



April 2026

**The monthly magazine of St. Paul's Armitage Bridge, the Emmanuel Benefice, and the Methodist Churches of Berry Brow and Netherton.**

Feel free to take home





Examples of industrious work at the Easter Craft Workshop

## April 2026 Church Services

### **Sundays:**

5 <sup>th</sup> April (Easter Day)	10.00 am	Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Mr M Richardson) at Netherton Methodist Church
	10.30 am	Morning Worship (Mrs K Colenutt) at Berry Brow Methodist Church
12 <sup>th</sup> April (Easter 2)	10.00 am	Holy Communion & Life Group Launch at Armitage Bridge Church
	10.00 am	Service led by own team at Netherton Methodist Church
	10.30 am	Service led by own team At Berry Brow Methodist Church
19 <sup>th</sup> April (Easter 3)	10.00 am	Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
	10.00 am	Holy Communion (Rev. T Francis) at Netherton Methodist Church
	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Rev F Nunn) at Berry Brow Methodist Church
26 <sup>th</sup> March (Easter 4)	10.00 am	Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
	10.30 am	United Service (Mrs L Tunnacliffe) at Berry Brow with Netherton Methodist Church
	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Rev T Francis) at Berry Brow Methodist Church

\* Please keep an eye on the Netherton MC Facebook page if the weather is snowy or icy – we'll update on there if we have to cancel services or events. <https://facebook.com/NethertonHuddersfield>

Every Wednesday at St Paul's, Armitage Bridge.

9.15 am - Morning Worship, 30 minutes of worship and prayer.

All welcome.

Every Thursday - Christian Meditation, 5.30 pm. With effect from 12<sup>th</sup> April, this event returns back into church for the summer. Please contact Rev. Debby for details, Tel: 07762236986 - all welcome.



### **Special Events/Services in Holy Week at St Paul's Armitage Bridge**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 5.00 – 6.00 pm  
– Holy Week Prayer Space**

Church will be open for you to spend time in quiet prayer – prayer stations reflecting the themes of Holy Week will be available.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 6.00 – 7.00 pm – Maundy Thursday Reflection  
Holy Communion**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 10.00 am – Good Friday Service of Reflection  
at the foot of the cross**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 6.00 – 7.00 pm - Good Friday Tenebrae Service  
leaning into the darkness**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 10am – Easter Celebration with Holy Communion**

### **April 2026 Readings**

Sunday 5th April – Acts 10: 34-43 & John 20: 1-18

Sunday 12th April – Acts 2: 22-32 & John 20: 19-end

Sunday 19th April – Acts 2: 14a; 32-41 & Luke 24: 13-35

Sunday 26th April – Acts 2: 42-end & John 10: 1-10

## CONTACTS

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

### Ministers

Priest in Charge :	Revd Frances Nunn Fran.Nunn@leeds.anglican.org	07731 861583
Assistant Clergy:	Revd David Kent	01484 324049
	Revd Canon Debby Plummer	07762236986
	Revd Canon Angela Dick	01484 982057
Methodist Minister:	Revd Tim Francis tim.francis@methodist.org.uk	01484 703955 07443 338697

### Churchwardens

Armitage Bridge:	Pamela Thomas	01484 359270
	Tony Crawshaw	01484 284479

### Safeguarding Officers

Armitage Bridge:	Pamela Thomas	01484 359270
Berry Brow:	Carol Waters	cmwaters53@gmail.com
Netherton :	Dawne Day	dawne_day@hotmail.com 07733 137779

## A VIEW FROM THE CLERGY – Rev. Frances Nunn



*Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher).  
John 20:15-16*

Walking through Holy Week with Jesus and the disciples is quite the emotional rollercoaster, from the darkest night to the brightest day, from the depths of grief to living and eternal hope. Mary Magdalene walked that journey, staying close to Jesus throughout – she was there at the foot of the cross, there as they lay Jesus in the tomb and there in the garden on that first Easter morning. It is understandable she might not have recognised the Risen Jesus at first – but knew him completely for who he was when he called her by name.

Disciples escaping the turmoil of the week on the road to Emmaus also struggled to recognise him at first – it took a meal with bread and wine for them to see the Risen Jesus in their midst. [Luke 24:30-32].

Reflecting on these two encounters, author Paula Gooder, writes 'All this reminds us of how unreliable our eyes can be...we look and draw quick conclusions without allowing the rest of ourselves to catch

up...Part of the Christian journey of faith is this re-training of our senses so that we can see truly and hear fully, not only God in our midst but also in the world around us.' [This Risen Existence: The Spirit of Easter 2009: p56]

Lent and Holy Week afforded us the time and space to slow down, re-train our senses and draw closer to God. My hope and prayer is that we can continue to do this as we journey on as disciples together, learning from Jesus – our teacher, our Saviour, the one who knows and calls us each by name.



