



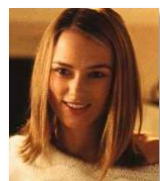
LOVE ACTUALLY

Dear friends,

Mention February and many people's thoughts go immediately to Valentine's Day: the day when love is celebrated by many; including of course the retail trade who see this as the first big celebration after Christmas when profit can be made.

Love should be celebrated of course, but there are many kinds of love, and one of the best films which reflects all different kinds of love came out in 2003 - Love Actually. Maybe some of you have seen it. It has quite a complicated plot but what it portrays, admittedly in a very sentimental way, is a variety of different kinds of love.

To begin with there's the love between Billy Mack, an aging rocker played by Bill Nighy, and Joe, his roadie. Towards the end of the film Billy realises that Joe is the love of his life. This is the platonic love between two really good mates.



Then there's Juliet, Peter and Mark. Juliet, played by Keira Knightley, and Peter love each other and get married. But the best man Mark also loves Juliet. His love is what we call unrequited love. He loves but knows she cannot love him back in the way he would like.

Then there's Jamie, played by Colin Firth, and Aurelia. He falls for this Portuguese girl while recovering from a broken relationship. She also falls for him and they both learn each other's language not realising the other's feelings; eventually they get married.



Next there's Harry, Karen and Mia. Harry and Karen are a slightly older married couple. Mia works with Harry and tries to seduce him. Harry starts to fall for her charms but his wife finds out and is broken hearted. Eventually Harry and Karen repair their relationship.



Rev'd Steve Jakeman

Phone: 01937 842156

Email: stephen.jakeman@methodist.org.uk

Rev'd Ann Fox

Phone: 01937 582854

Email: ann.fox@methodist.org.uk

Next come David, the Prime Minister, played by Hugh Grant, and Natalie his slightly overweight tea lady, played by Martine McCutcheon. Gradually he falls for her and she for him. He thinks his affections for Natalie are affecting his political judgment and asks for her to be moved. On Christmas Eve, however, he sets out to find her and they get together at a school panto.



Then come Daniel and Joanna and Sam and Joanna. Daniel's wife, and Sam's mother, Joanna has died leaving father and son bereft. Sam is in love with a schoolgirl also called Joanna. His father helps him to win her love and also finds love himself.

I haven't finished yet! I hope you're keeping up!

Now come Sarah, Karl and Michael. Sarah and Karl have been in love with each other for years but only at a Christmas party do they get together - nearly. Because Sarah's mentally sick brother Michael rings and interrupts them. Sarah's dutiful love for her brother takes first place and her chance of happiness with Karl slips by.

Next, we have Colin, Tony, and the Wisconsin girls. Basically, Tony is only after one thing and goes to Wisconsin where he meets some amazingly attractive girls all of whom fall for him. He comes back with one of them and her sister for his friend Tony.

Finally – you'll be pleased to know - we have John and Judy who are two naive characters who fall for each other and get engaged.

There are so many kinds of love and in the various stories, that Love Actually portrays, we see many of them.

It shows the **platonic love** that can exist between two men. It could be between two women or between a man and a woman. Caring friendly love that doesn't involve romance or sex. It portrays the **love of a newly married couple**. It portrays **unrequited love**. It portrays **unspoken love**. It depicts **longstanding love** that can withstand even betrayal. It depicts **love across class and language barriers**. It portrays the grief of **one who has lost the one he loved**. It portrays the **love of a child for their parent**. It shows us that children's love can be real and painful. It shows us the incredible patient, self-sacrificing **love of a sister for her brother**. It shows us the **sexual side of love**.

Love takes many, many forms and even Love Actually only scrapes the surface in depicting them for us. One love of which this film does not speak is the **love of God**. It was in love that God created us, it was in love that God gave himself to us in Jesus. Jesus lived a life of love and finally, out of love for you and me and all humankind, he died for us. But it didn't stop there; Jesus conquered death, and God's gift of love that is Jesus still lives in the world and He still gives himself to us.

What we do every time we celebrate Holy Communion, is to celebrate God's gift of love.

