



September 2026

The monthly magazine of St. Paul's Armitage Bridge, the Emmanuel Benefice, and the Methodist Churches of Berry Brow and Netherton.

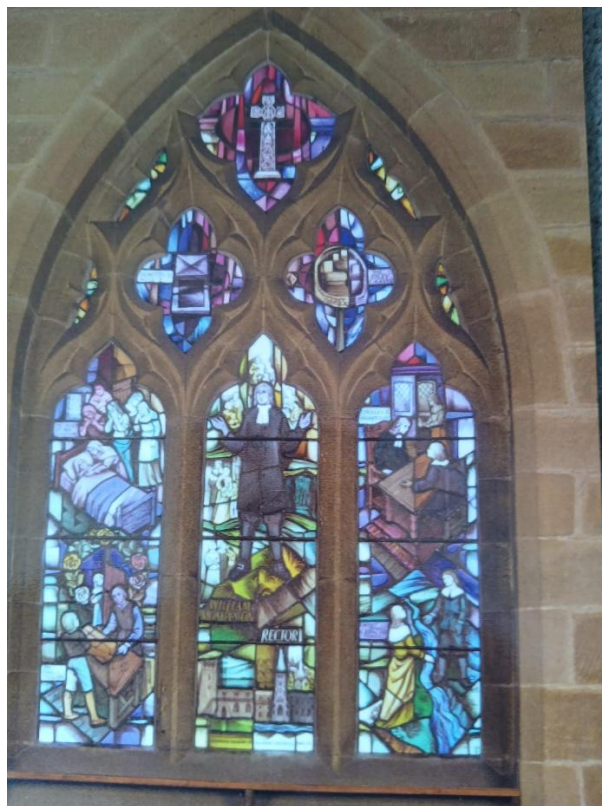
Feel free to take home



Spot the relevance of Fly Agaric later in Focus!



Ringers on tour!



Eyam Plague Window

September 2026 Church Services

Sundays:

- 6th September 9.30 am Welcome service for incoming Superintendent Minister at Almondbury All Hallows for Netherton Methodist Church
10.00 am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church (Junior Church)
10.30 am Circuit Welcome Service at Almondbury transmitted to Berry Brow Methodist Church
- 13th September 10.00 am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
10.00 am Morning Worship (Mr David Brook) at Netherton Methodist Church
10.30 am Morning Worship (Mr Paul Bussey) at Berry Brow Methodist Church
- 20th September 10.30 am Joint Harvest Festival with Holy Communion at Berry Brow Methodist Church with Armitage Bridge Church and Scouts.
10.00 am Morning Worship (own team-led) at Netherton Methodist Church
- 27th September 10.00 am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge Church
10.00 am Harvest Festival with Communion (Revd. Tim Francis) at Netherton Methodist Church
10.30 am Morning Worship (own team-led) 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

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A VIEW FROM THE CLERGY – Rev. Frances Nunn

**Emmanuel Benefice Sunday Services 10am at St Paul's:
September will focus on Creation-tide – Season of Creation**

6th September Holy Communion – Genesis 1:1-5; 16-19; Psalm 150;

13th September Holy Communion - Genesis 1: 6-8 & 20-23; John 7:37-44

**20th September Joint Harvest Service with BBMC and Newsome
Scouts - 10.30am Berry Brow Methodist Church.**

- Genesis 1:9-13 & 24-25; Leviticus 25:1-7

27th September Holy Communion - Genesis 1:26-2:3; Amos 5:4-24



**The next Emmanuel@6 gathering will be on Sunday 20th September
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:

Christ is mine forever more (City Alight - Robinson, Thompson &
Farren)

Behold Him (Baloché & Wong)

God of Wonders (Third Day - Byrd/Marc/Hindalong/Steve)

Indescribable (Story/Reeves)

Is He Worthy (Peterson/Shive)

Behold the Lamb (Getty/Getty/Townend)

Christus Victor – Amen (Fowler, Getty, Bosworth, Papa)

King of Kings (Ligertwood, Ingram, Ligertwood)



Life Groups re-launch in September.

If you would like to get involved with a group, speak to Fran.
This month we will be reflecting on the Climate Crisis and reading

‘Jesus Died to Save the Planet’ by Paul Kunert

Free downloadable PDF copy available through LICC:

licc.org.uk/ourresources/jesus-died-to-save-the-planet/



September feels a pivotal month as we shift our focus from the days of summer towards autumn. It has been quite a summer – we have been forced to face the effects of climate change on our planet with wildfires across the globe and very close to home. As we approach Harvest, we are acutely aware how much our farmers have struggled with the weather this year – floods through winter and drought through the summer months. We will all see the impact of this in food prices moving forward.