**From Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April we will be piloting a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month evening contemporary prayer and worship service at St Paul's Armitage Bridge 6.00 – 7.00 pm.**

Each month in Focus we will post a list of the songs and songwriters, some of which may be familiar to you, some of which will be new.

Songs for this month will include:

**All Who Are Thirsty** - Brenton Brown & Glenn Robertson

**10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord O My Soul)** – Matt Redman

**What An Awesome God** – Jonathan Smith, Phil Wickham, Richard Mullins

**The Power of the Cross** – Stuart Townend, Keith & Kristyn Getty

**I will offer up my Life** - Matt Redman

**The Lord is My Salvation** - Nathan Nockels, Jonas Myrin, Keith & Getty



### **Life Groups Launch this Month!**

Life Groups are an opportunity to gather mid-week to share fellowship, explore the Bible and pray together. There are a number of groups launching this month with plans for more from June. Sign-up sheets are available in church for you to join a group. Speak to Fran if you'd like to know more.



**An 8-week Course exploring the BIG Story of the Bible**  
**Monday Evenings 7-8.30pm at St Pauls on the**  
**20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> April; 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May; 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June & 6<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Tuesday Afternoon 12.30-2pm at Berry Brow Methodist Church**  
**21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> April 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> May; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June**

Sign Up Sheets available in church – speak to Fran if you'd like to know more.



**Save The Date – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May.**  
**BIG BREAKFAST 10-11.30am St Paul's Armitage Bridge**  
All proceeds to the work of Christian Aid

**Christian Aid Week 2026:**  
**(Armitage) Bridging Kenya's urban food gap**

On May 16<sup>th</sup> a group from local churches will set off on a 10- mile uphill and downhill hike from St. Paul's calling at Netherton and Berry Brow Methodist churches and Beaumont Park. They hope to complete the circuit three times. (Note that you can do as many circuits as you feel able to!) The goal is to raise funds for an urban project in Nairobi, Kenya. The day will begin at St Paul's at 10am, with a Big Breakfast Event - all donations at the breakfast will also go towards the work of Christian Aid and help fuel us for the walk ahead

In the informal settlement of Dagoretti in Nairobi, many parents wake each morning knowing they must earn money that day. If they do not, their children may not eat that night.

For Fridah Moraa, this pressure is constant. She is a recently widowed grandmother and the sole provider for her family. Rent, school costs, water and food all depend on what she can earn. Fridah lives with her children and grandson in a rented corrugated metal shelter. There is no running water and space is extremely limited. Many families in Dagoretti manage just two meals a day. Some manage only one.



*Fridah taking her grandson to school before she sets off to market*

To support her family, Fridah sells vegetables at a market stall. With no refrigeration or storage, she travels long distances to buy produce, six days a week. Some days she earns enough. Some days she does not. Fridah's situation began to change when she joined Imarisha Kilimo, an urban farming project run by Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope.



*Making the most of every space to grow crops*

Through training, tools and seeds, Fridah learned how to grow food in small city spaces. She learned how to use cone gardens, make compost and conserve water. At the end of a narrow alley near her home, Fridah now tends her own urban farm. She grows kale, tomatoes and indigenous vegetables. Some feed her family. Some she sells.

For Fridah, this means more than food. It means stability and choice.

If you would like to support the group please donate at

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/keith-robinson-2026>.

If you are interested in taking part in the walk you can also contact Keith Robinson by email on [netcord9@hotmail.com](mailto:netcord9@hotmail.com)

Alternatively, you can click on the QR code below.



**DIARY DATES – grab a pen, it’s a busy month!!**

**Litter Pick Date**

Don't forget, the date of the Litter Pick in Berry Brow is now taking place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026, from 10.00 – 12 noon. The meeting place is by the footbridge over the River Holme on the church side. The gloves and litter-pickers will be provided.

### **Warm Welcome at Berry Brow Methodist Church**

Warm Welcome takes a break in April and returns on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 12<sup>th</sup> May. from 12.30 pm onwards, with quizzes and fellowship.

### **Film Café**

Please note there will be a Film Café on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April, but not the following month. Look out for dates in future editions of Focus.

### **'The Bread and Butter Thing'**

Every week from 11.45 am, at Berry Brow Methodist Church - volunteers are always welcome. Contact 07507 237311 to find out more and if you are interested in helping out.

### **Netherton Methodist Church Coffee Morning**

The next Netherton Methodist Church coffee morning is **25<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00 – 12.00**. There will be the usual fruit teacakes, biscuits and of course Bronwen's special bacon sandwiches!

