



August 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



Junior Church Family Picnic in Beaumont Park



Boules and Bubbles at the picnic!



August 2026 Church Services

Sundays:

- 2nd August 10.00 am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
 10.00 am Joint service at Meltham Methodist Church
 10.30 am Morning Worship (Rev. David Kent)
 at Berry Brow Methodist Church
- 9th August 10.00 am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
 10.00 am Holy Communion (Rev Richard Oldroyd)
 at Netherton Methodist Church with
 Berry Brow Methodist Church
- 16th August 10.00 am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
 10.00 am Own team Morning Worship at
 Netherton Methodist Church
 10.30 am Holy Communion (Rev. Fran Nunn)
 at Berry Brow Methodist Church
- 23rd August 10.00 am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
 10.00 am Morning Worship (Mrs Kate Colenutt)
 at Netherton Methodist Church with
 Berry Brow Methodist Church
- 30th August 10.30 am Joint Ecumenical Holy Communion service
 (Rev. T. Francis) at Berry Brow Methodist Church

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. at St. Paul's.
Please contact Rev. Debby for details, Tel: 07762236986 - all
welcome.

CONTACTS

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Ministers

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A VIEW FROM THE CLERGY – Rev. Frances Nunn

**Emmanuel Benefice Sunday Services 10am at St Paul's:
We continue our Summer Sermon series in Matthew's Gospel.**

2nd August Holy Communion - Psalm 145, Matthew 13:44-58;

9th August Holy Communion - Psalm 32, Matthew 18:1-35;

16th August Holy Communion - 1 Peter 5: 6-11, Matthew 24:1-51;

23rd August Holy Communion - Revelation 21:1-7, Matthew 25:1- 46;

30th August – United Service at Berry Brow Methodist Church

If you'd like to dig deeper into Matthew's Gospel, we recommend the Bible Project Resources available online:

Videos: bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-matthew

Podcast – Matthew Marathon:

bibleproject.com/podcasts/series/matthew-marathon

Videos on the Sermon on the Mount:

bibleproject.com/videos/collections/sermon-on-the-mount

Visual Commentaries on the Sermon on the Mount:

bibleproject.com/videos/collections/sermon-on-the-mount-visual-commentaries

Podcast – Sermon on the Mount:

bibleproject.com/podcasts/series/sermon-on-the-mount



Life Groups hosts and leaders will be taking a well-earned rest during August. Feel free to meet informally over a cuppa for fellowship. Bible reflection prompts will be available for anyone who would like them.

Life Groups re-launch in September – if you would like to host or lead a group either in person or online, speak to Fran.



**The next Emmanuel@6 gathering will be on Sunday 16th August
at St Paul's Armitage Bridge 6-7pm.**

We will continue our journey through Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Songs for this month will include:

Holy Spirit You Are Welcome Here (Torwalt/Torwalt)

Thanks and Praise (Edmunds/Riggs/Grimble)

Bless God (Lake/Ligertwood/Carnes); Once Again (Matt Redman)

Firm Foundation [He Won't] (Davies/Moore/Carnes)

Holy Spirit Living Breath of God (Getty/Townend)

I Will Offer Up My Life (Redman)

A Thousand Hallelujahs (Ligertwood/Wickham/Ligertwood)



7.30pm, Friday 4th September at St Pauls, Armitage Bridge

Save the Date for our showing of the People's National Emergency Briefing. This film brings people together to learn the facts about the impact of climate change on our health, national security and food system.

The solutions are available, we just need to act together locally and nationally, for the good of our wonderful planet and our future.

Space is limited – so please book your free ticket using the link below:

buytickets.at/stpaulsarmitagebridgetheemmanuelbeneficeleedsdiocese/2303418

or through Ticket Tailor:

www.tickettailor.com/events/stpaulsarmitagebridgetheemmanuelbeneficeleedsdiocese/2303418



Summer Time – finding the ‘Unforced Rhythms of Grace’

I love Gershwin’s song – ‘Summertime’. It seems to capture the slower pace, the stepping back and enjoying the world around us we associate with the season:

*Summertime, and the livin' is easy,
Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high.
Oh, your daddy's rich and your ma' is good lookin',
So hush little baby, don't you cry.
One of these mornings you're gonna rise up singing,
Spread your wings and take to the sky.
But 'til that mornin' there's nothin' can harm you,
with Daddy and Mammy standing by.*

It is a song celebrating the security of being surrounded by our family’s love.

