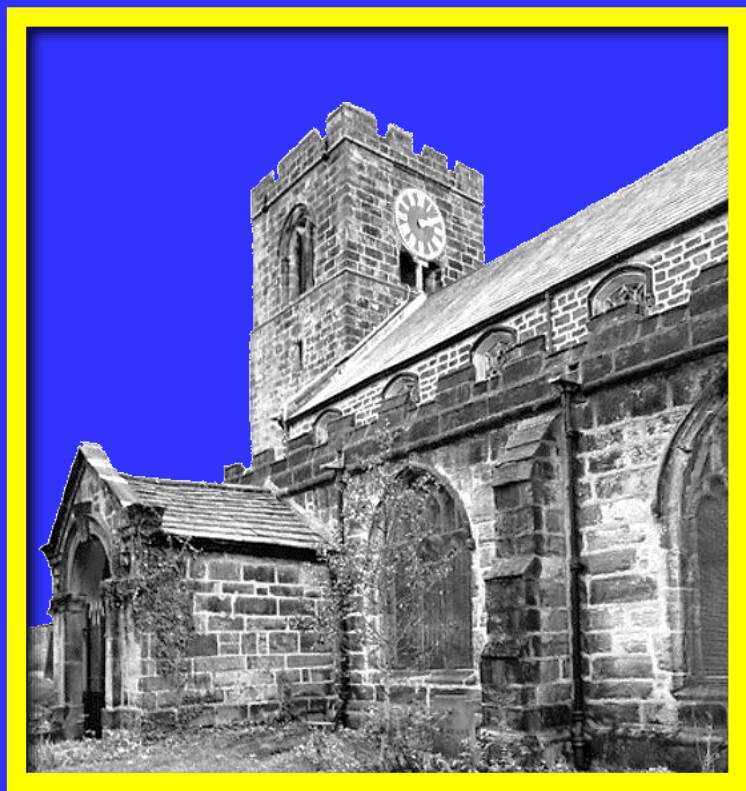


IN TOUCH

SEPTEMBER 2024

£1



Otley Parish
CHURCH



O**TLEY 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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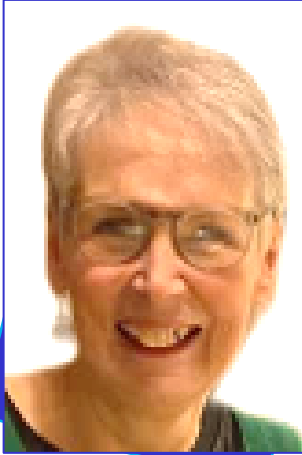
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OPC YOUTH – STANDING ON HIS LOVE

Katie Mayers

Dear Friends *Letter*



How was your Summer? Did you manage to get some rest and relaxation and enjoy some sunshine? Did you enjoy some time away from your normal activities to recharge? Or perhaps the interruption in normal routines during the holiday season left you with longer than usual days and less company. I know some have welcomed a new baby into their family, whilst others have experienced the pain of losing a loved one.

Now it is September, and we are on our way to Autumn. For younger families the main event is the start of a new term with transitions to new classes, meeting new teachers and maybe even new schools. You may have family members who are experiencing this. We have several members of our church family going to school for the very first time. Or for older ones it is the huge leap that is going to university. We hope that all these adjustments go well for all involved.

Although it's a while since I had a child at school, I still live life according to the "terms". September still feels like a new year to me. A chance to review what is ahead and consider what new things I wish to embark on, what old things I want to do better and

what things I need to let go. Judging by the brochures posted through our letterbox advertising day and evening classes I am not alone, as others seek new opportunities. I could learn to crochet or learn to paint with water colours or begin to learn Japanese. I won't be doing any of them!

