are in search of a good story what do you turn to? A good story can grip you, keep you turning the pages, prevent you from getting a good night's sleep, and leave you wanting more when you reach the last page! Six months after finishing Martin Meredith's book 'The State of Africa', the story of the countries of that magnificent continent emerging from colonisation to independence over a period of fifty years still plays on my mind, challenging my world view and leading me to study more about modern day Africa. Stories have great power.

David, Jonah, Ruth, Esther, Jesus, James, these are some of the stories that we have shared in our worship, on Sundays and on Wednesdays, over the last few months. How have you found these stories? Have they challenged you, surprised you, offended you, inspired you, have they brought you new insights? Our faith stories have great power! Throughout October the stories of the Bible will be brought to life in our church as we play host to the knitted Bible. Do be sure to make some space to spend time with this exhibition. Can you find your favourite story, can you recognise all the stories, is there a favourite story missing? Have fun!

There is great power in storytelling. Stories change our view of the world, faith stories change who we are, we change the world! We should never underestimate the power of a good story. At this time of the year, we tell powerful stories that speak to our world, and its needs, Harvest and

Remembrance. What messages do these stories convey? God calls us to share in God's unfolding story, to speak peace into division, light into darkness, hope into fear, joy into sadness, love into hate. Let us never underestimate the power of storytelling when we live the stories we tell. Let us be good storytellers. Let us be a good story!

With love,

Jason



The
**United
Reformed
Church**



MINISTERS REGISTER

1st August – 30th September

BAPTISM

29th September

Kali-Rose Elsie Brown

FUNERALS

8th August

Mr Derek Heelas

The Bridge Church and
Rawdon Crematorium

PREACHING PLAN

20th October 2024 – 8th December 2024

Sunday 20th October – Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Mrs Sheila Telfer

Jason is leading a Synod Youth Gathering

Sunday 27th October – Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

The Reverend Brian Hunt (Jason is on holiday)

Sunday 3rd November – Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Reverend Alan Griffiths (Jason is on holiday)

Sunday 10th November – Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Remembrance Sunday Parade Service

Reverend Jason McCullagh

Micah 4.1-5

Sunday 17th November – Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30am

Reverend Mirella Moxon

Jason is leading Junior Church

6pm - Evening Communion

Reverend Jason McCullagh

Hebrews 10. 11-25

Sunday 24th November – Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Reverend Jason McCullagh - Taste and See/Church Meeting

Daniel 7. 9-10, 13-14

Sunday 1st December – Advent Sunday

Sacrament of Holy Communion and Reception of New Members

Reverend Jason McCullagh

Readings still to be arranged

Sunday 8th December – Second Sunday in Advent

Mrs Helen Windsor

Jason is leading worship elsewhere in the Yorkshire Synod

News of the Family

Sapphire Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations go to Sylvia and Bernard Sutcliffe who recently celebrated their Sapphire Wedding Anniversary after 65 years of marriage. They were married on the 29th of August 1959 at Clough Foot Congregational Church in Todmorden on a lovely sunny day. Following the wedding, Sylvia and Bernard moved straight to Otley and have remained here ever since.

We hope you enjoyed celebrating such a wonderful achievement!

Baptism

We were delighted to share in the baptism of Kali-Rose Elsie Brown, baby daughter of Bradley Brown and Natalie Bradford on the 29th of September. It was good to welcome Kali-Rose's friends and family, and we hope you enjoyed your special time with us.

Do please pass on any items of good news you wish to share through the Messenger to the pastoral elders.

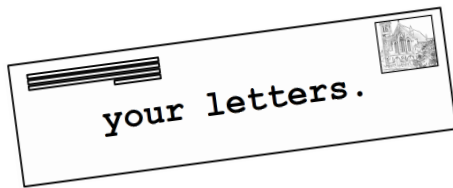
Harvest Festival

At our Harvest Festival on September 22nd as well as a magnificent donation of produce we talked about trees and during our prayers people wrote prayers and they were placed on a prayer tree.



