



October 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



Brookes Mill (from the top of the church tower), which dominated the early development of Armitage Bridge



The Harvest Festival service took place at Berry Brow recently and the generous donations are shown here, with an extra £57.40 in cash also donated to the Welcome Centre



Not the prettiest view of the church – roof repairs in progress!

October 2026 Church Services

Sundays:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 4th October | 10.00 am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
(Junior Church) |
| | 10.00 am Morning Worship (Ms Jo Jones)
at Netherton Methodist Church |
| | 10.30 am Morning Worship (Stuart Merry)
at Berry Brow Methodist Church |
| 11 th October | 10.00 am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church |
| | 10.30 am Joint Service at Berry Brow Methodist Church,
with Netherton Methodist Church |
| 18 th October | 10.00 am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church |
| | 10.00 am Morning Worship (Mrs Liz Bishop)
at Netherton Methodist Church |
| | 10.30 am Holy Communion (Revd. Fran Nunn)
at Berry Brow Methodist Church |
| 25 th October | 10.00 am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church |
| | 10.00 am Holy Communion (Rev Denise Yeadon)
at Netherton Methodist Church |
| | 10.30 am Morning Worship (own arrangements)
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

Web page: www.theemmanuelteam.org.uk

Ministers

Priest in Charge :	Revd Frances Nunn Fran.Nunn@leeds.anglican.org	07731 861583
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Churchwardens

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Safeguarding Officers

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A VIEW FROM THE CLERGY – Rev. Frances Nunn

**Emmanuel Benefice Sunday Services 10am at St Paul's:
October will focus on Gratitude and Generosity**

4th October Holy Communion and Junior Church – St Francis of Assisi

11th October Holy Communion – Ruth 1; Luke 21:1-4

18th October – Holy Communion – Ruth 2; Luke 19:1-10

25th October – Holy Communion – Ruth; 3 & 4



**The next Emmanuel@6 gathering will be on Sunday 18th October
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:

All who are thirsty (Brown/Robertson)

Thanks and Praise (Edmunds/Riggs/Gimble)

God So Loved the World (We the kingdom)

What An Awesome God (Smith/Wickham/Mullins)

Yet Not I (City Alight-Robinson/Thompson/Farren)

The Lord's Prayer – It's Yours (Fowler/Sooter/Mayer)

The Lord is My Salvation (Nockels/Myrin/Getty/Getty)

The Blessing (Brown/Carnes/Jobe/Furtick)



Life Groups are a mid-week time of fellowship, prayer and exploring
the Bible together.

If you would like to get involved with a group, speak to Fran.
This month we will be reflecting on the theme of Generosity.
If you'd like to go deeper, check out the Bible Project Podcast and
Videos on this subject:

bibleproject.com/podcasts/series/generosity
bibleproject.com/videos/generosity



The story of Ruth in the Old Testament is one of unconditional love, care and generosity.

All three main characters, Ruth, her mother-in-law Naomi, and their kinsman Boaz, demonstrate these qualities wholeheartedly, in both word and deed. It is a reflection of the abundant grace, mercy and generous provision of the God who loves us beyond measure.

As we continue to reflect on the goodness of God and how we respond to that love following our Harvest celebrations, perhaps we could review how our own thoughts and actions share the goodness and generosity of God to those around us.

For those who'd like an overview of the story of Ruth take a look at the Bible Project's video:

bibleproject.com/videos/ruth

People's Emergency Briefing

On the 4th of September we hosted the People's Emergency Briefing on Climate Change. Eighty-five people from across our community came together to listen to nine expert briefings and discuss how we

could make a difference, individually and collectively, for the good of the planet we all call home.

While the information shared on the current state of our ecosystems and weather was both challenging and sobering, what was also clear is the solutions are out there and we have it in our power to address the damage and seek a sustainable, greener and healthier future for all.

To view the full briefings, find them on the NEB website:

<https://www.nebriefing.org/expert-briefings>

In the sermon series at St Paul's that followed we leant into this – that **we have a voice** and **we have a choice**. We can speak up – to local and national government representatives – to lobby for action. We can be advocates for nature in partnership with local and national organisations. We can make personal choices in how we live and shop and work so we tread lighter on this good earth – while it might cost us a little more, it will cost the earth a lot less.

Here are just a few websites to help you explore what practical action we can take to make a difference.

arochoa.org.uk/get-involved – Christian Conservation Organisation.

climatestewards.org - Advice on how to audit and change our carbon footprint.

National and local conservation organisations:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/>

<https://www.ywt.org.uk/> - Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

[Home - River Holme Connections](#) – already working closely with church.

For sustainable products here are just a few to look at – lots more out there:

<https://www.peacewiththewild.co.uk/> - Eco Friendly household market

<https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com/> - as above

<https://www.biggreensmile.com/> - as above

<https://www.faithinnature.co.uk/> - lovely Eco Toiletries and gift ideas!