If you, like me, have a new year feel and are considering new activities perhaps you might like to look closer to home. Do you have a friendly disposition, a ready smile and attend our morning service regularly. Well, we would love to have you as part of our Welcome and Hospitality team either as a welcomer or preparing and serving refreshments. Or how about offering to help with Sunday Club? There are "Teaching Assistant" roles available, so you don't need to lead, but be present as a supportive grown up. Or here is a vacancy many of us have the skills for - the cleaning team. You just need a basic level of fitness and a servant heart. Dusters and toilet cleaner are provided!

So, new term and new me! Except it's still the old me just wanting to do better and probably by day three realising I am failing already! Thank goodness for a chance to repent and start afresh every day. I am grateful to be following Jesus who loves me and knows my weaknesses and delights in lending me His strength. One area I am going to try to do better with is "Sacred", the daily bible reading scheme some of us are following. If like me, you have fallen behind over the summer then why not join me and jump back on board. Don't waste energy feeling like you have failed, just have another go and let's discover what God might be saying to us, both individually and as a Church in this new term. Speak Lord, for we are listening.

JACKIE HIRD

**Licensed Lay Minister
at Otley Parish Church**

IN THE **HOT** SEAT

with

Sylvia Johnson



Some of us know you quite well, Sylvia, and others of us may know you by sight but not really know much about you. Will you please answer a few questions that will help us all to get to know you better? *Thank you!*

When and where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Leeds in 1939 at the Maternity Hospital in Hyde Terrace, near Woodhouse Moor. I grew up in Meanwood and later in Burley, Leeds.

Where did you go to school?

I went to Brudenell Road Infants School in Hyde Park, then to St Michael's in Headingley. When I was about 10, I went to Hawskworth Secondary Modern in Guiseley.

When did you become a Christian?

I'd been attending Sunday

School since I was little, but committed myself to Christ while watching Billy Graham on television one day in 1954 at the age of 15.

When did you get married?

I married Harry in 1959 at Hawskworth Wood Methodist Church in Guiseley.

Unfortunately, he left me for someone else just 9 years later.

How many children and grandchildren do you have?

I have 2 children – Debbie (63) and Ian (61). Sadly, another son Andrew, died at birth in 1960.

I've got 5 grandchildren – Andrew, James, Joshua, Emily

and Calila, and 2 great-grandchildren – Anya (6) and Calie Rose (10 months).

Do you have any brothers and sisters?

I have a sister, Katherine (80), and had a brother Kenneth but he died in his 50s.

What was your occupation and where did you work?

I worked mostly in retail businesses, including shoe shops. Also, in Timothy Whites and Boots pharmacy and houseware stores. I helped to open the gramophone records department in Boots in Upper Briggate, Leeds.

Have you always lived in Otley? If not, where did you live previously and why did you choose to come to live here?

I was living in Pudsey in a 3-bedroom house. But I felt guilty about living in such a large house on my own, so my Mum suggested I move to Otley. She was already living here. So, I moved in October 2015 and went to live in Bennett Court Sheltered Housing on Weston Drive. After a few months I had to move out because the property was being refurbished, so temporarily moved to Union Court in Westgate. Then, I was back to

Bennett Court. However, Union Court was my preferred place of residence – much nearer shops and Waitrose – so I moved there, and that's where I still am today.

Did you worship anywhere before coming to Otley Parish Church?

When living in Pudsey, a small group of us bought a local school hall in Carlisle Road in 1974 and turned it into a worship centre – Fartown Christian Church. We sold it back last year.

How long have you been coming to OPC?

I started attending Otley Parish Church on a regular basis in 2018.

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

One of my favourite Bible verses is Revelation 3:20 – *Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*

Do you have a favourite Christian hymn or song?

The words of this hymn really stand out for me:

My goal is God Himself, not joy,
not peace,
Nor even blessing, but Himself,
my God;
'Tis His to lead me there – not

mine – but His,

At any cost, dear Lord, by any road. (*Redemption Hymnal*)

Do you like classical music?

Do you have a favourite piece?

Yes! One of my great favourites is “Finlandia” (Sibelius), but I also enjoy “Enigma Variations” (Elgar) and “Magnificat” (Bach).

Can you play a musical instrument?

Yes – a triangle!

