



**March 2023**

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



## FOCUS

### March Church Services

5 March	9.15am Holy Communion at South Crosland 10.00am Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church. 10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church
12 March	9.15am Morning Worship at Armitage Bridge 10.00am Holy Communion at Netherton Methodist Church. 10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church
19 March	Mothering Sunday 9.15am Holy Communion at South Crosland 10.00am at Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church. 10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church
26 March	9.15am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge 10.00am at Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church. 10.30am Holy Communion at Berry Brow Methodist Church

### March Mid-week Services

1 March	Netherleigh, Butternab Road, Beaumont Park
8 March	14 Sherwood Drive, Netherton
15 March	11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton
22 March	TBC
29 March	TBC

## Reflections from the Rectory

It has been said that times of change are the most stressful times in our lives. Moving house, changing jobs, getting married, children leaving home, and, on the whole, I absolutely agree with that. However, as the closure of St John's Church building in Newsome has been hanging over us all now for over 3 years the stress of what needed to be done has almost subsided. However, it returned this week when we were given notice that the building will close for public worship on Monday 6th March. This news comes with mixed feelings – there is a sadness to closing the building because the church has been central to community life in Newsome for many years. The building itself, which opened in 1872, is also an important part of the character of the village, but there is also relief that the work that needs to be done to keep it open will no longer be the responsibility of a handful of people who are the congregation. In the current financial crisis and with costs for everyday living increasing it was just too much to keep asking them to dig deeper and pay more for the upkeep of the building. However, the church, the body of Christ, lives on in a new place in the community. We are now worshipping with our brothers and sisters at Berry Brow Methodist church, and it is a great way of showing that Christians can and do work together very well. Our hope for the future is that we will be able to do more in the community as we work together to show people the love of Jesus through our actions.

The parish of Newsome and Armitage Bridge will still be here for everyone who needs us and the parish church, for baptisms, weddings and funerals will be St Paul's at Armitage Bridge. The church hall will be retained by the parish which means the nursery can continue to use it and the land the Scout Hut stands on will also stay with us, so nothing changes there either.

So, what about St John's Church building? What will happen to that now? Well, the hope is the local Green Party counsellors, Andrew Cooper, Karen Allison and Sue Lee-Richards will complete the purchase of the building soon after the official closure and work will begin to transform it into a community centre that will be accessible to everyone in the local area. The plan is to

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have rooms for meetings, a coffee shop, a stage where concerts and performances can take place with space for an area where the church will be remembered with photographs and some of the existing furniture.

It will be great to see the now dark and dilapidating building transformed into a light, vibrant, living space where community groups can meet, and everyone will be welcome. It was what churches were built to be – a space where folk can come together and make new friends.

We can be confident that God has a plan for us as a church and for the building. We are told by the prophet Jeremiah that God says “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. So, you see it’s not up to us, it’s all in God’s plan.

So, in the sadness of the closure there is hope in the anticipation of what it will become and for that we need to give thanks to God and pray that the transformation will go well and be a place of community.

There will be a final service in St John’s on Sunday 5th March at 3pm and everyone is invited. Please see the notice in this Focus magazine.

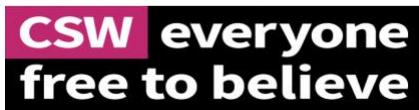
*Julie*

## Coffee Morning

Holy Trinity Church holds a coffee morning on the second Saturday of each month at South Crosland Junior School, Moor Lane, Netherton. In February we raised £169.40; thank you to everyone and those who donated raffle prizes.

The next coffee morning will take place on 11 March 2023.

*Stella*



Here is some background about the situation in Nigeria, followed by prayers for each day of the week. Please use them this month, however God guides you:

‘It looks like the life of common man does not matter in Nigeria...’ Reverend Yanusa Nmadu, CEO of CSW-Nigeria.

We receive reports of attacks by armed groups in Nigeria's northern and central states on an almost daily basis. Similar incidents are now occurring in the south of the country.

Tens of thousands have been killed, and even more have been displaced, and there has been a marked rise in abductions for ransom.

During a visit to Nigeria in November 2022, CSW met with deeply traumatised people in southern Kaduna state. Some were victims themselves of abduction or attacks; some had lost loved ones; some had had loved ones kidnapped, and were having to negotiate ransoms in daily calls from their ruthless captors.

Christians - and church leaders in particular - are primary targets for adoption and extortion.

**Sunday** : Pray Psalm 10.17,18 over Nigeria today, asking God for justice and righteousness to prevail in the nation: “O, lord, you will hear the desire of the meek; you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike terror no more.”