<https://www.gruum.com/> - as above

To complement the recent Creationtide season, a member of our congregation has written a poem, which hopefully our readers will like!

WALK IN THE WOOD

As I walk through the wood I stop to stare at a bird taking flight,
soaring high in the air
And as the sun seeps through the trees I hear the soft humming of
busy bees.

Squirrels run from side to side looking for a place to hide,
Up a tree and hard to see,
Then landing right in front of me.

Now and then a gentle breeze rustles the leaves on the woodland
trees
And I hear the songs of the happy birds, a beautiful melody without
any words.

I feel the joy that nature brings and just like the birds, my heart sings.
Any stresses I had are left behind
Just a stillness and peace take over my mind.

Nature is God's gift, a pleasure,
One we all can love and treasure
It's beautiful and all for free.
So let's take good care of it, you and me

Let's nurture the earth and let it thrive,
Help God's creation to survive
From generation to generation
In all the world, in every nation.

Sue Lloyd

DIARY DATES



Shoebox appeal 2026

The Christmas shoebox appeal coordinated by T4U (Teams for You) will be going ahead as normal in November 2026. Preparatory work, led by Judith Powell, is already happening at St James' church, Meltham Mills. I know many of you have contributed to this appeal for many years and are keen to get involved again. Many people from our church also help throughout the year and at the warehouse in November.

So, how can you help? You could fill a shoebox for a child. I will bring some shoeboxes already covered in Christmas wrapping paper or you can provide your own. I will also bring some leaflets with the label to put on the shoebox lid. You could also contribute items ("fillers") for the packing team at St James' to put in shoeboxes.

What to put in your box or provide as fillers (examples)

Practical supplies

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Hairbrush/comb
- Facecloth and soap
- Stationery/pens/pencils/paper
- Gloves/hats/scarves
- Craft Pack

- Sewing Kit.

A few small gifts

- A soft toy
- A doll
- Ball
- Game or puzzle
- Bubbles
- Musical instrument i.e. harmonica/recorder

St James' church will be open 3rd-20th November for us to check and deliver your boxes, so I would be grateful if you could get them to me by Sunday 1st November. I can collect them from church or just let me know if you want me to collect from your house. We are always grateful for people to come and help process the filled shoeboxes before they are sent abroad, even for an hour or two. Please ask me if you need more details. Refreshments including lunch are always available!

If you don't feel you can fill a shoebox but would still like to help, you could pay £20 for someone else to fill a shoebox on your behalf or pay £3.50 to help with the ever-increasing transport costs.

Last year, T4U sent about 60,000 shoeboxes to various countries in Eastern Europe, including nearly 4,000 from Meltham. This year, the shoeboxes will be heading to the Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania, and we are hoping to bring "love in a box" to even more needy children.

More details can be found on the website: <https://teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal/>

Many thanks for your continued support of this appeal.

Caroline Jones Tel: 07810 323246 for more details

'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 regular events

- **Coffee and Chat**

Every Tuesday from 10.30 – 11.30 am

- **Coffee Morning**

Last Saturday of every month – 31st October 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 13th October from 12.30 pm onwards, with light lunch, quiz and fellowship – all welcome.

Please note that Warm Welcome will be recommencing weekly from November. If you are able to give 2-3 hours on any Tuesday at midday, please get in touch with Carol Waters on Tel: 07740425093. Thank you.

Film Café at Berry Brow Methodist Church

Saturday 24th October at 2.00 pm.

Come along for family friendly fun for all ages, with an interval and light refreshments.

Hall Bower Sunday School Art Exhibition

Friday – Sunday October 23rd-25th. All welcome.

The Old Testament in a Nutshell

Venue: St Paul's Dalton

The Old Testament is massive, often hard to understand and difficult to navigate. Join us as we see the Old Testament pieced together as ONE BIG STORY. Our **FUN** and **MEMORABLE** sessions will **INSPIRE** and **EQUIP** you to keep digging into the Bible.

Saturday 17th October 10am-4.30 pm. Arrive from 9.30 am. Please bring a packed lunch. Maximum cost £8.

Contact: Carol Waters 07740425093 or Karen Morris 07931324187
karenmorris_7@hotmail.com

South Crosland Coffee Mornings

South Crosland Coffee Mornings are held on the second Saturday of each month at South Crosland Junior School, Moor Lane. Proceeds are sent to a different charity each month.

Saturday 12 September was a lovely, well attended event, which included a sale of nearly new handbags, which raised £247 for Macmillan Nurses. A further sale on the Sunday morning of left over Heritage Day cakes at Armitage Bridge, raised £36.20, resulting in a grand total of £283.20 being sent to Macmillan.

