

IN TOUCH

JULY/AUGUST 2024

£1 or donation



Otley Parish
CHURCH



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 Aaron Kennedy, Vicar at Otley Parish Church



Dear Friends...

As I write this, football's European Championships are well underway followed by a series of exciting weekends of international rugby union tests await (Ireland of course looking strong as world No. 2 - just saying!) and topped off beautifully by the Olympics later in July and August.

Our dear brother in Christ, Ray Dunn, died this week and I can't help making the connection between this fine gentleman, who was himself a serious football fan, and the life we are all called to live by God through his son Jesus. As anyone who knew Ray - even just a little - would know he was a man full

of faith and the Holy Spirit; who exuded joy, contentment and confidence - and he finished his race well.

There are three things that Ray or any Christian has in common with a professional athlete, and one really big difference. Let's look at each in turn:

First, like an athlete, Christians need to know their **identity**. This isn't really a problem for athletes; they tend to have a firm grasp of who they are and who the name on the team sheet says they are. As Christians, however, it is possible to forget that our identity is in Christ. This is partly because God is invisible (we

lack the visual reminder), and because the enemy we face is not on the field of play, working within the rules, being refereed on the spot; rather he is also invisible, completely ruthless, utterly immoral, and a master deceiver, who will not be brought to heel finally until “full-time”.

So, we must routinely remind ourselves who we are: not our own, but bought and paid for by Christ; sons and daughters of God; holy, blameless and beyond reproach in God’s sight. I could go on - and we must daily settle ourselves in these truths, for our life flows from them.

The second commonality between Christians and athletes is that we are in **training**. Knowing who we are gives us our purpose and goal and so we live accordingly. If your goal as an athlete is to perform at the Euros, the Olympics, in international rugby, or whatever, you must act accordingly: eat well, sleep well, show up for training, discipline your bodies, be a good teammate, play to the best of your ability. Likewise, for us as Christians, when we know who we are, we act accordingly: as God’s beloved children, we love him back by obeying his commandments. When our

awareness of who we are slips, our behaviour will follow suit.

Which brings me to my third commonality: Christians and athletes are **focused** on a prize, or a goal. As an athlete that will be the next big competition; as Christians that must be the return of King Jesus (1 Peter 1.13). Any ultimate goal that falls short of this is a deception of the enemy. Let’s keep our eyes on the prize and not be disqualified!

The great difference Christians enjoy, as compared to the world of athletics, is that we have already been **accepted**, we are already more than conquerors. We can run our race safe in the knowledge that the outcome is secure. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice, the debt we owe is paid and our new identity as beloved children of God frees us to run our race with joy, confidence and contentment - just like our brother Ray.

I pray that you will enjoy the summer months, whether or not you are a sports fan, and that you run your race with the freedom of one who, because of Jesus and God’s great love, is already enough, is already loved, accepted, delighted in and cherished.

What's Your Favourite Bible Verse?

MY FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE IS Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

In my third year of secondary school, our headmaster (a former captain of the Welsh rugby team with tremendous natural authority) set us to learn the Sermon on the Mount by heart over the course of the year. It's only in recent years that I've begun to appreciate that this wasn't just something to keep us occupied - he sincerely believed that it was a passage which would help us in adult life.

These verses remind us that there is always more to discover with Jesus and although God has so much for us, we aren't just passive spectators. Everybody's life with God is different, but as time passes and we keep learning more and more, we discover just how much further we can go.

IAN CRAGG





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 – 11

Dear Lord, here I see some decay. It reminds me of the later years, and fears that may rise in our minds as we grow older. Yet death and life are intermingled, and we know there can't be one without the other. We lean on your promises Lord, that whoever loses his life for your sake, will find it, and all who believe and trust in you as Lord and saviour will be with you in your kingdom. You hold us Lord, as this young tree cradles its aged companion, you cradle us all our lives unto the death of our mortal bodies. Amen.

Otley Parish Church

FAMILY

news



RAY DUNN

seen here with his wife Marjorie

Ray very sadly died at home here in Otley in the early hours of Wednesday 26th June. He was 90 years old. He died full of faith, and was at peace with his family by his side.

Ray was born in 1934 at Leeds Maternity Hospital, Hyde Terrace, Leeds.

He was a former Mayor of Otley in 1995-1996.

Congratulations!



