



UPPER EDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter

Dewsbury Rd, Rastrick, HD6 3QD

www.uebc.org.uk



As one of the first flowers of spring, they often symbolise **new beginnings, hope, rebirth and the ability to overcome challenges.**

Mid FEBRUARY to mid APRIL 2023



FREEDOM

Lord, it's so easy to end up
Walking backwards
Into the future
Focused on the past.
Dismayed
At what has been.
Paralysed by failure.
Living out
An endless cycle of misery.
Unable to imagine
Anything different.

Turn me around, lord.
And in your smile
Of acceptance,
Bring light:
New dignity and self-worth,
Fresh hope and courage
To embrace
Your gift of faith:
Life yet to be lived.
A story yet to be told.
A future, frightening
In its freedom
To make fresh choices
And live in the
Wide open spaces
Of your grace and glory,
Standing tall and
Shouting your praise.
The prison door
Of the past wide open
To a new adventure.

A hearing loop
is installed in
church.





Upper Edge Baptist Church
126 Dewsbury Rd
Rastrick
Brighouse
HD6 3QD

Dear Friend,

Journeying through Lent

Travel blogs and programmes are very popular. They are often presented on TV by well-known 'celebrities' who week by week take us on a journey of discovery. This journey may be in a faraway place we dream of visiting or a more local area that we have spent time in. It may feature travelling by foot, rail or ship. It will invariably involve meeting other people and listening to their life stories. As we travel along with our chosen celebrities in this way, new experiences are opened up and new understandings are given.

All of this reminds me of the journeying we will do as Christians in the five weeks that lead up to Easter. The period we call Lent. Traditionally, it's a time of reflection. A period when we think about the journey Jesus made towards Good Friday and Easter Sunday. In this period, discipleship and prayer are often at the centre of our reflections.

This year, with all that is occurring in our world and which may be occurring in our lives as Christians, I want to encourage us to reflect what Lent means for us and what God may be saying to us.

Many years ago I bought a small devotional book by Joyce Huggett called, *"Finding God in the fast lane."* It spoke into the busy life I was leading and gave me great encouragement on my faith journey. I was reminded that God was near and wanting to speak to me in and about all the things that I was involved in and were part of my life. That life was a journey, was nothing new, but that God was close and sharing that journey with me, speaking life-giving words of encouragement and help was.

In Lent I will read *Finding God in the fast lane* again. Here are some

of the pointers for growing in God that are given in the book, which I believe offers encouragement to us all:

Move out of the fast lane. We can hear God more clearly when we travel slowly and make frequent stops in order to encourage stillness.

Feast on God's goodness and grace. Lent is often just perceived as a time for giving things up, but the whole purpose of that is to draw nearer to God.

Nurture faith, hope and love. Drawing nearer to God in reflection and stillness will bring transformational changes to our lives and church communities through the way we become deeply aware of his presence and word to us.

Psalm 119 vs 113b, in the Message translation, sums this up by saying, "*You are my place of quiet retreat: I wait for your word to renew me.*"

However you choose to journey through Lent, may it be a rich time of renewal for you and our church community at Upper Edge.

Blessings

Allan

To All in The Community - That means YOU

2nd Wednesday in the month

Wednesday 8th March and 12th April

Church Lunch @ 12.15 for 12.30pm

2 course meal with tea, coffee and chocolates. and a few jokes.
Please book your place NOW. We would love to have you join us at this social occasion.

Donations welcome Contact Lorraine on 01422 823013

We cater for many diets eg vegetarians, vegans, coeliacs - you must let us know though in advance when you sign the notice in the Church Hall or alternatively ring to book your place.

Do come along to this informal meal for a chat, good food and generally a laugh or two and a few jokes.



FEBRUARY

Saturday 18th

8.30am Men's Breakfast @ Toby Inn Ainley Top

Sunday 19th

10.30am Morning Worship led by Mr Julian Dowson

Tuesday 21st

SHROVE TUESDAY Pancake Day

Wednesday 22nd

ASH WEDNESDAY

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Sunday 26th

1st in Lent

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mrs Lorraine Tatham and Young Church

