

FOCUS



August 2024

FREE: Please take me home.

**The monthly magazine of the Emmanuel
Benefice, Berry Brow Methodist Church,
and Netherton Methodist Church.**

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds



Debby Plummer wearing the Coat of Hopes.

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August Church Services

- 4 August 10.00am Morning Worship South Crosland Church
 10.00am Holy Communion at Netherton Methodist Church
 10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist
 Church
- 11 August 10.00am Morning Worship at Armitage Bridge Church
 10.00am Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church
 10.30am Holy Communion at Berry Brow Methodist
 Church
- 18 August 10.00am Holy Communion at South Crosland Church
- 25 August 10.00am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
 10.30am Holy Communion at Berry Brow Methodist Church

Every Wednesday at St Paul's.

9.15 Morning Worship, 30 minutes of worship and prayer. All welcome.

Every Thursday at St Paul's

5.20 Christian Meditation. 30 minutes of Quiet Contemplation. All
welcome.

August Mid-week Services

Please contact Stella or Barbara for details.

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Dear Friends,

I do hope you are managing to enjoy some of the natural delights of the summer months despite the rain. On those days when the sun comes out, I certainly take the opportunity to enjoy the beauty and peace of my back garden with a nice cup of tea! I can hardly believe we're in the last few weeks of the season and Autumn is just around the corner. I wonder how the year has been going for you? We will no doubt have our ups and downs, good days and bad days, but to those of us who know the Lord we face each day with one constant in our lives, His presence wherever we go, the one who journeys with us through the highs and lows.

What's in a word?

In recent years, since the Pandemic, I have prayerfully chosen a word that will journey with me through the year, a word that God lays on my heart as I start thinking about it, usually around November time. In 2020 my word was **'Trust'** - he never failed me once as I trusted in Him.

2021 was **'Fearless'** as we all struggled with the anxiety of the pandemic, but I also dealt with some of my personal anxieties that God pointed out to me along the way.

2022 was **'Transformed'**. At the start of the year I had no real idea I would retire before the year was out, sooner than I expected, and that my life would indeed be transformed/changed.

2023 was **'Rest'**. After the humongous task of moving and downsizing with all the stress that brought God began to show me that it was ok to stop and rest. To enjoy it rather than worrying about what the next job on my to-do list was or meeting the demands of a diary that didn't always seem to be lighter even though I was no longer in full-time ministry. During that time I began to learn that it was ok to say 'no' a bit more and tried not to feel guilty. And now here we are in 2024. I felt towards the end of last year that God was prompting me

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to think about the transformed life and the new beginnings. This year I have been reflecting on being **'Restored'**. Each year I seek out a verse of Scripture to highlight the word God has given me and so I came across Psalm 51:12 - *Restore to me the joy of your salvation, renew a loyal spirit within me.* God has not disappointed. There is a sense of restoration and joy that has sprung out of learning to 'rest'. I noted in my journal (8/1/2024)

It has so many levels to that word 'restored' - personal and corporate – restore to me/us:

- *Better health*
- *The joy of being a disciple*
- *Healing for family members and friends*
- *Healing of the nations*

I started this message intending to focus on encouraging us all to enjoy the last few weeks of summer, come rain or shine, yet my mind kept wondering back to being 'restored'. Our world is crying out for restoration:

- Peace to the nations.
- A Spirit of hope for the future.
- A call to kindness and caring
- A call for unity in our communities and the world.

In our Gospel reading set for last Sunday (21/7), Mark 6:30-34, 53-56, we see Jesus modelling unity, peace, and reconciliation. Christ reconciles and restores us not only to God but to each other, creating one new humanity. This is our mission: to be rest-givers, peacemakers, and healers in a world that divides and exhausts.

I wonder if you have a word and Scripture verse for the year?

If you've never done this before – why not give it a go as we head towards 2025 – what might God want you to reflect on as we journey on through this year and into next?

Have a blessed August.

With love,

Angela

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Diary Dates

17 August: Final date for copy September Focus, 12 Noon.

The copy must be with the printers so that Focus will be in church on 25 August.

Items received after this time will probably miss the cut.

Coffee Morning

Holy Trinity Church holds a coffee morning on the second Saturday of each month at South Crosland Junior School, Moor Lane, Netherton. The July coffee morning raised £244.00; thank you to everyone for supporting this event. The funds raised at this coffee morning will be donated to Motor Neurone Disease Association.



Future dates for coffee morning are:

14 September 24

12 October 24

9 November 24

14 December 24

Final Service at Holy Trinity

The closing service for Holy Trinity will take place at 2.00pm on Sunday 8 September 2024.

A dedication service with a faith lunch will take place on Sunday 1 September at Holy Trinity at 10.00am.

