



Otley Parish Church

Who are we?

Otley Parish Church is the oldest building in Otley. It's at the heart of our town and, for over 1,000 years, people have been gathering here for worship, with significant family as well as community events.

We are a gathering place for pilgrims on a journey of discovery, kindling hope as we go, and helping one another to be more fully alive to the wonders, the joys and the sorrows of life. We'd love you to share the journey with us.

We want to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to Christ, and in service to our local community.

Join us in worshipping our God together on Sundays and in daily life; be with us as we study and discern how to use the Bible in the 21st century; also learn with us what it is to be disciples in the 21st century following Jesus, and help us, with other churches in the town, to bring good news to Otley and far beyond.

"There is a place for everyone, with Christ at the centre of it all."

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Letter from Kevin Keefe, Churchwarden at Otley Parish Church



OST people like springtime with more daylight, and things warming up a bit. Also, plants and trees coming into flower, birds nesting and signs of new life all around us. We worship the God who made everything as we marvel at the awesome handiwork of his creation which surrounds us.

In recent months we have celebrated Christmas - Christ's birth in human form - and Easter -Christ's death for us on the cross, his victory over death and his rising to new life. It's right that we celebrate these special festivals that mark the key moments in what we believe, and cause us to remember again the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us all. Each of us hearing this good news message has the opportunity to invite Jesus into our lives as our personal Saviour and to live in his presence in the eternal Kingdom of God. How amazing is that?

But, as if that's not enough, of course it doesn't end there. For while we exist in God's presence now, we won't enter the fullness of God's heavenly Kingdom until Jesus comes again. Then there will be a new heaven and a new earth and the cares, worries and pains of this world will be gone as we move into the full presence of God. (Revelation 21:1-4).

In a few more weeks we shall be celebrating Pentecost when, as Jesus promised (John 14:26), God sent his Holy Spirit to empower his followers: "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place... They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 2).

And even more than this, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be with us forever (John14:16).

So while we are in this interim period between the first and second coming of Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us through the storms and troubles of life. He enters our hearts when we invite Jesus in to be our personal Saviour. Over time, however, the things of this world can gradually crowd in on us and push God's Spirit into the background and we can find that we suddenly arrive at Pentecost again and we are talking about Holy Spirit things. But the Holy Spirit is for the whole of life, for now, for today. We don't have to wait for the once-a-year celebration to revisit the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives; we can ask Him in to refill, refresh and renew us now.

Throughout this last year or so,

Aaron Kennedy has led us through a course of studies looking at how we can experience the transformative power of Jesus Christ through developing intentional habits and spiritual disciplines creating a personal rule of life. For many members of Otley Parish Church this will be something already aspired to for many years - parts of what we have been studying will have become second nature. But hopefully, we have all been given much to think about and put into practice as we try to deepen our relationship with God and walk more closely with Him - giving greater opportunity to hear what He has to say to us and His response to the concerns of our hearts. We want to grow in us the fruits of the Spirit and receive the gifts of the Spirit so that we can be a blessing to others, helping minister towards healing and wholeness, seeking life in all its fullness in the now and not yet, arousing interest and spreading Light in the darkness.

So, we aspire to each to be changed as much as those gathered at that first Pentecost, so that we can indeed, like them, "arise as Christ's church in the power of the Holy Spirit".

FROM THE EDITOR

THE editing of our church magazine has changed a lot over the years, and our editors have changed too. In this day and age nothing, of course, stands still for long!

I've now been editor for seven years and over this time have introduced new article features, new layouts and designs. No doubt further new features and layouts will continue to appear. When I took over as editor in 2017, we simply had a 'church magazine' which I then decided to call it In Touch as it's a means of keeping in touch with you all, and you keeping in touch with us all. That's one thing which has never changed – it is our need to hear from you and to receive your contributions.

Some of our most current popular features include, 'In the Hot Seat', 'Devotional Thoughts' and 'My Favourite Bible Verse'. We would love you to contribute to one of these features. But there are lots of other things you could write about. From time to time, we've had articles called, 'A Day in the Life of...' and 'God's Wonderful Creation'. Or, how about you writing a poem or a prayer? Another of our popular features is 'Family News' about your birthdays, anniversaries, special happenings... Maybe you've got thoughts for some new In Touch features? Please do get in touch.

Yes, I would love you to get in touch if you've got suggestions or would like to contribute in some way. There are guidelines for each of our regular features so it would be best to ask for these first before putting pen to paper – or the more modern equivalent!