The bread and wine we break, pour and share represent the life of Christ, his body broken, and his blood shed, out of love for us. **This is a free gift**. The only thing God wants us to do in response to his love, is for us to accept it. Nothing else.

The body and blood of Christ are love gifts from God.

All you have to do is to reach out your hands to take the greatest gift that can ever be received.



Within the Methodist Church, all are welcome at the Lord's Table - Jesus didn't discriminate. He didn't put barriers in front of people. Even Judas Iscariot, the man who was to betray him, shared the bread and the wine at the Last Supper.

There are no barriers to the love of God; he breaks them all down.

So, what is it that you and I are receiving when we take the bread and the wine?

Obvious, isn't it? It's **love...actually.**  (Sue Jakeman: Worship Leader, Boston Spa and Clifford)

PRAYER



Local Pastor Eileen hosts a weekly **Circuit Prayer Meeting** on **Zoom** **Every Tuesday, 9.30am – 10am (join from 9.15am)**

all are invited to join us.

Please contact Eileen for the Zoom log on details.

Plus, prayer meetings at **Wetherby** in the Quiet Room every Wednesday 10.00^{am}
Tadcaster 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 9.15^{am} and at **Clifford** every Tuesday 9.40^{am}

Christians in Gaza

With the devastating news coming out of Gaza, following the Israeli response to the Hamas attack on Israelis on October 7th, 2023, it's easy to lose sight of the plight of our Christian sisters and brothers caught up in the conflict. Sue and I support the charity 'Embrace the Middle East' and through them receive news from Christian communities in Gaza and the West Bank. The situation is in constant change, but here is something of what they are going through...



On 19th October around 500 Christians were sheltering in St Porphyrius Church in Gaza city.



They had been packing up and distributing food parcels to their neighbours and other families who could not flee the city. Later that evening a missile landed close by, causing a wall to collapse bringing down the hall where many were sleeping. Whole families died and many were injured.

The Christian faith has a long history in Gaza, going back over 1,600 years. Although there are now only 1,000 Christians left in the Gaza Strip, the Christian community continue to make a deep impact by serving those in need.

The Orthodox Church, St Porphyrius, is thought to be the third oldest church in the world. It shares a boundary with the local mosque. The Christians there are immensely proud that there is no wall to separate the two buildings – they say that 'this is the real Gaza'. Christians and Moslems are neighbours; they are one community; they wish to get on with their lives, provide for their families, and practice their faith.





The other, Latin, church in Gaza is newer, and is home to the Catholic Christian community in Gaza. One member of this community said of his decision to remain in Gaza when offered to move to Jerusalem, 'If we go, who will show Jesus to the people of Gaza?'

For Christians in Gaza, the violence and war has made the weight and cost of 'picking up their cross and following Jesus' heavier than ever. Even so, they have remained committed to serving those around them. After the evacuation order of Northern Gaza, issued by Israel on 13 October, one of the members contacted 'Embrace the Middle East' with a message that 'we remain in the church and will never leave.'

In response to the devastating events of 19th October, the Greek Patriarchate in Jerusalem said that 'it will not abandon its religious and humanitarian duty.' We too must not abandon our duty to use our own voices to support our brothers and sisters, ensuring that the living stones of Gaza are protected in order to fulfil this promise.


If you wish to, you can donate to support 'Embrace the Middle East' and their partners in Gaza, at embraceme.org/gazacrisis or by calling 01494 897950.

Steve Revd Steve Jakeman

WORSHIP



For Sunday services see the Circuit Plan, copies available in our buildings or [via this link](#).



Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

**3Generate in 2024:
4 - 6 October
at the NEC, Birmingham.**
See you there!

3Generate, the children's and youth assembly of the Methodist Church, aims to create an inclusive and diverse space* for the prophetic voice of children and young people to emerge and be heard. It enables them to speak courageously and listen to God and each other. Through the 3Generate process, children and young people are equipped to become participants in advocacy, change and growth and have an impact in their local Methodist communities. 3Generate calls the Church to listen to, and be in relationship and dialogue with and amongst, children and young people, so that change can happen together as a community.

