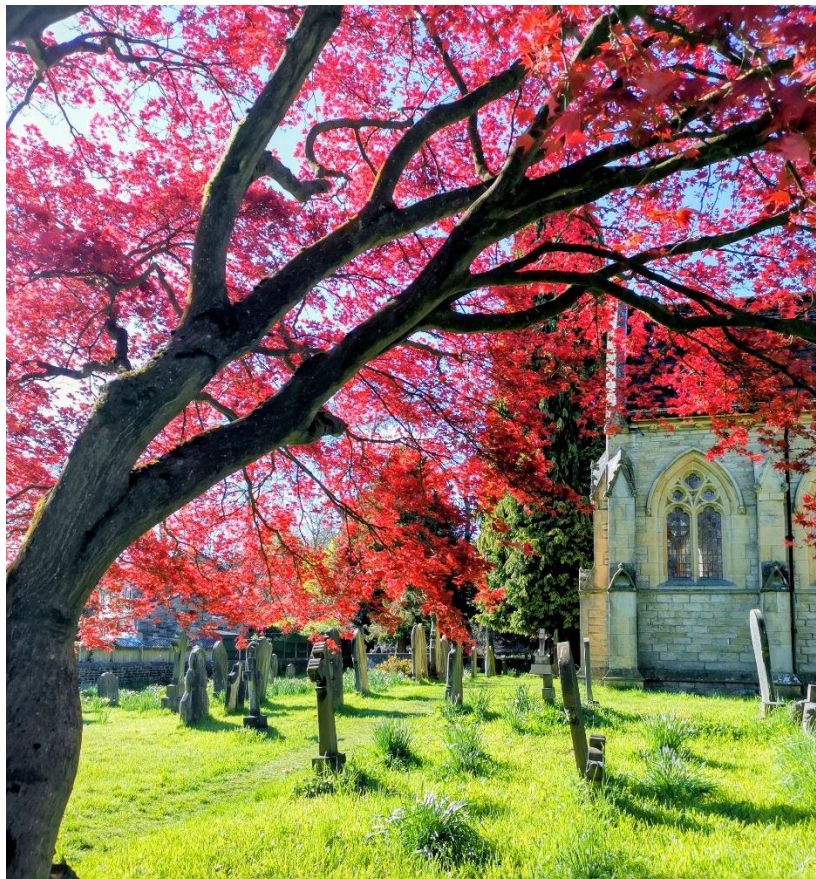




May 2026

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



A couple of Prayer Stations, set up during Holy Week



May 2026 Church Services

Sundays:

3 rd May (Easter 5)	10.00 am	Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church Junior Church
	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Mrs S Oldroyd) at Netherton Methodist Church
	10.30 am	Morning Worship (Own arrangements) at Berry Brow Methodist Church
10 th May (Easter 6)	10.00 am	Holy Communion & Thy Kingdom Come Launch at Armitage Bridge Church
	10.00 am	Morning Worship (Mr P McSweeney) at Netherton Methodist Church
	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Rev T Francis) at Berry Brow Methodist Church
17 th May (Easter 7)	10.00 am	Lay-led service 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
24 th May (Pentecost)	10.00 am	Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
	10.30 am	Morning Worship (Own arrangements) at Netherton Methodist Church
	10.30 am	Morning Worship (Own arrangements) at Berry Brow Methodist Church
31 st May (Trinity Sunday)	10.00 am	Joint Service at Armitage Bridge Church
	10.30 am	Methodist Circuit Service at Gledholt MC

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. now back in church for the summer. Please contact Rev. Debby for details, Tel:

07762236986 - all welcome.

May 2026 Readings

Sunday 3rd May - Acts 7: 51-end John 14:1-14
Sunday 10th May - Acts 17:22-34 John 14:15-21
Sunday 17th May - Acts 1:1-14 John 17: 1-11
Sunday 24th May - Acts 2:1-21 John 20 19-23
Sunday 31st May - Psalm 8 Matthew 28: 16-end

CONTACTS

Web page: 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



Pentecost – Come Holy Spirit!