Richard and Barbara Bollard celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on 1st July. They were married in Bournemouth in 1961

Happy Birthday!



**Chris Huby celebrated his 70th birthday
on 13th May 2024.**

**He was born at St James's Hospital, Leeds in 1954.
Chris is seen here with his granddaughter Thea.**

Joseph's Baptism

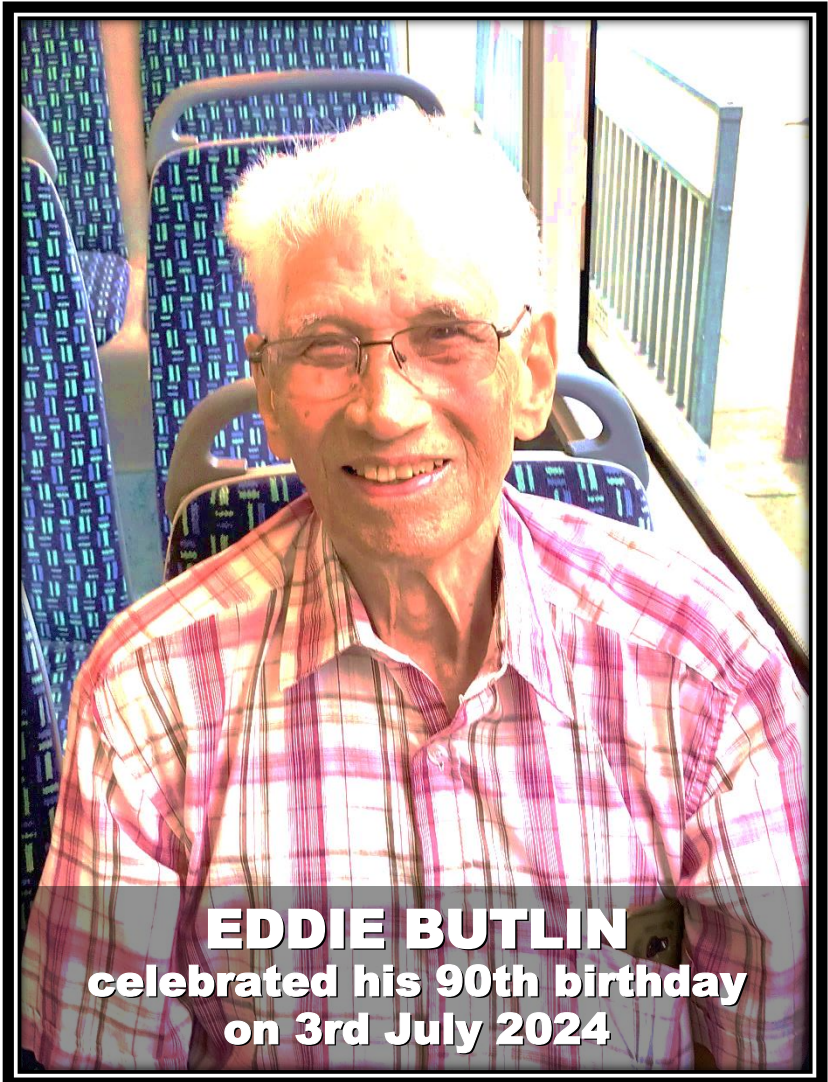


Joseph Craven (10 months old) was baptised by Aaron Kennedy on Sunday 2nd June. He is here with mum and dad, Alice and Sam, and his sister Esther (2 years old).

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



JOHN LEAH
celebrated his 85th birthday on
Saturday 8th June.
He was born in Leeds in 1939.





**Kate Auty and her fiancée Jai
are planning to be married at St Stephen's Church,
Dulwich in June 2025.
Kate is the daughter of Tricia and Dave Auty.**



**Eric Cairns busking in Otley Market Place
helping to support Christian Aid.
He raised a sum of £109.**

**Together with Kate Hobson's fundraising for
Christian Aid, a total of £1,064 was raised.**

Very well done, Eric and Kate!

10,000 ft Skydive



Naomi

Maia

Richard

Alex

Kelly

Saturday 15th June was the date set aside for the planned Skydive by Margaret Parkin's son, Richard, and his four daughters. Waking up to heavy rain didn't fill them with confidence but the weather turned for the better and they were all able to successfully complete the 10,000 feet jump. Richard said, "It was fantastic to make the jump with my four daughters, especially on Father's Day weekend, and we have raised nearly £4,000 for Parkinson's UK. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored us and if anyone else would like to help please have a word with my mum.