Would you like to be involved in ministry
with children, young people, families and young adults?
It's awesome!

Interesting in volunteering for 3 Generate 2024?
Please sign up to be part of it all this year!
<https://eventsfeedback2020.typeform.com/to/RUodg6kt>

Dates for your diary
Volunteer registration: 12th February.
Ticket sales open 16th April 2024

The Methodist Church



**"AN EVENING
OF FUN AND LAUGHTER"**
WITH PAUL KERENSA

The 'Stand-Up - Kneel-Down' Comedian
BBC Radio 2 'Pause for Thought'
'100 Years of the BBC' - 'Spring Harvest' - 'Flourish'
Writer/Contributor to:
'Not Going Out' - 'Miranda' -
'Spitting Image' -
'The Now Show' -
'Dead Ringers'...



Bramham Village Hall
Saturday 17th February at 7:30pm
TICKETS £15 TO INCLUDE A BUFFET SUPPER
available from the Boston Spa Parish Office
01937 844402 - bramhambenefice@outlook.com - 9.30-12.30 Mon-Thurs
or your local **CHRISTIANS TOGETHER** member church

Raising funds in aid of

The Millie Wright Children's Charity

"Addressing inequalities in charitable support for children with life threatening conditions"



www.millieschildrenscharity.org
077 1618 2525
hello@millieschildrenscharity.org



Are you looking for a way to serve your Church nationally?

Current volunteer vacancies within the Methodist Church.

Click on links for further information:

Members of the Connexional Council (current-vacancies.com)

Members of the Nominations Committee (current-vacancies.com)

Members of Resourcing Committee (current-vacancies.com)

**ACTION FOR CHILDREN
SPRING TABLE TOP SALE**



Saturday 9th March 2024

Wetherby Methodist Church Centre

10.00am–12.00pm

Various stalls and Coffee Shop

Refreshments



**EMMAUS
WEEKEND**
16th-18th February

**Encouraging and equipping
young people to find their voice.**

What's it all about?

Encouraging and equipping young people to find their voice. For young people aged 14+ who are ready to go a little deeper, to explore their faith and ask where or to what God might be calling them.

What's included?

The weekend will include development of skills to help young people get their voices heard in the church and the world, prayer, worship and fun! It is an opportunity to meet with young people of their age from across the district, and to hear from and be inspired by older young people who are also on this journey.

**ALL FOOD, ACCOMMODATION & ACTIVITIES
ARE FREE.
TRAVEL COSTS WILL BE REIMBURSED**

TRAVEL COSTS WILL BE REIMBURSED

To Register please contact

victoria@methodistyouth.org.uk

Emmaus Centre

Wydale Hall
Wydale, Brompton-by-Sawdon,
Scarborough, North Yorkshire,
YO13 9DG

BIBLE STUDY

Come Join Us



A Methodist Way of Life

Looking at the 12 'stations', two stations per session



Join us at Tadcaster Methodist Church
Coffee Lounge
Thursdays, 10.00am

25 January, 22 February,
28 March, 25 April
30 May and 20 June



Photo © Alan Hodgson (brother of Revd Ann Fox)

Lent Bible Study
Mondays, 7.30pm by Zoom

19 February – Revd Ann Fox
26 February – Dr Alan Bell
4 March – Mr Donald Milne
11 March – Mr Keith Hartrick

**All you need is a Bible, notebook & pen,
and a cuppa!**

Ann Fox is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Exploring Psalms for Lent
Time: 07:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95568475124?pwd=UjFBbnlScmxpYWpxRmRudXFMRXduUT09>

Meeting ID: 955 6847 5124
Passcode: 212637



Tadcaster Methodist Church

Café Prayer

A time of prayer in church for 10 minutes alongside the usual coffee morning

11am

Tuesdays 27 February, 26 March, 30 April, 25 June, 23 July

The Methodist Church

trypraying.org

There will be a **trypraying** event across the Circuit, from **Easter Sunday (31st March)** and leading up to **Pentecost (19th May)**.

trypraying will be launched at the **Circuit Service on 7 April**.

