

FOCUS



October 2023

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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October Church Services

- 1 October 10.00 am All churches together for Harvest Service in Newsome Scout Hut
- 8 October 9.15am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge
10.00am Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church
10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church
- 15 October 9.15am Holy Communion at South Crosland
10.00am at Morning Worship Netherton Methodist Church
10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church
- 22 October 9.15am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge
10.00am Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church
10.30am Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church
- 29 October 10.00am Unity service of Holy Communion for All Saints Armitage Bridge

October Mid-Week Services

- 4 October 42 Beaumont Park Road, Beaumont Park
11 October Netherleigh, Butternab Road Beaumont Park.
18 October 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton
25 October 42 Beaumont Park Road,, Beaumont Park

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.

Some thoughts from Rev David



As you might expect, over the years I've acquired quite a collection of 'spiritual' quotations, comments from others, passages from spiritual reading and the like.

For me they resemble road signs on a map, way-markers and direction pointers on my spiritual journey.

Some you will have heard me share in my sermons and some perhaps you have even remembered.

So, I thought you might appreciate me sharing a few of them with you in the hope that one or two might resonate with you as they resonate with me.

Of course, each of us follows a unique spiritual journey and things which might inspire me may leave you cold.

Don't worry if you find that to be the case. The object of this exercise is not to 'impose' my spiritual inspiration on you.

The object is to encourage you to build up your own library of inspirational sayings so that your spiritual journey is well sign-posted.

"Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom" (Theodore Isaac Rubin)

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“One of the most difficult things to give away is kindness, for it is usually returned.”
(Mark Ortman)

“Whether you think you can, or you can’t, you are right.”
(Henry Ford)

“He that is good with a hammer tends to think everything is a nail.”
(Abraham Maslow)

“To have known someone, here or there, with whom there is understanding, despite distances travelled or thoughts unexpressed, can make of this earth a garden.”
(Goethe)

“Before rushing to climb the ladder, ensure it’s leaning against the right wall.”

“In relationships the little things are the big things.”

“I, God, am your playmate! I will lead the child in you on wonderful ways for I have chosen you.”
(Mechthild of Magdeburg)

“Mysteries are not meant to be understood, they are meant to be appreciated.”

“Try not to become a person of success. Rather become a person of value.”
(Albert Einstein)

“Spiritual growth comes from doing it wrong, not doing it right.”

“When nobody around you seems to measure up, it’s time to check your yardstick.”
Bill Lemley)

“It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.”
(Antoine de Saint-Exupey)

“What I do today is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it.”
(Hugh Mulligan)

“Life is change..... growth is optional choose wisely.”
(Karen Kaiser Clark)

“An instant of pure love is more precious to God and the soul and more profitable to the church, than all other good works together, even though it may seem as if nothing were done.”

(St John of the Cross)

“The happiest people don’t necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything.”

I hope you enjoyed reading these sayings and hopefully digesting them and perhaps even storing one or two in your heart.

I hope it may have encouraged you to build your own collection of ‘signposts’ for your journey.

With every blessing

David

Coffee Mornings

Holy Trinity Church holds a coffee morning on the second Saturday of each month at South Crosland Junior School, Moor Lane, Netherton.
The next coffee morning will take place on 14 October 2023 at 10.00am.

Netherton Methodist Church holds a coffee morning on the last Saturday of each month. 10.00 till 12.00.

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A Pattern for Prayer from the Community of the Resurrection (Mirfield)

Prayer for the world.

Please join with the Brothers at the Community of the Resurrection and use this pattern for prayer as suits you best.

Nicolas CR

A quick look at the newspapers or TV shows us a world in a mess. War in Ukraine, endless violence in Palestine, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Burma and Africa. There is constant bad news about the environment, the collapse of ecosystems, the warming of the oceans, the impact of plastic and chemicals on the water and the soil. It is easy to despair and just hope the world will last long enough to see us out. But no; St Benedict reminds us “never to despair of God’s mercy” (4:74) and quotes St Paul: “Eye has not seen nor ear heard what God has prepared for those who love him.” (4: 76) This is not only about life after death. God is not abandoning us now. God is working in our world. How can we work with him? CR has a mission to pray. Please join us in that. Pray with us for Christians in Palestine, Iraq, Iran and Burma that God will sustain them in the violence and, through them, bring the peace of Christ to their shattered communities.

Pray for the people of Africa: for Zimbabwe having had an election on 23rd August, that it will be peaceful and have a good result; for Sudan, South Sudan, Central Africa and the countries troubled by Muslim extremists, that the compassion of Christ will be found in the violence.

