



**April 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  

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Diocese of Leeds



## FOCUS

### **April Church Services**

#### **2 April Palm Sunday**

9.15am Morning Worship at South Crosland  
10.00am Holy Communion at Netherton Methodist Church.  
10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church

#### **9 April Easter Sunday**

9.15am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge  
10.45am Holy Communion at Berry Brow Methodist Church

16 April 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

23 April 9.15am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge  
10.00am at Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church.  
10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church

30 April 10.00am Joint service of Holy Communion at Netherton Methodist Church.

5 May 10.00am Joint service to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles at Berry Brow Methodist church followed by a picnic lunch.

### **April Mid Week Services**

5 April The Stations of the Cross in Church at 2pm.

12 April 14 Sherwood Drive.

19 April 11 Sherwood Drive.

26 April Netherleigh, Butternab Road Beaumont Park.

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.

## **Services for Holy Week and Easter**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Palm Sunday – services in all churches as normal

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 6.30-7pm at Armitage Bridge for a short service of meditation

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April – 6.30-7pm at Netherton Methodist Church a short service of meditation

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April – 2pm at South Crosland church – Stations of the Cross

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April – 7pm at Berry Brow Methodist Church – Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April – 2pm at Armitage Bridge Church – an hour at the cross – a reflective service

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April – 9.15am at Armitage Bridge for Easter Holy Communion  
10.45am at Berry Brow Methodist Church for Easter Holy Communion

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### Dear Friends

As we move into April, we leave Lent behind and celebrate Easter, for many a time of bunny hunts and chocolate egg indulgence. This year, however, there does seem to be a lot going on that brings concern to many. April will also see fuel prices going up; hoped for tax cuts have not materialised; basic foodstuffs are more expensive. The war in Ukraine seems to have no end; women and girls are still denied the basic right of education in parts of the world, and closer to home a recent report on the Metropolitan Police has been highly critical.

It seems to me that now more than ever the world needs to hear the message of Easter, a message that is more than bunnies and chocolate eggs, although when the symbolism of new life is linked to them, they too can become part of the message.

I offer the following reflections on what for me is a message for Easter.

Firstly, it shows us the frailty and foolishness of humanity. This can be seen in the disciples of Jesus. Even at the Last Supper they still do not seem to have understood what Jesus was all about. This result is misguided actions that lead to betrayal, denial and even violence as Peter draws a sword on those who come to arrest Jesus. People today are no different. Perhaps part of what makes for a healthy relationship with God is recognising our own frailties and foolishness and realising our dependence on Christ.

Then we see what God chooses to do on the cross. For me this is the most marvellous event of all time. Here, despite the frailty and foolishness of humanity God chooses in Christ “to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (Colossians 1: 20 ESV). I just want to pause here and emphasise the all things part. Everything in creation is included, nothing is left out, the significance of the cross is cosmic. This is mind blowing because it means that even I am included.

The cross is in some ways an ending but as T.S. Elliot wrote “ To make an end is to make a beginning , the end is where we start from”. And so, we start from the end that is the cross and move to the resurrection, that new life symbolised by those bunnies and eggs. It is a new life offered to all; it is a new life that means each day brings the opportunity for a new beginning.

This is why we can have hope in a world where we see so much going on that concerns us.

Easter tells us that God in Christ is at the centre of all that is going on. It tells us that it was for such a world Christ died on the cross so that new beginnings are made possible.

May we all experience afresh God's love as we once more celebrate Easter.

**Tim**

Revd Tim Francis

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Dear Friends

If Lent is the “Springtime of the Church Year”, when daffodils join the crocuses and snowdrops of late winter, April is the joyful explosion of spring into our lives, when everything returns to life. April 9th is Easter Day this year, preceded by the roller-coaster of Holy Week from Palm Sunday (April 2nd) onwards. And the fruits of Easter - because Jesus rose to life again after his death on the cross - are joy and hope and the possibility of transformation. Nothing is impossible with God. Even minds can be changed. Even the damage to our planet can be changed.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed - Alleluia!

Let's put transformation into practice in our lives and in our neighbourhood! First of all, thanks to all of you who returned your Environment Questionnaires. It shows me that we clearly have a healthy core of church

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people who have a concern for living sustainably and caring for the environment and the planet.