Stephen Hey stephenhey01@gmail.com

What's Your Favourite Bible Verse?

MY FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE IS Matthew 25:40 (NIV), and it reads:

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Trying to choose just one passage from the Bible is a mammoth task, for there are so many passages that speak to us in today's climate. This passage taken from part of the "The Sheep and the Goats" passage in Matthew is Jesus' parable in how we can serve. It has always spoken very powerfully to me. I firmly believe as Christians, we should follow Jesus' example of being a servant on his behalf to create a more compassionate society by serving others. We are fortunate in Otley living in such a beautiful place, but in our community, there are those who struggle everyday with mental and physical health issues, economic constraints, homelessness, addiction or just generally finding life difficult. These are the people we serve. In the process of serving, we can take the Christian message out into our community.

- Margaret Turner





with

Michael Dodd

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Wolverhampton in the West Midlands in 1969. But I spent the first 6 years of my life in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, where my father was working. In 1975 we moved back to Nottinghamshire. We settled in a village called Farnsfield and I attended the Minster School in Southwell up to going to university.

When did you become a Christian?

I sang in the choir at St Michael's in Farnsfield, but my active Christian faith began at school in the 6th Form and in the Christian Union at university.

Which university did you go to?

I attended the University of Essex and completed a degree in Economics. Following university, I moved to Leeds and worked in various roles at KPMG (a provider of professional services), Yorkshire Building Society and York Consulting. I spent many years working as an economic consultant before retraining as a maths teacher.

When and where did you meet your wife, Georgina?

Georgina and I have known each other for many years, and we attended the same church in the 1990s. We reconnected in late 2021/early 2022 and got engaged overlooking Iona Abbey in August 2022. We got married at Otley Parish Church on 5th August 2023.

Why did you choose to live in Otley?

Georgina converted me to the delights of Otley, and we now live in Carlton Street.

Do you have any children from your previous marriage?

I have two sons, Caleb (24) and Ethan (22). Caleb is

teaching in Leeds and Ethan is a management consultant in London. I have a twin sister who lives in Starbeck, Harrogate, and a younger sister who lives in Highbury, London.

How long have you been coming to Otley Parish Church?

I have been attending OPC since February 2022 and I also have strong links with Leeds Vineyard church in Headingley. I like hymns due to my Anglican roots but also enjoy contemporary worship.

What is your occupation and where do you work?

At the moment I split my time between managing my rental property in Leeds, and maths tutoring. In June this year I will start working as the CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Centre Manager for Wharfedale & Aireborough.

Do you have a favourite verse of Scripture? If so, what is it?

My two favourite scriptures are Romans 12 v. 1 & 2

which speaks about spiritual transformation, and Micah 6 v. 8, which provides a guide for life. Although not Scripture, I'm also influenced by the Christian writer Brennan Manning and his book "Furious Longing" which talks of God's desire to have an intimate, close relationship with us. I have the tattoo!

Do you like music of any kind?

I am a big music fan and a Swiftie! We like going to see live gigs at the Brudenell Social Club in Leeds or The Piece Hall in Halifax.

What would be your favourite meal – 2 or even 3 courses?

We cook curries at home so a daal with a naan would work. If we go out, we like Emporio Italia in Ilkley for lobster ravioli, and grandma's baked custard tart.

Do you have favourite parts of the country where you like to visit?

Georgina is Scottish, and we had a break in North Berwick last October. We spent Christmas at Georgina's parents near Loch Lomond and visited Georgina's sister and her family in Aberdeen this past Easter. We also like visiting Settle in the Yorkshire Dales and Northumberland.

Do you have any pets at home?

We recently got a 4-monthold rescue puppy (Vizsla Cross) whom we've called Angus. He's keeping us very busy!

If you were to spend a whole year on a desert island on your own, what luxury would you take with you?

One luxury on a desert island would be something or anything that plays music!

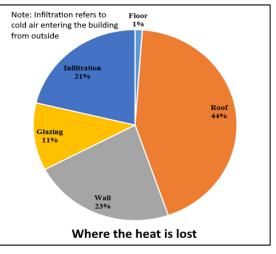
Which one word best describes your life right now?

One word that sums up my life at the moment is 'blessed'.