### **South Crosland Coffee Mornings**

On the second Saturday of each month at **South Crosland Junior School, Moor Lane, Netherton**, funds are raised for a selected charity each month. The March event raised the super sum of £255.00 for British Heart Foundation. It was a lovely social morning and nice to see a few new faces. There was an impressive array of delicious cakes and some entertaining competition between the tables (the 'men's table' near the servery was very lively) as the raffle was being drawn.

A great morning and many thanks again to the cake bakers, contributors, helpers and attendees.

All are welcome at South Crosland Junior School, 10.00 – 11.30 am.

The next three events and charities being supported are as follows:  
11th April - School funds (to help with the coffee morning running costs, and in replacement of the January Coffee Morning which had to be cancelled).

9th May – Kirkwood Hospice

13th June – Alzheimer’s Society

Helen Pearson

### **Pop-up Shop dates for 2026**

The 2026 pop-up shop dates are booked and will be held at Newsome Scout Hut on the following Saturdays, 10am-1pm

**30<sup>th</sup> May**

**22<sup>nd</sup> August**

**7<sup>th</sup> November (Christmas Extravaganza)**

### **EVENT REPORTS**

#### **RSPB’s Big Garden Birdwatch Results Update.**

Information is still pending on results of the Big Bird Watch, but we can tell you that a flock of over 650,000 people found time to watch birds for an hour in January. That’s a lot of twitching!

#### **Easter Craft Workshop**

On the morning of Saturday 21st March, people gathered in eager anticipation of a special Easter workshop. The church was transformed into a hive of Easter-related activities.

This was the vision of Melody and Sam. It involved meticulous planning on their part, aided by additional preparation by a few talented individuals. The successful delivery of this programme relied upon a wider team of volunteers. After a health and safety briefing,

they received rapid training on their vital roles for the morning session.

19 children were warmly welcomed into church and were then keen to select from the variety of crafts and activities on offer. There were artistic options - involving different media, plus an opportunity to use natural materials and, of course, chocolate! Children engaged enthusiastically with the activities as they chatted to adults. Refreshments were provided, including delicious butterfly buns, giving a welcome break to the proceedings.

By the end of the session, the children were delighted with their efforts to fill individual Easter boxes to take home. Fran rounded off the event by gathering children around her to hear a simple Easter message, delivered in an interactive way. Both children and adults left the church feeling that lots had been accomplished and enjoyed.

Such an event would not be possible without thoughtful advanced planning and preparation plus the hard work of the whole team. Their efforts to welcome others to share the Easter message were a success.

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way. A lovely time was had by all.

Helen Thornton Pugh

**SHCT Community Worker Report for APCM March 2026**  
**– Carol Waters**

My First report was in May 2015. At that time I was full of trepidation. I had massive shoes to fill in the person of Pam Kent who added so much to the lives of local people and I felt I knew nothing apart from the fact that I wanted to be of service to the community. Whether I have achieved that is for others to judge, but thanks to Pam's indefatigable support and guidance, I feel I have

grown. I have seen the best in people and constantly been amazed by the continuing kindness of people. The community (from within and without the Churches) has come together time and time again, giving time, energy, food, donations and encouragement, and using a massive amount of skills through a variety of events.

Focussing on this year, much of the outreach work in the community has continued:

### **The Bread and Butter Thing**

This has increased in clientele, with new members joining. We still regularly prepare 240 bags which are picked up with great enthusiasm by 80 members. This initiative continues 52 weeks a year and so far we have not run out of volunteers who are very loyal and committed, but we have come close. If anyone fancies helping unload the van or packing the bags they would be most welcome to join.

### **Warm welcome**

Regular donations of delicious soup and other dishes and amazing cakes has made this venture more popular. The regulars enjoy it so much. For some it is a wonderful change from their 4 walls. The people who help are so caring, as well. I can't thank enough those who regularly take the time and effort to turn up to serve, make food and enable this to carry on. There will be a break in April, but we hope to continue monthly on the second Tuesday each month from May.

### **Simeon Wood concert**

The Simeon Wood concert was a great success, enjoyed by many, raising necessary funds. We were able to take the pressure off our wonderful bakers by 'hiring' outside caterers from another church who were glad for their own church's funds.

Many thanks to St Paul's for hosting when Berry Brow Church had potential heating problems.

### **Pop up sale for the Together Shop**

The 'Pop up shops' continue to be successful and to bring in finance to support the outgoings of the Together shop, thanks largely to the skills and the enthusiasm of our band of volunteers. It has also been good to support the scouts who add to their funds with the catering. Their contribution is a definite draw.