I want to invite you and all Focus readers to join us on “Earth Day” (Saturday April 22) for a day of Litter picking and tidying up around Armitage Bridge village, including the churchyard, path and surrounding roads, undergrowth and pathways. Meet near the footbridge at 10am - or come later in the day if you prefer. Bring your own sacks, gloves and litter pickers if you have them. Our councillors will bring some too. If it goes well, we can do a similar clear up in Netherton and South Crosland and/or Newsome later in the year.

Another date for your diary - on Rogation Sunday( May 14) at 2pm - “The Big Blessing” , an open air service at Stirley Community Farm YWT

Remember - we are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!!

*Debby*

### **South Crosland Parish Church Women’Society.**

The last meeting of the Women’s Society will be The Stations of the Cross. In May we will be joining the 1st Wednesday Group in a room at the Methodist Chapel on the 3rd May. We feel it makes sense to join the two small groups together and to heat just one room. There is a programme of interesting speakers until the end of this year. In January 2024 it will be the Annual General Meeting. I hope to see the members of South Crosland Women’s Society on the 3rd of May at Netherton Chapel.

*Stella Bowman*

## **Discipleship course**

I have been asked many times if we intend to run a short course which will help people on their journey with discipleship.

The answer is YES!

It is my intention to run such a course entitled:-

“Growing as a Disciple”

This course will run after Easter and will have 10 sessions.

This may seem like a long time but it is possible to split these into 2 parts and have 5 sessions with a break before running the other 5 sessions.

If you would like to explore your journey of faith and discipleship I will be running a taster/introduction session on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm and the venue will be decided depending on numbers.

If you are interested in this course or in coming to the taster session to see if it is for you then please let me know so that I can then decide on the venue!!

Thanks

*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.

The next coffee morning will take place on 8 April 2023 at 10.00am.

*Stella*

**CSW invite us to pray with them throughout Holy Week.**

***From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. (Matthew 27:45).***

In the middle of the Easter story, it appears as though darkness has won. The disciples are in a dangerous situation as Jesus - their source of hope - has been crucified. Could God really turn this into something good?

And yet, the glorious Easter morning was just about to dawn. Victory was imminent. God was still faithful. The best was yet to come!

This Holy Week, as you read through some familiar passages, may they remind you of the people and places that seem hopelessly far from transformation, and desperately need a breakthrough of justice. Let's contend for these situations in prayer, believing that God is still working for good - even when we do not see or understand.

**Jesus' unjust arrest (Matthew 26.50)**

Pray for freedom for those who have been arrested or sentenced in connection with their religion or belief. People like Pastor Keshav Raj Acharya in Nepal, Pastor Lorenzo in Cuba and Pastor Nadarkhani among several others in Iran.

**Jesus is mocked and mistreated by soldiers (Luke 22.63)**

Pray protection over those in prison, such as Chinese lawyer, Chang Weiping. He has been subjected to psychological torture and inhumane treatment while in detention for peacefully, defending human rights.

**Peter under pressure to deny Jesus (John 18.17)**

Pray for miraculous transformation in countries like Sudan, so that no one would be pressured to renounce their faith in exchange for their freedom or safety.

**Pilate's failure to release an innocent man (Mark 15.13-15)**

Pray that God will raise up leaders with integrity, who will listen to evidence and use their power for good. Pray for unjust verdicts to be overturned.

**'Why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27.46)**

Christians are often targeted during significant festivals like Easter. Pray for protection for Christians who are at higher risk at this time of year. Pray that those who feel abandoned or alone would feel the hope of the gospel afresh this Easter.

*Jeremy Plummer*



## **Last service at St John's church, Newsome 5 March 2023**

After nearly 3 years of “closing” the church building at St John's church, Newsome, the final service was held there on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Over 200 people attended the final service, comprising about 160 adults and 40 young folk, mainly the uniformed brigades of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers, who presented their flags at the altar at the start of the service. The clergy were also out in force, with Julie, Debby, and David, plus Bill Braviner, the Archdeacon of Halifax.