Quiet Day -Churches Together on Saturday 29th June 2024



A small group attended the Quiet Day at St Paul's, Dalton Methodist Church, led by Rev Tim Francis. The theme was Mercy, Justice and Peace which tied in with Rev David's clergy pages in our July Focus. After coffee we moved into the main body of the church, what a wonderful space with vaulted ceiling, and the stained-glass window panels which look so dull and ordinary when driving up and down Wakefield Road. In fact, it is really beautiful, flooding the Church with light bringing it to Life.

There is a frosted glass cross in the centre of the window then radiating out are shades of brown, yellow, red, orange, purple, blue and green. It was a dull grey Saturday morning – but its radiance set the atmosphere for the day – lovely and welcoming

You could see the shadows of the traffic and hear muffled sounds, but it reminded me that even in this peaceful place, we are still very much part of the community- life is going on all around.

The programme included something for everyone in a relaxed atmosphere, quiet, reflective being able to participate freely with absolutely no pressure.



The day consisted of videos, craft activities, singing, music, poetry, prayers and free time to read and write, sit quietly, with endless coffee and tea (no discussion groups).

Tim provided information sheets and guidance notes to help us through the day which finished with a very meaningful communion. It was a well-planned day giving us opportunity to be quiet and reflect on the material provided.

As we enjoyed our packed lunch- an unplanned lively plenary session took place -nothing scary. It was interesting listening to different points of view.

The bible readings we used were Luke 18:1-18 . The parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge. Micah 6:6-8 Where the prophet Micah reminded us that our worship in not acceptable to God unless there is commitment to “do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God”.

We all long and pray for our brothers and sisters to be treated fairly with basic human rights.

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Are we guilty of ignoring their cries for Justice Mercy and Peace.

What might a fairer, more equal and sustainable world look like?

What steps are needed to achieve this?

We agreed that it is difficult to tune into the news, not to turn away, but we need to know what is going on in the world we can't ignore it, awful as it is

We agreed that we need to pray for peace, but the Peace of God is not a cosy private peace. It is all encompassing and world changing, not necessarily easy or comfortable. However, it is in building this peace that we are challenged and privileged to participate.

What can we do to be part of this change?

It was a well-planned day giving us opportunity to be quiet and reflect on the material provided and the questions above.

Thank you, Tim, for preparing and leading us through the day. It was good to set time aside to leave the usual Saturday activities to have a change of pace.

And to quote part of the last verse of the hymn by Alan Gaunt

God give us Peace:

If you withdraw your Love There is no Peace for us or

Any hope of it. With you to lead us on

Through death and tumult Peace will come. AMEN

Catherine Day

Pray for Peace

This article was first published in the Methodist Recorder's Health and Spirituality series, 2015-16. Reproduced on StF+ with kind permission of the Methodist Recorder.

We pray for peace,
but not the easy peace
built on complacency
and not the truth of God.
We pray for real peace,
the peace God's love alone can seal.

We pray for peace,
but not the cruel peace,
leaving God's poor bereft
and dying in distress,
we pray for real peace,
enriching all the human race.

We pray for peace,
and not the evil peace,
defending unjust laws
and nursing prejudice,
but for the real peace
of justice, mercy, truth and love.

We pray for peace:
holy communion
with Christ our risen Lord
and every living thing;
God's will fulfilled on earth
and all his creatures reconciled.

We pray for peace,
and for the sake of peace,
look to the risen Christ
who gives the grace we need,
to serve the cause of peace
and make our own self-sacrifice.

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God, give us peace:
if you withdraw your love,
there is no peace for us
nor any hope of it.
With you to lead us on,
through death or tumult, peace will come.

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Letter from Edel McClean

I lost my temper in a charity shop this week. As a relatively even-tempered, mild-mannered introvert this isn't typical but as I skimmed the spines of books I overheard a discussion on the subject of Syrian refugees: 'You see these people on the television all saying they want to come here and it's for no other reason than our benefits. They're not our problem, we've got enough of our own to look after'.

Of course the refugee crisis unfolding across the world at the moment is hugely complex, not reducible to soundbites or well-meaning simplistic responses. Listening to the individual stories, to statistics and politicians, it is tremendously tempting to turn away. I have to force myself to watch the news these days. I have to force myself not to turn my attention elsewhere. I have to steel myself to look into the face of the wailing infant or the gaunt, despondent teenager, or the stricken, desperate young mother. I'm a Christian and these men and women, young and old, footsore and frightened, these are my brothers and sisters. I feel helpless to do anything about it aside from paying attention and prayer - to pray for some measure of peace for every one of those souls tossed about with scant protection on stormy seas and scant protection from stormy world politics.

