



UPPER EDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter

Dewsbury Rd, Rastrick, HD6 3QD



www.uebc.org.uk



O God

Times of change and transition can be so unsettling.

How easily I get used to my routines.

How quickly I gain a false sense of security in my "comfort zones."

I like to think of myself as a person comfortable with change.

But the truth is that I struggle with change just as much as anyone.

And it doesn't take much for me to feel off-balance.

The truth is that I am afraid of change. Even good change can be seen a threat to my safety.

Because the unknown is fraught with danger, even when I'm being led to something bigger, better, or brighter.

With change, there's an inevitable period of mourning.

I mourn the loss of the routines I didn't know I'd grown so fond of.

I mourn the loss of the sense of security that comes with predictability.

I mourn the friendships that may wither, no matter how hard I try to keep them going.

But as I take step after step into the unknown, I believe that you are the very ground on which I stand.

As long as I can remember this, I have nothing to fear.

So I will step into the unknown as fearlessly and joyfully as I dare, knowing that you will keep me grounded and will not let me fall.

Amen



A hearing loop is installed in church.





Dear All

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

Waiting

We are now in the season of Advent in the Christian calendar. Over the following four weeks we concentrate on hope, peace, joy and love. It is a time of expectation and preparation and of waiting.

In Christianity the traditional Nativity story tells us of a time in history where people faced persecution, poverty and disease were rife, and leaders ruled with a sense of self-interest. In a small backwater town an unmarried teenage girl is given news that will shake up the world for centuries to come. Her fiancée appears to get cold feet until he too receives a visit from a persuasive angel. And they wait.

Unbeknownst to them other moves are afoot, some wise guys from the East have been studying the stars and realise something is not quite right. The King has been hearing rumours of a possible interloper and wants to nip any disquiet in the bud as quickly as he can. And as the world waits and casually goes about its business, a census is called: Mary and Joseph are heading to the bright lights of Bethlehem.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. Isaiah 9: 2

There were no beating drums to herald their arrival, no journalists queuing round the block to interview them. The Star coming in from the east is leading our aforementioned sages. Up on a distant hill a bunch of weary shepherds are about to get the fright of their lives. To top it all, almost immediately after the birth the new

family will find themselves as political refugees due to the decisions taken by the paranoid king.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace. Isaiah 9: 6

As their child grows and they move back home they will wait for thirty years for the promise they received to start to unfold...

Throughout this past year we have seen election after election; half of the world's population have gone to the polls deciding on who they trust to lead them. We have heard various promises uttered and been subject to a bombardment of media in all its forms designed to sway and influence: politicians all around the world claiming to offer us a way to a better future. We live in a world where whoever shouts the loudest or has the most resources appears to gain the most attention. In such a world it is not surprising that sometimes we are all guilty of missing things because they do not come with a massive fanfare, or elevating other things due to the inordinate publicity around them.

Yet throughout all of this cacophony I have been constantly reminded that the things that mean the most to me do not come with a price tag, and have not needed to be "sold" to me. I don't need a spin doctor to tell me why my family love me, nor a news anchor to explain why my heart is breaking as I see images of people in distress. What I need and what I have is the knowledge that this season reminds me of the beauty of this world. How God came to earth to demonstrate a different way to live our lives, how we ourselves can embody hope, peace, joy and love. My prayer this advent is that you too find your path guided by the light of Christ.