For Nicaragua, El Salvador, Ecuador, Mexico and the countries of South America where the Church is strong in numbers, that it will also be strong to resist evil and promote good.

The early Brethren of our Community were mostly socialists and preached often about the need to change society so that the poor did not suffer. In later years, Brethren opposed apartheid in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Often this made them unpopular but Christ was with them and they were proved

right in the end. So, join us as we pray especially for an ending to modern injustice:

For justice to the environment: for wisdom, understanding and a listening to God as we seek to solve the huge and complex problems of the environment.

For a better understanding of the impact of climate change, that we may prevent further damage and destruction through fires, floods and drought, and help those already affected by this.

For justice in politics, that the current wave of populism in the West may give way to reasoned, balanced and compassionate politicians who really wish to focus on the weak and the poor.

For compassion in the treatment of refugees and those who seek asylum and a new life in this country. Remembering the words of Christ: "I was hungry and you gave me food ... I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matt. 25 : 35). A hostile policy towards immigrants of any sort is never Christian.

Recommended by Jeremy Plummer



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Diary Dates

21 October: Final date for copy November Focus, 12 Noon.
Items received after this time will probably miss the cut.

Compassion **An update on Dafne**

Dafne, our Compassion child and I have been writing to each other and in her most recent letter she said that she appreciates and thanks you for your support. She says that she is working hard at school and asks that we continue to pray for her and her family.

Her birthday is in October when she will be 14 years old, and I have sent a birthday card from us all.

The recent collections amounted to a total of £157 from our three churches - St. Pauls, Holy Trinity and Berry Brow Methodist.

That is a wonderful amount towards the support of Dafne. Your contributions are all very welcome – thank you.

Keep up the good work and please continue to pray for her and her family.

Melody



Remembrance Sunday 12th November



There will be 4 services of Remembrance this year in our [communities](#).

Rev Debby Plummer will be at Armitage Bridge at 9.15am

Rev David Kent will be at South Crosland at 9.15am

Netherton Methodist Church will be holding a service at 10am

Rev Julie Anderson will be at Berry Brow Methodist Church at 10.30am with the uniformed organisations.

It's almost time to make your poppies to go in the window to show our thanks and commitment to the memory of those who have died in war. They should be displayed for the whole of November. Perhaps you have a child or [grand-child](#) who could draw one for you and colour it in or maybe you are a dab hand at making things and could make one for your window and perhaps offer one to a neighbour.



It is always good to show our appreciation of people who have dedicated their lives to improving ours and I hope by displaying a poppy of hope we will do just that and give thanks to all those who fought for our freedom!!

Julie

**THE EMMANUEL TEAM
INVITES YOU TO OUR**

HARVEST FESTIVAL



**10am on Sunday
1st October
At The Scout hut
Newsome**



**Come and join us as we celebrate all that God has given us.
There will be craft activities for all ages.**

EVERYONE WELCOME

**Please bring any of the following as your harvest
offering for the Welome Centre**

**Shampoo, Veggie meals, Ready meals, Tea Bags,
Tinned meats, Tinned veg, Jars of baby food**

**Please DO NOT bring any of the following as they
have plenty at this time.**

**Sugar or salt, Tinned spaghetti, Out-of-date
food items, Items containing alcohol,
Incontinence products, Clothes of any type,
Bottled water**

News of our day with Bishop Moses on Friday 8th September

Some of you will remember that St Paul's has a link with a church in the diocese of Royra in Tanzania. The church we link with is in a small village called Sokorabolo where, from time to time we get an update on their news and building projects. A few weeks ago, we learned their Bishop of Royra, Bishop Moses Yamo Masala was planning to visit England in September and wanted to come and see St Paul's during his stay.

After a bit of a delay with his visa, he visited us on Friday 8th Sept and we spent a lovely day with him, showing him our church and the local area. During his visit he also spent some time telling us about his village and the challenges he has faced growing the church since he came into the position in 2021.

I thought it would be nice to share our news from Friday as well as give you an update on the village of Sokorabolo and the surrounding area of Royra. As a little bit of background, Royra has 40 parishes, of which 13 parishes in Royra are linked with parishes in Yorkshire. There are less churches than parishes with more than one parish sharing a church. The Bishop explained that he looks after 6 churches, one being Sokorabolo. On the last count we heard there were 87 members across the 6 churches in Royra. St Paul's has sent financial gifts to the village over previous years to help with the building of some of their parish infrastructure including a water tower project, a church, vicarage house and church school.