The service was a celebration of all that St John's has been to Newsome over the past 150 or so years. Reverend David Kent spoke movingly about various events which had happened in the church and the community in his memory; movingly because it made you think about all those people who had been involved, many of whom are no longer with us in body, only in spirit. It made you realise that St John's has been many things to so many people, not just those who have been involved in baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals, but all those involved in worship, friendship, fellowship and community events. Bill Braviner spoke about thinking about things from a different viewpoint – certainly, we are now thinking about St John's moving into a different phase of its life.

So, what happens now? The church congregation has been continuing to worship at Berry Brow Methodist church since September 2021. Councillor Andrew Cooper spoke about plans to turn the building into a community space, The Newsome Centre, run by the community for the community. After the service, we had refreshments in the scout hall, served by the Scouts, and had a chance to catch up with friends old and new and look at the plans for The Newsome Centre in more detail. I had gone to the service thinking it would be sad, and it's always sad when a church building has to close in these circumstances, but by the end I felt optimism about the future rather than sadness about the past, and really pleased that there is a tangible plan to use the building and keep it where it belongs – in the heart of the community.

*Caroline Jones*

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**Venerable B Braviner**



**Rev D Kent, Rev D Plummer, Ven B Braviner, Rev J Anderson**

## **Thank you for the music**

George Marsden, our organist at St Paul's and St John's churches since 1981 is presently residing in Greenacres Care Home, where visitors are most welcome. (Please avoid mealtimes).

This short article is to thank George for his long service, dedication, loyalty and generosity of spirit. George is a very accomplished musician, a respected and valued member of our church family.

George started piano lessons with Mrs Bradley at the age of 6.. She was the organist at Berry Brow Salem Methodist chapel; and when her husband was transferred to Burnley George played for his first service at 14 years old. The pay was £10 per annum for 2 services on Sunday and Tuesday evening choir practice plus a fee of 10 Shillings and 6 pence for weddings and funerals.

One of George's earliest memories was of an owl getting into the organ pipes. When he increased the volume in the last verse of 'Guide me, oh Thou Great Redeemer' a startled owl flew out with much flapping of wings causing quite a disturbance. The service continued, a window was left open and during the next week it escaped, leaving its calling card all over the organ.

When Salem closed in 1959 George became organist at Salendine Nook Baptist Church for 25 years, before taking up the position of organist at St Paul's in 1981; shortly afterwards he was invited to play at St John's as well. So, 2 or sometimes 3 services every Sunday, plus all the baptisms, weddings, funerals etc. Recently George told me that he had played the organ at every Christmas Day service for the last 70 years.

George was a very popular pianist for many social events, whenever music was required, George was there, adding to the occasion. He played the organ at Huddersfield Town Hall many times and won the Mrs Sunderland competition performing there.



His talents were recognised locally, and he became the accompanist to Fenton Ladies Choir, Lockwood, Honley Male Voice Choir for 40 years, and Huddersfield over 60s choir, and Honley Gilbert and Sullivan Society. He travelled all over England, Wales, Malta and Toronto, playing in concerts and competitions raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for charities along the way. He also played the Garrison organ when he was in Germany on National Service.

In July 2003, George, accompanied by his sister, Shirley, was invited to Buckingham Palace to receive an award in recognition of his services to music.

So, George, a big thank you from us ALL; you have enhanced and deepened our worship, lifted our spirits, entertained us and given pleasure to so many many people.

Truly, a lifetime filled with music.

*Catherine Day.*

## Diary Dates

23 April: Final date for copy May Focus, 12 Noon.  
Items received after this time will probably miss the cut.

## Pop Up Shop

The pop up shop held recently raised the princely sum of £743 including the raffle. We understand that the Scouts raised over £200 ; so a great success all round. A big thank you to all involved.

**David Kent.**

The next pop up shop will be held on 1 July. 10.00am until 1.00pm.



## Christian Aid Service

At St. Paul's Church, Armitage Bridge.

Sunday. May 14<sup>th</sup> at 9.15am.