Many blessings *Daryll*



DECEMBER

Sunday 1st

1st in ADVENT Toy and Tin Service

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mr Daryll Hackett

Tuesday 3rd

11.45am

Funeral of Vikki Withers in Church

12.30pm

followed by Committal at Fixby Crematorium

Wednesday 4th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Thursday 5th

Ladies Soiree @ Lorraine's house

Sunday 8th

2nd in ADVENT

10.30am

Morning Worship including Communion led by Mr Daryll Hackett

Names for Christmas lunch on the 11th – TODAY please

Wednesday 11th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

12.15 for 12.30pm

Christmas Lunch

7.00pm

Overgate Hospice Concert

Saturday 14th

8.30am

People's Christmas breakfast @ The Toby Inn, Ainley Top

11.00am – 12noon

Carol singing outside TESCO – Churches Together need your support

Sunday 15th

3rd in ADVENT

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mrs Janet Lawton

6.30pm

Please join us for Carols @ The Rock Tavern Upper Edge

Wednesday 18th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Sunday 22nd

4th in ADVENT

10.30am

'Christingle Drive' - All Age Service led by The Young Church

Wednesday 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am – 11.00am

Short Christmas Celebration led by Rev Louise Armitage



Sunday 29th

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Rev Allan Wolfenden

2025

JANUARY

Sunday 5th

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mrs Mavis Rouse

Wednesday 8th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

12.15pm for 12.30pm Church Lunch

Sunday 12th

10.30am

Morning Worship with Communion led by Mr Daryll Hackett

Wednesday 15th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Saturday 18th

8.30am

Men's Breakfast @ Toby Carvery Ainley Top

Sunday 19th

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mr Julian Dowson

11.45am

Church Meeting

Wednesday 22nd

10.00am

Time To Reflect

Sunday 26th

10.30am

Morning Worship by led by Mr Daryll Hackett

Monday 27th

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Wednesday 29th

10.00am

Time To Reflect

FEBRUARY

Sunday 2nd

10.30am

Morning Worship led by Mr Simon Thompson



Look out for the next Pie and Pea Supper with slide show and talk on Morocco hopefully in February or March



News of and from the Fellowship

Turning Point Counselling Service Brighthouse

Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to the congregation at Upper Edge Baptist Church. The continuing support that we receive from Upper Edge is greatly appreciated. The demand for our service continues, particularly at the time we are receiving more and more referrals from young people. We have also been offered extra rooms at Church Lane and the Trustees are considering how best to utilise the additional space to benefit our community.



Many Thanks

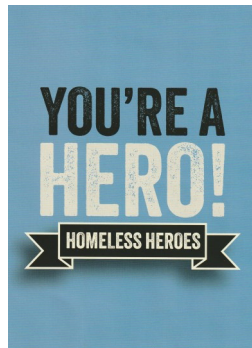
Alan Hoggard



THANK YOU for your very kind donation.

Lots of love and appreciation.

From the Homeless Pastors team



Signed by Dave Fawcett and Chris (who came to talk to the church in September)



A shout out to Lorraine and family for a fantastic evening at the bonfire and firework display, and also for the delicious food and loud, loud bangs.



Thank you, Dawn



The poppy knitting group would like to give a shout out to Ken, who a year ago was asked if he could make us a silhouette of a soldier to go with the poppy display, well, as you have all seen, he did, and it stood proudly in our church window and on Remembrance Sunday at the front of our church. Thank you to Ken.



Everyone would like to thank the 'poppy ladies' for their wonderful contribution to the display.



A secretary of Little Lane Church, Bradford, has told us about a "Reverse Advent Calendar" she came across: "Someone sent me a picture and a suggestion for a Reverse Advent Calendar. You put a tin/bottle/jar or dried food packet into the basket on each day and on Christmas Eve you donate it to a food bank."



Fundraising Evening for Parkinson's UK Halifax

With special thanks to *Joy of Flowers*

Dear Upper Edge Baptist

Thank you for letting us use the room at the Chapel for JOY OF FLOWERS last Wednesday, the fundraising event for Halifax & District Branch of Parkinson's UK.

Myself and the committee would like to thank the people of Rastrick Chapel, for their generous donation of the hall, also all that helped to make it such a wonderful evening. I have had nothing but praise for such an enjoyable time. Not only was it entertaining but also informative.

The total raised was just over £1000. An excellent result from about 60 guests. Whilst a lot of faces at the event were known to us - we did get people coming by word of mouth. Without you this night might not have gone ahead.

Yours sincerely

Anne Hunter

What a great evening and such wonderful homemade cakes as well! [Ed]



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS in



DECEMBER

JANUARY

Francesca Hackett	4th	Ann Gilmore	1st
Mary Green	9th	Allan Bottomley	9th
Allan Hainsworth	22nd	Louise Armitage	14th
Esther Church	26th	Allan Wolfenden	21st
Karen Thompson	30th	Lorraine Tatham	27th



Our First Barn Dance for over 20 years at UEBC

I attended my first ever Barn Dance last Saturday night at UEBC and really didn't know what to expect.



