

FOCUS



March 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



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March Church Services

- 3 March 10.00am Morning Worship South Crosland
 10.00am Holy Communion at Netherton Methodist Church
 10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist
- 10 March 10.00am Mothering Sunday Holy Communion at Armitage
 Bridge
 10.00am Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist
 10.30am Morning worship at Berry Brow
- 17 March 10.00am Holy Communion at South Crosland
 10.00am Morning worship at Netherton Methodist Church
 10.30am Morning worship at Berry Brow Methodist
 Church.
- 24 March *Palm Sunday*
 10.00am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge
 10.00am Morning worship at Netherton Methodist Church
 10.30am Morning worship at Berry Brow Methodist
 Church
- 25 March 7.00pm Holy Communion at Berry Brow
- 26 March 7.00pm Holy Communion at Netherton Methodist Church
- 27 March 2.00pm Stations of the Cross at South Crosland Church
- 28 March 7.00pm Holy Communion at South Crosland
- 29 March *Good Friday*
 2.00pm Armitage Bridge
- 31 March *Easter Day* 10.00am Holy Communion South Crosland

Every Wednesday at St Paul's.

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

February Mid-week Services

Please contact Stella or Barbara for details.

Clergy Pages

Following Jesus

Lent is a sacred and transformative lesson that invites us to journey with Jesus as he prepares for his ultimate sacrifice and resurrection.

It's a time to deepen our faith, seek forgiveness and grow closer to God.

By embracing the traditions of Lent and making intentional efforts to reflect and renew our spirits we can experience a profound spiritual transformation that will enrich our lives and draw us closer to the heart of God.

I hope what follows will help you achieve that profound spiritual transformation.

Following Jesus does not mean slavishly copying His life.

It's more to do with making His choice of life your own, starting from your own potential and in the place where you find yourself.

It's really about living for the values for which Jesus lived and died.

In other words, it's like trying to follow the path he took and trying to see things as He saw them. If there is anything in which this life, this way, can be expressed, in which God has revealed himself most clearly, it is the reality of love.

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You are someone only in as far as you are love and only that which has turned to love in your life will be preserved. What love is we can learn from Jesus.

He is the one who has loved most and he will teach us to put the centre of ourselves outside.

“Greater love has no one than this, than they lay down their life for their friends.”

Jesus will also teach us to be unlimited space for others, invitation and openness: “Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.”

So, we should allow ourselves to be converted to love each day, changing all our energies and potential into selfless gifts for the other person.

In this way we too are changed from within and so through us God’s Kingdom will break into the world.

We are called to follow Jesus closely.

With Him we will take the road up to Jerusalem, the city of suffering and glorification. With Him we will give everything, that the Kingdom may come. On this road we are called to be the least of all and not master, to carry the burden of others and not lay our own burden on them, to give freedom instead of taking it, to grow poor in order to make others rich.

We are called to take the cross upon ourselves and thereby bring joy to others, to die in order that others may live.

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This is the mystery of the gospel and there is no purpose in endless talk about it.

Be silent, for it will be true and genuine only if we practise it.

So, let's keep Jesus Christ before our eyes, not hesitating to go anywhere He leads us.

We can't stay where we are and we mustn't look back but always looking forward with eagerness to what lies ahead."

(Extract from 'Rule for a New Brother" DLT)

Perhaps you might like to meditate on this as your Lenten observance.

Yours in Christ

David



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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 January coffee morning raised £179; thank you to everyone for supporting this event.

The next coffee morning will take place on Saturday 9 March 2024.

9 March 2024

13 April 2024

11 May 2024

8 June 2024

13 July 2024



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Our annual meetings are on the horizon and we would like to invite you to come along and hear about what we have been doing over the last year and what we are looking forward to in the next one. Our Interregnum and update on the recruitment process will also be discussed.

The meetings are

South [Crosland](#) : Sunday 7th April at 11.15am

Armitage Bridge: Monday 8th 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 for South Crosland, Helen Pearson, and for Armitage Bridge, Pam Kent.

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Diary Dates

23 March: Final date for copy April Focus, 12 Noon.

Items received after this time will probably miss the cut.

News from Carol Waters

Upcoming Events

Gospel Choir 1st and 3rd Sunday 5.30

Last Month of Warm Welcome Tuesdays 12.30 March 5;12;19;26

Crafty Chatterers 5th 19th March 2nd 16th 30th April 9.30 – 12

March 8th 7 p.m. Showing of Jesus Christ Superstar for Lent

March 16th April 20th All age Film Café

Advanced notice: Celebration of 200 years of Methodism in the Area including:

Coffee Morning and Exhibition (all day) Saturday May 11th

Concert with Meltham Mills Band 7. 00 pm May 11th

Sunday May 12th Service with Rev Peter and Jane Hancock and faith lunch at Berry Brow 10.30. All welcome.

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Family Easter Craft Workshop

At St. Paul's Armitage Bridge

On Saturday 16th March 2024

10am - 12noon

Admission Free.

Refreshments included.

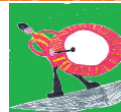


Come along and join the fun!

Ring or text to register: 07956442001.



Easter Fun!!!



Free Easter Bunny Trail Monday 1st April

Start and Finish at Berry Brow Church,
Birch Road HD4 7LP Between 10am—1 pm

Find the Easter Bunnies and collect their letters.
Entry forms from Berry Brow Church from 10 am.