CARBON NET ZERO Our Church Heat Loss & Solutions



The Carbon Net Zero group has been able to calculate the likely areas of heat loss from our Church building, from data gathered by the churchwardens in the 40 days before Christmas 2022. This is combined with the 3D model of the Church courtesy of Apollo 3D, as shown in this pie chart which indicates that



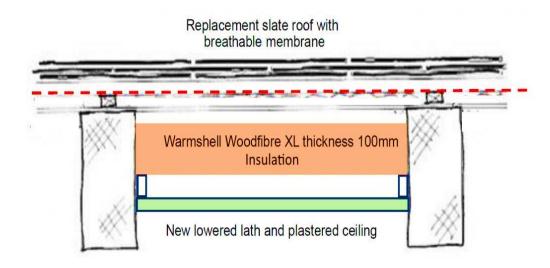
by insulating the roof we could bring significant benefits.

We are very grateful to Otley 2030 for putting us in contact with Dr Eric Peterson who has provided thermal imaging inside the church to help identify specific points of heat loss and infiltration.



This thermal image shows the large temperature difference between the lower walls and the very cold roof (dark colours) on a frosty day. The north transept (lower down in the photo and just left of centre) is also shown as a significant cold spot in the church.

The nave and aisle roofs which were installed in 1867 (at a cost of £347) are now in a poor state and require replacement. The considerable cost of this is well beyond the current finances available. In principle the PCC accepts that the sensible way forward is to use the opportunity of roof replacement (and potentially the ceiling) in the main part of the church building to incorporate insulation to reduce our carbon footprint significantly. The PCC has supported the cost of an initial survey into the state of the roof. The church architect inspected the nave and transept roofs in February 2024 and has suggested how insulation could be fitted between the existing roof beams, as illustrated here:



We think we know now how to move towards Carbon Net Zero, but we will need to raise a large amount of money to do so, and this is where you may be able to join in.

Do you have experience/knowledge/skills in fundraising and would like to help? If so, please speak with or email:

Norman Barr

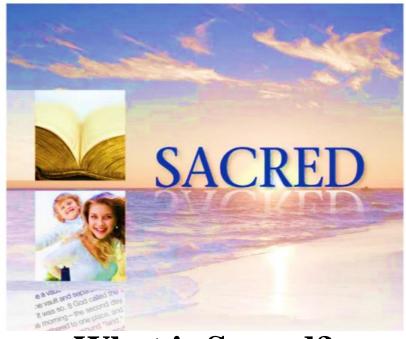
otleybarrs@googlemail.com

or

Tricia Auty

autytdkm@yahoo.co.uk

You would be supported by the Carbon Net Zero Group and the Church Treasurer. None of us can do God's work alone.



What is Sacred?

SACRED stands for 'simply a chapter read each day', and it does what it says on the tin! One chapter of the Bible is read every day each month.

SACRED is a Companion to the Bible. It is a 6-volume book covering the entire Bible, written by Revd. Phil Moon, a member of Otley Parish Church. Each day there is a page of accompanying notes. These notes offer explanations, anecdotes and stories as well as some life application ideas that are helpful for personal or group reflection.

The main objective is to immerse yourself in God's word, and see what he might be saying to you through it. The notes are a companion to the Bible to facilitate this rather than a detailed or definitive commentary on it.

The following page here in In Touch is an example of how you can begin to immerse yourself in God's word. SACRED is available free of charge online at: www.sacredbiblestudy.com/books/Sacred-1/index.html A man had been marooned on a desert island for 20 years. At last, a ship came to his rescue. Just as he was about to leave, he said to the crew,

"Look, I've been here a long time. I need to say goodbye to the three buildings I made with my own bare hands. They meant such a lot to me."

He turned to the first one. "This was my home," he said. "It was where I ate and drank and slept. Goodbye, home."

He then turned to the second one. "And this was my church, where I worshipped and prayed to God. Goodbye, church."

Then he turned to the crew again and said, "OK, let's go."

"But what about that third building?" they asked. "You haven't said goodbye to it yet. What did you do there?"

"Oh that," he replied dismissively, "That was the church I used to go to!"

We can be a fickle lot. We seem to find it easier to criticise our church for the few things that we don't like, rather than be thankful for the many that we do - even to the point of 'church hopping' in pursuit of that elusive, ideal place of worship.