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**Monday :** ask God to strengthen, bless and protect our colleagues at CSW-Nigeria today, including the state coordinators and volunteers. Ask him to give them wisdom as they continue to speak out for freedom of religion or belief for all, and bring hope to vulnerable communities and individuals.

**Tuesday :** pray for physical, mental and emotional healing, for former abductees across the country who were held in camps where arbitrary killings, assaults, rape and torture are rife. Pray for comfort for families whose loved ones were killed - often despite a ransom payment - and for deliverance for all still in captivity.

**Wednesday :** "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18). Pray that this would be true for the communities in northern and central Nigeria who are hurting today.

**Thursday :** Leah Sharibu was abducted over five years ago from her school by IS-affiliated terrorists. The 19-year-old is still held captive, after refusing to renounce her Christian faith. Pray for renewed efforts to secure Leah's freedom, along with everyone else held by terrorists.

**Friday :** ask God to protect vulnerable communities who have been terrorised for decades by Boko Haram, and other extremists, and to disrupt every violent plan.

**Saturday :** **Father God, deliver Nigeria from the hands of those who are set on violence. Released the captives, protect the vulnerable, raise up peacemakers, and stir the international community to respond, decisively to the many injustices, taking place in the country today. Amen.**

*Jeremy Plummer*

## Morning Worship at Holy Trinity

The theme of our morning worship on Sunday 5 February was Shine Your Light. Helen Pearson led the worship and the children made tea-light holders. The response to the word included a short dramatic interpretation of Matthew 5 13-20.



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### Diary Dates

- 26 March Quiz at Holy Trinity, South Crosland.
- 1 April: Final date for copy April Focus, 12 Noon.  
Items received after this time will probably miss the cut.

# A Warm Space



South Huddersfield Churches Together  
extend

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL  
at



## Berry Brow Church and Community Centre Birch Road, HD4 7LP

Every Tuesday from 12.30—3.30 pm from  
6th December to March 28th

A light lunch will be available, hot drinks throughout the afternoon and there will be facilities for card  
and board games or to sit and chatter and stay warm.

Want to know more? Contact Carol on 07740425093 or Pam Kent 07949810088

Lifts available—give us a call.

**No Charge! (but donations welcome if you are able)**

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**Come and join us for the**  
**Final service at St John's Church, Newsome**  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 3pm**  
**Led by Rev Julie Anderson**  
**and the Emmanuel Team clergy**  
**Preacher - Archdeacon Bill Braviner**

**A chance to look back and remember and  
look forward and give thanks.**

**Everyone welcome!**



### **Armitage Bridge Ringers**

Church bell ringing has many facets to it and interests folk on many different levels. For some, its ringing at their local church for services, others find the mathematics and theory of the exercise the compelling factor, ringing at different churches on outings or “tower grabs” for some holds their attention. Whichever aspect of ringing you find intriguing at some stage most advanced ringers will be asked to take part in attempting a peal. This generally involves ringing non-stop on average for 3 hours, completing a minimum of 5,000 different changes. Perhaps learning a new method, concentrating, and following the conductor’s instructions very carefully from start to finish. Three of our ringers took part in the peal of Double Dublin Surprise Major at Almondbury recently, Alan, Lorraine and Oliver (who also conducted), the remaining 5 participants are all local to us. Neil and Catherine from Halifax, Sue from Lindley, Peter from Lightcliffe and Alex from Huddersfield,



#### **Yorkshire Association**

On Saturday, 4 February 2023 in 3h 2

Almondbury, West Yorkshire

All Hallows

Tenor: 18-0-21 in E

**5088 Double Dublin Surprise Major**

Composed by D G Hull

- 1 Peter C Kirby
- 2 Catherine A Oram
- 3 Susan J Wilkinson
- 4 Lorraine M Trebble
- 5 Alex W Wain
- 6 Neil J Murray
- 7 Alan M Trebble
- 8 Oliver M Austin (C)

Birthday compliments to Sue

50th peal: 2

*Lorraine and Alan*

## **March 2023 Readings and prayers**

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> of Lent – Romans 4: 1-5 & 13-17 and John 3: 1-17**

Prayers for the Day - Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> of Lent – Romans 5: 1-11 and John 4: 5-42**

Prayers for the Day - Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday – Exodus 2: 1-10 and Luke 2: 33-35**

Prayers for the Day - God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> of Lent – Romans 8: 6-11 and John 11: 1-45**

Prayers for the Day - Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, 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***