How can we be part of the change that needs to happen – to see God’s good creation stewarded well for the benefit of all people?

There are lots of opportunities to reflect on these things this month:

- Engage with the Creation-tide sermon series throughout September
- Read and reflect on Paul Kunert's booklet 'Jesus Died to Save the Planet and discuss your thoughts over a cuppa – see Life Group item for resources.
- Attend the People's Emergency Briefing film showing on the 4th September at St Paul's – book your free place via Ticket Tailor – details below.
- Watch the extended expert briefings from the 2025 National Emergency Briefing available at <https://www.nebriefing.org/expert-briefings>
- Take part in the Global Week of Prayer between 6th and 13th September – see item in Focus for resource links.

What we cannot do is nothing – as God's people we have been commissioned to work in partnership with the Holy Spirit to see God's Kingdom Come and the whole of creation flourish. Together we can make a difference.



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

Last chance to book your place at 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



Events @ St Pauls this September

**Pies, Peas and Pudding Supper with speaker
Friday 11th September at 7.30pm**

John Avison – The Story of Armitage Bridge
Tickets £10 from Graeme Williams @St Pauls
or Tel: 07805875379; email: williamsgraeme400@gmail.com

10am-4pm Saturday 12th September

Free exhibition on Life in Armitage Bridge
including graveyard tours.

Churchyard tours will be conducted by
members of Huddersfield and District Family History Society.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/submission-event/st-paul-s-church-armitage-bridge.html>



“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:9-11

In a divided world, we sense God’s invitation to unite across national borders and denominational lines to lift up the name of Jesus. We are inviting communities around the globe to join in on a whole week of unbroken, day-and-night prayer.

Encountering his presence when we pray changes us. And as we are changed, we are propelled outwards to share transformation with those around us.

Tearfund have identified 3 key prayer points for this week of prayer: Each of the issues below pushes people deeper into poverty, rooted in global injustice. Whether it’s the devastation of conflict, the harsh realities of climate change, or the systemic discrimination faced by women and girls, these forces break communities apart.

That’s why we’ll be praying in the name of Jesus about:

- conflict
- climate
- gender inequality

Resources to help you pray available at:

https://www.tearfund.org/-/media/tearfund/files/campaigns/global-week-of-prayer/24-7-global-week-of-prayer-2026_english.pdf

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 at 2.30pm. Pie and Peas for just £7.00

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 8th September 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.

South Crosland Coffee Mornings

South Crosland Coffee Mornings are back, at 10.00 – 11.30 am from September onwards, on the second Saturday of each month at South Crosland Junior School, Moor Lane, Netherton, with funds raised for a wide range of charities. This month the proceeds of the Community Coffee Morning are to go to Macmillan Nurses.

The event will be at the usual time on 12th September. In addition to our usual selection of beverages and delicious homemade cakes, there will be a sale of nearly new handbags in a variety of colours for which we be asking for a donation (suggested donation £3-£5).

It will be a great morning please come and support us!

Forthcoming beneficiaries of the funds raised will be:

10th October - Pancreatic Cancer UK

14th November - Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes

12th December - Shelter

Helen Pearson

EVENT REPORTS

Pop-up Shop at Newsome Scout Hut, Saturday 22nd August 2026

Our 3rd pop up shop of the year didn't bode well. We had decided to try and spread the 4 pop up shops more evenly throughout the year but a few "key players" in our small team were on holiday and we did wonder if many of our loyal customers would also be away. After a few well-placed prayers and a plea to the congregation for more helpers to set up, we carried on regardless and hoped for the best.

And I'm so glad we did! We had plenty of helpers, old and new, to set up the sales hall. The Scouts provided excellent refreshments and raised £223 for their funds. The scout hut was filled with folk buying their bargains and enjoying plenty of fellowship with their refreshments. We raised £838 for South Huddersfield Churches Together funds, a magnificent result. Thank you to everyone who came and helped, bought goods, and enjoyed the day with us.

Let's do it all again on Saturday 7th November! This will be at the Newsome Scout hut again, 10am-1pm. There will be the usual

bargain clothes, footwear, toys, housewares and bric a brac, plus Christmas goods.

Spread the word, bring a friend or two, and see you there!

Caroline Jones

Huddersfield Street Kitchen

A little while ago readers will remember an appeal for help from Sue Lloyd for, in particular, men's clothing on behalf of the charity, for whom she undertakes valuable work. Here is a report from Sue, to give a bit more information about the scheme.