I was pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed the experience, especially meeting new people with many in the same situation as me in not knowing what to do.



I challenge anyone to not start tapping their foot once the rhythmic music starts. Along with the rhythm of knee slapping and clapping and the joint camaraderie, this made for a great experience.

The caller Sue and the band - Laurence on accordion, Simon Thompson on guitar and Isobelle on the flute - were great!

Oh, and lovely pie & peas to boot!! A great night enjoyed by all.....

When is the next one!!

Paul Newman



What a great atmosphere there was in the Church Hall that night. Thank you to all who came and helped raise £200 for Overgate Hospice. Also thanks to all who came and helped washing up and clearing up especially at the end of the evening.

We look forward to holding another one in 2025!



Leaving an Impression

Following on from the list of hymns/songs in the last newsletter, we sang two on Sunday that we hadn't sung for a while – 'Will Your Anchor Hold' and 'Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer (Jehovah)'. Both of these reminded me of two people long passed away, Mr Sunderland, Christine's father, and Mr Mordecai, a Welshman loved by all who made a lasting impression on my then 14/15 year old son who now in his 50s and still remembers him with affection and respect. It made me think that Christian beliefs can be shown in different ways.

Something else made me realise this. On leaving church on Sunday I saw a white car parked with its back door open outside and a 'sad' looking dog on the footpath with his anxious looking owner standing by. As I watched a member of our Young Church appeared with a toilet roll and went to talk to her. The dog had apparently been sick in the back of the car. A funny thing to put in the newsletter, you may think, but will that lady forget that kind incident? – I doubt it. There are more ways to show our Christian beliefs than 'knocking on doors' – from one who would find it hard to do!



"Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me for Christmas," little Chris Cody said to his uncle the first time he saw him after the holidays. "It's the best present I ever got."

That's great," said his uncle. "Do you know how to play it?"

" Oh, I don't play it," the little fellow said. "My mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night."



In loving memory of Vikki (Victoria)

13/09/1976 – 5 /11/2024

A Tribute by Dianne, Vikki's younger



Vikki was born with severe learning disabilities after a difficult childbirth where Vikki was starved of oxygen. Due to her learning difficulties, Vikki had multiple health issues including heart issues, epilepsy and chronic kidney disease. Vikki had reduced mobility and a limited vocabulary, only being able to say approx. 20 words/sounds, but would use Mackaton sign language or point to communicate what she wanted.... which was usually something tasty in the fridge!

Vikki attended Hillside Special School in Rastrick until she was 11 years old, moving to Ravenscliffe High Special School in Halifax until she was 19 years of age. Vikki was always a Daddy's girl, but whenever she was poorly she always wanted her Mummy. Vikki and Dianne had a close sister bond always. From an early age, Dianne felt a responsibility towards her sister. Despite Dianne being younger – she always referred to Vikki as her big / little sister, and became like a second Mum to Vikki later in life. Dianne recalls a lot of their childhood was spent in hospitals due to Vikki's ill health. Holidays were often cancelled and big events like Christmas would often be spent in hospital as the excitement (amongst other things) often brought on Vikki's seizures. Despite this, they had a happy childhood, they spent family days at the seaside, going to Galas and theme parks like Flamingo Land and Alton Towers. They went on holidays for the first 5-7 years of their lives to Blackpool, and then went on holidays abroad every year, even as young adults, they went as a family to the Canaries over Christmas.

As a young adult Vikki attended the Lower Edge Day Centre in Rastrick. She lived at the family home and moved into supported living at Lydgate in Northowram when Christine's health deteriorated further. Vikki settled really well and lived with carers and the other 4 other residents including her lifelong best friend, Angela. Ian, Christine and Dianne would see Vikki

every week, and take her back to the family home or take her out . And later when Dianne met Ben, he too would see Vikki and in October 2023, Vikki become an Aunty to Melani – Dianne and Ben’s daughter. Melani was really good with Vikki and would help Vikki with stickerbooks and jigsaws.