- Children's activities!
- Prize draw!
- Raffle

Or just come along for the refreshments!
Bacon butties, vegetarian options, delicious home made cake.

In support of Berry
Brow Carnival
Contact: 07740425093



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Armitage Bridge Ringers

It seems that since our Christmas celebrations we have done very little at the various towers we are involved with, as Lorraine and I sit here ruminating of what to write it would seem that perhaps we have done more than we at first thought.

We spent Christmas at home with our daughter's family and New Year in Hampshire with our son and his nearest and dearest, after which we were straight back into Wednesday practice night on January 3rd, so not much of a break there then.

The continual bad weather has played havoc with activities up and down the country and ringing has not been any different. Both Saddleworth and Northowram churches have suffered most with some flooding, while our problems have mainly been confined to ropes altering in length and folk physically feeling safe enough to venture out on miserable winter evenings. However, it has meant lots of journeys up and down tower steps to check that all is as it should be both in the ringing and bell chambers.

Notwithstanding we have welcomed back the Halifax Archdeaconry who have a practice at Armitage Bridge on the second Monday in the month. The Friday morning practice at Holmfirth has continued unabated where we help ring and maintain the bells along with the other fixtures and fittings including the very difficult to reach ringing room lights.

At the end of January we were pleased to ring a ¼ peal for our much loved Cath Day who celebrated her 80th birthday. The ringing was preceded by breakfast at "Sons Of The North". 22 ringers, gardeners and friends gathered to wish Cath a very happy birthday.

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Our Tuesday practice at Huddersfield Parish has been a little up and down, holidays, work, illness etc has interrupted our progress there, having said that we enjoyed success coming together with some of the Ossett band completing 4 quarter peals including two in tricky methods on 8 bells. We will also be involved in another ¼ peal day on February 17th when we will be ringing on the 6 bells at Armitage Bridge.

In November I took various ropes down to Loughborough for repair at Ellis Ropes with a view to collecting them in February then going on for a tour around Taylors Bell Foundry (which is situated a few miles further on) with a car full of interested parties. Both the snowy weather and illness curtailed that plan, so with a flask of coffee, sandwiches, biscuits and 3 more ropes I set off on my own. As it turned out the day was a wonderful success as the folk at Ellis were very happy to give me some good advice on ropes, then to see the work currently going on at the foundry.

Taylors are the last remaining Bell Foundry in the country, there are other “Bell Hangers” but Taylors are the only ones left who actually cast bells and their fittings.

They are currently having major renovations, been brought out of administration, managing to secure funding the transformation when it is all finished will be astounding. The current owners are preserving a great piece of our industrial national heritage.

So all in all perhaps we have been busier than first thought. Looking forward ; there are ropes to change at Armitage Bridge, Holmfirth and The Parish. At Lindley the bells are to be lifted off the bearings for inspection, cleaning and refurbishment. Four of us have been approached to represent the Western Branch of the Yorkshire Association in the Inter Branch striking competition in May at

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Gargrave, and for the summer, an overdue excursion with friends into Northern Ireland arranged by Carole Kirby of Lightcliffe is being eagerly anticipated.

Lorraine and Alan (11th Feb 2024)



March 2024 Lectionary Readings



Sunday 3 March 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25
Lent 3 John 2: 13-22

Sunday 10 March Ephesians 2:1-10
Lent 4 John 3: 14-21

Sunday 17 March Hebrews 5: 5-10
Lent 5 John 12: 20-33

Sunday 24 March Mark 11:1-11
 John 12:12-16

Holy Week

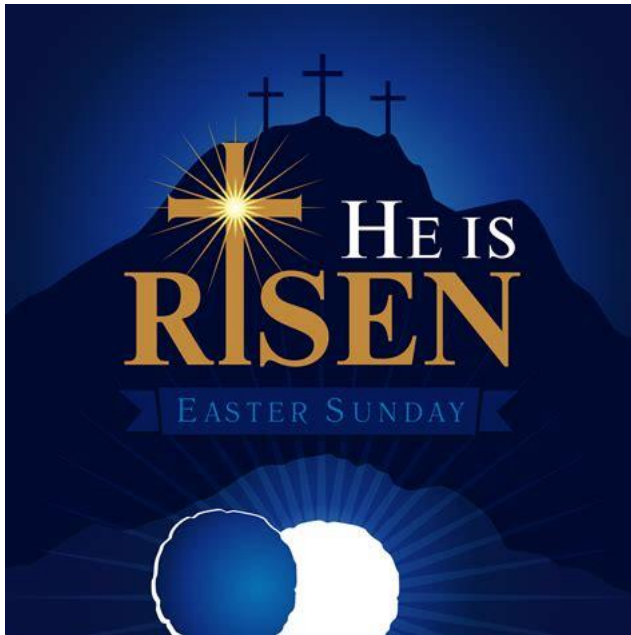
Monday 25 March Hebrews 9:11-15
 John 12: 1-11

Tuesday 26 March 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31
 John 12: 20-36

Wednesday 27 March Hebrews 12: 1-3
 John 13: 21-32

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Thursday 28 March	1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17,31b-35
Friday 29 March	Hebrews 4:14-16,5.7-9
Good Friday	John 18: 1-19,42
Sunday 31 March Easter Day	Acts 10: 34-43 John 20:1-18



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CONTACTS

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

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