LENT groups start this week see page further on for full details

MARCH

Wednesday 1st

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Sunday 5th

2nd in Lent

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mrs Janet Lawton

Names for lunch on the 8th – TODAY please

Monday 6th

Beer and Banter @ The Four Sons

7.00pm

The Bible Society by Ronnie Grandage

Wednesday 8th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

12.15 for 12.30pm

Wednesday Lunch at church for all readers of this newsletter and the community



Sunday 12th

3rd in Lent

10.30am

Morning Worship with Communion led by Rev Williams

Wednesday 15th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Saturday 18th

8.30am

Men's Breakfast @ Toby Inn Ainley Top

Sunday 19th

4th in Lent Mothering Sunday

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mr Daryll Hackett

Wednesday 22nd

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Saturday 25th

British Summer Time Begins CLOCKS GO FORWARD 1 HOUR

Sunday 26th

5th in Lent

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Rev Louise Armitage

Wednesday 29th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

APRIL

Sunday 2nd

6th in Lent - PALM SUNDAY

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mrs Lorraine Tatham and friends

Monday 3rd

7.45am

Prayer Breakfasts for Holy Week (Blackley) check with Louise/Paul for details

Wednesday 5th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Thursday 6th

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Friday 7th

GOOD FRIDAY

11.45am

Procession of Witness from St John's to outside The George Pub Brighthouse to sing a hymn

12.30pm

United Service for Good Friday (Central Methodist)

Sunday 9th

EASTER SUNDAY

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Rev Allan Wolfenden

Monday 10th

EASTER MONDAY

Wednesday 12th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

12.15 for 12.30pm

Wednesday Lunch at church for all readers of this newsletter and the community



Saturday 15th

8.30am

Men's Breakfast @ The Toby Carvery Ainley Top

Sunday 16th

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Rev Louise Armitage

Wednesday 19th

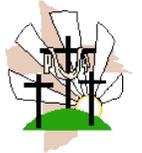
10.00am

Time To Reflect

Sunday 23rd

10.30am

Morning Worship



The Rastrick Group of Churches

Lent 2023 - Rhythm of Life

Journeying with Jesus through Lent: What does it mean to be a disciple in the world today?



As Christians, we believe Jesus should be at the heart of our rhythms of life, whatever our circumstances. This will have a far-reaching impact on our own wellbeing and the good of others – on our loving, living and learning.

You are invited you to join this years 'Rhythm of Life' Lent course which will combine Lenten themes with some key challenges facing our world today.

- Week One - Resting – The wilderness & green pastures (w/c 27th Feb 23)
- Week Two –Creating – The wellbeing of our planet (w/c 6th Mar 23)
- Week Three Sharing – Gods amazing generosity (w/c 13th Mar 23)
- Week Four – Encouraging – All are welcome (w/c 20th Mar 23)
- Week Five– Celebrating – in all circumstances (w/c 27th Mar 23)

Times and venues

- Tuesday Afternoon @ 13 Bell Row 2.00pm – 3:30pm
- Thursday Evening @ St Johns Conference Suite 7:15pm – 9:00pm
- Saturday Morning @ St Matthews Narthex 10:00am – 11:30am



News of and from the Fellowship

Please remember in your prayers those who mourn the loss of family members and friends especially. In particular we pray for the Kitching family - Colin, Kathryn and Graham - as they come to terms with the loss of Helen recently. Help us to be there for them and often just to wait in silence and listen when they speak.



Don't forget to let someone know if you would like us to pray for them.

Father in heaven, may we share the light and life of Jesus with others today, and always.



In Loving memory of Helen Kitching, who died peacefully on 10th February 2023, aged 86.

Helen came from Pudsey. She was a bright child and passed for Pudsey Grammar School, where she was to meet her future husband, Colin, in the year above her. As her family was poor she was needed as a wage-earner, so she left school at 16 and became a wages clerk at English Electric in Bradford and trained in office work. Her first date with Colin was on Christmas Eve when they went to a dance at Pudsey swimming pool.



Colin had a brilliant mathematical brain, and while he studied in Nottingham for his University degree, gaining First Class Honours, Helen carried on working.

They married, and when he became head of the Maths Department at Mexborough Grammar School, they moved to Old Denaby.

They were baptised together when they were in their twenties and joined Pudsey Baptist Church. They were blessed with two children, Kathryn and Graham, both of whom were taught maths by their Dad, and both of whom have careers in insurance and consulting.

Helen, in her thirties, took the brave step of training to teach. She had a long and happy career at Sandhill School in Rawmarsh where she taught maths and music and counted many of the families of her pupils as lifelong friends.

At this time, when churches were trying to reach out into the community, Helen and Colin with a few other couples from Conisbrough Baptist Church, became Church Planters, starting a church in a pub in Mexborough. This venture proved very successful and was the beginning of Mexborough Baptist Church. As Arkela, Helen also worked with the Cubs and Scouts.