Would Church Stewards please check which resources they will need to order -

further information and how to order resources will be coming out to churches very soon.

Revd Ann

Further information on trypraying is available via this link <https://www.trypraying.org/>



how to hear God

A Lent Course in five sessions.


Tuesdays
20th February to 19th March 2024, **7pm to 8pm**
East Keswick Methodist Church,
Main Street, East Keswick, LS17 9EJ

1. Introduction
2. Read: Hearing God in the Bible
3. Meditate: Hearing the Holy Spirit in Our Thoughts
4. Pray: Responding to God in Prayer and Prophecy
5. Contemplate: Hearing God in the Whole World

ALL ARE WELCOME

further details?
contact the Parish Office - bardseyparishchur@btinternet.com

The course is based on the book by Pete Greig: "how to hear God"



A copy of the book, to accompany the course, will be available free to all participants (optional £5 donation)



2024 LENT COURSE

Act on poverty

A six-part course:
St Edwards Church Parish Room, Clifford
7.30pm

Wednesday **21st February** - **Prophetic**
Wednesday **28th February** - **Broken**
Wednesday **6th March** - **Generous**
Wednesday **13th March** - **Located**
Wednesday **20th March** - **Hopeful**
Wednesday **27th March** - **Together**

Organised by **Christians Together**
Boston Spa - Clifford - Thorp Arch - Bramham - Walton

"Loving our neighbours means living out our faith on a local and global scale..."
Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani (The Bishop of Chelmsford).



If you have something you wish to highlight in the **March '24** issue of **Being Church** please send to **Rev Steve** by **Saturday, 24th February**. Thank you.

rev.stevejay@gmail.com

To add items to the **Circuit Diary** list please contact the **Circuit Administrator**

tadcastercircuit@gmail.com

Lower Wharfe
Church Fenton Methodist Church
Men, Machines and things that Matter.

Tues. 20th Feb. 7pm



**Rebekah
Watkins**

will be giving a talk on
'Dream Heritage'
Projects and Archaeology

£3 including light refreshments.

EVERYONE WELCOME

In Church Fenton Methodist Hall
Come and share in an interesting
evening with friends

For further details contact

Chris on 077123 32204

Or Local Pastor Eileen on 07949 050940 |

Lower Wharfe Church – Appleton Roebuck

Celebration Praise and Prayer Service



Wednesday 21st February 2024

Appleton Roebuck
Methodist Chapel

led by Rev Ann and Pastor Eileen

Faith Tea at 6pm

Service at 7pm

Singing, Testimonies, Reflection
and an opportunity for

Prayer for Blessing and Healing

Want to meet God? What to be touched by God?

Come along and be blessed!

Collingham Methodist Church

Afternoon Tea

Theme of LOVE



Thursday 22nd
February '24
2pm -3.30pm

For all the Community

Light Afternoon Tea and Cakes

Lots of fun with

Quiz, Game of Bingo and Raffle

Tickets £5

From Sheila on 01937 586144

Or Pastor Eileen 07494 050940

Or just turn up!

Hope to see you there!