Whatever our real-life circumstances, we can be assured of our heavenly Father's love, care and provision for each day, and His perfect plans for us.

Taking time out to reflect on the goodness of God and give thanks is something we can all do, anytime. But can I invite you take time out over the summer to rest in His love – to accept Jesus's invitation in Matthew 11:28-30 to learn the unforced rhythms of grace and live freely and lightly:

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”
(The Message)

DIARY DATES

'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.

Hall Bower Beetle Drive

This is taking place at Hall Bower Methodist Church on Saturday 19th September.

Netherton Methodist Church regular events

- **Coffee and Chat**
Every Tuesday from 10.30 – 11.30 am
- **Coffee Morning**
Last Saturday of every month – 29th August this month.
Great cakes and fellowship!
Everyone welcome

Warm Welcome at Berry Brow Methodist Church

This takes place regularly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, this month on Tuesday 11th August from 12.30 pm onwards, with light lunch, quiz and fellowship.

South Crosland Coffee Mornings

On the second Saturday of each month (excepting August) at South Crosland Junior School, Moor Lane, Netherton, funds are raised for charity. In July a small but dedicated number gathered for a lovely morning of beverages, yummy cakes and chat. £170 was raised for school funds (to cover costs of the events through the year).

Many thanks to all who set up, supported, baked and contributed in any way.

All are welcome at the junior school, starting again in September 10.00am -11.30am on the dates below . Bring your friends!

12th September - Macmillan Nurses

10th October - Pancreatic Cancer UK

14th November - Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes

12th December - Shelter

Helen Pearson

Pop-up Shop

There are a further 2 pop-up shops booked for 2026, to be held at Newsome Scout Hut on the following Saturdays, 10am-1pm:

22nd August

7th November ("Christmas Extravaganza")

The Explorer Scouts will once again be providing refreshments. Get the dates in your diary, spread the word, bring your family and friends, enjoy fellowship over delicious refreshments and take home some fabulous bargains!

EVENT REPORTS

Junior Church Review – Melody Hirst

Another year of Junior Church has gone by, culminating in the Annual family Picnic in Beaumont Park (see below).

We always have a break in August because of school holidays and resume in September.

Junior Church will continue on the first Sunday of every month at 10am.

From September 2025, alongside Junior church, we have had the following events:

Easter and Christmas Craft workshops, Nativity, a Big Birthday Event and the Annual Family Picnic.

Our numbers are slowly growing, and we have a lovely group of children who regularly attend our monthly sessions, enjoying the activities available and proudly taking home all they have made.

This year we have had a rota, and one member of the congregation has joined us to help each month. Sam and I appreciate their support, but we are still looking for others to join us and to lead this special group of children.



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Junior Church Family Picnic – Oliver Austin

On Sunday 5th July, following the final Junior Church of the academic year, the annual Armitage Bridge Family Picnic was held in Beaumont Park. As the previous year's iteration was ultimately held within the church due to inclement weather it was a real treat to be back outside in the beautiful surroundings of one of our finest parks. Whilst the weather did look ominous as we were leaving the service in the morning, it held off for the duration of our stay.

On arrival we were greeted by Melody and David who had staked out our usual spot under the trees by the adventure playground, this proved too much of a temptation for Martha who insisted on going on everything while we were waiting for the rest of the group to arrive. On our return from the playground the group had swelled to 19 children, 10 adults and one dog, including young, old and everything in between!

Once everyone had unfurled their picnic blankets and unfolded their chairs the feast could commence. As we were unpacking I could not help but notice the seemingly endless supply of containers and plates emerging from the Shams family's bags, (think feeding of the five thousand and you will start to get the picture). This included various dishes including jewelled rice, kebabs and other middle eastern delicacies. It made my ham and cheese sandwich look a little sad by comparison but in the spirit of Christian brotherhood it was passed around for all to share – delicious.

Following the traditional stuffing of faces it was then time for equally traditional fun and games. This year's activities were dominated by boules, made more interesting by the uneven green. Unfortunately, I was banned from competing though James has assured me that this was nothing to do with the fact that I kept on winning...

James and Martha (along with some highly competitive adults) enjoyed throwing beanbags, whilst Gabe, Thea and Quinn cornered

the bubble blowing market effectively. All the children were, of course, delighted to make further use of the park. (Have a look at the photos near the front of the magazine).

