



UPPER EDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter

Dewsbury Rd, Rastrick, HD6 3QD

www.uebc.org.uk



As you leave this place may the living Lord go
with you.
May he go behind you to encourage you,
above you to watch over You.
beneath you to lift you from your sorrows,
within you, to give you the gifts of faith hope and
love,
and aways before you to show you the way.
Amen

*Submitted by D Kaye (this blessing comes from
Dewsbury Minster)*



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2023



A hearing loop
is installed in
church.





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

Dear Friend,

Paul and I have recently returned from a refreshing holiday in Paphos, Cyprus. We intended to explore lots of different places, but in fact the weather was so hot that we just had to stay by the sea, strolling along, or relaxing under the beach umbrellas, cooled by a refreshing breeze. Lots of time to muse and contemplate.

I was rereading a fascinating book by Barbara Brown Taylor: An Altar in the World, about how often we are distracted, thinking about all we have to do next, or all we should have done better, when we really need to become fully present just where we are, fully aware of all we can feel, see and hear, and that very awareness leads us into the joy, peace and presence of God who is always near us, but rarely recognised.

It was an experience of intense blue - blue sky, blue to the horizon, blue sea, choppy and ever-moving. We were by a little bay where the rollers came surging in and all who dared to let the waves break over their heads re-emerged shrieking with laughter, terror and triumph.

Out at sea we watched boats trailing multi-coloured parachutes, preparing their clients to get a bird's eye view of the world, as they climbed into their harnesses and were lifted up into the blue sky to view everything from a different perspective. There was plenty of shrieking from them too.

The warm refreshment of the breeze seemed to blow the cobwebs away: a gentle and insistent reminder of God's Spirit everywhere, tugging at us and keeping the parasailers aloft, dangling from their vivid parachutes; reminding me too of the Holy Spirit's power to change and transform – causing silent people to speak out in unknown languages of praise and wonder and to see everything as if for the first time.

God, who is always present, tells us to 'Be still and know that I am God.'

May you discover how much God loves and cares for you.

God bless.

Louise



JULY

Sunday 30th

10.30am

Morning Worship to be led by the deacons and friends

AUGUST

Tuesday 1st

3.00pm

Deacons' Meeting at Church

Wednesday 2nd

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Sunday 6th

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mr Mark Stephenson

11.45am – 12.45pm

Followed by Church meeting

Names for lunch on the 9th – TODAY please

Wednesday 9th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

12.15 for 12.30pm

Lunch



Sunday 13th

10.30am

Morning Worship including Communion led by Mr Paul Newman

Wednesday 16th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Sunday 20th

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mr Julian Dowson

Wednesday 23rd

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Sunday 27th

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mrs Lorraine Tatham and friends

Wednesday 30th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 3rd

10.30am Morning Worship led by Mr Simon Thompson

Wednesday 6th

10.00am Time To Reflect

Sunday 10th

10.30am Morning Worship including Communion led by the deacons and friends

Names for lunch on the 13th – TODAY please

Wednesday 13th

10.00am Time To Reflect

12.15 for 12.30pm Lunch

Sunday 17th

10.30am Morning Worship led by Mrs Janet Lawton

Wednesday 20th

10.00am Time To Reflect

Sunday 24th HARVEST SERVICE

10.30am Morning Worship led by Mrs Lorraine Tatham and Young Church

Wednesday 27th

10.00am Time To Reflect

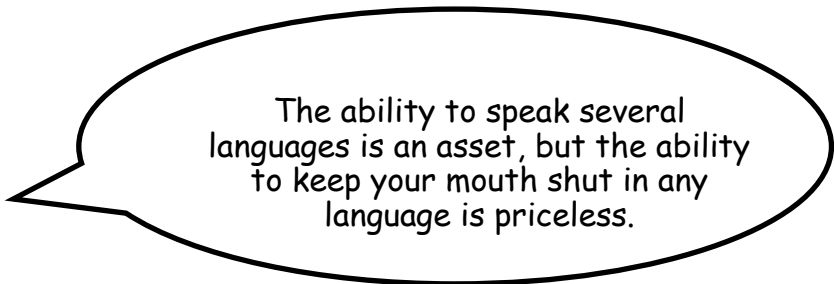


Please check the prayer diary and notice board in the hall for updates on House Group etc



Did you know there are *more than 100 verses* in the Bible that speak directly or indirectly about harvest?

See further on in the newsletter for more information about harvest and what we do at our Harvest Sunday Service.



News of and from the Fellowship



Please remember in your prayers those who mourn the loss of family members and friends especially. 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.



Congratulations and well done to Tess Goodman who recently completed a coast to coast bike ride from Allonby on the west coast to the east coast near Newcastle. She was doing this as part of her fund raiser for North Halifax Grammar along with a group of 23 other students and 6 adults. The total trip was 5 days and the ride took 4. She enjoyed making friends and the camping though will probably not do another one! Cycling up hills was really hard!