Vikki was a big personality – happy, smiling, laughing with a real zest for life. She loved going out with family and carers – eating out / bowling / cinema / theatre / parties – she loved music. She was affectionate and very loving. She loved people and loved attention! She loved looking through her books and photobooks, playing with toys – the noisier the better, and had an assortment of cuddly toys – her favourite being Orville, Sooty and Sweep and Mickey Mouse.

Anybody who knows Vikki would know how determined, stubborn and fiercely resilient she could be throughout her entire life. Defying the odds when medical professionals said she would never walk and that she wouldn’t live beyond being a teenager! Vikki learnt to walk at 15 years old, and she fought multiple health issues/complications right until the end of her life at 48 years old. She was very physically strong considering how tiny she was, even when she was very poorly, she still held her own! Vikki had a cheeky, mischievous side to her. She found it funny to tease Dianne when Dianne was a baby and would pinch Dianne’s dummy until she cried then give it back,

Sadly, a spiral of events severely impacted Vikki. Starting in 2012 when Vikki had a routine procedure but it went wrong. Vikki had to be resuscitated twice and was in Intensive Care for a number of weeks. This left Vikki anxious and traumatised, very frightened of hospitals and anything medical. Another hospital admittance a couple of years later for a severe kidney infection didn't help matters, and again in 2018 when a routine blood test showed that her kidney function was less than 10%, and Vikki was placed in palliative care. Then Covid hit, and the Lydgate home, and Vikki being highly vulnerable, had to shield for many months, and was not able to see her family during this time. This was extremely hard on all of them, but

particularly Vikki who did not understand why she could not see her family. Then Vikki and Dianne lost both their parents in 2022, and again Vikki did not understand why they had disappeared. The accumulation of trauma/ grief/ill-health had a significant impact on Vikki, it changed her. She sadly lost her spark, her behaviour changed, she lost her confidence and became introverted – not wanting to socialise and go to the places she once loved.

Even despite this, Vikki didn’t give up, she continued to fight. Vikki's prognosis in 2018 was she was likely to only survive between 2 months and 2 years, but Vikki fought it for nearly 7 years! On 5th October this year, Vikki was admitted into hospital with sepsis, internal bleeding and minimum kidney function. Vikki died one month later on 5th November at the Lydgate home, with Dianne at her side, and with the people she loved and cared for the most.

Vikki will always be remembered for her infectious and endearing personality - she left a mark on everyone she met. She will always be in our hearts.

Dianne and Ben have asked to give a special thanks to all those who have supported Vikki over the years, specifically the carers at Lifeways, who looked after Vikki for many years, right until the very end.



**The funeral is at Upper Edge Baptist Church
on Tuesday 3rd December at 11.45am**



May we remember especially those for whom Christmas can be a time of great sadness for those who have lost loved ones especially those who have recently been bereaved.



WORDS TO PONDER

When a great moment knocks on the door of your life, it is often no louder than the beating of your heart, and it is very easy to miss it. Boris Pasternak

Probably most famous for his novel "Doctor Zhivago", Boris Pasternak was also a poet, composer, and literary translator. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature 1958, but was forced to decline the prize by the communist party of the USSR. In 1989, Pasternak's son Yevgeny finally accepted the award on his father's behalf. A wait of over 30 years...

Waiting...

What is it that you are waiting for in your life? What are your hopes and expectations? If they arrive will you notice them or will they pass you by?

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. Isaiah 9: 2

The Prophet Isaiah spoke of the Messiah over 700 years before Jesus was born. For all those years the Jewish people waited for a redeeming Christ to appear.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace. Isaiah 9: 6

And yet, many still missed the moment and significance of Jesus' birth and ministry. All that time waiting and yet failing to hear that knock on the door. We can all be guilty of missing things can't we? Maybe of having a definite picture of what salvation will look like. Many at the time of Christ's birth were expecting a warrior, an avenger, a powerful political figure that would right

the wrongs of the world.