She was also heavily involved in local politics as Chair of the Local Constituency Labour Party.

It was a blessing to us that after retirement, Colin and Helen decided to move to West Yorkshire, near to the motorway, and within easy reach of Manchester so they could easily visit Graham's family in America, and near where Kathryn, Will and Teddy lived. They enjoyed their grandchildren. They found Upper Edge Baptist Church by accident, and became active members and Deacons, and Helen, who proved to have a wonderful grasp of finances, became our Treasurer. For many years they held a Home Group in Bramble Grove, which was a great blessing to all who came, and where people felt free to share their experiences and their faith.

Their gift of faith and hospitality continued right up until Helen fell ill a few weeks ago and was taken into hospital for assessment. It transpired that she had caught Covid, and her debility and confusion increased.

She went into a Care Home in Great Horton for medical assessment, but her condition continued to deteriorate, and she died there.

She was a stalwart lady of great faith, and a great friend to the church and to those who were close to her. She told me that she prayed for me every day, which was a wonderful comfort in difficult times, and she is sadly missed.

Rev Louise Armitage

A Prayer for Today

Loving heavenly Father, You are the source of our being. It was You who formed us, named us, and first loved us with a love that is beyond our imagination.



You know our needs and our prayers even before we utter them, and yet we find comfort in knowing that we can bring our hearts and our lives into Your presence and express ourselves with whatever words and whatever ways we can use. It is an honour and a privilege to not only bring our own needs, but the needs and desires of others to You. Through Jesus, You showed your love in this world so that all might know of Your compassion, Your peace and Your presence.

Lord, it has just been announced by recently released UK census data that the number of people who consider themselves of the Christian faith has diminished somewhat in the last 10 years. This is a worrying statistic that we all, as Your followers have a responsibility to address with Your guidance.

So Lord, we pray for a world that doesn't know You. We pray for those who are lost. Please show yourself to those who don't believe. Allow us to be a source of Your light to those who need you. Help us to lead people to You. Help us to tell others about You and have the words they need to hear. We pray for all who have lost faith or don't believe, that we ourselves, something or someone will intervene in their life and direct them to You. Help us to adapt our methods and approach so as to appeal to current and future generations, but to do this staying true to Your Word. We pray for divine appointments all across the UK today and not just in our country, but in the world, we pray for the world to know You.

Lord, So many people are suffering from poverty and the cost of living crisis. We pray for those today who are experiencing financial needs. For those who don't have enough food to feed themselves or their families. We pray for those who don't have a home, or who have recently just lost their home. We ask that You will provide for these needs. Provide

*The funeral will take place on Monday 20th March at 2.15pm at
Park Wood Crematorium*

for their physical needs, as well as their spiritual needs. Lord, please let them know that you are there. Help us to hear your voice, and in turn, to help and respond where needed.

Scripture reminds us to pray for our leaders and all leaders. And so we pray for the leaders of our nation and all nations, that they may hear Your still-speaking voice and know Your wisdom and Your guidance. Also all of our faith leaders as they seek to serve your people and continue to connect others to You. Continue to care for them so they may care for so many. Provide them the strength, courage and peace to sustain them in these difficult times.

Lastly, we pray for our Church fellowship, we pray for our brothers and sisters who are unwell at the moment, or feeling lonely. Lord, You know our every need. We just ask that You surround them with your love and we remember that You promise to be close and walk with us on our journey through life.

We have brought our prayers and our concerns before you. There are so many other concerns than those brought before you today, and at times they feel so heavy. We thank You for the opportunity to lay them down, to place them in Your care and to rest. In the midst of strange and difficult times, it often seems hard to find joy and rest. And yet we know that You continue to move in this world and in our lives, offering us glimmers of hope, joyful surprises and energizing moments of goodness, mercy and compassion. In the midst of challenging times, we want to give you thanks for the celebrations that continue to happen in our lives, the places where we experience Your presence in tangible ways, the faces that remind us of Christ's spirit is still present in those around us and may they be a blessing to all.

Lord, we humbly ask You to consider all brought before you this morning and may Your will be done.

Amen

Prayer written by *Paul Newman*



A Different Kind of Men's Breakfast

In early January on a dark, wet morning four men from the church went to Lee Mount Baptist church to join the Christian Men's Fellowship Breakfast. Once inside we found our way to the correct room and were greeted by a wave of noise as a large group of men (some with very loud voices!) exchanged greetings and helped themselves to a hot drink and toast.