On arrival we showed him round the Church and the grounds and told him a bit about our history. He was given a tour of the Bell tower and also treated to bell ringing from Alan and the team as well as a touring group that happened to be visiting on the same day. It was a beautiful day so we had lunch outside where he was treated to a wonderful selection of homemade food. He thanked us for the wonderful lunch and then talked to us about his life, mission and the challenges he is facing in



Royra and surrounding districts.

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During his talk, Bishop Moses thanked us for the donations we had sent and explained that although much progress has been made, they have not quite finished the vicarage house. The house still needs a roof and to finish off some of the windows and doors. They are hoping to finish all work this year so their local pastor can live inside the new house. The actual vicarage building that Armitage Bridge sent funds for in previous years is also in need of some repair work as there are a few cracks appearing and the floor needs some attention. However, the nursery school that was built with some of the money we donated receives children from all around the area and has been a huge success.



It was very interesting to hear about Bishop Moses' life and education and how he came to be Bishop of Royra. He is the second Bishop of Royra and its youngest at 45yrs old. The diocese of Royra was founded in 2010 having previously been part of the diocese of Mara. The Mara diocese was divided into three separate dioceses in 2010 due to its expansion, these being, Mara, Royra and Tarime. To give you an idea of size, Tanzania is about four times the size of the UK with a population of approx. 45 million.

Bishop Moses is married with two children, Sarah and Cersei. One at University and one at high school and he gave us a lively insight into life as a father and Bishop of a large and developing area.

After studying at college he went to St John's University between 2008 – 2011 where he gained his Degree in Theology. In 2011 he joined Africa International where he completed his Masters specialising in bible studies and ancient Hebrew. In 2018 he took a post back at the theological college where he taught for 3 ½ years. In 2021 he was called back to Mara to set up further teaching there and was elected the Bishop of Royra in June of that year.

By his own words his region is 'broken' and there is little peace. People are not going to church and not pulling together as a community. It also remains an area where the practice of FGM is still carried out, despite it being illegal in that country since 2009. One of the projects he helps run is the 'Safe House' which

receives funding from the Anglican Diocese of Mara and the Tanzanian Development Trust. This is a building that can house 80 young girls providing them with food and shelter, access to an education and family reconciliation work. Raising the harm of FGM awareness in the community and aiming to change minds is a big part of their work.

When he joined the post he did not get a proper hand over and had no car to visit the large diocese. However, he used his contacts and link churches to get funding and support which led to him getting a car in 2022. This makes getting to his office that is 9 kilometres away on unmade roads a lot easier as well as getting out and about to reach villagers further away.

When he began, he and his wife went out each day to local houses to talk to villagers to encourage them to come to the church and learn about Gods teaching. It took them a year and a half to build up the church and start to get regular visitors. They also sought out people who wanted to go to college and explained the church could help them financially. This launched the scholarship programme. They started small but to date have sent 120 villagers to college to learn Theology so they can come back and help the ministry of the area and better the community. Some have also gone on to further education including Degree level, with two studying Masters.

Previously in their area there was no funding for children to go to school past primary school age. Now there is government funding up to lower high school age (around our GCSE age). However when they leave school there are still few prospects and few job opportunities all of which is not helping the area progress. The Bishop through his work is trying to start small and build up the community, not just through the church but through education and ensuring there are jobs and a future for people at the other end.

He explained that when he began he did not know how things were going to necessarily turn out but he has started small and has gradually built up funding and interest. Bishop Moses and his wife also run a women's union group where women can learn skills and be paid for work through sewing. They started with two donated sewing machines and now they have around 10 machines for 14 members. We asked if our church could help the village with a particular fund raising project and he suggested that if we wanted to raise funds they would very

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much like to buy some more sewing machines so they could provide work to more women.

The churches are growing , the choirs are growing and people are starting to see the benefit in this. By doing so they are also building the community and the prospects for the future. He thanked us for our support both spiritually and financially. The work is challenging and they have a long way to go but he believes in what he is doing and has plenty more ideas.

After his talk some of us walked up to Beaumont park, despite the heat and showed him the wonderful views of Huddersfield. We then took him to Castle hill before dropping him at David and Pam Kent who had offered him a bed for the night. However, his fun did not stop at Castle Hill. He was treated to a Beetle Drive night with Pam and David and I believe he thoroughly enjoyed it! On Saturday he was driven to Holme Valley where he was scheduled to spend a couple of days including a service he delivered on Sunday.

He has a very full itinerary whilst he is here including trips to Almondbury, Clayton West and Halifax before returning home on Tues 19th Sept. However he



explained he is not going straight home but he is off to a training course in Tanzania until the end of Sept. A very busy man!