### **Film Café**

These occasions always bring a smile to the attendees. We show a range of films, some thought provoking some just entertaining from a range of eras. The interval refreshments have been wonderfully enhanced by home baking from Cath.

### **Shrove Tuesday**

This was a most successful event. The kitchen 'staff' were amazing as were the many volunteers who were serving. We raised over £300 on the day, and had many people through the doors who had not been before.

### **Regular events for everyone I support:**

- **Crafty Chatterers** continues every other week on a Tuesday morning from 9.30 at Berry Brow
- **Coffee and homemade cake** at Hall Bower the first Wednesday each month (with a chance to pick up the impossible quiz). From 10 am.
- **Soup** at Hall Bower the second Monday Each month from 12 noon.
- **Hall Bower Ramblers** who meet on the Third Monday each month (9.30) Itinerary posted on the notice board.

- **Warm Welcome** at Berry Brow. Second Tuesday from May to October.
- **Coffee mornings** every Wednesday in the Scout Hut from 10 am
- **Hearts and Hands Community Gospel Choir** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month 5.30. Berry Brow Church.
- **Coffee morning** at South Crosland School on the Second Saturday morning, each month.
- **Film Café** Third Saturday each month
- **Newsome Forum** every other month to share our work and glean what is happening in the area.
- **Assemblies at Berry Brow Infant and Nursery School**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a community worker for churches together. I have had the most wonderful and gratifying experiences. I have seen God's love working in the community and it has been an honour to do so. Huge thanks to everyone who has supported me. I could not have achieved anything without your support and help. I wish the Churches and our community the very best. I will obviously continue to support all as a volunteer as I step back from this wonderful post.

### **Armitage Bridge Ringers – News From The Belfry**

In last month's Focus Magazine we mentioned "Great Paul", which is the largest of 4 bells housed in the south west tower of St. Pauls Cathedral, London. Weighing in at an impressive 16 tons 14 cwt 2 quarters and 19 pounds, the bronze bell was for many years the largest bell in the UK surpassed only by the "Olympic Bell" at over 22 tons. Cast in 1881 by bell founders John Taylor and Co the bell casing was hidden from view in Taylors Loughborough yard in Freehold Street.

As Taylors themselves were going through a recent major overhaul involving the complete refurbishment of their premises it was decided to remove the casing and place it in Queens Park, Loughborough between the Charnwood Museum and the War Memorial/Carillon Tower.

In 1868 Canon Robert Gregory was recruited to improve the standing of St. Paul's Cathedral in the City of London. Regardless of the fact that London at that time had several renowned bell founders Taylors won the contract to cast and install a ring of 12 bells to be hung for change ringing, and were to be the "finest grandest ringing peal in England". Gregory then took it upon himself that there should be a separate "Bourdon" bell, similar to those found in major Cathedrals on the continent. He launched an appeal to raise the funds in 1880 and by the following summer sufficient monies had been pledged to place an order with Taylors for "a large bell with a low note of E-flat". The bell was duly designed and the cast iron case or mould was installed in Taylors foundry floor. The foundry was extended with a third furnace being built. The required amount of metal was accumulated primarily by collecting up old bells. These were broken down and melting began on the 23rd of November 1881. Melting the metal took over 8 hours, pouring the molten liquid into the metal mould took 4 minutes, waiting for the metal to cool and solidify took 6 days.

With the weight and note checked Taylors now had the problem of getting the leviathan from its Leicestershire foundry to London. The bell (now known as Great Paul ) was to have gone by rail, but it was considered too wide for the waggons, plus unloading and loading several times on the journey was not a risk worth taking. By boat was the next consideration, down the Trent and then by sea to London, again rejected. Finally a company of engineering contractors ( Coles and Matthews of Coventry) conveyed the cargo by road using 2 Steam Traction Engines and an extremely strongly built trailer.

Since 1882 the bell has been struck at 1:00 pm every day and at evensong. It rang out for Queen Victoria's jubilee in 1897. In the early 1970's however, a bolt holding the clapper in place sheared, the clapper fell through the mechanism which rang the bell causing many thousands of pounds worth of damage and silencing "Great Paul" for a number of years. There was a further mishap but happily now the bell is rung either by machine or swung by hand for special occasions sounding its low toll over Ludgate Hill and London.

Alan and Lorraine



An Easter garden produced at the Junior Church Craft Workshop



...and another Easter garden from the Craft Workshop.

**Closing date for May 2026 issue: Friday, 20th April 2026**

**Copy contact details to Graeme Williams at**

**[williamsgraeme400@gmail.com](mailto:williamsgraeme400@gmail.com) or Tel: 07805875379**

This magazine may be read on-line in full colour. If you would like a copy, please let Graeme have your email address to be included.