OTLEY CARNIVAL

SATURDAY 15th JUNE

Otley's Annual Carnival is a celebration of the local community - families, schools, businesses and local organisations - all coming together for an extravaganza of family friendly fun!

Carnival day this year was on the third Saturday in June, and started at 12.30pm with a parade of decorated walking and driven floats travelling through the centre of Otley. It was a very wet day!

Otley Parish Church took part in the parade, and here are some photos taken by Lesley Noble, John Simkins and Rusty Drewett.







IT turned out nice again for Otley carnival badger parade today - light rain for the parade and heavy rain on the showground. Maybe the osprey that I saw above Blubberhouses yesterday tea time had brought Scottish weather down with it!

Despite the weather there were thronging crowds, showing again Otley's community spirit. Our large Otley Parish Church



contingent carried three big banners, one supported by me as a yellow hiking bear. Our theme was "Who made the colours of the rainbow?" Mum came as a summer green witch with a flower headed garland. I was happy when three year old Grace said, "It's a bear". We marched behind a reggae steel band on a lorry and were greeted by mass crowds at the Church and elsewhere, where the Wildlife Friendly Otley wild flowers stood out.

Keith Wilson

CLASSIC CHURCH MISPRINTS



None, of course, from Otley Parish Church!

Due to the Vicar's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.

**Sunday morning sermon theme: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'.
Sunday evening sermon theme: 'Searching for Jesus'.**

Miss Charlene Mason sang, 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Next weekend's "Fasting & Prayer Conference in Whitby" includes all meals.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Ladies, please don't forget our Church rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands too.

This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across the road from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

Our Church Pot-luck Supper Sunday will be at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The Church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Please remember to put your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

A year in the life of the Smith family



WE can't believe it's been almost a year since we said goodbye to you all last summer. Zoe has completed her first year of training for the ordained ministry, and we're beginning to feel more settled into life in Cambridge, including learning to cycle everywhere. It's a good thing it's so flat but we really do miss the Chevin and hills in general! After such a speedy move and a packed three terms, the year has gone by in a flash, and we are looking forward to having a little space for rest and reflection over the summer.

Ridley is as wonderful as we'd hoped. As a family we join in weekly for worship, food, and lots of fun and friendships. We have each been loved and nurtured by the other students and families we've got to know and have really cherished being a part of that community and the way in which it has helped to form our faith for future ministry. Zoe is incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to study full-time and is making the most of it but also really values the college's emphasis on spiritual formation which runs alongside studying.

Martyn has been continuing to develop his art practice, with all the inspiration that Cambridge has to offer, and he's been involved in several projects within the network of Theological Colleges. He also went to Hutchmoot, a Christian arts retreat, which was a special experience and source of inspiration and support.

Anna and Ben have settled into the local primary school and made lots of new friends in our village. Elliot was given a place at a secondary school which is quite a considerable distance away and has not been ideal, but he has dealt with the journey admirably and thrown himself into lots of extra-curricular activities, including rowing! We have applied for a year 8 place in a church school, which would be much better for him, and we'd really value prayers for this.

Martyn and the kids have also been really warmly welcomed into the life of Milton Parish Church, and Zoe is looking forward to joining them on placement next year, having spent the last year in a different church in Cambridge.

We're planning to spend some time in Otley during the school holidays, so we'll hopefully get to see some of you. We miss you, pray for you often and have so loved hearing from people occasionally.

Sending you all our love,
Martyn, Zoe, Elliot, Anna and Ben

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS

COLIN HOPKINSON

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and be not wise in your own sight. Acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

(as quoted in Common Worship Morning Prayer)

**Acknowledge Him in all
your ways**

These verses “leapt out of the page” at me while I was trying to come to terms with the transition into retirement.

I might be tempted to “trust in my own wisdom” when I am confident in my own abilities. But when I feel inadequate and

believe I have nothing to offer it is the other side of the same coin. I still think it's down to me. God tells me to trust in Him totally in both situations, because actually it's down to Him!

“Acknowledge Him in ALL your ways” means ALL and not just the big or more obviously spiritual things. In fact, I think God wants us to start with the small everyday things (lost keys etc). Just get into the habit of engaging with God in the little, seemingly unimportant things, and it will come more naturally when it really matters.