Not quite knowing the protocol we too got a hot drink, found a seat and waited. After an official welcome, one or two announcements and a prayer we were soon presented with the biggest

cooked breakfast I have ever seen!

We manfully did it justice and then wended our way into the church itself for a time of worship. Led by a guitarist we joined in with a number of contemporary songs, some familiar, others new to us, all sung with gusto.

Finally we were introduced to the guest speaker. He told us about how he became a Christian as an adult and found later that if he laid hands on people and prayed for them, God healed them. His description of healings, whilst impressive, lasted rather a long time and it would have been helpful if we could have asked questions. 'Why does God not heal everyone we pray for?' is the biggest question of all of course.

After three hours and a memorable experience we slipped away, impressed by the enthusiasm, commitment and generosity of the Fellowship members. (They are skilled at 10 -Pin bowling too as some of us know only too well!) Very many thanks to Paul N. for inviting us!

Paul Armitage



Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day February 21st 2023

5 Facts About Pancake Day

- Pancake Day is also known as Shrove Tuesday. ...
- Pancake Day is a Christian festival. ...
- It always falls 47 days before Easter. ...
- The name 'Shrove Tuesday' comes from the word 'shriving'.

...

The first pancake day was in 1445. ...

Shrove Tuesday is a Christian festival celebrated in many countries across the globe. It falls on the Tuesday before the beginning of Lent – a period of around six weeks leading up to Easter. During Lent, Christians give up luxuries to remember when Jesus went into the desert for 40 days to fast and pray. We eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday as it is the last chance for a spot of indulgence before 40 days of fasting, and also an opportunity to use up food that couldn't be eaten during Lent. This included eggs, fat and milk, which were made into pancakes and eaten on that day.

Shrove is the past tense of the verb shrive, which means “confess one's sins, such as to a priest” (it can also mean “to hear confession”). Shrovetide was once a time that many Christians devoted to confessing their sins before the beginning of Lent.

It is believed that Pancake Day/ Shrove Tuesday started in 1445 in Olney Buckinghamshire, England. A lady was getting carried away with making pancakes when she heard the church bells for the Shrove Tuesday mass. She was late! The lady ran to the church with all of her pancakes and that's where the pancake tradition started.



Six Little Stories With Lots Of Meaning

(1). Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is **faith**.

(2). When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is **trust**.

(3). Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is **hope**.

(4). We plan big things for tomorrow-in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is **confidence**.

(5). We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and still have children. That is **love**.

(6). On an old man's shirt was written 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' That is **attitude**.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories.

Remember – Good friends are the real jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace.



Upper Edge Baptist Church

Saturday 25th February at 6.30pm

Beetle Drive

for all ages in the community including pie and pea supper.

See noticeboard or Lorraine for details on 01422 823013

ALL are welcome. Do come and join us. No tickets but donations will be appreciated



Lent quiz

1. How many days are there in Lent?
2. What was the original meaning of the word "Lent"?
3. What is the first day of Lent called?
4. What do we call the day before Lent begins?
5. What snack originated during Lent because it contains only flour, water and salt?

Answers at the bottom of the page

- The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS in

MARCH

<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>Dawn Swaine 5th Joseph Church 24th</p>	<p>Joyce Kaye 1st David Kaye 11th Tess Goodman 14th Jane Foley 20th</p>	<p>APRIL</p> <p>Elaine Maclean 2nd Daniel Church 29th</p>
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A special birthday greeting to Tess who will be 14 on the 14th!

 Apologies to those who missed a mention for their birthday in December and January, especially to Louise who celebrated a special one in January.

.....

1. 40, 2. Spring 3. Ash Wednesday 4. Shrove Tuesday 5. pretzel





Upper Edge Baptist Church, Dewsbury Rd, Rastrick HD6 3QD

Hall For Hire

Good size room suitable for a variety of activities for all ages
plus kitchen

Disabled access and toilet facilities

Prices from £25 per session

**Contact Paul Armitage on 01484 714944 for
more information**

Want to keep warm this autumn and winter?

Come along to our new

TABLE TENNIS group

Weekly on **Thursday afternoons** between
2.00 and 4.00pm in the church hall.

Bats and balls are provided

The cost is £2.00 per session
and refreshments are available

**All abilities
welcome**





 May we support the people of Ukraine, Turkey and Syria in whatever way we are able and remember them daily in our prayers.