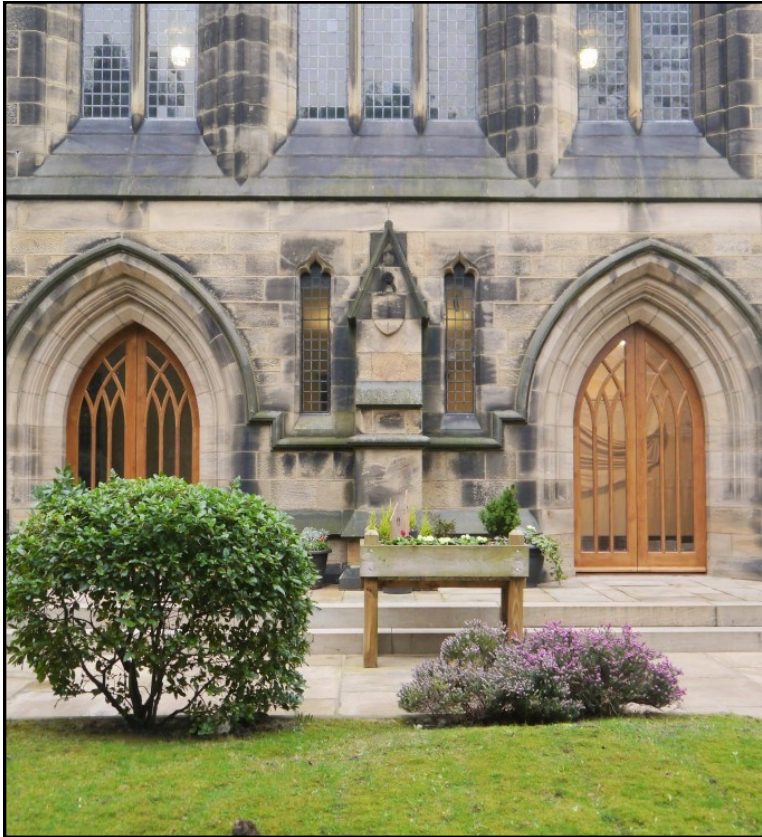


June - July 2024

Number 701

The Messenger

The magazine of the Bridge Church, Otley



The Bridge Church

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN OTLEY

The official Magazine of the
Bridge United Reformed Church, Otley
Minister:- Reverend Jason McCullagh
Telephone: 01943 465509
Email: jason.mccullagh@otleybridgechurch.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Some thoughts from a back pew at The Bridge.

On Sunday 7th April the lectionary readings were from The Gospel according to John 20:19-28

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

AND

The Acts of the Apostles Chapter 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

I was due to preach on these readings later that day and was interested to hear what our minister Jason would have to say. He was majoring on unity and church community, sharing and caring. The children responded really well and when goodies were distributed no one got a mouldy strawberry! Then he took us to that Upper Room, and he mentioned FEAR.

It is always an extraordinary thing when the Word comes alive and its relevance real. A light bulb moment. I had been in that room. Not literally... but let me explain... Over 20 years ago, when I was minister at Salem URC Burley in Wharfedale, we held a meeting in one of the vestries with Christian Aid reps from Churches Together to decide whether we would respond to a request from a teenager from The Dogon Region of Mali West Africa to support him in his ambition to become a medical doctor and whether we should become involved in a Millennium Link 'ON THE LINE' with Téréli his village. The latter was being promoted by Christian Aid and Jon Snow. It was hoped that communities would link along The Meridian Line around the globe.

FEAR is a sensation that covers a wide range of things. In that little room we were not afraid for our safety or of persecution. We were afraid of getting involved, being naive, biting off more than we could chew. Like Thomas we were sceptical. I don't know what turned the tide. It was a long time ago, but later, when we voiced our concerns, one voice said...

"Here's a cheque. Just get on with it." And we did.

We are still a small group, just seven Trustees. We are from

different churches and backgrounds but that step from fear into confidence has been transformational in terms of what our unity of purpose has achieved. The Dogon Region is on the shores of the Sahara, remote, hot sandy, with no mains services. Nothing is easy. We have been so impressed by the hard work and resourcefulness of the villagers. Our link, The Burley-Téréli Friendship Trust, is now a registered Charity. We raise money through the sale of a Calendar and events such as the Ladies Please Concert during the Summer Festival in Burley and The Ilkley Half Marathon. Through our friendship we have funded dozens of wells, acres of grasses to stabilise the desert, hectares of trees, tons of millet, a maternity room with a light, a pharmacy/medical facility (there is no local Doctor), a moped ambulance, a secondary school, and equipment for the secondary and primary schools and more besides. The teenager who dreamed his dreams has become a fully qualified surgical oncologist. We are supporting Médecins Sans Frontières, also known as Doctors Without Borders, to provide care for the terminally ill in Bamako. Our latest project is to fund a small soap factory. There is so much I could say about the friendships developed, about the projects, about the experiences we have enjoyed because of those friendships and about the link between our communities.

