



April 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



FOCUS

April Church Services

- 7 April 10.00am Morning Worship South Crosland Church
 10.00am Holy Communion at Netherton Methodist Church
 10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist
- 14 April 10.00 Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
 10.00am Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church
 10.30am Morning worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church
- 21 April 10.00am Holy Communion at South Crosland Church
 10.00am Morning worship at Netherton Methodist Church
 10.30am Morning worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church
- 28 April 10.00am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
 10.00am Morning worship at Netherton Methodist Church
 10.30am Morning worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church

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.

April Mid-week Services

Please contact Stella or Barbara for details.

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Dear friends,

Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Easter season and to thank you all for the lovely warm welcome my sister Susan and I have received since joining the Emmanuel Benefice and our Methodist brothers and sisters.

It's good to remember once more the wonderful, good news that Jesus Christ endured the cross to take upon himself all that we would ever do wrong in our lives. His death means the door to heaven is wide open for all those who love and serve him. His resurrection means that physical death is not the end, we also will rise again.

New Life

I wonder what his death and resurrection mean to you.

It means the world to me. I have to say, that without the knowledge that Christ died for me and rose again triumphant, I would not have a life worth living. I could have filled it with all the good things life could bring: I could have perhaps earned far more money than I did in full time ministry, I could have had every conceivable gadget available on the high street, I could have had a bigger and faster and more street cred car, yet underneath all of that I suspect I would have probably felt empty, lost, alone and unfulfilled.

I chose to follow Christ because he first chose me (and that still knocks me for six). The good news is that he chooses you too! No matter who you are or what you have done God chooses you. It's

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never too late. The price is paid for our shortcomings on the cross. Once we accept that we have a life that no one or nothing can snatch away from us.

Triumph over adversity

It is a life of triumph over adversity.

It is a life of peace through the pain,

it is a life of comfort through loss,

and it is a life of joy we cannot explain.

It is a life purchased through the cross.

I love these wonderful words of St. Paul [*The Message Translation*]:

Romans 8:31-39

³¹⁻³⁹So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture:

They kill us in cold blood because they hate you.

We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.

None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

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I love that passage because it gives me all the assurance I need when the road seems tough and following Him is a long hard slog. It is worth it!

As spring bursts forth into summer, let us remember that the God who created such beauty and awe-inspiring scenes is the same God who wants to be involved in our lives, who wants to lavish his love upon us. It's up to us whether we let him or not.

I wish you all a very blessed Easter season.

May God's blessing of new life be yours.
May God's gift of peace fill your hearts.
May God's promise of forgiveness give you hope.
May we go forth to tell the good news:
We have seen the risen Lord! Alleluia!

With love,

Angela



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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 March coffee morning raised £210; thank you to everyone for supporting this event.

We're particularly grateful to the knit and natter ladies who kindly donated knitted toys complete with mini easter eggs for sale.

The next coffee morning will take place on Saturday 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.

Diary Dates

3 April : First Wednesday Group at Netherton Methodist Church, 2.00pm Steve Gledhill. The History of South Crosland Junior School; with personal reminiscences.

20 April : Final date for copy May Focus, 12 Noon.

Items received after this time will probably miss the cut.

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Dear Friends

A blessed Holy Week and a joyful Easter to you all!

The passion, death and resurrection of Jesus transformed and renewed humankind and the whole cosmos. But annually, we need to revisit the story in order to embed our personal stories in Jesus' overarching story.

I have been enjoying reading a book that the Archbishop of Canterbury chose as this year's Lent Book. It is by Selina Stone and entitled "Tarry Awhile - Wisdom from Black spirituality for people of faith". It is about waiting for God, as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane, especially waiting together in vigil services and tarrying services in the black Pentecostal tradition. She looks at darkness and dualism, movement, belonging and exclusion, life In the Spirit, the place of quiet, healing and weeping. Resurrection is there - as an epilogue that completes the tarrying process.

Although these themes seem to fit so powerfully in our Holy Week journey, they are everyday, every month, every year issues. And we cannot wait for God to fix them for us. The presence of his Spirit and the faith, hope and love that do not disappoint us turn us into people of welcome and nurture, people who are Jesus shaped, people who act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

We didn't offer a Lent course this spring. But we have been invited by Leeds diocese to take on a challenge this summer. What is on offer is a chance to join a study course on Carbon Literacy. You can be one of 4 groups piloting a new course that the rest of our Diocese will be experiencing in Creationtide (September 1 - October 4). Carbon Literacy means understanding how global warming and climate change happen and crucially how we, in our homes, work, community and church, can play our part in reversing these trends.

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Last year a good number of members of all our churches filled in and returned a questionnaire about Lifestyle and the responses were very helpful to me as Parish Environment Officer. I am hoping that you will join me on this course. Please email me on BerryDeb@icloud.com to show interest. The 5 sessions will be in May, June and early July and could be afternoon or evening. Let me know which you prefer. I will go for the best fit.

Peace and all good

Debby

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Lent knit

When I saw Angela's piece about the Lent knit I thought I'd give it a go. To be honest in the past I'd been unsure about the linking of a craft such as knitting with Lent 'study'. But how wrong I was.

As I write it's not quite finished and I have a few more pages to go but I took the option of finishing the knit this weekend.

It's been wonderful on so many levels.

It's made me find time to sit down and do the reflections

It has had so many interesting pieces of information.

My knitting has improved with new skills and development of old ones

Used up oddments of wool

Created a garment for charity

It has enhanced my Lenten study and reading

I could go on

The shawl I've produced isn't something I would wear but I'm donating it to my friend who knits for the homeless and I'm hoping to make some



fingerless gloves with the wool that's left.