Do you have a favourite part of Yorkshire that you like to visit?

I love the little village of Muker in The Yorkshire Dales near Hawes, where I regularly used to go with my parents.

Is there somewhere you would like to go on holiday where you’ve not been before, regardless of expense?

I would love to go to Petra in Jordan. I’ve read about it in “Steps of the Master” by H. V. Morton.

Is there a special book that you have enjoyed reading?

Yes! I very much enjoyed “Surprised by Joy” by C. S. Lewis. Also, “The Practice of the Presence of God” by Brother Lawrence

Do you have a hobby or something you enjoy doing to relax?

Way back in the olden days, I loved the card game Patience. I also loved doing jigsaws until my eyesight seriously deteriorated.

What would be your favourite meal?

Linguini with a seafood salad.

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

A Solar Panel and a Kindle so I can watch our Church services, and keep the Kindle well charged.

Anything else you’d like to tell us about your life, Sylvia?

After my son Andrew died at birth I went through some very difficult times and tried to take my own life on more than one occasion. Eventually, I went to see my doctor for help. I didn’t know it, but when I explained things to him, he told me that he and his wife were Christians and that they would pray for me. I experienced an amazing answer to prayer, with a lifesaving transformation!

Which one word best describes your life right now?

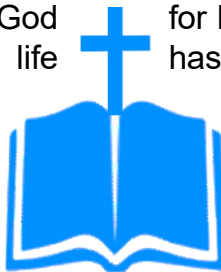
“Happy & Blessed”.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BIBLE Verse?

1 Corinthians 10:13 (GNB)

“Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out.”

I have found that when times of trouble come, I can always rely on God. He is my helper and my strength. Sometimes when life is hard, I've tried everything except asking God for help, even though this verse tells me it straight. My life has/will have both ups and downs, but having faith in God I do have someone walking beside me, holding my hand, and wiping away my tears. Sometimes I just don't realise it at the time because it was a friend being there for me, like friends so often are. It is only when you look back later you see that God was at work in that situation. I've also found over the years it doesn't say, 'you can go out looking for trouble, or do what you want without consequence'.



Kate Hobson

IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A *RETIRED* VICAR



But it did happen to me as a retired vicar – very recently!

It was Sunday afternoon at about 1.05pm on the 21st of July 2024, and I was queuing to come off the M1 at Junction 1 on the way to visit my daughter, Jude.

Whilst queuing, a dangerous driver smashed into me while being chased by the police. He spun my car around causing it to hit the motorway side barrier. The driver of the chased car then fled the scene on foot and police began a major search to find him. They also deployed a police helicopter over the Brent Cross area of North London.

My car was a complete write-off, but by the grace of God I was unhurt. But, of course, it was a huge shock.

Everyone was really wonderful. I can't thank the police enough. They were great, and even paid for a taxi to take me to Jude's!

As I reflected on the accident a few days later, I realised how much I was protected by our Heavenly Father. By the following Thursday I had a hire car and a very generous offer from NFU Mutual, my insurance company. The amount won't cover a new car but a good second hand one. So, the Lord's care hasn't just covered the accident but the aftercare as well!

My memory of that day is not painful. The sense of gratitude has made it fade into the far distance. Paul says in Romans that, "All things work for good for those who love the Lord". I am excited about the 'good' that will come from the first car accident I have ever had!



Stewart's completely written-off car!

- *The male driver was subsequently located and arrested on suspicion of failing to stop and of dangerous driving – he was taken to hospital as a precaution before being taken into police custody.*

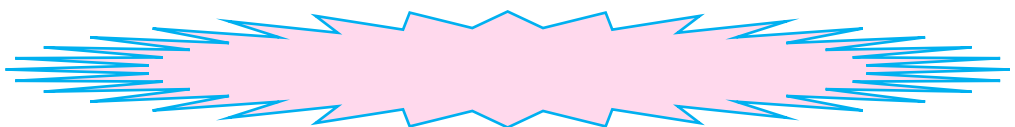


Sheila Simpson

Sheila celebrated her 98th birthday on 29th June 2024. She was born in Otley in 1926. Very sadly her husband, Harold, died last year on 24th October at the grand old age of 103. They were married in Guiseley on 23rd July 1949, 75 years ago!