I have recently published a book about all this entitled 'A Most Unlikely Friendship'. It contains wonderful full colour photographs from Mary Wood's archive and a preface by journalist and broadcaster Jon Snow. It is on sale from me for £10. (All proceeds to BTFT). We also have info and news updates on our website: www.btft.org.uk.

But the point I want to make is that on the second Sunday of Easter Jason brought home for me the relevance of those Bible readings for our here and now. Once the Spirit of Peace came into play, and in unity we stepped out in faith, seemingly unbelievable outcomes became possible. Unity, community, sharing and caring beyond closed doors really do make amazing things happen in God's Kingdom.

Rev. Mirella Moxon

PREACHING PLAN
16th June – 11th August 2024

Sunday 16th June – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Reverend Jason McCullagh
1 Samuel 15.34 - 16.13

Sunday 23rd June – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Taste and See

Reverend Mirella Moxon - Jason is leading Junior Church
Jonah 2

Sunday 30th June – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Sacrament of Baptism

Reverend Jason McCullagh
2 Samuel 1.1. 17-27

Sunday 7th July - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Reverend Jason McCullagh
2 Samuel 5.1-10

Sunday 14th July– Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Reverend Jason McCullagh.
2 Samuel 6.1-19

Sunday 21st July – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Reverend Michael Mewis
Jason is preaching elsewhere in the Synod.

Sunday 28th July – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Taste and See

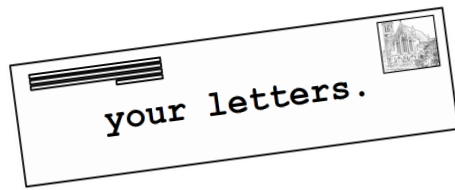
Reverend Jason McCullagh
Jonah 3

Sunday 4th August – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Reverend Jason McCullagh
Readings still to be arranged.

Sunday 11th August – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Reverend Jason McCullagh
Readings still to be arranged. Followed by Church Meeting
with picnic lunch.



Dear Friends

So many thanks, I am very grateful to the lovely friends who have been there to help me over the difficult weeks whilst I was so ill.

I also thank you all for the lovely flowers, the many cards and your prayers. You have really blessed and helped me. Thank you again, I pray that God will bless you all.

Joan Skeet

Dear Friends

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to my recent Easter fundraising event for St Gemma's Hospice at Moortown - once again it was a great success.

Phyllis Heslop

Dear Friends

As most of you are aware, the last four months have been very challenging for me. I had a horrible double break of the ankle which necessitated a fortnight in the Leeds hospital system followed by 3 months of recovery at home. For most of that time I was unable to put the foot down and had to learn, as an octogenarian, to hop around the house with the aid of a Zimmer. It felt like a prison sentence. One of my carers asked, when she was taking care of my breakfast one day, "What are your plans for the day?" To which I replied, "Do you know? I have spent the last half hour over breakfast trying to work that out. Will it be the recliner or the settee today?"

What helped greatly were the wonderful neighbours I have who bobbed in everyday helping with meals, shopping,

picking me up off the floor when I fell a couple of times, taking my car to Harrogate for its annual service and MOT, and a dozen other things. Also I want to thank those from the Church, through this newsletter, who likewise shopped, fed me, visited in hospital and at home, rang and filled in the time, messaged and sent cards, brought me meals or fish and chips and other things, brought church flowers, and prayed for me everyday. Your love was a very big part of the healing which is still ongoing and will be for the next few months. Keep the prayers going.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Without you it would have been a far more depressing experience. You were real family to me in Jesus` name and proved something of what the church is about.

My love to you all. God bless each and every one of you that were there for me in my need.

John Parker



MINISTER'S REGISTER: 9th APRIL - 2nd JUNE 2024

FUNERALS

7 th May	Mr Peter Stacey	Rawdon Crematorium
22 nd May	Mrs Brenda Depledge	Idle U.R.C. & Idle Cemetery

News of the Family

Ruby Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Susan and Robin Richardson who recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

Awards and Examinations

Congratulations go to Tina Johnson who has received an award recognising her 40 years of service as a Brownie Leader. Tina has been involved with Brownies for much longer than that and it is very well deserved.