The area in front of our Church

Have you noticed the area opposite the front of our church recently? It certainly looks a lot more attractive now that the grass is regularly cut from where the cows cross and along to the end. Thanks to Ken for cutting it and to Jeanette from next door to church who provided the planters and plants and shares with the church the upkeep of this area.

Are you happy with the way your area looks? If not, are you able to do something about it yourself or can you get a friend or neighbour to help to look after your part of the local area.

The Challenge to Change

It's easy to become despondent by the way the Christian faith is viewed in our times. In the UK fewer and fewer people are identifying themselves as Christian. Many Christian congregations are lower in number since the end of the Covid pandemic. As a result, church finances are being stretched and some churches are closing as a consequence.

This was the background to a series of articles I have recently been reading in the Baptist Union summer edition of *Baptists Together*. This is a magazine, published four times a year, whose aim and purpose is to encourage and equip the churches of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

You might be surprised to discover that rather than it being a depressing read, reminding me of the truths of decline that I know too well, that I found it stimulating and inspiring.

Without denying the struggle that many Baptist churches are experiencing, it shared stories of how those churches featured in the magazine had taken the opportunity to do things in new ways. All the churches I read about were very different and existed in different areas within the UK. Each had a story to tell of God's love and faithfulness towards them as they stepped out in faith on the path they discerned he was leading them.

A number of these churches had taken the step of changing the structure of how they did things on Sundays. Watchet Baptist Church in Somerset and Seer Baptist Church in Buckinghamshire, decided to meet as a gathered church on a Sunday only once or twice a month. The other Sundays were spent in small group meetings where the emphasis would be on discipleship and mission, including serving their local communities in practical ways.

Louise Gilbertson, the missional leader of Seer Baptist Church highlighted their predicament.

“ Like many rural churches, our congregation is quite small and elderly. The church was beginning to realise that unless it did something differently and thought about being more missional, there

was a risk it might die within a generation.”

Tom McGibbon, minister of Cleveleys Baptist Church in Blackpool tells the story of how their church took the decision to become more outward looking. It had, he says been providing for the needs of the congregation, but before 2018 was inward looking and low on confidence and vision. From being an adult only church they now have young people and are engaged in community outreach. Since those steps of faith they have seen families coming regularly and relationships being built. Their heart is to reach out into the needs they see and with God's help, meet them as a church.

All the stories I read about were filled with hope and encouragement. But, it also meant embracing risk and sacrifice. After all, it's never easy to give up what you've always done and the way you have done it. The catalyst in the embracing of change, within all the stories wasn't change for change's sake. It was embraced because they were listening to God and sensed it was the way he was leading them.

One church leader summed this up when he said, *“ We continue to ask God to grow us not to what was, but instead to what we can become.”*

Another, from South Yorkshire, said. “ It's not necessarily easy. It's very hard work, but we felt God was at work.”

For me, that was what was being highlighted through all these stories. That's the encouragement. Even in challenging times, God is at work inviting us to co-operate with him.

Here is the challenge for us at Upper Edge. Where do we see God at work? What is he saying? Where is he calling us to step out in faith. What changes is he calling us to make so we can grow as disciples and serve him as a mission community?

In all the stories of growth that I read, it involved the church communities in a commitment to listen to God, each other and their local communities. It took them on a journey of risk and reliance on the Holy Spirit. But then again, I suspect being church was always meant to be like that.

Allan

Harvest Service

SUNDAY 24th September at 10.30am

Harvest Gifts

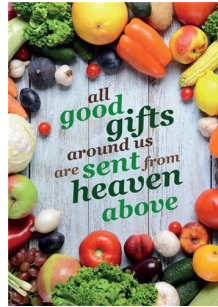
Any tins of food - soups, meat veg etc - and dried pulses, rice, pasta etc. are welcome.

These items will be taken to a centre in Brighthouse to be distributed locally.

Any monetary gifts will be sent to the Baptist Missionary Society

All food products must have at least 6 months on the sell by date.

No fresh produce required.



Like many Christian churches we celebrate harvest with members of the congregation bringing gifts of food, money and flowers to decorate the church building as a sign of their thanks to God. We sing lots of songs and hymns about harvest and often do different activities during the service which is being led by the Young Church.

What date is harvest in the UK?

Here in The UK, the harvest festival doesn't have an official public holiday date. Instead, it is usually celebrated on the Sunday nearest to the harvest moon, which is the full moon that occurs nearest to the Autumn equinox, usually towards the end of September.

What time of year does harvest start?

The start of the farming year is often regarded as being September or October. Harvest is in, winter crops are sown or being sown and the farm is being prepared for winter. Stock are brought closer to the farm or into barns to protect the soil and for ease of feeding. The soil starts to sleep, ready to awaken in spring.

Why do we celebrate harvest?

Harvest is celebrated to give thanks for the crops, which have been safely harvested. Christians thank God for the food during harvest. Christians believe God made the world and everything in it. Christians also thank God for the variety of food and everything that helps the food to grow.