Joshua Craven celebrated his first birthday on Saturday 27th July 2024. He is the son of Alice and Sam, and brother of Esther (2 years old).



Sybil celebrated her 3rd birthday at the beginning of August 2024. She is the daughter of Jane Leah-Adams and granddaughter of John Leah.

Happy Birthday Violet



Violet l'Anson, daughter of Sarah and Lee,
and sister of 5-year-old Johnny,
celebrated her 8th birthday on 29th July 2024

happy **75** birthday

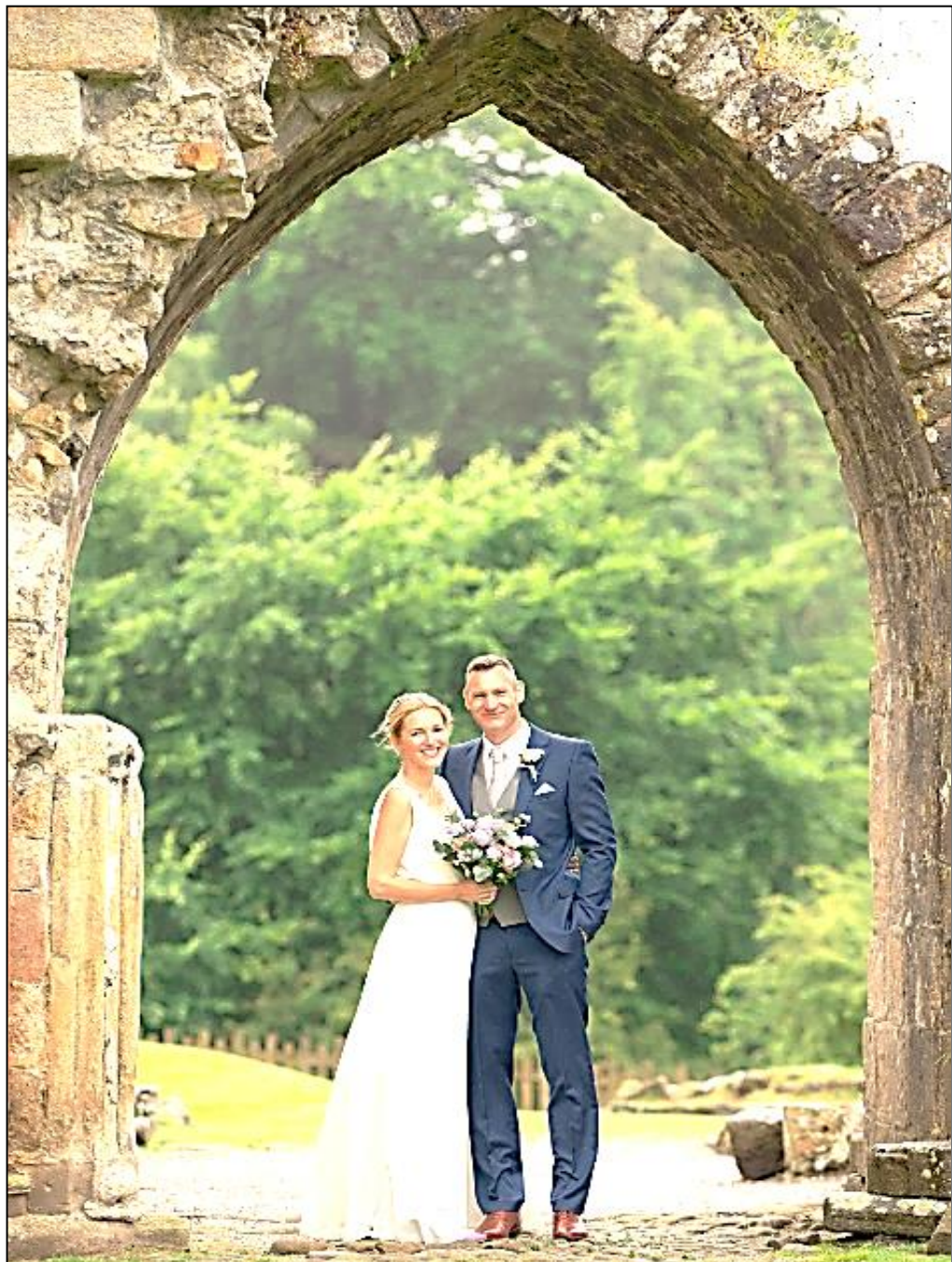


**Jennifer Angus celebrated her 75th birthday on 2nd August 2024.
She was born at Hazelwood Castle near Tadcaster in 1949.**

CONGRATULATIONS JO and MICHAEL



**Joanne Smith and Michael Evans of Otley Parish Church
were married on 1st July at
The Devonshire Arms, Bolton Abbey, Skipton**



**May God bless you both with a lifetime
of shared love and joy**



CONGRATULATIONS to Maddie, the 15-year-old granddaughter of Richard and Barbara Bollard. Maddie is autistic and hemiplegic. In July this year she achieved a podium place (2nd) and a rosette at the Riding for the Disabled National Dressage Championships at Hartpury College, Gloucester. Maddie trains every week at the RDA Equestrian Centre in Middleton, Leeds, and has been asked to act as a mentor to younger autistic children at Autism Angels at Throstle Nest Farm, Summerbridge, near Harrogate.



The Ilkley Half Marathon 2024

Katherine Pettinger joined 4,000 happy runners in the Ilkley half marathon (13.1 miles) on Sunday 14th July. She ran it in under 2 hours. *Very well done!*



Allen Bradford very sadly died on 10th August 2024. He celebrated his 87th birthday just five weeks before on 6th July. He was born in Otley in 1937.



Peggy Reeve celebrated her 100th birthday on 18th August 2024. She was born way back in 1924! She and her family began attending Otley Parish Church in 1960.