Alas, this is nothing new. The extraordinary events of chapter 1 continue at the start of chapter 2 with the healing of the paralysed man. Notice the role of the four friends in bringing him to the feet of Jesus, overcoming the obstructions that stood in their way. It's an example, surely, to us all. However, Jesus soon finds himself in the midst of conflict. The authorities are not happy! They criticise Jesus for blaspheming (v.7), for eating with 'tax collectors and sinners' (v.16), for not requiring his disciples to fast (v.18) and for their acting 'unlawfully' on the Sabbath by picking some ears of corn to eat (v.24). It all seems so sad.

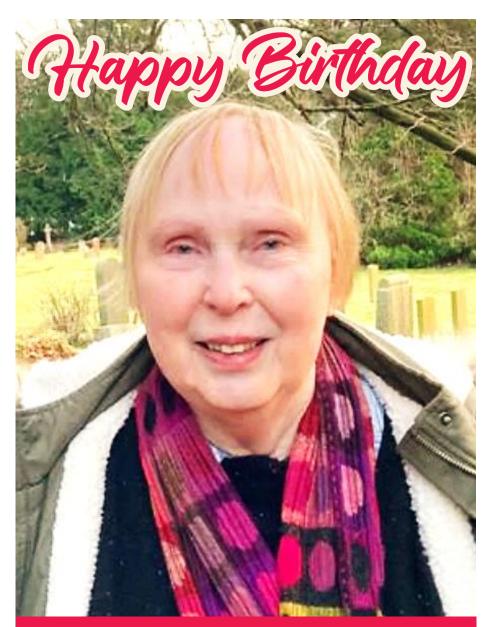
Again, it's something for us to learn from. We need to be on our guard lest *we* lose sight of the amazing things Jesus has done and become caught up in negativity and criticism.

Otley Parish Church



RAY DUNN

celebrated his 90th birthday on 1st March 2024. He was born in 1934 at Leeds Maternity Hospital, Hyde Terrace, Leeds. Ray was a former Mayor of Otley 1995-1996.



GISELA MOULDS

celebrated her 80th birthday on 3rd April 2024.

She was born in 1944 in Pillkallen, a village near Königsberg (now Kaliningrad) in East Prussia, then part of Germany, but now an annexe of Russia.



JO BRISCOE

OVER the last few years I have been studying weaving and textiles and I completed a part time Foundation degree last summer, alongside my day job as a nurse in a GP surgery.

If you saw the March edition of In Touch you may have seen the advert for the 'Ones to Watch' exhibition at Sunny Bank Mills in Farsley, Leeds. I am enormously grateful to have been chosen for this prestigious arts exhibition by Yorkshire arts graduates.

Almost every year we have a family holiday on the North West coast of Scotland, and in 2022 I canoed on the sea of Loch Ewe for the first time. The weather was superb! Not always the case, of course, up there! On one particular day I recorded some short videos from the canoe. First, I noticed the things immediately visible – the stunning view, the sun shining on the surface of the water, the ripples and eddies. Then, I started looking at the things not immediately seen – the seaweed swaying in the current, the rocks covered in barnacles, the shadows of the ripples cast on the sandy sea bed. To say I was filled with awe and wonder at God's creation would be an understatement. How amazing the detail and beauty of things not normally visible except to the fish... and to me that day in my canoe! I knew straight away that this would be the inspiration for my final collection of work for my degree.

I nearly didn't enter my work for the exhibition. The day before the closing date I still hadn't done the application form but couldn't get 'Ones to Watch' out of my head. I grudgingly knuckled down and got it done. Only after I had pressed 'send' did I realise it was God prompting me. Sometimes we hear His still small voice, sometimes we (I) need a poke with a sharp stick!

My art installation has 4 layers. I have tried to explore the depths of the sea, from the darker depths where the sunlight barely touches, to the surface of ripples and reflections. The top layer is woven with monofilament or fishing line to create surface ripples and gives a feeling of the transparency of the water. The hand-dyed silk layer creates movement as with the trails of seaweed swaying backwards and forwards with the tide. The blue layers are hand woven, and hand-dyed using a Japanese weaving & dyeing technique. The seabed layer is another hand-dyed layer showing the light playing through the ripples.



Morning sunshine at Loch Ewe, with the mountains of An Teallach and Slioch in the distance



'Awe and Wonder' Ones to Watch exhibition t Sunny Bank Mills

Looking down through the layers, the sun casting shadows, like through the sea

The "Ones to Watch" exhibition at Sunny Bank Mills, Farsley continues until Sunday 21st April

https://www.sunnybankmills.co.uk/ones-to-watch-2024

You can scan the QR code to watch the videos that I filmed which form the basis of the inspiration for this project.