Also congratulations go to Noah Docker who took his Grade 8 trumpet examination on the 25th March and found out in April that he had passed with a Merit. The exam consisted of three played pieces, sight reading and an oral test and it is thought that Noah is the first person to pass a Grade 8 brass certificate at Prince Henry's Grammar School in about 15 years. Well done Noah!

Do please continue to pass on any items of good news you have to the Pastoral Elders, it is good to have celebratory news to share!

Margaret Armitage

SUMMER EVENTS

Two Summer events are being planned:

Saturday 20th July (9am - 4pm) - One Day Conference at the Bridge

Thursday 8th August (4:30pm -7:30pm) – BBQ and Family Games Night

Watch the Sunday Notices for further information.

Jason

Young Peoples Pages

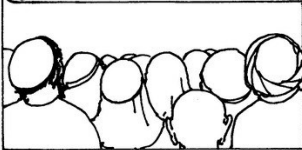
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Ex.19:3-9,20:1-21,24:7,12-18,32:1-25,34:1-9

God rescued the Hebrew people from Egypt and led them to Sinai mountain. There He offered them a contract....

Keep My rules, and you will be My people and I will be your God and protect you.



We promise to do what You tell us and worship only You.

Moses climbed the mountain. God gave him two stone slabs with the contract on them.

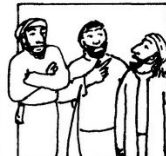


Then God and Moses talked... for 40 days and nights

Meanwhile...



Aaron, that Moses isn't coming back. We can't worship something we can't see.



Make us something we can worship

So Aaron made a gold bull and the people went wild.

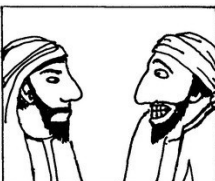


God told Moses....

Your people are already worshipping a statue.



Moses was so angry he smashed the contract slabs



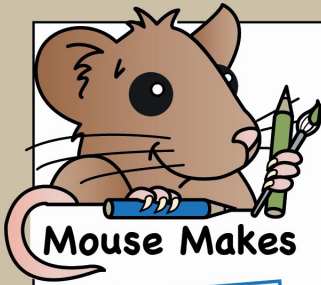
It's not my fault, they made me do it.

God, please, please forgive Your people.



So God forgave His people and gave Moses two more contract slabs.





Mouse Makes

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter before it in the alphabet.

TFF XIBU LJOE PG
MPWF UIF GBUIFS
IBT HJWFO UP VT
UIBU XF TIPVME
CF DBMMFE
DIJMESFO PG HPE
POF KPJO UISFF: POF

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

Mark 5:21

A G A D A U G H T E R E G
V A S E Z E C H A R I A H
J M O S E S A J A C O B O
A Z L I B O F A T H E R P
I J O S E P H J A N O A H
R O M A D A V I D G E H N
U B O A E I D A S O N A O
S V N C E E Z E A D A M A

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

Genesis 37:2-3



This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates:

"Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."

ROTAS
OPERA
TENET
AREPO
SATOR

If you rearrange the letters it can spell **PATER NOSTER** which means "Our Father".

A
P
A
T
E
R
N
O
S
T
E
R
O

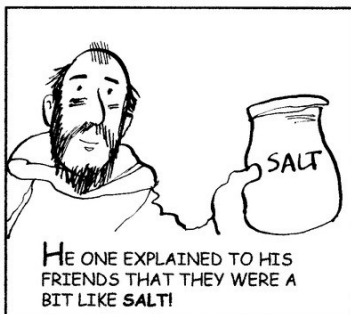
Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

FATHER • GOD
SON • DAUGHTER
JOSEPH • ISAAC
MOSES • JOB
SOLOMON
ZECHARIAH
ZEBEDEE

The tale of the Salt and Light



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

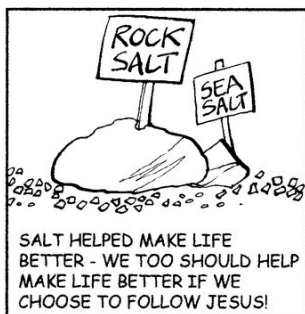


HE ONE EXPLAINED TO HIS
FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE A
BIT LIKE SALT!

IN JESUS' DAY, SALT WAS
VERY PRECIOUS. IT HELPED
PRESERVE FOOD....



....AND SALT GAVE FLAVOUR.
IT WAS VERY USEFUL INDEED



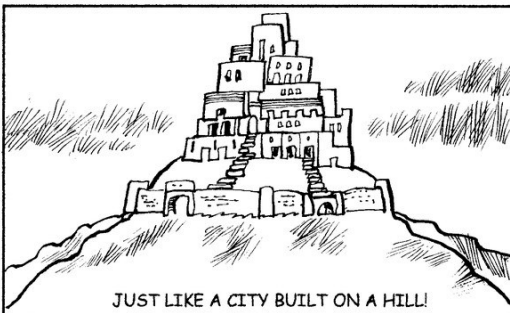
SALT HELPED MAKE LIFE
BETTER - WE TOO SHOULD HELP
MAKE LIFE BETTER IF WE
CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS!