Before his death and resurrection, Jesus said to his disciples: *“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever — the Spirit of truth.”* [John 14: 15-17]

Pentecost Sunday on the 24th May celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to Christ’s church. Jesus’ disciples were filled with the Spirit and from that moment on, despite (and in some cases because of) many challenges and persecutions, the church grew across nations, societies and cultures. Today there are over 2.3 billion Christians worldwide.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is available to us still. During the Easter Season, we prayed those who were baptised, and those who re-affirmed their baptismal vows, were filled again with the Holy Spirit as they grow in the knowledge and love of God. We recognise we need the Spirit’s help to do this – we certainly cannot do it in our own strength - we need the advocate and helper Jesus promised. The gift of the Holy Spirit is for everyone who seeks to follow Jesus and obey his commands. God promised through the prophet Joel, *‘And afterwards I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.’* [Joel 2:28 & 29] Everyone has a part to play in demonstrating God’s love for the

world, sharing the Good News of Jesus and praying others will come to know and love him too. This is what the **Thy Kingdom Come** initiative is all about.

Archbishop Sarah Mullally reflected on our role in praying for others with the help of the Holy Spirit; 'It's as Teresa of Avila wrote: *"Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world, Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good, Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."* We can be the hands of Christ to those who need them...that they may come to know him through us. But we will also find, in the process, that we too will be transformed by the Holy Spirit, and moulded into a truer reflection of the image of God.' [2026 TKC Novena p7]

As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost, I pray we will all open our hands and hearts to receive the gift of the advocate and helper we so desperately need, the one who enables us to be the best advocate for Jesus we can be, as we help others to know and love Him as Lord and Saviour.



The next Emmanuel@6 gathering will be on Sunday 17th May at St Paul's Armitage Bridge 6-7pm. Songs for this month include: Behold Him (Baloché & Wong); Consuming Fire (Tim Hughes); God So Loved the World (We the Kingdom); Holy Spirit Living Breath of God (Getty/Townend); Thank you Jesus for the Blood (Gayle, Kennedy, Musso, Gentiles & McCleery); Yet Not I (City Alight - Robinson, Thompson & Farren); A Thousand Hallelujahs (Ligertwood, Wickham, Ligertwood)



Life Groups are an opportunity to gather mid-week to share fellowship, explore the Bible and pray together. A number of groups launched last month. If you are interested in joining a life group speak to Fran.



This 8-week Course exploring the BIG Story of the Bible continues:
Monday Evenings 7-8.30pm at St Pauls on the
11th & 18th May; 1st, 8th & 22nd June & 6th July
Tuesday Afternoon 12.30-2pm at Berry Brow Methodist Church
5th, 19th & 26th May; 2nd, 23rd & 30th June
Speak to Fran if you'd like to know more.



Thy Kingdom Come 2026 Prayer Initiative:

This year's Thy Kingdom Come is all about the presence of God through His spirit. The God who is with us in the everyday – in the joys and sorrows of life (and everything in between) and the One

who, through His spirit, longs to reveal Himself to those who do not yet know Him. From the story of Ruth to the story of Gideon, from the story of Elijah to the story of the early church who waited for the promised Holy Spirit to come - over the 11 days we will explore a different Bible story each day, which demonstrates God's transformative presence, power and love at work in the lives of people and places. Our hope is that as we pray for our five people, they will also experience the life-changing love of God and choose to follow Him.

Free Digital Resources to help you make the most of this initiative, including the Novella and Prayer Diary, are available:

www.thykingdomcome.global/resources-0

Cards to remind you to pray for your 5 people are available in church!

Holy Week – Quiet Prayer Spaces and Jesus's Journey to the Cross

(A reflection by Catherine Day)

Fran had put a lot of thought, prayer and preparation into this special week in the Christian calendar and the results were thought-provoking, sensitive, yet challenging, as Jesus went from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, then his betrayal, trial and his crucifixion.