'I am a volunteer at Huddersfield Street Kitchen which started in 2018 when a couple made too much food one Sunday and decided to go down to town and give some to a homeless man that they had got to know. Thankfully that man is no longer living on the streets but many still are.

Huddersfield Street Kitchen is open on Sundays from approx. 1:00pm to 2:30pm and on Thursday evenings from approx. 6.00pm to 7:30pm, on Brook Street.

We now not only help homeless people, but anyone who is in need. People of all ages, denominations & cultures come to us and all are vulnerable in some way. Some are sofa surfers, some have young families and are living in hostels, some have addiction problems, some have just been released from prison & others have mental health problems, but they all need help.

We also offer them food & drinks, clothing & bedding.

Volunteers from the Sikh Seva Hub cook curry & rice and supply hot coffee. They also offer sandwiches, fresh fruit & vegetables donated by local supermarkets.

One of our volunteers makes hot vegetable soup, whilst another volunteer & myself bake home-made cakes & buns for the people who come to visit us.

Making over 100 buns or pieces of cake between us each week can take quite some time! But it's great to see how much they are appreciated by our visitors.

We are always asked for suitable clothing, trainers, sleeping bags, blankets & even small tents, so if you are having a clear out, your donations would be extremely welcome and can be given to me in church.

Let us thank God that we have homes & families who care for us and pray for the people who visit Huddersfield Street Kitchen and those who help in so many different ways.

Thank you'

Sue Lloyd

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!

Look out for this fungus!

Shortly, Autumn will be upon us and as I write we are in the grip of a serious and prolonged drought. If we are fortunate enough to receive plenty of rain within the next few weeks we should see, as is usual at this time of year, an explosion of visible fungi. Two facts need stating. First, life on this planet without these curious organisms would be impossible. Secondly, when we see a fungus in one of its many forms, including mushrooms, we are only seeing the fruiting body of the complete fungus, (equivalent to an apple on a tree and having a comparable function). The entire existence of this structure has only one purpose, to produce and disseminate spores. The fungus itself is, unseen beneath the surface and may have been living for very many years.

I hope to write more generally about these organisms in a future edition of *Focus*, but in this issue I want to briefly outline one species, one that is probably familiar to most of us. This particular fungus is a member of a genus (group) of fungi known as the *Amanitas* of which there are about 50 species in Britain, a genus that contains some of the most toxic and potentially dangerous mushrooms on Earth.

The *Amanitas* contain a great mycological curiosity. (Mycology is the science of fungi), namely *Amanita muscaria*, commonly known as the Fly Agaric. To me at least, this is mushroom 'Number One'. It is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful of all mushrooms and is I imagine, most people's idea of a fungus. Famous, (maybe infamous?), enchanting, mysterious, bewitching and highly toxic, it is crucial that it is treated with the utmost respect. If you are out searching for it, and it is quite common in our district, you are more than likely to find it with birch trees. It forms a relationship of mutual benefit with this tree (to the extent that the tree cannot survive without this association) and occasionally with other tree species.

The bright scarlet cap is usually covered in distinctive white warts which may be washed off in heavy rain. The pure white stem has a bulbous base known as the volva, and a membranous ring is attached to the stem apex. The fungus has a pleasant smell. A word of caution, clearly, this must NEVER BE EATEN. Its spores are white and as a generalisation never eat any mushroom that has white spores. You may miss one or two edible species but avoidance may save your life!

It is known as 'Fly Agaric' due to the ancient practice of breaking its pieces into a bowl of milk. (The Latin word for fly is *Musca* hence *muscaria*). Flies feeding on this concoction were it is claimed, stupefied and consequently easy to kill. (I don't think I could recognise a 'high' fly).

To many this lovely fungus appears highly suspicious with its shiny scarlet cap, pure white speckles, matching white gills and stem. Depicted in countless children's books, children's bedroom walls, works of art, ceramics. garden furniture, jewellery, greetings cards and so forth.

Peoples have used its edgy toxicity for religious rituals and recreation for many thousands of years. The active compound it contains is ibotenic acid which once inside the body it is converted to an extremely potent compound, muscimol whose effects on the brain result in sedative, hypnotic, depressant and hallucinogenic psychoactivity. Muscimol is currently being investigated for its potential to treat a suite of neurological disorders.

In Siberia and other countries of the far north where it is difficult to produce alcohol, the Fly agaric was used for recreational purposes. Many stories of its use abound. In former times during the desperately cold winters, the wealthy would nibble on the fungus. Intoxicated, they would eventually go outside to pee in the snow. Members of the poor intercepted these revellers and would catch their urine in wooden bowls from which they then drank and in turn experience the full effects. (The winters nights are long in this part of the world!). The active ingredient passes through the kidneys relatively unchanged and not only do humans have a fondness for this drug, but reindeers too. There are reports of reindeers recognising the scent of muscimol even when it's a component of human urine, desperately stampeding. and killing the imbiber. Today, vodka has replaced the Fly agaric – at least for humans!