My Devotional Thoughts

Maggie Lolashvili

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

Romans 8:37 (NKJV)

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

When difficult situations arise in life, we can feel frazzled, upset and defeated - far removed from the “more than a conqueror” that God tells us we are. Also, the conquerors that Paul was talking about here in Romans didn't just win, they took ground, they advanced! Does this mean we should have a trouble-free life? No! But the battle is won regardless of how it looks. We can declare God's promises over our situations, taking authority like a conqueror does. It takes our focus from the situation to The Saviour. Luke 10:19 tells us that we have authority over snakes and scorpions and ALL the power of the enemy. Even death is defeated as we know that, if we are born again, heaven is our guaranteed destination. Life eternal! Praise the Lord!



Dear Father God, thank you for loving us so much that through the sacrificial death of your Son, Jesus Christ, you have made us more than conquerors. By the power of your Holy Spirit, please help us to live in the knowledge and application of this beautiful, wonderful truth. Amen.

MARGARET MUDD

4 August 1933 – 30 July 2024

Margaret (née Lobley) was a much-loved member of Otley Parish Church and with a strong faith. She was born in Otley, grew up here on The Oval and married William McLaren Mudd at OPC in July 1954. They had one child, Elizabeth, born in 1960. Sadly, Margaret died just a few days before reaching the age of 91.



Friends that Margaret knew in Otley tell us about her...

LIZ WALKER

Margaret was a long standing and much loved member of Otley Parish Church. She moved to Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire about 8 years ago to live near her daughter – but she still always refers to Otley as her 'home'!