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS JONATHAN JOSLIN

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. Romans 8:18-21 (NIV)

A Spring Restoration

I find that the early part of the new year can be a little bleak, with the excitement of Christmas behind you, and only the cold and dark days left to contend with. It is easy to get downhearted. But those days do pass. The emergence of green shoots of snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils herald the arrival of something better and my hope rises. As the sun gets higher, and the days get warmer, winter fades away and spring emerges. Spring is a renewal which plays out every year, but Romans 8:18-21 speaks of an everlasting restoration for a creation currently "subject to frustration". With much in our lives, and in the world, which can overwhelm us with a sense of purposelessness and despair, the knowledge that God will bring restoration to his creation allows us to better bear the brokenness we see and experience. God's goodness will prevail, and all creation will be redeemed by his mercy.

The call on our lives though is not just to wait passively for that day of restoration but to be a part of seeing that new creation expressed. We are to be active participants in the process of restoration. As we do so, we show something to those around us of the hope that we have in God's goodness being fully expressed in all creation.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, set in us the hope of your restoration. We thank you that you have restored our relationship with you, through the sacrifice of Jesus, and now we look forward to the restoration that you will bring to all of your creation. Use our lives as a witness of the hope of your restoration to the world around us. Fill us with faith to believe that what seems lost can be found, what is broken can be mended, and what is withered can bloom again. Amen.







Lilian Ackroyd Ann Anderson **Fred Asquith Janet Asquith Mary Asquith** Sarah Asquith **Tom Asquith Geoffrey Auty** Mari Biss **Ronald Biss** Esther Brown **Harry Brown** Sarah Brown Harry Buckley **Eva Cheetham** John Cheetham **Canon John Clayton** Louis Clayton

George Cooper Mary Coultas Freda Dennis Hans Drebes Friedchen Ekkenga **Evelyn Ellis Cecily Mary Erwin** Leonard Armstrong Erwin **David Hardie** Keith Harrison **Ruth Harrison Margaret Henson Stanley Hopkins** Fred Hudson **Joyce Hudson** Martin Jew Dora Johnson Ella Kramer

Gerda Kramer Larry Lazarus Nora Leah Tim Leah Adams Mike Lenderyou Amy Marston Ivy Morgan Arthur Moulds William Mudd Adrian Normanton George Normanton Winnie Normanton Karen O'Hara John Parkin Chris Renshaw David Robertson Jean Sallabank Gladys Schofield Harold Simpson Chris Stone Anne Stringer Mavis Walker Betty Waye Douglas Waye Kathleen Whitley Bob Wilson



Thank you to all those who made kind and generous donations towards the cost of our Easter flowers this year. Many of the donations were made in memory of loved ones whose names are listed above.

ACTIVATE Lively / Informal / Reflective

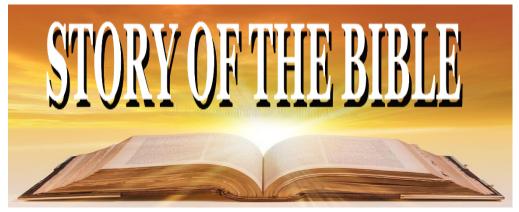
Activate News!

Thank you to all who responded to our recent Activate survey!

As a result of your comments and suggestions we've made some changes which we hope will make Activate a valuable time of worship for as many people as possible in Otley and beyond.

We have pushed the start time back to 6pm to give everyone more space in the afternoon, but still not running too late for those with children. We will not be specifically planning activities with young children in mind, but all ages are still very welcome to join us for what remains a more informal and contemporary time of worship - and of course, with pizza afterwards!

The next Activate will be on Sunday June 2nd at the new time of 6pm. We hope to see you there!



Body of Christ

Out of all the billions of people in the world, no two people have the same fingerprints. Each one of us is unique, and that uniqueness is far more than skin deep: our minds and hearts are even more varied. But God called us together into churches, and into his one great worldwide family: as different as we are, we're united in Christ.

There's a saying in English that 'blood is thicker than water'. It means that our family relationships are more important than anything else. In the Church, God turns that on its head: the water of baptism is thicker than blood. We share something with a fellow-believer that we don't share with our closest unbelieving relative, even though they might speak a different language, live on the other side of the world and have nothing else in common with us at all.