This will be followed by a breakfast, including:

Bacon and sausage sandwiches or

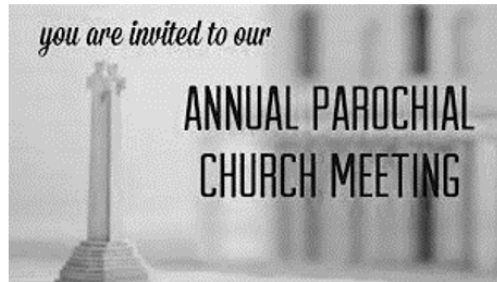
Beans on toast.

For a lighter snack enjoy coffee and a cake.

If the service is too early for you, or you wish to attend another church service, feel free to join us from 10.15am.

Last orders by 12noon please.

All profits to Christian Aid.



Our annual meetings are on the horizon and we would like to invite you to come and hear about what we have been doing over the last year and what we are looking forward to in the next one.

The meetings are:

South Crosland: Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am

Armitage Bridge: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm

All are welcome to the election of Churchwardens and all those on the Electoral Roll are welcome to the whole meeting.

If you are interested in joining the PCC please contact Julie Anderson for details.

# Film Café

April 15th

Start 10am. Interval 11am.

Come along for a coffee/ tea/juice  
and enjoy a film and some light  
entertainment.

## THE MIRACLE MAKER

'A visually stunning animation of the greatest  
story ever told'

With music from



**Jeremy**



**Free admission**

Contact 07740425093

## Armitage Bridge Ringers



Yorkshire Association

On Sunday, 5 March 2023 in 50m

Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

St Peter

Tenor: 23–1–2 in D

1280 Spliced Surprise Major (4m)

Diary

512 changes of Rutland. 256 changes each of Cambridge, Superlative, Yorkshire. 34 com

- 1 Lorraine Trebble
- 2 Carole Kirby
- 3 C Sally Austin
- 4 Catherine A Oram
- 5 Peter Kirby
- 6 Oliver M Austin
- 7 Neil J Murray
- 8 Alan Trebble (C)

1st Spliced Surprise Major 2

Rung prior to the final service held at St. Johns, New-some, Huddersfield

*Lorraine and Alan Trebble*



## **April 2023 Readings and prayers**

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Palm Sunday – Philippians 2: 5-11 and Matthew 21: 1-11**

Prayer for the Day – True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday Psalm 42, Leviticus 16.2-24, Luke 23.1-25**

Lord, we have come because you have called us. We have come because you have made everything ready for us. We have come because, by your grace, you will make us whole. We have come because you alone are worthy, we have come because you first came to us.

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Good Friday Psalm 69, Genesis 22.1-18, A part of John 18 – 19**

Father, in the stillness we wait at the foot of the cross, and in awed expectation we watch to see what you will do. The Son of God dies, and the heart of the Father is broken. We come because you know how we feel and what we must face. We come because, in Christ, you opened the door to your presence and invited us home.

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Easter Eve Psalm 142, Hosea 6.1-6, John 2.18-22**

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Day - Colossians 3: 1-4 and John 20: 1-18**

Prayers for the Day - God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Easter 2 - Acts 2: 14a & 22-32 and John 20: 19-31**

Prayers for the Day- Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - Easter 3 - Acts 2: 14a & 36-41 and Luke 24: 13-35**

Prayers for the Day - Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.  
or jealousy, Lord Jesus: Show us what friendship means.

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## CONTACTS

Webpage: [www.theemmanuelteam.org.uk](http://www.theemmanuelteam.org.uk)

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

### **Ministers**

Rector and Area Dean: Revd Julie Anderson 962184  
[julie\\_anderson51@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:julie_anderson51@yahoo.co.uk)  
42 Beaumont Park Road, Huddersfield, HD4 5JS

Assistant Clergy: Revd David Kent 324049  
Revd Debby Plummer 07762236986

Methodist Minister: Revd Tim Francis 703955  
07443338697  
[tim.francis@methodist.org.uk](mailto:tim.francis@methodist.org.uk)

### **Churchwardens**

Armitage Bridge: Pamela Thomas 359270  
Tony Crawshaw 07738068557

South Crosland: Allan Greaves 662659  
Paul Coldwell 340180

### **Webpage and Magazine Contact**

Rena Souten [rsouten@gmail.com](mailto:rsouten@gmail.com) 07799895350

#### **THE EMMANUEL BENEFICE HUDDERSFIELD**

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