JESUS ALSO SAID HIS FOLLOWERS
SHOULD BE LIKE **LIGHTS**



'NOBODY LIGHTS A LAMP - THEN PUTS
IT UNDER A BOWL', SAID JESUS

THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES AS
CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE
TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.



JUST LIKE A CITY BUILT ON A HILL!

p	e	o	p	l	e	s	i	n	a	i	c
p	r	o	t	e	c	t	a	n	g	r	y
b	u	o	f	a	u	l	t	p	o	h	b
a	l	g	m	a	k	e	i	s	d	e	u
c	e	o	j	i	b	h	t	m	e	b	r
k	s	l	a	b	s	c	j	u	b	r	s
z	n	d	k	r	a	e	t	i	d	e	q
q	a	f	o	r	g	a	v	e	s	w	d
h	a	w	t	a	t	u	k	o	w	b	f
r	r	n	j	s	o	l	m	w	n	a	s
m	o	u	n	t	a	i	n	b	m	y	q
c	n	o	s	t	o	n	e	g	y	p	t

forgave

stone

angry

worship

Moses

people

back

slabs

promise

gold

talked

climbed

mountain

Egypt

contract

Aaron

statue

Hebrew

Sinai

protect

fault

God

make

rules

Women's Meeting

Unfortunately **on Monday 8th April** our speaker had to cancel due to a family illness. However, Bernard Sutcliffe came to the rescue telling us the story of their visit to Apulia in South East Italy. With maps and coloured slides, as we were taken via Rome to the heel of Italy, with the Adriatic to the north east and the Mediterranean to the south.

This area was once a barren part of Italy but is now growing grain, vines and olives after a river was diverted in 1970. There are many towns full of character including unique buildings with 'trulli' roofs which are pointed at the top made of stone tiles. It was an interesting talk, particularly as not many of us had travelled to that part of Italy!

On Monday 22nd April we had Mark Dexter to taking us through the changes in Journalism over the years. At only 16 years of age Mark did work experience with the 'Yorkshire Post', spending time in Leeds Crown Court covering a story of the day, although much time was spent in the pub opposite, which he thought was a good job! He really wanted to be a Leeds United reporter on the 'Yorkshire Post'.

However, he started with the 'Wharfe Valley Times' at the age of 18. He loved weekly newspapers, going to the magistrates court, interviewing bereaved families, doing weddings and anniversaries, etc.

He has interviewed George Best, Delia Smith, Geoff Boycott and Sir Alex Ferguson, as he moved to the larger papers.

In his career he spent sixteen years in newspapers and nineteen years in television (Calendar and eventually Sky Sports News). He said it felt 'like fun rather than work'.

On Monday 19th May, the Otley based charity 'Hugs on a tray' stepped in at very short notice and the two founder members took us through the way they raise money. With the proceeds they make the trays for wards J88 and J89 at the Bexley Wing at St James' Hospital and also pay for televisions for patients on these wards.

They now have shop in Manor Square, selling donated items and knitting and sewing done by members of the public. They also run a tombola stall at Morrisons in Guiseley one day a week. Such a worthwhile cause, all volunteers and local - Amazing!

Pam Bradley

GETTING TO KNOW ENID TAYLOR

How long have you lived in Otley?

We have lived here for ten years now.



What first brought you to the Bridge Church?

Although I was baptised as an adult in the Methodist Church, I didn't feel very comfortable at the Methodist Church here. Two of the church members encouraged me to give the Bridge Church a try.

Please share a favourite memory of the Bridge Church?

I don't have a particular favourite memory, for me there have been so many.

What is your favourite hymn and why?

'How Great Thou Art' this reminds me of a lady who was in terrible pain for many years, but she still had unwavering faith in God and this was one of her favourite hymns. She was an inspiration to me, such a courageous lady.

How would you like to see the Bridge Church develop?

Really to continue with the out-reach, welcoming everyone despite their differences.

What can you tell us about your working career?

I worked in Engineering for British Gas - first as a district draughtsman working on building sites and drawing maps. Then on to Grid Control in Leeds working shifts (part of this job was supervising the emergency service bureau I promise you 25 women were more frightening than the industrial staff on sites!!). I was happy to accept early retirement at age 50, although I loved the jobs I had had. Then on to manage a charity for the elderly for 10 years. This was the best job ever, so many lovely people all with a tale to tell if I ever write a book it will be about them.