I need to listen to the realities of the world, because it is too easy for me to get caught up, as Alan Gaunt puts it, in the easy peace of my own immediate experience. It is too easy for me to excuse a cruel peace that ignores the world's poorest. It is too easy for me to be seduced by an evil peace that locks the door against the uncomfortable questions raised by the arms trade, military intervention, unjust trade and unequal relationships. Psalm 113 says: 'How good and pleasant when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity'. If the incarnation is to mean anything at all, it must mean that every man, woman and child on this earth is my sister, my brother. Peace can only be true and lasting peace if it includes all of us in a unity of 'justice, mercy, truth and love'.

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Alan Gaunt challenges us to seek peace that responds to hard social questions

So there I was, standing in a charity shop in an impoverished Northern town feeling my hackles rise, feeling angry at these women, my sisters too, disturbing my Tuesday afternoon book-browsing peace, bringing the spectres of fear and poverty, of racism and complacency into my little haven of quiet. I didn't manage much of a challenge beyond an expression of my feeling that most people I saw on television wanted to live, to not be afraid, to be safe and that the vast majority were seeking refuge, and finding welcome, in countries much poorer than our own.

I didn't do the subject justice, and my innate reserve probably meant that I was the only one aware of my levels of emotion. But I'm grateful to those women because they disturbed my peace, and that disruption can only do me good. It is not that I believe that the role of the Christian is to be perpetually angry, but I do believe that God has a hand in waking us from the doze of comfort that our world sometimes lulls us into.

What, after all, is Christian peace all about? Well it is, at some level, a peace that 'passeth understanding' but it is about more than assurance, the belief that all will be well in the end. Peace is not the same as cosy or contentedness, a felt experience of comfort. The peace of God is not, primarily, a private peace. It is much bigger, more all-encompassing, more world changing. It is in the building of this peace that we are challenged and privileged to participate. The process isn't necessarily easy or comfortable. Our discomfort, though, can be a sign of God's love working in us calling us to commit ourselves more to God's own vision of peace. As Alan Gaunt's hymn assures us:

With you to lead is on,
Through death or tumult, peace will come.

Edel McClean lives in Bury, Lancashire.

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Coat of Hopes

The Coat of Hopes is a patchwork pilgrim coat, on an ongoing walk-through Britain.

Made, worn and walked by many hundreds of people during and since the pilgrimage on which it was created - from the south coast of England to the gates of COP 26, the UN climate summit, in Glasgow autumn 2021.

The Coat is made up of pieces of blanket into which people have worked their griefs, remembrances, prayers and hopes for the place they call home.

It walks ever calling those who encounter it, or who share it, into the present. Supported by its warmth (love) - to bear its weight (responsibility). So, each might “wear the promise that we all belong together” as we seek to respond with our whole self to the climate and ecological emergency.

This year it is going south & has been passing through Yorkshire this month

Barbara Keal has written a song about the Coat

The words of the chorus are:

Ask me where I'm going,
ask me what is my purpose,
Ask me what my name is,
they call me the coat of hopes.

The Coat has its own website coatofhopes.uk

I met the Coat of Hopes on Festival Day at the Community of the Resurrection and was privileged to wear it for a while.

Debby Plummer

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South Crosland CofE (A) Junior School is 150 years old!

During the last week of the summer term the junior school celebrated its 150th birthday. The children took part in a range of activities to learn about the history of the school and how it has changed, developed and grown over many years.

Steve Gledhill gave a well-received talk to the whole school focusing on the changes in teaching and was ably supported by a 'Victorian Headteacher' in costume. The children were fascinated hearing about old inspection reports and the fact that the first job of the day for the headteacher was to light the fire! Children in those days wanted to sit at the front of class merely to keep warm.

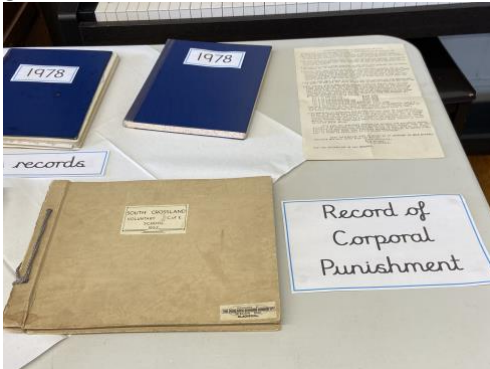


A highlight of the week was an afternoon gathering of many who had previously worked at or were associated with the school. The hall was filled with chatter with many memories and faces recalled. It was a lovely atmosphere and those who attended were able

to look at the school archives, logbooks and records of events. Many photos were on display and the screen showed some fascinating pictures, including the first children to attend the school. A wonderful mural, organised by teacher Mrs Katie Siddons, depicted the outside of the school with each brick a self-portrait of a current pupil! The

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children were on hand to answer questions, take photos and give guided tours of the school.