Margaret's most recent role here at church was looking after the floral displays – a job she did for many years. I'm sure though, that she was involved in many other aspects of church over her long life as a member of our church family. I do know that before Margaret was married, she went with the youth of the church on visits to places such as York Minster. In the 20+ years I have known her as a friend she was a regular at the 8am Sunday Communion Service and we always enjoyed the 7am service on the Chevin on Easter Sundays. Margaret and her husband ran a sweet shop in Otley (the shop was the one most recently known as Patisserie Viennoise). After her husband died, she worked on the Switchboard at Otley Hospital

(now Wharfedale Hospital). She knew so many Otley people but sadly many of them have died now. My husband and I were very fortunate to have spent some time with Margaret just two weeks before she died. Margaret would have been 91 years old on 4th August – so she almost made it! She was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

MARGARET PARKIN

Margaret was an elegant lady who loved to be well dressed and who wore several necklaces all at the same time! She was small in structure but was a formidable character. It was good to have her on your side! She had a strong faith, preferring the traditional style of worship services we used to celebrate.

VAL TAIT

Margaret oversaw the church flower arranging when I came to Otley in 2007. She and her helpers made me very welcome when I joined them and were keen to teach me their skills. She was dedicated in her role and felt that God gave her the strength to carry on, even though she was not then in the best of health. She had high standards and would check the flowers regularly to ensure they were in pristine condition.

PAM BECK

Many years ago, in the 1960s and 1970s, Margaret and her husband, William, known as Billy, ran a sweet and tobacconist shop at 34 Beech Hill, Westgate, here in Otley, until his death in 1978 at the relatively young age of 47. He was born in 1931. One Sunday when Billy and Margaret were at Evensong, he collapsed in the pew and very sadly died. The vicar here then was Revd John Clayton. Margaret later worked on the Switchboard at Otley Hospital until she retired. Margaret's leading of the flower ladies at church was legendary and continued for many years until Val Tait eventually took over from her.

Margaret moved to Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire about 8 years ago to live near her daughter. Her love of Otley and her recollections of people and events in the town and church were amazing; her memory never dimmed despite her 90+ years. We always learned something new whenever my husband and I went to visit her at her small flat there. Despite her physical limitations, she would always insist on providing us with food and drink and follow up our visit with a "thank you for coming" note. She attended the local church in Aylesbury very regularly and enjoyed joining in with activities in her flat complex.

GRAHAM BUTTANSHAW *(previous vicar at OPC)*

She was a feisty lady with a heart of gold. And much else besides. I remember her very fondly. Her flower arranging was genuinely a very spiritual activity for her. Actually, Janet and I often think of her and smile.



God's Creation in Otley

Keith Wilson

The Yorkshire folk song, “The Dalesman’s Litany”, talks of travelling round all the three Ridings to find work. A hundred or more years later, Rachel and I embarked on a similar journey with her Church duties.

For twenty-three years we had lived happily on a steep terrace at Haworth in West Yorkshire, worshipping in the footsteps of the Brontës and working eight miles away in Bradford. Rachel worked as a teacher of the deaf, and I for Social Services on a tough estate, before becoming a science teacher at Manningham near the city centre. Later as a forester, I went west over the hills to Lancashire, getting my passport stamped on the way below Pendle Hill!

The harder winters then led to some tough snowy journeys, but with fun sledging with the girls and glimpses of foxes, roe deer and short eared owls between the sparse woods and the moors. In summer, kingfishers, dippers and

brown trout adorned the beck and river. Polish ladies came to pick bilberries, not wanting to starve again as in the War. After hot summers when the purple heather was fading, rain would bring mushrooms up for us to eat too.

When Rachel was ordained in 2003, we moved to Long Preston in Ribblesdale near Settle. For me the location was ideal. In twenty minutes, I could be climbing the Three Peaks or going west in the Forest of Bowland looking for hen harriers or eagle owls. In an hour I could be walking in eastern Lakeland. Katie, our elder daughter and I spent a memorable time there on “High Street Mountain” while fell watching England’s only golden eagle circling below us as we ate our cheese sandwiches. In

the autumn, salmon could be seen leaping at Stainforth Force and spawning in our local beck. In summer, 70 pregnant Natterers bats would join a maternity roost in the roof of the church porch.