It's a win win, so if you can knit (only basic skills required) I recommend getting involved.

Elizabeth

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Thank you

Many thanks to everyone who gave of their time and energy to clean and declutter at Holy Trinity church, South Crosland, on Wednesday 20th March. Fortified by tea, coffee and biscuits, we achieved a lot with a few people in a short time.

There will be more sessions planned to tackle some key areas, such as the kitchen and the vestry, so don't feel as though you've missed out if you couldn't make it this time!

Caroline

News from Carol Waters

Crafty Chatterers - Alternate Tuesdays from April 2nd come along for a variety of Crafts or just chat 9.30 - 12-30, Berry Brow Church .

Film Cafe 2 pm. April 20th Interval with refreshments at Berry Brow Church, Birch Road.

Every Wednesday the Bread and Butter Thing 11.45- 2.30 - save waste food or help pack bags, meet people! Berry Brow Church

Hall Bower Fashion Show May 10th 7 pm by Chain Reaxion. Hall Bower Sunday School

Celebration of 200 years of Methodism in Berry Brow. May 11th -12th Coffee morning, Exhibition, Historical Walk, Concert by Meltham Mills Band, 10.30 Service followed by Faith Lunch with Peter Hancock.

Easter Craft workshop



On a frosty but sunny morning, with the church set out with activity tables, we were ready to open the doors and welcome the children to our Easter Craft workshop.

Eighteen helpers, fifteen children and fourteen parents enjoyed two hours of Easter Craft with refreshments, which included lovely ground coffee, homemade brownies, and biscuits. The children were offered activities which included making an Easter card, decorating buns and eggs, Easter baskets, wreaths, crosses, and an Easter Garden.

The event finished with the Rev David Kent talking to the children about their morning activities and questioning them about the meaning of Easter. He finished with a prayer.

To see the church alive with such activity, and friendly chatter was wonderful. The children responded to the atmosphere created by the enthusiasm and support of the adult helpers.

An event such as this cannot come to fruition without the help, support, and encouragement of helpers from Armitage Bridge and South Crosland. I should like to thank them all and hope they enjoyed the morning as much as the children did!

Melody

Please join us for a

Celebration!

of

200 years of Methodism in Berry Brow

1824-2024

Saturday 11th May

10 am Coffee morning with local history display
Historical Walk

7 pm Meltham Mills Band £10 a ticket incl.
refreshments. Children free. (Contact **07740425093**)

Sunday 12th May

10.30am Service with Rev Peter Hancock
followed by a faith lunch.

**Looking forward to seeing you over the
weekend!**



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

Over the last 12 months we have gathered a group of local ringers together to attempt a peal of “8 Spliced Surprise Major, as this is rung on 8 bells, practice sessions were mainly at The Parish and St. Stephens, Lindley.

Ringling a successful “peal” generally entails ringing 5040 changes, none to be repeated, taking around 3 hours to complete. There is no stopping for breaks and everything has to be committed to memory. As you can imagine a lot of hard work goes into these projects along with setbacks, tears, and frustrations, coupled with excitement and joy when a small amount of progress is made.

Our “band” was made up of 4 Armitage Bridge ringers, Lorraine, Sally, Oliver and Alan, along with Andrea and Alex who have helped teach learners here, with Carole and Peter who rang with us for the recent visit of Bishop Moses.

We had previously suffered failed attempts at St. Chads, Saddleworth, and All Hallows, Almondbury. Our third attempt was planned to coincide with Lorraine’s 65th birthday.

Enquiries for a suitable venue was made and we settled on St Bartholemew church in the village of Ripponden. Situated on the River Ryburn a few miles west of Halifax, the church has a ring of 8 bells with a tenor weighing around 9.1/2 cwt (460 kg), start time was arranged for 10:00am. 2hrs and 53 minutes later it was all smiles and celebrations as Oliver called out “That’s All”. With the bells rung down, the tower locked it was off to the pub to congratulate ourselves on a job well done.

Lorraine and Alan



Yorkshire Association

On Saturday, 24 February 2024 in 2h 53

Ripponden, West Yorkshire

St Bartholomew

Tenor: 9-3-20 in A♭

5184 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)

Composed by D F Morrison

768 each Pudsey, Rutland and Superlative, and 576 each Bristol, Cambridge, Lincolnshire, London and Yorkshire, with 126 changes of method.

- 1 Peter C Kirby
- 2 Carole Kirby
- 3 C Sally Austin
- 4 Lorraine M Trebble
- 5 Andrea P L Wain
- 6 Alan M Trebble
- 7 Alex W Wain
- 8 Oliver M Austin (C)

Rung as a birthday compliment to Lorraine.

First peal of 8 Spliced : 2

The band would like to associate Rebecca Kirby with this peal

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The band anticlockwise from front left

April 2024 Readings and prayers.



Sunday 7th April Easter 2. Acts 4: 32-35 and John 20: 19-end

Prayer for the Day (Collect)

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 14th April Easter 3. Acts 3: 12-18 and Luke 24: 36b-48

Prayer for the Day (Collect)

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.

Sunday 21st April Easter 4. Acts 4: 5-12 and John 21: 11-18

Prayer for the Day (Collect)

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Sunday 28th April Easter 5. Acts 8: 26-end and John 15: 1-8

Prayer for the Day (Collect)

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

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CONTACTS

Webpage: www.theemanuelteam.org.uk

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

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THE EMMANUEL BENEFICE HUDDERSFIELD
“Offering love and service to our communities in Christ’s