I would like to extend all of our thanks to Melody and the Junior Church team for all of their efforts in organising this event; we are already looking forward to next year.

Lay-led service – 19th July 2026

Once again our dedicated lay-team provided us with a thoughtful and entertaining service which asked us to consider what we find difficult in our journey of faith. We were asked to write down on a footprint template what was a problem for us individually, some of which were shared in an interactive session. So no nodding off at the back of church – we had to think!!

The result was over 50 ‘footprints’ down the aisle, with various issues for us to think about and the photos on the back cover demonstrate how they looked. In addition, our junior church were asked to consider who they love and write these on their handprints. The expected grannies and grandpas appeared but unicorns and dogs also featured prominently!!

The music group played a number of songs/hymns for us in their usual joyous style, so overall, it was a lovely feel-good service. Thanks to all for contributing to its organisation. A couple of photos are at the back of the magazine.

Churchyard Observations

Here is the latest of David Barker's interesting and informative pieces relating to our churchyard and a few wider issues as well!

YEW - (*Taxus baccata*)

Trees possibly more than any other plants create atmosphere in a churchyard. I have occasionally visited churchyards lacking in trees and such places are invariably bleak and windswept. Their biodiversity is extremely limited and consequently so too is their appeal.

I imagine if asked which tree species most people associated with churchyards their answer would be the yew. A brooding, Gothic yew is compelling whatever its situation. Such trees have undoubted presence.

Yews are evergreen conifers with needle leaves – they have the densest foliage of any evergreen tree which gives them the gold standard for topiary. Further, they can withstand hard pruning.

Yews are native in Britain only on well-drained limestone which is an indication that most churchyard trees were deliberately planted. There are two of these trees growing a few metres apart in the south east corner of St Paul's churchyard.

The yew is a protective tree, physically and symbolically and in many situations its dense bulk and foliage protect the church from wind and weather. According to folk belief the yew gives protection against evil. In some churchyards, an avenue of twelve of these trees may be found, a representation of the twelve apostles. The yew is also a symbol of immortality and resurrection

This is the only British tree to have kept its Celtic name. No other species of ancient tree occurs so frequently in churchyards and it is acknowledged that over 500 of these trees in England and Wales are

much older than their associated church. Indeed, some predate Christianity and were originally growing on pagan sites. Early Christian followers commandeered these sites to build their churches and trees still growing in these ancient environments are probably the oldest living organisms in Britain.

For example, a yew growing at Fortingall, Glen Lyon, Perthshire, is by some estimates around 9000 years old. In Wales a yew growing in the grounds of St Cynog's Church, Powys, may be 5000 years old.

Yew wood itself has outstanding longevity. The British Museum houses the oldest known worked wooden weapon on Earth, the tip of a spear discovered at Clacton on Sea in 1911. It is made of yew and estimated to be around 400,000 years old, originally fashioned by a member of a Hominid species much older than we *Homo sapiens*, namely *H. heidelbergensis*.

A word of caution is necessary. With one minor exception all parts of the yew, roots, trunk and leaves are deadly poisonous especial to humans, cattle and horses. They contain taxine alkaloids which interfere with the electrical activity of the heart leading to fatal cardiac complications. It is sensible to wear gardening gloves when handling yew as toxins may be absorbed via the skin.

Shakespeare was familiar with the toxicity of yew. In Macbeth the three witches concocted the sinister 'hell-broth', which included *slips of yew silvered in the moon's eclipse*.

Yew trees are dioecious, that is to say individual trees are either male or female and this is also true of willow and hollies. Holly berries for example only grow on female trees.

Female yews, typically from August to late October, produce lovely bright red structures which contain the seed. These are called arils and are often wrongly described as berries. However, conifers cannot produce flowers, so in turn they cannot produce berries. The

fleshy aril is the only structure produced by a yew that is not poisonous. But, have a care, the lovely red flesh of the aril houses a deadly poisonous seed. Nevertheless, many birds including thrushes and blackbirds swallow the aril whole. The toxic seed passes through the bird's gut to be deposited elsewhere. Some bird species such as nuthatches are immune to the poison whereas robins and starlings are able to separate the aril flesh from its seed.

The yew and the English longbow form a historical legendary pair although the English did not invent the longbow but rather the Welsh.