In 2010 Rachel's work with the deaf congregations in the Leeds Diocese took us to Pool in Wharfedale. The Vicarage was tucked away behind the main road wall, and I would run up Old Pool Bank to the Chevin and Caley Craggs. We would leave the orchard and the lawns to grow long for butterflies, just mowing paths and edges.

In 2016 we moved to Pocklington in the East Riding. The flat fields spread out below the Wolds, the most northerly chalk hills in Britain. They were good for biking. Up a hidden valley I would look for spectacular marbled white butterflies on the wildflowers, and up another for roosting kites and barn owls at dusk. Robert Fuller, the wildlife artist, lived not far away, and I got to know him plus the amazing animals that he filmed nearby.

After Rachel retired in 2017, we moved back to our little house in Haworth. By now our daughter, Katie, had moved from Ilkley to Otley. So, just before Covid, we moved here to be near her and

family. We live on the Weston Estate on a small terrace, with a magnificent view of the Chevin with red kites above and with a big garden for wildlife.

After the worst of Covid, Rachel went to Otley Parish Church before me. I followed on just as Revd. Graham Buttanshaw was leaving. During the interregnum I realised just how many retired and lay ministers we have. We have attended more than ten churches regularly over the years and met some wonderful people, but Otley Parish Church is the friendliest, and the numbers attending is testimony. The recent new Vicar here, Revd. Aaron Kennedy, encourages and welcomes all. His secret weapon, his wife Grace, delivers the occasional sermon with eloquence and power.

Otley is an ancient place and being friendly seems to go back a while. In the 9th Century when the Vikings invaded York, the Archbishop fearing for his life fled here to Manor Garth by the river. Maybe he liked the fishing too and the otters from whom the town took its name. Later, he moved up to Addingham to be further away from the then Pagan Norsemen. Centuries later Cromwell's Puritan New Model Army was welcomed in town and reputedly drank the Black Bull pub dry. Counter Hill

near Addingham takes its name from him counting these troops as they marched through. Marston Moor near York is a further long march away, but the next day they won the battle and the Civil War there. Otley's clubs, societies and events have built up over the years (plus five fish and chip shops!) to foster a great community spirit.

Otley is also blessed by a great position in Wharfedale. Since retiring I see God's mission for me to continue protecting and enhancing British wildlife plus passing on some knowledge as best I can. High mountains and long distances are now behind me, but the moors, woods and reservoirs to the north of Otley

are ideal for monitoring birds of prey, owls, cuckoos and nightjars to report to our AONB Raptor Group.

As part of Denton Estate's re-wilding measures, we planted 60,000 native trees last winter. Closer to town with Wildlife Friendly Otley, we've established wildflowers and both native trees and fruit trees, as well as within OPC's churchyard, plus new bird boxes. Prince Henry's students and staff have helped with their watering and ivy pruning for several years. Despite rain at times, it seems right to be working still past my three score years and ten for God's Creation in Otley.



Keith and Rachel Wilson

christians
against
poverty

CAP

CAP Centre for Wharfedale & Aireborough OPEN TO NEW CLIENTS!

Michael Dodd, a member of Otley Parish Church, is the new CAP Debt Centre Manager for Wharfedale and Aireborough. He will now lead the centre which offers free debt help to local people, supporting them to escape the overwhelming pressure and struggle that comes with unmanageable debt. For

those who are unaware, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a charity that provides free debt help, money education, and support groups for people in the UK. CAP has been operating since 1996 and works in partnership with local churches to deliver services face-to-face. The charity's mission is to end UK poverty and to support and empower local churches.

Michael says, "I'm really excited to join the amazing team at CAP. As a local resident, I know the needs that are out there, and I really want to be part of the solution. I've seen how in recent years Christians Against Poverty's Debt Centre has helped to transform the lives of countless local people in debt."