In <u>1 Corinthians 12</u>, Paul compares the Church to a body, with feet, ears and eyes. If our foot hurts, it's personal – it doesn't matter which part of the body suffers, 'I' suffer. We all need each together and we all belong together.

And the body also has a head, which is Christ. 'God put all things under Christ's feet, and gave him to the Church as supreme Lord over all things,' says Paul to the <u>Ephesians (1.22, GNB)</u>. The gospel means that we have to learn together in harmony, as the parts of the body work harmoniously together – but it also means we're under the authority of our head. Jesus is Lord of our lives and in the Church.





Lesley Noble often walks and prays in the peace and tranquillity of the gardens at Parcevall Hall. This is the retreat house and conference centre of the Diocese of Leeds near Appletreewick in Wharfedale.

Prayer Walking is just what it sounds like – praying to God while walking around. Instead of closing our eyes and bowing our heads, we keep our eyes open to see both the beauty and the needs around us. We lift our hearts to praise God and bow our hearts to ask Him to humbly intervene with the various needs.

More of Lesley's prayer walk prayers will feature in future editions of In Touch.

Lesley's Prayer Walk Prayer – 8

Holy Lord, following the path of faith is not always easy. We must also be flexible as in the swaying branches. We pray Lord that we would anchor ourselves in you like the roots of the tree in the ground. May we have the faith to see past the nettles and thorns of life, to reach out and hold the flowers. I am aware that with you the breeze is gentle, and the clouds reveal their silver lining. The sapling is showing its strength. May our children grow strong and bold as the young tree, with love for you. Amen



OTLEY PARISH CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL

Sunday 7th	10.30am	Service of the Word Sunday Club (KS1, KS2 and pre-schoolers)
Sunday 14th	10.30am	Confirmation Service with Holy Communion Sunday Club (KS1, KS2 and pre-schoolers) OPC Youth Group (Yr7 and upwards)
Sunday 21st	8.30am	Holy Communion This monthly service of Holy Communion is based on Common Worship, with a short talk and no hymns
	10.30am	All-age Service of the Word
Sunday 28th	10.30am	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Sunday Club (KS1, KS2 and pre-schoolers) OPC Youth Group (Yr7 and upwards)

OUR MID-WEEK SERVICES IN APRIL		
Every Tuesday	11.00am	Holy Communion A short service with no hymns
Every Monday to Thursday from 15th	4.30pm	Evening Prayer There will be a variety of approaches to prayer; also, a reflection on a Bible passage. There will also be time for silence and to pray for others.

Use this link below to take you to our services on YouTube: www.youtube.com/@OtleyParishChurch



We would love you to keep in touch and tell us what you would like to see in YOUR monthly Church magazine.

Yes, it is yours!

Please send us your suggestions as to how we can make **In Touch** even better than it is already. And let us know if you would like to contribute something.

What about "In the Hot Seat", or "A Day in the Life of..." or "My Favourite Bible Verse"? Maybe you'd like to write a poem or a prayer or something in our new series about **"God's Wonderful Creation"**?

We would also love to hear your family news such as birthdays and anniversaries or anything interesting; also, to see some of your family photographs.

Whatever you would like to share with us please bear in mind that for it to be included in next month's In TOUCH we must hear from you as below:

Keep in Touch

We would love you to keep in touch and tell us what you'd like to see in *your* monthly Church magazine. If you've got something you would like to share with us in the May edition of In Touch, please send it to our editor, stephenhey01@gmail.com

no later than

Saturday 20th April



Kirkgate • Otley • West Yorkshire • LS21 3HW Vicar: Revd. Aaron Kennedy **Registered Charity Number: 1153498**

> CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR Sarah McCormack

CHURCH OFFICE "The Chestnuts", Burras Lane, Otley LS21 3HS

OFFICE HOURS Tuesday - Thursday, 9.30am - 3.00pm

> TELEPHONE 01943 465927

EMAIL info@otleyparishchurch.org

CHURCH WEBSITE

www.otleyparishchurch.org see our website for details of Church services and a link to our streamed services on YouTube.

FACEBOOK & TWITTER (X) @otleyparishchurch @otlevallsaints

CHURCH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Sort code: Account No.

Account name: Parochial Church Council of Otley 20-37-13 10088811

Gift Aid: if you are a tax payer, please consider signing a Gift Aid declaration, available on the Church website or from the Treasurer, Tony Pike.

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CHURCH MUSIC

Choir & Band

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