Tadcaster Methodist Church

Saturday, 2nd March

10.00 am to 3.00 pm

Winter Crank Up



**With Vintage
machinery
& bygone
memorabilia**

Café & table top stalls

**Vehicles displayed
in the rear car park
(LS24 9AT)**



**For more details & to book a
table/stall (£5) contact**

Pastor Eileen 07494 050940

Tadcaster Circuit Diary - February 2024

Date	Time	Event	Location
Friday 9 th	2:00pm	Concert – Harrogate Harmony Chorus	Boston Spa
Sunday 11 th	10:00am	Circuit Service – Racial Justice Sunday	Wetherby
Wednesday 14 th	6:00pm	Ash Wednesday “Ashing” Service	Boston Spa
Saturday 17 th	7:30pm	An Evening of Fun and Laughter with Paul Kerensa	Bramham V.Hall
Sunday 18 th	-	1 st Sunday of Lent	-
Monday 19 th	7:30pm	Exploring the Psalms Lent Study Part 1	Zoom
Tuesday 20 th	7:00pm	How to Hear God Lent Course Part 1	East Keswick
Tuesday 20 th	7:00pm	Dream Heritage Projects and Archaeology Talk	Church Fenton
Wednesday 21 st	7:00pm	Celebration Praise and Prayer Service	Appleton Roebuck
Wednesday 21 st	7:30pm	Act on Poverty (Christian Aid) Lent Course Part 1	St Edwards, Clifford
Thursday 22 nd	10:00am	‘Methodist Way of Life’ Bible Study Part 2	Tadcaster
Thursday 22 nd	2:00pm	Afternoon Tea (‘Love’)	Collingham
Monday 26 th	7:30pm	Exploring the Psalms Lent Study Part 2	Zoom
Monday 26 th	7:00pm	How to Hear God Lent Course Part 2	East Keswick
Wednesday 28 th	10:30pm	Act on Poverty (Christian Aid) Lent Course Part 2	St Edwards, Clifford

Regular Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Monday (weekly)	10.45am	Table Tennis	Wetherby
Monday (weekly)	2.30pm	Ping-Pong	Boston Spa
Monday (weekly)	5pm	Senior Table Tennis	Boston Spa
Monday (weekly)	7.30pm	Badminton	Wetherby
Monday (2 nd)	10.30am – 12 noon	Bacon Brunch	Collingham
Monday (4 th)	10.30am – 12 noon	Coffee and Chat	Collingham
Tuesday (weekly)	9.30am – 10am	Circuit Prayer Gathering	Zoom (Eileen)
Tuesday (weekly)	9.40am – 10am	Prayer Gathering	Clifford
Tuesday (weekly)	10am – 11.30am	Coffee Shop	Tadcaster
Tuesday (weekly)	10am – 11.30am	Tuesday Coffee	Clifford
Tuesday (weekly)	10am	Flower Club	Boston Spa
Tuesday (1 st)	2pm – 4pm	Flowers and Friends	Collingham
Tuesday (1 st and 3 rd)	9.15am – 10am	Prayer Group	Tadcaster
Tuesday (2 nd)	1.30pm	Flower Guild	Wetherby
Tuesday (2 nd)	2pm – 4pm	Friends and Fellowship	Ulleskelf
Tuesday (4 th)	1pm	Community Soup Lunch	Ulleskelf
Wednesday (weekly)	10am – 12 noon	Coffee Shop	Wetherby
Wednesday (weekly)	10.30am – 12 noon	Chapel Coffee Pot	Appleton Roebuck
Wednesday (weekly)	10am – 10.30am	Prayer Group	Wetherby
Wednesday (weekly)	11.15am – 12.15pm	Coffee at t’Crown	Crown Hotel Boston Spa
Wednesday (weekly)	7pm	Table Tennis	Wetherby
Wednesday (irregular)	contact Wetherby	House-Group	contact Wetherby
Wednesday (1 st)	2pm – 4pm	Knit and Natter	Tadcaster
Wednesday (1 st)	2pm – 4pm	Women’s Group	Wetherby
Wednesday (2 nd)	10am	Communion in the Box	Box Tree Court, B Spa
Wednesday (2 nd and 4 th)	Contact Wetherby	Gentlemen Bootbashers	Contact Wetherby
Wednesday (3 rd)	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Whist Afternoon	Collingham
Wednesday (last)	1pm – 3pm	Coffee, Click ‘n’ Connect	Appleton Roebuck
Thursday (1 st)	12 noon	Community Soup Lunch	Church Fenton
Thursday (2 nd)	12 noon	Community Soup Lunch	Tadcaster
Thursday (last)	12 noon	Souper Thursday	East Keswick
Friday (1 st)	10.00am – 11.30am	Teddy Praise	Collingham
Saturday (weekly)	10am – 12 noon	Coffee Shop	Wetherby
Saturday (2 nd)	2pm – 3.30pm	Charity Coffee Afternoon	Church Fenton