Each prayer station had a theme (see photographs), a reading from Matthew's Gospel and further notes to take our reflections to a deeper level.

There were various crafts, visual aids and sensory materials, but nothing was compulsory – you could just move through the space or sit and listen to the Taize chants playing quietly in the background.

The Maundy Service on Thursday evening was a beautiful, simple Communion with songs and readings taken from the Passover meal, the Garden of Gethsemane and the final betrayal.

The words of the Eucharistic Prayer were particularly poignant as we offered each other the Bread and Wine gathered round the table.

The two services on Good Friday were very reflective including hymns and songs. The morning service was based on Isaiah 52, the Suffering Service and the Passion reading from St. John's Gospel, leading to the foot of the cross.

The evening service was a Tenebrae Service (something new for us) where throughout the service the lighted candles were extinguished, ending with just one lighted candle remaining. This was taken out of church, leaving us in the darkness, then returned into church, the Christ light inextinguishable, ready for our Easter Day celebrations.

Thank you to Fran for preparing, leading and accompanying us on our own Holy Week journey.

Catherine

DIARY DATES

39th Art and Craft Exhibition – 2026

Yes, it's upon us once again!!

We are holding the Exhibition from Thursday to Saturday, 4th-6th June 2026.

The opening times are:

Thursday and Friday - 2pm to 4pm and 7pm-9pm

Saturday - 10am to 4pm

Refreshments will be available each day and admission to the exhibition will be £1.00

Entry forms are now available from Armitage Bridge Church, Huddersfield Library at the Civic Centre and Calder Art Supplies in Byram Arcade or alternatively you can visit our Facebook page via @armitagebridgeart.

As usual, we are seeking assistance to set up and manage the Exhibition. On the dates and times we are open, we will need help in the kitchen, with the raffle, and as stewards. Any donations of food and raffle prizes will be welcome. Schedules will be displayed at St Paul's to sign.

In addition, we will be glad of help to set up the Church after the service on 31 May, to take in entries on 2 June, 2.00 – 8.00 pm, and to hang the entries on 3 June from 9.00 am – 12 noon.

Warm Welcome at Berry Brow Methodist Church

This takes place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 12th May this month, from 12.30 pm onwards, with quizzes and fellowship.

'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.

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. A smallish group gathered in April and raised £175 for school funds which was gratefully received. £15 was also raised from the pop up shop. Many thanks to all contributors.

All are welcome at South Crosland Junior School, 10.00 – 11.30 am. The next couple of events and charities being supported are as follows:

9th May – Kirkwood Hospice

13th June – Alzheimer's Society



Saturday 16th May - BIG BREAKFAST 10.00 -11.30 am

at St Paul's Armitage Bridge

Come and join us for a

BIG BREAKFAST

Bacon or sausage sandwiches, Beans on toast, or coffee and a cake.

All proceeds to the work of Christian Aid.



...and on the same day don't forget the sponsored walk for Christian Aid Week. (A great chance to walk off your large breakfast!!)

There is still time to sponsor the walk from St. Paul's on 16th May after the breakfast that morning. All proceeds will go to Christian Aid. Simply go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/keith-robinson-2026>, or click on the QR code below



Come and join us for a
Spring Concert

with the



at

Netherton Methodist Church

on

Saturday, 13th June, 3pm

tickets £10 available from Katie 07787 171955

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

30th May

22nd August

7th November (Christmas Extravaganza)

EVENT REPORTS

An Appeal from the Junior School:

At South Crosland C.E.(A) Junior School, we KNOW that reading is an essential life skill and we are committed to enabling our children to become confident lifelong readers. We have a wonderful team of volunteers in school. If you, or someone you know, would like to volunteer to listen to children read, please contact us (Tel 01484 667075) at the earliest opportunity – we look forward to hearing from you. All volunteers in school will receive an enhanced DBS check and be given support for their role.

If you require further information on this rewarding role, speak with Caroline Jones or Helen Pearson who currently listen to readers in school.