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Refreshments were provided along with celebratory biscuits! The afternoon was a huge success, and many thanks must go to Miss Clare Brewster, Headteacher, staff and children for making it all happen. Happy Birthday South Crosland! You're looking good for your age!

Janice Dorrington.

Armitage Bridge Ringers

June has been a busy month for us with various projects either starting or carried on.

Sally, Oliver, Lorraine and Alan have been recruited to try and promote more 12 bell ringing in our part of Yorkshire. We have been over to Ossett, we only had 10 ringers but successfully rang a quarter peal of Yorkshire Surprise Royal. We had better luck at Bradford Cathedral later in the month where we were involved in a quarter of Plain Bob Maximus (12 bell ringing is called maximus). We are hoping to arrange another

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attempt sometime in July joining up at some point with Oliver's brother Sam and his wife Sian.



Our work at St. Stephens, Lindley has continued with the aid of some professional help we are slowly improving the “go” of this local ring of 8 bells. We have rung for a wedding and Oliver has them booked for a peal attempt in July which will test the work already done.

Lorraine and Alan have been involved in ringing full peals at St. Chads, Saddleworth and St. James, Accrington while Oliver rang one at Halifax. This of course comes on top of our normal practice nights during the week. Cath, Ann, Graham, Lorraine and Alan are glad of a relaxing drink and quiz on a Wednesday evening (following our busy practice) at the Lib Club on Stockwell Hill, where we are usually successful in winning one of the prizes on offer.

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Saturday June 22nd was a manic day. We had been asked to attend the Meltham ringers “Summer Outing” which meant a car journey over the border. During the day we rang at 4 churches starting on the Mears and Stainbank ring of 8 at Newchurch in Rossendale before moving on to St. Paul Ramsbottom, St. Mary Bury and finishing at St. Mary Radcliffe. A good day out arranged by Meltham ringers Joanna and Ben. It was then a dash back to ring a quarter peal and attend a BBQ for Rebecca Kirby’s 21st birthday. We were joined by Martha who enjoyed the sausages very much!

The last Saturday in June saw us hosting the “Western Branch” striking competition. It’s been a struggle to get this event started again after covid, and unfortunately June is not the best month to hold this with holidays and loads of other stuff going on including Honley Show, nevertheless we had to start sometime, somewhere. Although poorly attended numbers wise, towers represented were Armitage Bridge, Saddleworth, Huddersfield Parish, Lightcliffe and Halifax Minster. Those involved had a fun relaxed morning with plenty of ringing to keep us all occupied for a couple of hours.

July is shaping up to be just about as hectic with rope work to be done at The Parish and Holmfirth, various peal and quarter peal attempts at different places, plus a visiting band on the 19th. Those of us involved will be looking forward to our ringing trip to Northern Ireland in August.



Yorkshire Association

On Saturday, 22 June 2024 in 47m

Lightcliffe, West Yorkshire

St Matthew

Tenor: 4-1-21 in D \flat

1260 Stedman Triples

- 1 Peter C Kirby
- 2 Rebecca Kirby
- 3 Alan M Trebble
- 4 Alex W Wain
- 5 Andrea P L Wain
- 6 Lorraine Trebble
- 7 Carole Kirby (C)
- 8 Harry R W Thompson

First Stedman Triples as conductor

First as cover

21st birthday compliments to Rebecca

Lorraine and Alan



Do you know a Recycling Hero?



Nominations are now open for the Recycling Hero Awards; Kirklees Council is asking residents to nominate friends, family members, colleagues who are setting a benchmark when it comes to recycling.

There are various categories and you can submit a nomination by clicking here:

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/bins-and-recycling/recycling-heroes.aspx>

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August 2024 Readings.

Sunday 4th August – Trinity 10 – Ephesians 4: 1-16 and John 6: 24-35

Prayer for the Day (Collect)

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord

Sunday 11th August – Trinity 11 – Ephesians 4: 25-5:2 and John 6: 35 & 41-51

Prayer for Today (Collect)

God of glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sunday 18th August – Trinity 12 – Ephesians 5: 15-end and John 6: 51-58

Prayer for the Day (Collect)

God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday 25th August – Trinity 13 – Ephesians 6: 10-20 and John 6: 56-69

Prayer for the Day (Collect)

Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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CONTACTS

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This magazine may be read in full colour on our webpage!

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THE EMMANUEL BENEFICE HUDDERSFIELD

“Offering love and service to our communities in Christ’s name.”