Many thanks for all who set up and helped, supported (especially those who then went on to the Heritage event at Armitage Bridge), made monetary and cake donations, provided raffle prizes and bought cakes after the service on Sunday. Saturday was a lively morning especially when the raffle was being drawn.

Our next events are:

10th October - Pancreatic Cancer

14th November - Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes

12th December - Shelter

Please do come along and support us and bring your friends!

Reading Helpers in the Junior School - a plea from the teaching staff

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 make contact with us 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.

Helen Pearson

New Year's Eve Party

A bit of advanced information for our readers is that we are looking to have a bit of a 'bash' on New Year's Eve. It's early days, but keep an eye on future magazines and the noticeboards. If you are interested in helping to organise the event please let Fran or the editor know. The party is expected to culminate in ringing in the New Year with our excellent team of bellringers.

EVENT REPORT

Heritage Weekend

Each September since 1994, Heritage Open Days have provided opportunities across the country for people to explore and celebrate our cultural heritage, one aspect of which is highlighting the diverse architecture of the nation.

This year St Paul's Church took part for the first time and hosted two events over the second weekend of September with a broad focus on history, while also showcasing our own beautiful building.

On Friday evening, 11 September, we enjoyed our culinary heritage in the form of a pie and pea supper – supplemented with a selection of delicious desserts - followed by a talk by local historian and Armitage Bridge resident John Avison which charted the development of the village through a sequence of maps. The earliest records depict a sparsely populated area, and the purpose of the maps was to ensure tenants paid the right amount of rent to the estate owners. The valley was transformed by the arrival of the Brooke family who built their mill here in the early 19th Century, and the village to house their workers. They also catered for the welfare of their workforce's families by building a school, and endowed the building of St Paul's church.

John also told us about some notable past residents, including Samuel William Copley, commemorated with the only blue plaque in the village. His father was a baker and hairdresser, and Samuel trained as a hairdresser but then went to Australia and made his fortune in banking and insurance. On his return he bought the Ramsden estate and later sold it at the same price to the people of Huddersfield.

Almost 50 people, including some guests, enjoyed the supper and several others came along afterwards to listen to John's informative talk.

The next day, Saturday 12 September, the church held a Heritage Open Day. In addition to being able to enjoy the architecture of the building and discover the story of its reconstruction after the fire in 1987, the burial records were available for people to consult to find family members' graves in the churchyard. Continuing the historical theme representatives of the Huddersfield Family History Society

were in attendance to give information about using the archives – local and national – to trace your family history. They also led tours of the graveyard telling the stories of some of the local people buried there that they had pieced together from their research. One of the stories told was of Samuel William Copley whose memorial is behind the church, and this linked back to John's talk the previous evening. The tours were fascinating and reminded us that everyone, however "ordinary," has a unique story to tell.

Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society also had a display featuring their work to unearth the history of the area by researching changes to the landscape made by our ancestors and artifacts discovered during excavations of sites of particular interest.

It was a privilege to welcome visitors into the building, both locals and those from further afield. By coincidence the first couple I spoke to had come over from Warrington, where Fran and I lived for many years! In addition to the displays and tours people were able to sample the customary St Paul's refreshments, including another selection of home made cakes. (Food is also an important part of St Paul's cultural history!). In total 50 people, including two children, visited church during the day and it was great to chat with some of them.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those who played a part in the events. In particular, Bruce and Gillian Greenwood provided the initial impetus to take part in the Heritage event and put together the display about the history of the church. Graeme Williams organised the supper, and we are grateful to Heidi and her team for providing a lovely meal. Thanks also go to John Avison for telling us about the history of Armitage Bridge, Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society for their display and the members of the Family History Society who gave their time to talk to visitors and for all the research that went into preparing the graveyard tour. Finally to everyone else who contributed by helping set up or clear up either

event, baking cakes, serving refreshments and stewarding on the day. It was a great team effort and I hope we will be able to take part in Heritage weekends again in the future.

Richard Nunn

NEWS ITEMS

Leaky roof

The congregation will be aware of our recent leak in the roof of the nave, which after much scaffolding and repair work we are hopeful has been solved the problem. So Bruce and Gillian shouldn't have to bring a brolly to sit in their usual place!!

We now move on to do battle with the insurance company, to try and persuade them to pay for the subsequent plaster repairs and re-painting, indications of which are reasonably positive so far. Cue more scaffolding...

Watch this space.

Food for thought

A little while ago David Kent sent this meditation in and suggested it as a worthy piece for this month's Focus. See what you think.