Heating System Upgrade Project – Berry Brow Methodist Church

Over the last few years, despite regular maintenance, the central heating system at Berry Brow had become somewhat unreliable and ineffective, So in late 2024, a decision was made to attempt to upgrade and modernise the system.

A specification was put together consisting of the following:

- Arrangement of 5 distinct zones, 4 to cover space heating and one for hot water, with scope for all to be switched on and off independently.

- Each heating zone would have local thermostats to allow local or remote control via the internet/wi-fi
- 2 boilers, an existing and new one to ensure flexibility of use of heating were installed, along with appropriate isolating valves.
- All fan-assisted convector radiators in the Main Hall were replaced by conventional radiators. Pipework was also rationalised.
- The Main Hall was to have thermostatically controlled fans to blow hot air back down where appropriate.

There then followed a 'beauty contest' of appropriate local companies who bid for the upgrade work. Eventually it was decided to appoint Kloska Heating Services of Honley, who quoted £18,610, which was accepted in July 2025.

Alongside the specification work, it was essential for a serious fundraising process to take place by approaching charities, foundations and trusts to assist us reach our target.

Grants were eventually made by the following organisations:

- The Benefact Trust
- The Bernard Sunley Foundation
- The Congregational and General Trust
- The Sir George Martin Trust

Between them, these 4 bodies made available £16,700 of funds Together with a grant from the Methodist District Advance Fund (DAF) and a contribution from our own reserves, the cost of the project was covered.

Final approval was given by the circuit and the upgrade took place in November 2025. The project was implemented more or less exactly as planned and subject to some initial teething problems and an ongoing learning process of optimising the settings, the upgraded system is now up and running and working well.

Our sincere thanks go to the four bodies whose funding enabled the project to go ahead.

Jon Love

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch Results

Well, they are finally here after what feels like ages since the January count!

2026 Ranking	2025 Ranking	Species	Number counted
1	1	House Sparrow	1,275,378
2	2	Blue Tit	1,114,620
3 (+1)	4	Starling	796,002
4 (-1)	3	Woodpigeon	787,190
5	5	Blackbird	598,783
6 (+1)	7	Great Tit	562,690
7 (-1)	6	Robin	534,032
8	8	Goldfinch	492,721
9	9	Magpie	469,419
10	10	Long-tailed Tit	424,715

And here are a couple of other statistics for your delectation:

- Total number of birds counted – 9.4 million
- Number of people who took part – 650,000+
- Hours spent counting birds since 1979 – 13.4 million.

The full results are available on the RSPB website – [rspb.org.uk](https://www.rspb.org.uk)

Many people love to watch garden birds on their feeders, but the RSPB have recently issued advice to try and help combat a disease called trichomonosis. This is highly infectious to birds and there is good evidence that it is spread via bird feeders and tables. The advice is to stop feeding birds seeds and nuts between 1st May and 31st October (there is plenty of food obtainable naturally in the summer months). Good feeder hygiene also important, with weekly cleaning recommended. Flat surfaces provided by bird tables are also now considered to help promote infections. Full advice can once again be obtained by checking out the website above.

Lime trees at St. Paul's Church

As we leave the road bridge along the lane toward the church car park we are accompanied on our left by a line of mature, tall, rather untidy trees. These are Common Limes (*Tilia x europaea*), also known as Linden trees, and may have been planted as saplings at the time the church itself was consecrated in 1848. Impressively, this makes them potentially almost 180 years old. Common Limes are capable of living beyond 400 years and there are records of these trees going back over 500 years.

There are three main species of Lime growing naturally in the British Isles; the Small Leaved Lime which is uncommon, the rare Large Leaved Lime and far more frequently the fertile hybrid between the two, namely the Common Lime. The two parent Limes are particularly scarce in Yorkshire (although I am familiar with a massive, ancient Small Leaved Lime growing in the Yorkshire Sculpture Park at West Bretton).