A selection of the produce donated is shown on a couple of the photographs. These goods were duly delivered by Margaret, Christine and John to (and gratefully received) by RETAS.





Dear Friends

Many thanks for the cards, flowers and good wishes received following my fall. All is well now and I am feeling fine!

Once again many thanks and God bless.
Nesta Burton

Dear Friends

Thank you all so much for your support of my 'sponsored silence' to raise money for the Hollybush project.

I would also like to thank all my friends from the Thursday Café, Food and Friends and Mums and Tots and also to Gordon for doing the lighting. I much appreciate all of your support.

Much love
Margaret Crossfield.

Dear Friends

I would like to say a big thank you for all the prayers, flowers and support you have shown me over the past year while Derek was coping with Alzheimer's.

I would not have got through it without the support I received from you all, Thank you all so much!

God bless
Dorothy Heelas

FAMILY CHURCH WEEKEND

**THE HAYES CONFERENCE CENTRE, SWANWICK,
DERBYSHIRE.**

FRIDAY 19TH TO SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2025



We are beginning to plan for our first Family Church Weekend since 2019 – we have a date, and a venue – now we just need you!!

If you would like to come and be part of a great weekend we need to know by Sunday 16th March 2025 – and we will need a deposit of £30.

The weekend will include plenty of all-age group work, free time, and we will organise visits to local attractions and family worship.

The full cost of the weekend is as follows;

Adults	£228
Children under 16	Free

If you would like to stagger your payments over the course of 2025, we will have an 'easy payment plan in place. So, if you would like to go please speak to either Chris Beckwith or Enid Taylor.



Hollybush Project

Nature based group activities for adults with learning disabilities.

News from our Charity

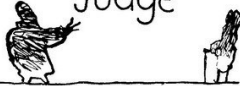
The Hollybush Project and other community groups have been working on an exciting new project with Leeds Piano Competition to plant up old pianos with UK native plants. The Hollybush Project went into the city centre to plant up the planter in situ. The entry was placed right in front of the City Museum, in Millenium Square. This formed part of the Leeds International Piano Competition sculpture trail during their competition and was in place for the first 3 weeks of September. The piano planter will then find its way to Hollybush, its permanent home.

Mires Beck Nursery, a charitable nursery who work with adults who live with the challenges of learning difficulties, Autism and physical disabilities, provided much advice and the majority of the UK native wildflowers.

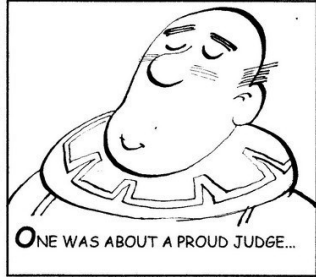


Young Peoples Pages

The
Tale of the
**The Widow
and the Judge**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

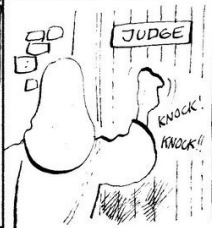


ONE WAS ABOUT A PROUD JUDGE...



...AND A POOR WIDOW

THE WIDOW NEEDED HELP
FROM THE JUDGE.

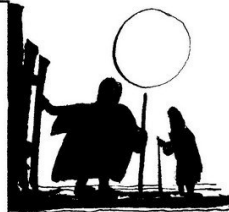


BUT HE WAS FAR TOO PROUD
AND BUSY TO LISTEN

BUT THE WIDOW
WOULD NOT GIVE UP



PLEASE COME AND SORT OUT
MY LEGAL PROBLEMS

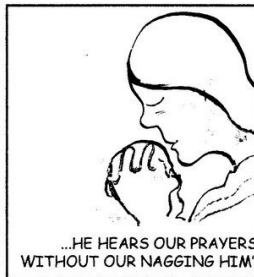


AT LAST THE JUDGE
GAVE IN - AND WENT
TO HELP THE WOMAN

I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE
YOU KEPT PESTERING ME!