Most famously was the part played by the longbow against a vastly larger French army at the Battle of Agincourt on the 25 October 1415. The English army led by Henry V resulted in one of the most significant triumphs of the Hundred Years' War and English archers were the divisive force. A skilled English archer could fire a devastating twelve arrows per minute. Estimates suggest the French army comprised 30,000 men, the English up to 9000 men.

Contrary to popular belief, churchyard yews did not supply the English army as due to our climate, the wood was insufficiently dense. Suitable high quality yew was imported from Italy and Spain. In 1472, Edward IV imposed a stave tax to tackle a military shortage of high quality yew. Every barrel of imported wine had to be accompanied by four bow staves per barrel.

An extract from the bark and needles is the basis of the drug Taxol, (Paclitaxel), an extremely potent chemotherapy medication used in the treatment of breast, ovarian, lung and pancreatic cancers.

Finally, if you are curious about the uses of yew in woodwork have a word with Rev David whom I believe is an enthusiast.

David Barker

Armitage Bridge Ringers – News From The Belfry

You would have to have been living on a different planet to have missed the recent World Cup football tournament, so after the extraordinary win for England against France in the Bronze Medal match, members of our doughty team of ringers marked the best finish by our team since 1966 – just the 60 years ago(!), by ringing a full peal. The text below will shortly appear in the Ringing World – you might recognise some names...

Yorkshire Association

On Sunday, 19 July 2026 in **2h 38m**

Armitage Bridge, West Yorkshire

St Paul

Tenor: 9–2–20 in G

5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (7m)

Arranged by S Humphrey

720 each: Primrose, Ipswich, London, Norwich,

Annable's London, Bourne, Cambridge

1 Lorraine M Trebble

2 C Sally Austin

3 Alan M Trebble

4 Andrea P L Wain

5 Alex W Wain

6 Oliver M Austin (C)

Rung to celebrate the England Men's Football team's highest finish in a world cup since 1966

GARDENING TEAM NEWS

As we are now half-way through 2026 we thought it worth reporting on our churchyard.

As in the past our priority is to keep the front grass along with the drive as neat and tidy as possible. The cremated remains areas,

looked after by Maureen, Catherine and Lorraine, are looking much fresher and tidier.

Dead flowers, plants, broken pots, glass etc are removed regularly keeping the possibilities of cut fingers and accidents to a minimum. The ladies have had many words of thanks from families who appreciate the effort required to keep these areas looking nice for everyone.

Our long term aim for the rest of our land is to promote areas to increase the amount of wildlife we currently enjoy. This does sometimes cause a conflict of interest. Whereas our aim is to try and create a more natural environment it does (particularly at present) look untidy with the long grass getting out of hand. However, we are working with River Holme Connections who have advised us to leave these areas wild until August, when they will come and help cut these areas back, preparing some of the ground for planting up with wild, native seeds which they will provide.

We are already having a small amount of success. Most of you will know from Focus magazine that 6 kestrel eggs were laid up in the tower louvres, all the eggs hatched and the chicks fledged. They could be seen and heard flying around and settling up on the tower pinnacles. Professional advice has been sought by Fran and Richard to help protect and look after these birds of prey and hopefully encourage them to return next year.

Many more butterflies and moths have been seen, along with small rodents such as mice and voles - food for our kestrels - with more wild flowers bringing in insects which in turn bring in more birds. The flowers and plants are being recorded, we can add a Common Spotted Orchid to our list (again, see below).

In autumn "The Woodland Trust" should be sending us 15 small native trees to plant, adding to the maple David kindly donated, Jeremy's crab apple, which the ringers planted, Frank's cherry tree,

an apple tree and Sambucus Nigra - Black Elderberry, all adding shade and a source of food to the plot down by the old vicarage wall.

You will be aware the task facing us is enormous, having projects is without doubt a good thing but the job is not finished as these areas require constant attention and managing. Any extra help is always appreciated and welcomed. Our gardening team meet on Wednesday mornings around 8:30am. Everyone is welcome to come and help, particularly if you have your own strimmer which actually works !!!.

Maureen, Cath, Lorraine, Helen, Ian, Frank, Tony and Alan



Sections of the wildflower meadow



Common Spotted Orchid



Junior church contribution to the lay-led service



Footsteps to the altar

Closing date for September 2026 issue: Thursday, 20th August 2026

Copy contact details to Graeme Williams at

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.