What hobbies do you have?

Reading, following Crown Green Bowling (not playing!!) gardening and the Otley Townswomen's Guild Discussion Group

Where is your favourite place in our country?

The Lake District

Where in the world would you like to visit?

I have done a lot of travelling over the years but possibly South Africa because I have passed Cape Town briefly and it looked beautiful.

If you could invite 3 people to dinner (dead or alive) who would they be and why?

Neil Diamond, Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Tutu. I think the conversation would be fascinating and the music fabulous.

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

During a busy Pentecost celebration and Parade service we were able to find time to acknowledge the significant contributions by some of our Uniformed Organisations' Leaders.

Tina Johnson (pictured with our Minister, Jason) has received a special commendation from the Guiding movement for 40 years service with our Brownies.



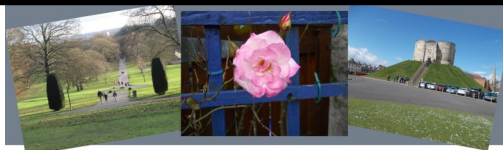
David Shaw MBE, from the Wharfedale District Scouts made awards to three of our leaders, Susan Dockar, John Paterson and Iain Paterson for their outstanding service to the Bridge Church Scouting Groups.



JOIN US FOR TEAS ON THE CHURCH LAWN OTLEY CARNIVAL DAY

15th July

**Hot and Cold Drinks,
Sandwiches and Cakes available.**



Photograph *Exhibition*

**A selection of photographs by
Andrew Jackson**

**The Bridge Church
Bridge Street, Otley, LS21 1RW**

**Opens on Saturday 15th June at 12 noon
(Otley Carnival Day)**

**Open on selected days throughout July and
August - see the Bridge Church Facebook
page for details in conjunction with the
Scarecrows in the Church Garden**



Andrew Jackson

Andrew is thirty-four years old and has Down's Syndrome. He has lived in Otley and attended The Bridge Church for all his life.

Since becoming a teenager, Andrew has loved taking photographs and the exhibition will display just a small selection of the thousands of images he has taken over the years.

We hope you enjoy
looking at them.



**Saturday
13th July
2024
7:30pm**

Doors open at 7:00pm

**Last Night
of the Proms
Hebden Bridge Band
at The Bridge Church
Bridge Street, Otley, LS21 1RW**

Admission £10 on the door

Accompanied U16's free

**Proceeds to the Hollybush Project for Adults with
Learning Disability, the church charity this year.**



The Bridge Church
THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH IN OTLEY

The Hollybush Project triumph at the Harrogate Flower Show!

Exciting news from The Hollybush Project, our group for adults with learning disabilities, who were recently invited to showcase their talents at Yorkshire's prestigious Harrogate Flower Show.

Over the past few months, the dedicated team has created a mini garden masterpiece, from designing and growing plants to crafting benches and bird tables. And the result ... a fantastic achievement of 3 stars out of 5 - a testament to their hard work and creativity!

Caroline, who manages Hollybush Project, said "At TCV Hollybush, teamwork is at the heart of everything we do. Our volunteers, participants, and staff members come together, each bringing their unique skills to the table. Our garden border reflects this diversity, with a mix of edibles, wildlife habitats, unique pavers and sensory delights for all to enjoy."

From mood boards to final installation, every aspect of the garden has been lovingly crafted by the team. We're proud to showcase their creativity and resourcefulness, demonstrating that even in small urban spaces, nature can thrive!



CHURCH DIARY - JUNE - JULY 2024

Weekly events

The Bridge Cafe - Every Thursday at 2p.m.

Parents & Toddlers - Every Thursday and Friday at 9.30 a.m.

Quiet Communion - Every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Regular Events - most of the groups will be taking a break over the summer.

Women's Meeting

June 17th - The 'Singing for Fun' Choir will entertain, followed by strawberries and cream.

Food and Friends 1st Wednesday of each month at 10.30 a.m.

July 3rd .

T Club - 4th Thursday of each Month

June 27th - Annual Dinner.

Supper Club—3rd Thursday of each month

June 20th - Summer Dinner - Royal Oak, Dacre - 7.00pm

Singing for Fun - alternate Mondays at 7.30 p.m.

24th June, 8th July and 22nd July.

Messy Church - 22nd June. Advance notice 28th September

NEXT MESSENGER

Material for the next edition of the Messenger should be in the hands of the Editor by Sunday, 28th July and will be available for collection on Sunday, 11th August, 2024

If possible, please send by e-mail to:

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