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'GOD IS
MUCH KINDER THAN THE JUDGE
- WE DON'T HAVE TO PESTER
GOD...



...HE HEARS OUR PRAYERS
WITHOUT OUR NAGGING HIM.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

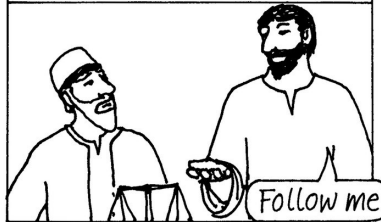
It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 9:9-13, Mk 2:13-15, Lk 5:27-32

The Roman invaders had given the job of collecting their taxes to local Jews who also overcharged, so they were doubly hated.



Matthew had his tax office by Lake Galilee.

Jesus walked past, and said



Follow me

Matthew left everything and went with Jesus.

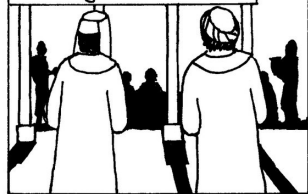


Matthew held a big feast and invited his friends so they could meet Jesus.



They were other tax collectors and bad people

The Pharisees saw Jesus eating with them.



They grumbled to Jesus' disciples.



Why is your teacher eating with all those bad people?

Jesus heard them and said



Who needs a doctor, healthy people or the sick?

Try reading 'keeping rules doesn't make up for not having kindness.' *



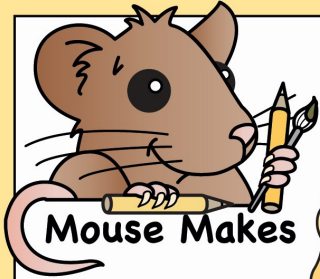
*Hosea 6:6

Hosea was talking about people who looked like they were following God's rules but were bad inside.



I have come for the people who need my help.





Mouse Makes

WALK WITH THE LORD

"Teach me your way,
O Lord, that I would
walk in your _____."
Psalm 86:11



"For we **walk** by

not by sight."
2 Corinthians 5:7

"**Walk** by the

"
Galatians 5:16



Jesus said:
"I am the light
of the world.
If you

me you won't
have to **walk**
in darkness
because
you have
the light
that leads
to life."
John 8:12