It is sometimes claimed by historians that Vikings went into battle under the influence of this fungus, which may be true but I can but wonder. Consequential effects of ingestion vary according to a particular individual's body metabolism and include a range of outcomes including nausea, hypotension, auditory and terrifying visual distortions, loss of equilibrium, ataxia and drowsiness. A Viking

warrior suffering from one or more of these conditions, far from being a formidable enemy would it would seem, be a pussycat.

One of the hallucinatory effects of *A. muscaria* is to distort the size of objects and their surroundings making their contents appear either larger or smaller. This may explain the episode in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* in which Alice, following the advice of the caterpillar, shrinks or elongates depending on which side of the mushroom she nibbles. Carroll was well acquainted with the hallucinogenic properties of this fungus and may have been a user.

It has been suggested that the explanation for the appearance of a red and white suited, gift bearing Father Christmas flying across the winter skies of Lapland, drawn by reindeer may have its origins in the effects of Fly Agaric.

Incidentally, no antidote exists to assist a person suffering from the effects of muscimol.

We are often preoccupied with the many things going on in our lives but sometimes we need to open our eyes to the amazing world around us. Famously, the author G.K. Chesterton stated '*The world will never starve for want of wonders but only for want of wonder.*' Great advice!

Armitage Bridge Ringers – News From The Belfry

Part of the experience of ringing is having the opportunity to visit and ring the bells in other areas. Prior to this years "Ringers Holiday" to Norfolk the possibility of a day out ringing in North Derbyshire presented itself, with Halifax ringer Lorna making all the arrangements for us. As the trip had to be on Thursday 6th August disappointingly it meant that some of our number were not able to go.

6 towers were made available to us starting at Eyam (pronounced Eem) at 9:45am and ending at St, Giles, Great Longstone at 4:15pm. With towers being reasonably close together (most had a postcode DE45) once in the area there was not a lot of travelling.

Eyam is the village in Derbyshire that suffered an horrendous outbreak of the Bubonic Plague in 1665, being triggered by a parcel of damp cloth arriving from China via the trade routes to London and on to local tailor George Viccars. On drying the cloth Viccars developed swellings along with a rose-red rash, he died 2 days later on September 7th 1665.

Within weeks more villagers succumbed. The Rector of St. Lawrence church, William Mompesson together with his friend Thomas Stanley persuaded the locals to confine themselves within the village boundary to stop the disease spreading to the rest of Derbyshire, (an early form of "lockdown"). This was very courageous in an age when there was no cure and confinement would probably mean catching the plague, ending in near-certain death.

On a lighter note part of our days "fun" was ringing some methods named after the places we visited. Ringing "Eyam Delight Minor" at Eyam, followed by " Baslow Surprise Minor", at St Anne, Baslow. The next tower was the ring of 6 bells at St. Peter, Edensor (pronounced Ensor). Being located within the Chatsworth Estate it was an ideal spot for our picnic lunch.

The afternoon session began on the 16cwt ring of 8 bells of All Saints, Bakewell, after which we trundled off to Ashford In The Water, another lightweight 6 with a "Delight" method to learn. Finally at St Giles, Great Longstone, where, although feeling a little jaded at this point we finished the day ringing a course of "Great Longstone Surprise Minor". After ringing down, turning the lights off and locking the church, we enjoyed an ice-cream from the local farm shop and a steady drive home through part of the Peak District

Lorraine and Alan

We haven't had a quiz for a while, so here are a few brain-teasers to have a go at, (answers below – no cheating!)

1. What is the last word in The Bible?
2. How many words are there in The King James Bible? 783,137, 883,137 or 983,137
3. What is the capital of Iceland?
4. When was the last date to consist of all odd numbers?
5. When was the Victoria Tower on Castle Hill completed?
6. Which famous author lived in the Lake District at Hill Top Farm?
7. Where are your meta-carpals?
8. In grading listings, what grade is the Huddersfield Railway Station façade?

1. Amen
2. 783,137
3. Reykjavik
4. 19.11.1999
5. 1899
6. Beatrix Potter
7. In your hand
8. Grade I



...and this months novelty photograph:
Two members of the congregation at the recent wedding at St. Paul's
who you may not recognise - because you can't see their legs!!



The image of fungi as 'boring brown' couldn't be further from the truth!!

Closing date for October 2026 issue: Sunday, 20th September 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.