God promises to “make straight our paths” but anyone who has walked in the Yorkshire Dales will know that the straight path up a hill is often not the easiest! Nor does it mean that God will necessarily give us what we want, but it will be His path and He will join us on it.

PRAYER

**Lord, help me to be in constant conversation with you and to trust in you moment by moment.
Amen.**



FRIDAY CAFÉ

summer closures



Many thanks to all our regulars and visitors who have supported the Friday Café throughout the year.

Also, special thanks to our teams of bakers and servers without whom the café would not exist to generate a steady financial input for our church.

We would like to invite any others who are willing to form a regular team for the 1st Friday in each month. If you would like to help, please contact Rosemarie on 07950 269262.

We are now approaching the summer break and want to advise you that the café will be **CLOSED** between Friday 26th July and 30th August.

We plan to **RE-OPEN** on Friday 6th September, and will look forward to welcoming you all back again then.

The Storms

© Emma Leigh
St James Church, Bermondsey

of Life

The storms rage:
We are lost
Like sheep gone astray.
But the Good Shepherd
Brings us back
To the fold.

The storms rage:
We are scared
And we seek refuge.
But the Lord shelters us
As mother hen
Shelters her chicks.

The storms rage:
We are tossed about
Like a ship at sea.
But God's guiding light
Steers us back
To safety.

The storms subside
And all is calm
Peaceful and serene.
No longer in fear
God brings us through
The storms of life.

Stewart Hartley at OPC received this poem from Emma because he knew her when he was vicar at her church in Bermondsey.



FOREST CHURCH

FUN ✿ WONDER ✿ WORSHIP

WELCOME ✿ FOOD

OUTSIDE FUN WITH A CREATION TWIST, SUITABLE
FOR ALL, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

FREE ENTRY! AND FREE FOOD!!!

SATURDAY 13TH JULY
AT 3.00PM

At the White House, Otley Chevin, LS21 3JL

For more details contact Cameron Stirk on 01943 463258

or via: thestirks@tiscali.co.uk

or on the day 07981 072277.

CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY 2024



A large number of the Otley Parish Church family gathered at The Hayes Conference centre in Derbyshire for the weekend of 21st to 23rd June. As a group of 81 adults and 27 children we enjoyed time getting to know each other better, sharing mealtimes, relaxing, joining in worship and learning together. It was a very lovely weekend.



Otley Parish Church Services in July

Each 10.30am service is live streamed to YouTube:

www.youtube.com@OtleyParishChurch

Sunday 7th	10.30am	Service of the Word Sunday Club (KS1, KS2 and pre-schoolers)
	6.00pm	ACTIVATE Lively, informal and reflective worship <i>(followed by pizza)</i>
Sunday 14th	10.30am	Sunday Worship 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
	10.30am	All-age Service of the Word
Sunday 28th	10.30am	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Sunday Club (KS1, KS2 and pre-schoolers)

Our Midweek Services in July

Every Tuesday	11.00am	Holy Communion A short service with no hymns
Every Monday to Thursday (except in school holidays)	4.30pm	Evening Prayer There will be a variety of approaches to prayer; also, a reflection on a Bible passage, and time for silence and to pray for others



Otley Parish Church Services in August

Each 10.30am service is live streamed to YouTube:
www.youtube.com@OtleyParishChurch

Sunday 4th	10.30am	Service of the Word Summer Special Club with stories, games and crafts for kids and youth
Sunday 11th	10.30am	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Summer Special Club with stories, games and crafts for kids and youth
Sunday 18th	10.30am	All-age Service of the Word
Sunday 25th	10.30am	Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Summer Special Club with stories, games and crafts for kids and youth

Our Midweek Services in August

Every Tuesday	11.00am	Holy Communion A short service with no hymns
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There will be no Evening Prayer during August

Keep in touch with...
IN TOUCH

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 September edition of In Touch, please send it to our editor,

stephenhey01@gmail.com

no later than

Saturday 17th August



Otley Parish CHURCH

Kirkgate • Otley • West Yorkshire • LS21 3HW

Vicar: Revd. Aaron Kennedy

Registered Charity Number: 1153498

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Sarah McCormack

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CHURCH WEBSITE

www.otleyparishchurch.org

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

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CHURCH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account name: Parochial Church Council of Otley

Sort code: 20-37-13

Account No. 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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