"**Walk** in

as Christ loved
us and gave
himself up for us."
Ephesians 5:2

"**Walk** in
a manner
worthy of the
Lord, fully pleasing
to him, bearing

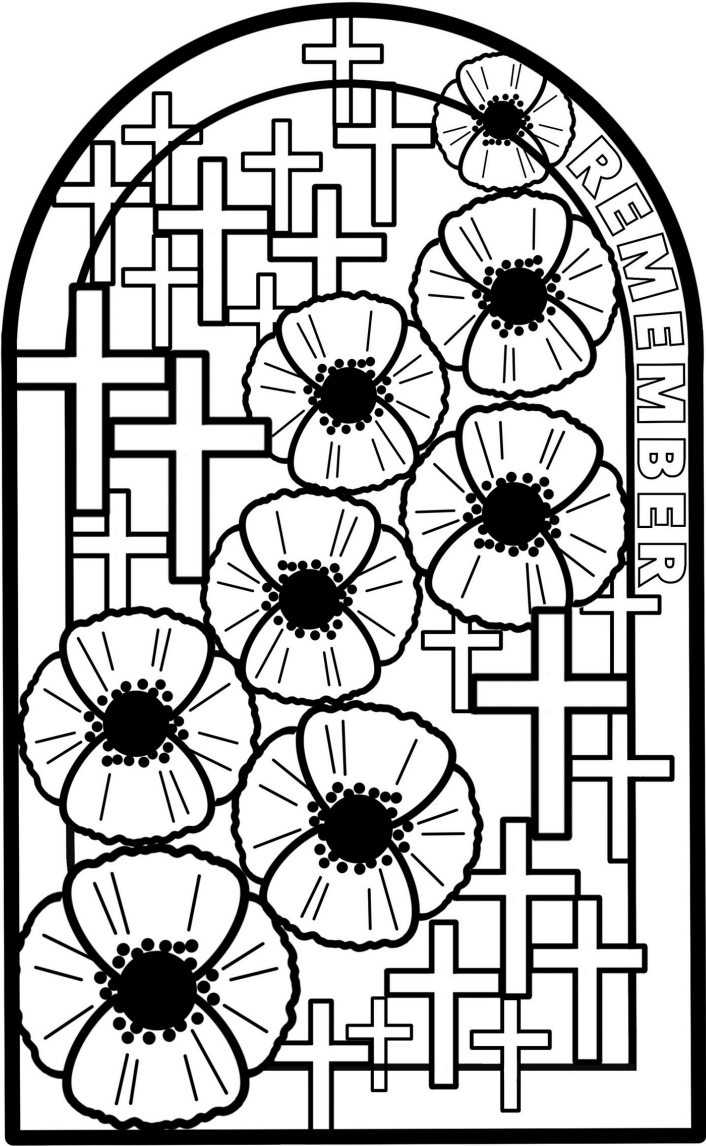
in every good work
and increasing in
the knowledge
of God"
John 8:12

is everyone who
fears the Lord,
who **walks** in
his ways."
Psalm 128:1



GOD • JESUS • LORD • WALK
WAYS • STEP • FEET • PATH • GO • TEACH • KNOWLEDGE • LIGHT

Find the words from the questions too!



Knitted Bible Exhibition



The Bridge Church
THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN GREAT BRITAIN

Bridge Street, Otley, LS21 1RW



36 Knitted Bible Scenes on loan from St George's URC, Hartlepool

10th to 27th October
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
10am to 4pm
Sunday - 12 noon to 4pm

Tea, Coffee and Juice available

**Visiting the knitted Bible is FREE,
but donations are welcome.**

Women's Meeting

On Monday September 23rd we had a very interesting talk and slides by Janet Nepokockycka on 'Cartmel Vale'.

We started with our usual hymn and prayer and then Janet, who lived there for ten years told us the history of Cartmel, how to get there by road or over sands with a guide. She told us about the large church of St Michael and St Mary, the very old gatehouse and various buildings in the village. Janet managed the heritage centre, which unfortunately no longer exists.

Birthdays and the usual refreshments followed!

Pam Bradley

New Members

During our service on 1st September we were pleased to receive into membership of the Bridge Church, Susan Dockar and her two sons, Jack and Noah.



All three have been attending the Bridge Church for their entire lives and are serving the church in a number of ways.

NEXT MESSENGER

Material for the next edition of the Messenger should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 24th November and will be available for collection on Sunday, 8th December, 2024
If possible, please send by e-mail to:
messenger@otleybridgechurch.org.uk



At our Messy Church on September 28th we had a celebration of Harvest.

As usual lots of preparation was involved to make sure the day ran smoothly, there were even knitted pumpkins!



There were lots of different activities available, and of course there was FOOD!



There were lots of craft activities and the some of the results are shown below.



The next Messy Church will be on Saturday 30th November - Why not give it a go!

Canon Paul Hardingham who writes for Parish Pump (a resource the Church subscribes to) is currently writing short articles on different books from the Bible. He is currently writing about the Gospels - the first is published below.

An Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew

This month we look at Matthew, the first of the gospels. Although linked to Matthew the apostle, it is generally believed that the author used oral tradition, written fragments, eye-witness accounts, as well as common material in the other synoptic gospels (Mark and Luke).