HARVEST TIME

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

AGRICULTURE
AUTUMN
BALE
CLEAN
CROPS
CUT
DIG UP
FRUIT
GATHER
GLEAN
GRAINS
HUSK
MARKET
PICK
PILE
PLUCK
PRICE
PRODUCE
PROFIT
REAP
RIPE
SEASON
SELECT
SELL
SORT
STACK
STORE
WEIGH
YIELD

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

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
Find and circle each word.



Prevention rather than cure

Recycling has long been seen as the solution to pollution, but to really wise up on waste we need to reuse what we already have.



Alongside the climate and nature crises, pollution and waste are among the biggest threats facing the planet. From local beaches to the Arctic, manmade waste is choking oceans and killing wildlife. And it's getting worse.

If we don't act now to tackle our throwaway economy, there could be more plastic in the sea than fish by 2050. And, however carefully we dispose of unwanted items, we can't simply recycle our way out of this problem.

The waste hierarchy prioritises ways of dealing with rubbish, from the most environmentally friendly methods down to the least. It can best be summed up with a phrase you may know: **'reduce, reuse, recycle'**. The addition of the word **'refuse'** at the start aims to prevent - rather than cure - the problem. Ask yourself: do you really need to buy a new item? Could you buy second-hand instead? If you do need to shop, can you buy less? Recycling should be the last resort'

A New Life

"The trouble is that by taking the guilt out of consumption, recycling is undermining our efforts to cut back on waste," says WWF environmental manager Lauren Wiseman. "Consumer behaviour is driven by convenience. And putting out recycling validates consumption by allowing people to buy whatever they want with a clean conscience. Our priority should be preventing waste and reusing what we already have."

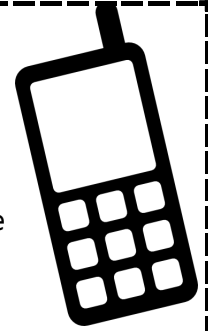
Article WWF Action magazine (formerly World Wildlife Fund)

Join The Reuse Revolution!

To encourage everyone to make sustainable choices, Vodafone and WWF have launched One Million

Phones For The planet. The campaign aims to raise £1 million for WWF by encouraging people to return old phones to Vodafone to be refurbished or recycled responsibly. Every phone returned will raise £1 for WWF.

Find out more at wwf.org.uk/vodafone



One Sunday Mrs Dunne decided to visit a new church. The sermon seemed to go on and on, and a few people in the congregation fell asleep.

After the service, to be friendly, she approached a sleepy looking gentleman, extended her hand, and said, "Hello - I'm Gladys Dunne."

"You're not the only one," the man replied. "I'm glad it's done, too!"

To All in The Community - That means YOU
2nd Wednesday in the month
Wednesday 9th August and 13th September
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, generally a



What's on and when in the church hall

Monday	Empire dance Troop	4.00pm – 8.00pm
Tuesday	Stitch group	fortnightly
Wednesday	Time To Reflect Lunch	10.00am – 11.00am 12.30pm (2 nd Wed in the month for the community)
Thursday	Table Tennis	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Friday	Line Dancing	10.15am – 11.30am (coffee, tea and biscuits after)
Saturday	Creative Edge Bound To Be Good	10.00am – 4.00pm (3rd Sat in the month) Quarterly + November

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

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

in

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Christine Lister 2nd
Simplice Lyonga 5th
Penny Goodman 31st

Ernestine Lyonga 23rd
Paul Armitage 8th
Anne Inwood 9th
David Peck 16th
Lee Church 28th

Special birthday wishes to Simplicie who will be 10 this month and to Penny who will be 13 - a real teenager!

There's nothing better than welcoming guests with the smell of freshly baked scones and they are so quick and simple to bake. Also the ingredients are usually in my store cupboard. They taste wonderful with homemade jam and eaten outside in a sunny garden if possibly!!

Recipe for Scones

Ingredients

225g/8oz self-raising flour
1 level tsp baking powder
25g/1oz caster sugar
50g/1¾ oz butter, softened, cut into pieces
1 free-range eggs
a little milk
handful sultanas (optional)



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 220°C/200°C Fan/Gas 7. Lightly grease one baking tray.
2. Put the flour, baking powder and sugar in a large bowl. Add the butter and rub in with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
3. Crack the egg into a measuring jug, then add enough milk to make the total liquid 150ml/5fl oz. Stir the egg and milk into the flour – you may not need it all – and mix to a soft, sticky dough.
4. Turn out onto a lightly floured work surface, knead lightly and work in the sultanas, if using. Roll out to a rectangle about 2cm/¾in thick.
5. Cut into as many rounds as possible with a fluted 5cm/2in cutter and place them on the prepared baking trays. Brush the tops of the scones with a little extra milk, or any egg and milk left in the jug.
6. Bake for 12–15 minutes, or until the scones are well risen and a pale, golden-brown colour. Lift onto a wire rack to cool. Eat as fresh as possible.
7. To serve, split the scones and serve with strawberry jam on the plain scones along with a good dollop of clotted cream.

From Mary Berry's *Fantastic feasts*