Speaking to the network Women's Ordination Worldwide, Sister Joan Chittister evokes a vision of Christian discipleship that requires great courage:

'Christian discipleship is by nature a very dangerous thing. It has put every person who ever accepted it at risk. It made every follower who ever took it seriously on alert for rejection, from Martin of Tours to John Henry Newman, from Mary Ward to Dorothy Day. Discipleship casts every fragile new Christian community in tension with the times in which it grows. In the early church to be a Christian community

meant to defy Roman imperialism, to stretch Judaism itself, to counter pagan values with Christian ones. It demanded very concrete presence; it took great courage, unending fortitude and clear public posture. Real discipleship meant the rejection of real things.... It was not easy then and it will not be easy now.

The problem with Christian discipleship is that instead of simply requiring a kind of academic or ascetic exercise ... Christian discipleship requires a kind of living that is sure, eventually, to tumble a person from the banquet tables ... to the most suspect margins of both church and society. To follow Jesus, in other words, is to follow the one who turns the world upside down, even the religious world. Real discipleship is a tipsy arrangement at the very least. People with high need for approval, social status, and public respectability need not apply.

Following Jesus is a circuitous route that leads always and everywhere to places where a 'nice' person would not go, to moments of integrity we would so much rather do without.

Chittister counts the cost of discipleship for those who choose to follow Jesus:

Christian discipleship is about living in this world the way that Jesus the Christ lived in his—touching lepers, raising donkeys from ditches on Sabbath days, questioning the unquestionable and—consorting with women! Discipleship implies a commitment to leave nets and homes, positions and securities, lordship and legalities to be now—in our own world—what the Christ was for his....

Discipleship is prepared to fly in the face of a world bent only on maintaining its own ends whatever the cost. If discipleship is what

you're here for, be not fooled! The price is a high one and history has recorded it faithfully....

True discipleship is ... a way of living that is not political but which has serious political implications.... The disciple takes public issue with the values of a world that advantages only those who are already advantaged.... It takes umbrage at systems that are more bent on keeping improper people out of them than they are in welcoming all people into them. True discipleship takes the side always, always, always of the poor, the minority, the outcast, the reviled, the rejected, the other, despite the power of the rich and powerful.'

Armitage Bridge Ringers – News From The Belfry

Bells and Broads Tour – 2026

This summer, several members of the Armitage Bridge congregation travelled to East Anglia on our annual bell ringing tour. After two very successful trips to Northern Ireland and the Brecon Beacons respectively, it was hard to see how this year's adventure to Norfolk (and a little bit of Suffolk) would compare, but we weren't disappointed.

Staying outside the pretty village of Loddon, our accommodation was an upgrade from the usual hostels and bunk beds that one expects on a hard core ringing holiday; we were treated to comfortable beds, spacious living quarters, an on-site playground (much to Martha's delight) and even a couple of hot tubs, which we would all be keen to test out after a hard day's tower grabbing!

As always, we started off our tour with enthusiasm, traversing the Norfolk/Suffolk border, ringing questionable bells and admiring the iconic round towers native to this part of the country. We averaged 4-6 towers per day over the course of the week for a mixture of general ringing and the odd quarter peal. The majority of towers had 6 bells, but we also rang at Great Yarmouth, a twelve bell tower,

after a pleasant afternoon building sandcastles and eating ice cream on the beach. This was a highlight amongst a lot of challenging rings. We also rang a lovely quarter at Beccles, a ring of ten situated in a tower separate from the considerably smaller church next door.

Among the non-ringing related activities, we derived much enjoyment from a boat trip on the broads, setting off in a convoy of three boats from Wroxham. We spotted numerous herons, a kingfisher and Great Crested Grebes but the Swallowtail butterfly was sadly elusive this time. We picnicked in the picturesque village of Horning before heading back to ring at Wroxham, Martha and Andrea armed with duck food much to the delight of the local wildfowl.

Any ringing holiday would now be incomplete without a steam train journey – this year's treat was on the Bure Valley Railway which we used as transport to four towers midway through the week. Known for being Norfolk's longest narrow-gauge heritage railway, the route began at Aylsham and - by prior arrangement – dropped us off at Buxton, Wroxham (for lunch this time) and Coltishall.

Our evening entertainment consisted of handbell ringing, jig-sawing, the reader's corner and of course, the hot tub, which became a regular activity. Once Oliver had taken the initial plunge, Alan was quick to follow!

Overall, it was another fun-packed bellringing extravaganza. We're already looking forward to the next one!

Sally

Rung at Stubbs House, Loddon on 24th August 2026 in 39 minutes.

1440 Plain Bob Minor (quarter peal)

1&2 Alan M Trebble

3&4 Alex W Wain

5&6 Oliver Austin

First on the Armitage Bridge Handbells!!



The handbell quarter peal ringers relaxing after their exertions (don't think it was underwater handbell ringing! – Ed)



Bayeux Tapestry? Surely not!

Closing date for November 2026 issue: Tuesday, 20th October 2026

Copy contact details to Graeme Williams at

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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.