Matthew, in writing for Jews, sets out to prove that Jesus is the true Messiah. He connects Jesus' birth, life death and resurrection with the Old Testament Scriptures. In fact, he quotes the Old Testament more than any other New Testament author. This is reflected in the opening genealogy which traces Jesus back to Abraham; in his use of the terms *kingdom of heaven* and *Father in heaven*, reflecting a Jewish reluctance to use God's name; and in the way he portrays Jesus as the *Son of David*.

The whole gospel is structured around five blocks of teaching (chapters 5-7; 10; 13; 18; 24-25). This fivefold division reflects the structure of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament).

Matthew provides a comprehensive context by which we see all God's creation and salvation completed in Jesus, and all parts of our lives (work, family, friends and future) completed in Him. At the end of his gospel, Matthew records Jesus' commission to His disciples share this good news, promising to be with them:

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' (28:18-20)

GETTING TO KNOW ALAN ANSLOW

How long have you been associated with Otley?

I remember coming to Otley as a child most Sundays with my parents and grandparents; we always used to go to Hartley's Café on Boroughgate (which some members may remember). I then bought a house in Otley in 1983 and moved to Germany to work in 1985, where I met Alison (and married in Edinburgh) and we returned here in 1989. So really have had an association with Otley for the vast majority of my life.



What first brought you to the Bridge Church?

When we moved to Otley in 1989, Alison had been brought up in the Church of Scotland she sought advice and was told that the URC was the nearest denomination to the Church of Scotland. My faith journey has been varied to say the least, being baptised Methodist, confirmed in the Church of England, married Church of Scotland and now URC.

Please share a favourite memory of the Bridge Church?

A bit of a selfish one this! I would have to say the day that the new sanctuary doors were formally opened, which for me was a culmination of years of effort and frustration.

What is your favourite hymn and why?

There are several, but I would plump for one that is not sung in Church very often and that is 'Jerusalem'. I love the tune and find the words very uplifting. Another favourite is 'How Great Thou Art'.

What hobbies do you have?

I love sports particularly both codes of rugby (I am a season ticket holder at Leeds Rhinos) and cricket, purely spectating now as my very unsuccessful playing days are long gone. I also like running and regularly attend a weekly Parkrun. I also enjoy longish (but not too hilly) walks in the countryside with Alison!

Where is your favourite place in this country?

Alison would probably say that it was Headingley Stadium! Joking aside, I really like anywhere with beautiful scenery particularly the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales, Northumberland and Scotland.

Where in the world would you like to visit?

I would love to go to New Zealand and it is something we will probably look into in the near future. We will probably wish to drop in on a few places enroute.

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

A difficult one, but think I would plump for Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr. and Kevin Sinfield. All were inspirational leaders in their particular field and in the case of the latter someone I consider to be a perfect role model for any young person to aspire to due to the way he conducts himself and the selflessness and great humility that he has shown.



Food and Friends group has already had two meetings in the new season.

The September meeting talk was given by Sister Barbara from the Convent of Mercy. In stark contrast the October meeting subject was about female murderers!

Two things both meetings had in common were lots of chatting and of course the provision of a delicious hot meal!



CHURCH DIARY - OCTOBER - DECEMBER 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

October 21st - A Peruvian Journey – Susan Preston.

November 4th - Walking solo Coast to Coast - Christine Shepherd.

November 18th - Leisure and Recreation in Otley - Andrew Howard.

December 2nd - Seasonal Posies - Margaret Crossfield

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

November 6th and December 4th.

T Club - 4th Thursday of each Month

October 24th - The Hollybush Project - John Preston
This is an open meeting for the whole Church to find out more about our charity.

November 28th - Anchorage to Banff by road, rail and sea - Anne Howard.

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

October 17th - Quiz Night at Salem URC Burley .

November 21st -Leisure and Recreation in Otley - Andrew Howard.

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

21st October, 4th November, 16th November and 2nd December

Messy Church - 30th November.

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