It was a wonderful day hearing all his news, his challenges, and his successes. It was very inspirational. He took a lot of photos to share with his community and he would like to visit us again in the future. We wish him all the best and look

forward to learning more about his work in Royra and specifically Sokorabolo which we will be happy to share with everyone.

Sarah



Annual Family Picnic

Well at last we managed our picnic!

Having had to cancel in July as a result of the heavy rain and then rescheduling for September, it was touch and go as to whether it would ever take place!

Having had a heatwave the previous week and thunderstorms forecast for the day, again it seemed likely we may have had to cancel.

Fortunately, the weather was kind and 23 adults, 3 children and 3 dogs gathered in Beaumont Park to enjoy the picnic.

A lot of work by The Friends' of Beaumont Park has gone into making the park attractive for everyone to enjoy and it was looking beautiful. The adventure playground and new pathway are such a great addition to the park and enjoyed by the children. We are so fortunate to have this wonderful resource on our doorstep.

After food was eaten, football, Boule, egg and spoon races were enjoyed by participants and audience alike!

The children were as enthusiastic as ever and some of the adults even joined in the fun and games! In fact, there was real competitiveness amongst the adults especially in the egg and spoon race!

Together we enjoyed a picnic with friendship, fun, and lively conversations in lovely surroundings with good weather!

Looking forward to next year's picnic and hope you can join us!

Melody





Armitage Bridge Ringers

The Reopening Of Huddersfield Bells

Following our article in last month's Focus on the ringing competition at Huddersfield in 1865, we have now been given a little bit of information on an earlier competition which took place at the second parish church in July 1826. This building was consecrated in 1506 but was to be superseded by the third building completed in 1836. The original 8 bells being augmented to 10 by the addition of two 'Trebles'. were rehung in the new tower.

The 1826 competition was reported in the 'Leeds Mercury', dated 8th July 1826 thus:-

"The amateurs of ringing are expecting a treat on the 17th inst. The day appointed for re-opening of the Huddersfield bells. Ringers from various parts of the country will attend".

The results were published in the 'Manchester 'Courier' Sat 5th Aug. 1826 as follows:-

Huddersfield Prize Ringing, - On Monday, 17th ult. The following societies contended for the best peal of Oxford, or Kent Treble Bob, consisting of 2048 changes. They ascended the steeple and rung as follows:-

1st Huddersfield rang for 7.1/2 minutes and got out

2d Liversedge, senior rang for 1hr 8mins 40secs with 747 faults

3d Sowerby rang for 21mins 40secs and got out

4th Liversedge, junior rang for 57mins 35secs and got out

5th Halifax rang for 41mins and got out

6th Elland rang for 1hr 13mins with 853 faults

7th Otley rang for 1hr 10mins 30secs with 1170 faults

8th Birstall rang for 1hr 1min 10secs and got out

9th Oldham rang for 1hr 13mins with 338 faults

The 10th team was a joint company from Bradford and Otley, accumulating 1190 faults.

The prizes were distributed to the following companies; viz.- Oldham, first prize of ten sovereigns; Liversedge, senior, second prize of six sovereigns; Elland, third prize of four sovereigns.

Couple of things to mention, 'and got out' by a company would mean that that test piece was not completed and therefore that team would be eliminated.

The 'sovereign' is a British gold coin with a nominal value of one pound sterling (£1) and contains 0.2354 troy oz of pure gold. Struck since 1817, it was originally a circulating coin that was accepted in Britain and elsewhere in the world; it is now a bullion coin, sometimes mounted in jewellery.

A "very rare" 1826 George IV Gold Proof Sovereign is currently worth around £15,000 (fifteen thousand pounds) today.



Lorraine and Alan

October 2023 Readings and prayers

Sunday 1 October – Harvest – Luke 12: 16-21

Prayer for the Day – Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday 8 October – Trinity 18 – Philippians 3: 4b -14 and Matthew 21: 33-end

Prayer for the Day - God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday 15 October – Trinity 19 – Philippians 4: 1 -9 and Matthew 22: 1-14

Prayer for the Day – Faithful Lord whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ or Lord.

Sunday 22 October – Trinity 20 – 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 and Matthew 22: 15-22

Prayer for the Day – God our light and our salvation: illuminate our lives, that we may see your goodness in the land of the living, and looking on your beauty may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord

Sunday 29 October – Last after Trinity – 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8 and Matthew 22: 34-end

Prayer for the Day - Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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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 name.”