Limes are among the most beautiful and historic of all British native trees. Incidentally, our native lime trees, although they share a name, are not related to the Citrus Lime, a small tree, perhaps reaching 20 feet which grows in warm climates and produces small round, greenish-yellow fruits. In stark contrast, some British Common Limes may reach an imposing height occasionally exceeding 160 feet (49 metres).

The leaves, which may be up to 10 cm long are heart-shaped with a toothed margin. They are rather dull green above, paler on the underside and are notorious for harbouring Lime Aphids which are responsible for producing a sticky rain of honeydew and black sooty mould. Ladybirds predate on these insects. Some people use the fresh, young leaves, which apparently taste of lettuce, as a sandwich filling. The bark which is fissured with age is greyish brown. Flowers, which are normally produced in late June are yellowish-white, have five petals and are wonderfully fragrant.

A feature of Common Lime is their production of thick, dense, untidy and copious shoots mainly from the base of the trunk. These develop from buds beneath the bark and in the case of this tree species it is perfectly natural. Although messy in appearance this is not a sign of stress nor is it harmful to the tree. Councils often prune this growth in order to keep roads and pavements clear and unobstructed.

Common Limes became highly fashionable from the 17th Century onwards and there is a specimen at Burghley House, Cambridgeshire planted by Elizabeth 1st in 1580. Today, they are abundant features of streets, parks and churchyards throughout Britain. Locally for example, Beaumont Park, Cannon Hall and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park at West Bretton have collections of these trees. Those at Nostell Priory are magnificent and probably among the largest in this area. Lining the drive to Banks Hall at Cawthorne is an imposing double avenue of mature Common Limes. I often walk down this public drive and every time I try to count these trees I always manage to come up with a different figure but somewhere in the order of eighty. Around the time of the First World war a beautiful, picturesque feature, namely a double avenue of Common Limes was planted at Wentworth Castle and is today known as 'Lady Lucy's Walk'.

Lime wood, sometimes referred to as basswood, is soft and fine textured making it ideal for carving and woodturning. It is often used, for example, in making piano keys, toys and in furniture manufacture.

It is so easy to vaguely walk or drive past these imposing, veteran trees with hardly a glance, our minds on other matters on our way to and from St. Paul's. They are a prominent part of this Church's heritage and perhaps they deserve more of our attention, our appreciation and our respect. The Church environs would, I hope you agree, be so much poorer without them.

David Barker

Armitage Bridge Ringers – News From The Belfry

Recently Gillian and Bruce asked Lorraine and myself to help them remove various wooden bookcases and racks from their home.

Amongst the items was a slim horizontal cabinet which, turned on its end to stand vertically and with some shelves added would provide a very nice addition to our ringing room by starting a small library.

We already have a number of publications which are, in the main, reference books on the art of church bell ringing, although I had my eye on obtaining a copy of Dorothy L. Sayers novel "The Nine Tailors". For those who may not know, Sayers was an English crime novelist and playwright. Born in Oxford in June 1893 her first novel was published in 1923. Between then and 1939 she wrote 10 more novels featuring her upper -class amateur detective, Lord Peter Wimsey.

"The Nine Tailors" was published in the UK in 1934, the story revolving around the Parish Church of Fenchurch and its churchyard where a corpse is discovered by the sexton, going on to involve the church bell ringers.

Having received our copy I was drawn to read the foreword which Dorothy penned herself, and I thought was worth sharing:-

"From time to time complaints are made about the ringing of church bells. It seems strange that a generation which tolerates the uproar of the internal combustion engine and the wailing of the jazz band should be so sensitive to the one loud noise that is made to the glory of God. England alone in the world, has perfected the art of change-ringing and the true ringing of bells by rope and wheel, and will not lightly surrender her unique heritage".

Alan and Lorraine



A couple more Prayer Stations set up during Holy Week.

Milk bottle top update

Here is an update on the amount which has now been raised for Yorkshire Cancer, still being enthusiastically supported by Gabe and Thea. So come on everybody, keep bringing those bottle tops into church – they are collected at the back of church.



Fabulous numbers you two – well done!

Closing date for June 2026 issue: Wednesday, 20th May 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.