What they got was a man who demonstrated love, spoke of freedom from sin and encouraged them to look out for their neighbours (also pointing out that everyone is your neighbour). What they got was a man willing to die for them so that they could enjoy an everlasting life with God.

I believe that Jesus knocks on your door daily and that He waits patiently for you to hear the words that He speaks into your heart. As we draw closer to Christmas may you clearly hear the call from the risen Christ, the light that Isaiah spoke of almost 3000 years ago.



Christmas is a season of joy and good will, of singing and merriment and of generosity. Christmas is a season of sharing of sharing and love. Christmas is a season of concern for the needs of others, a season of the helping hand. And that's as it should be for there is great satisfaction in making others happy.

Salvation Army, The War Cry



A lady lost her handbag in the bustle of Christmas shopping. It was found by an honest little boy and returned to her. Looking in her purse, she commented, "Hmmm... That's funny. When I lost my bag there was a \$20 bill in it. Now there are twenty \$1 bills." The boy quickly replied, "That's right, lady. The last time I found a lady's purse, she didn't have any change for a reward."





The Greatest Christmas Carols Of All Time

O Holy Night
 Silent Night
 In the Bleak Mid-Winter
 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
 O Come All Ye Faithful
 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
 Coventry Carol
 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
 O Little Town of Bethlehem
 Once in Royal David's City



If you have a favourite carol you would like us all to sing please email treasurer@uebc.org.uk and if we haven't got the words and music already I will see that we have some copies made. There will be a few jokes and the usual story read. Families welcome.



Sunday 15th December at 6.30pm

Carol Singing

Led by Upper Edge Baptist Church



At The Rock Tavern Rastrick

Come and join us at this event. Everyone is welcome.

Support your local pub



So how many words did you get out of **ARMISTICE**
 Here are some words for you!

Did you get all these!?

4. acre came care cast cart case cast cite cram east emit iris item mace mare mast mate meat mice mist mite race rate ream rest rice rime rise rite same sari sate scam scar scat seam sear seat sect semi sire site star stem stir tame tare team tear term tier time tire tram trim tsar
5. arise artic aster astir caret caste cater crate cream crest crime icier irate micra mater merit miser mitre raise react remit scare scam sitar smart smear smite stair stare steam tamer timer trace trice tries
6. caster iciest master mastic metric mister racism racist satire scream stream
7. airtime mistier satiric smartie

*Congratulations to Dawn who found 69
 4 to 7 letter words*



NEXT challenge is to first find the 8 letter word and as many 4 to 7 letter words as you can from the clues below

CLUE One Meaning is:- connected to the Christmas season

Second meaning:- A moment of sudden and great revelation

Target: for total number of words 10 Good, 13 very Good, 16 Brilliant.

Answers in the next newsletter near the end of January



What do you get if you cross a fish and two elephants?

swimming trunks



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

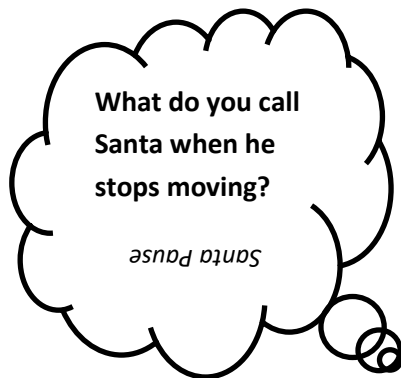
For Hire

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

Disabled access and toilet facilities

Prices from £30 per session

Contact 07814 762952 for more information



What do you call
Santa when he
stops moving?

Santa Pause

How can you get your name in
lights the world over?

*Change your name to
Emergency Exit!*



Christmas Concert for Overgate Hospice

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

Wednesday December 11th 2024

at 7pm



Featuring



Rastrick High School Choir Groups

Director - **Charles Rhodes**

Also **The Overgate Hi-notes** and
Paul Whittaker's Signing Choir



A collection will be taken during the concert for
the work of Overgate Hospice



Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served at the end in
the Community Hall downstairs



UPPER EDGE BAPTIST CHURCH Dewsbury Road, Rastrick, HD6 3QD

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