The Centre is one of around 300 CAP Debt Centres across the UK and is generously supported by the Wharfedale & Aireborough Methodist Circuit who wanted to better serve people living with the pressure of debt and poverty. Michael and his team offer free home visits to anyone in the area who is struggling with debt and will support them until they become debt free. The process starts with meeting the person in debt and working with them alongside CAP's expert Debt Advisors to find the best solution for their situation. CAP helps them with budgeting and supports them all the way to becoming debt free.

Michael continued, "The great thing about CAP's free service is that it is available to everyone. If you know things are out of control and you're feeling stressed, missing meals or losing sleep, please give us a call and let us support you in getting your life back on track."

You can contact CAP on 0800 328 0006 or visit capuk.org/help to start the process. Here are 3 ways you can get involved with the work of CAP

<https://capuk.org/get-involved>:

1. **Pray** – join with others as we lift up people in poverty across the UK, praying for those who serve them and to see lasting change.
2. **Give** – consider giving a regular donation to give the gift of hope to people living under the weight of debt and poverty
3. **Become a befriender** – Michael is building a team who can accompany him on visits. He can be contacted on 07935 223663

OPC Youth STANDING ON HIS LOVE

- Katie Mayers -

“You are always and dearly loved by God! So robe yourself with virtues of God, since you have been divinely chosen to be holy. Be merciful as you endeavour to understand others, and be compassionate, showing kindness toward all. Be gentle and humble, unoffendable in your patience with others.”
Colossians 3:12

I hope that most of you will now be aware that our youth group is back up and running. I wanted to share a little of how I ended up involved and why I am passionate about it.

I work as a paediatric doctor and just before becoming involved in youth, I rotated to community paediatrics in Middleton, Leeds. Community paediatrics supports children with disabilities and chronic health problems, and those in the care of the local authority, all of whom are supposed to see a paediatrician for a health assessment within 2 weeks of coming into foster care. Social workers will also contact the team to organise child protection assessments for children who have disclosed harm, whether physical, emotional, or neglect.

I have found over the last few years that my colleagues who work in this area are often the fiercest and most passionate advocates for young people. They are confronted daily with the wider determinants of health including poverty, inequality, and intergenerational trauma. Some children I met did not have a bed or a toothbrush, and didn't recognise breakfast as a meal. Many children have experienced what have been termed “adverse childhood experiences” (ACEs) which include domestic violence, parental substance abuse or mental health problems, neglect, emotional abuse and financial hardship amongst others. Evidence shows ACEs not only cause immediate damage but also contribute to poor cardiovascular health and risk of suicide.

Usually when I talk to people about this, they wrinkle their noses and say how depressing it sounds. And certainly, many problems are a result of years of poorly thought out government policy and toxic “intergenerational trauma” where parents have been poorly parented and exposed to ACEs and sadly the same happens to their children. It can be hard to know where to start.

A few years ago, one of my consultants gave a talk about what ACE-exposed children need to thrive. The two things she focused on which evidence suggests can both heal and prevent further harm are:

- Unconditional positive regard - the concept that we accept and support someone without judgement, regardless of their behaviour or what they say or do

- Trusted adults outside of the immediate family who take an interest in children and their lives

This was somewhat of an epiphany moment for me. Unconditional positive regard is exactly what our heavenly Father has for all of us, and asks us to extend to each other - "love your neighbour". The knowledge that people have studied the effects of this and that it actually helps to heal people should come as no surprise.

Many of the children I meet at work are lacking a trusted adult outside their family who takes time to ask them about school, home, and life. Often they will mention teachers as being the people they felt they could confide in. I'm sure many of us can identify with this and perhaps remember a teacher who took an interest in you and how this made you feel - hopefully important and of worth. We need to look after and encourage our teachers! However, I realised that I could easily become a trusted and interested adult for young people at church - hence my involvement with youth.

I believe the church has a really key role to play in supporting children and young people, especially in the siloed communities we live in today. All it takes is a willingness to accept and encourage children and young people where they are at, and to be that trusted adult who takes an interest. I love this quote by Charles Stanley: *"There is only one secure foundation: a genuine, deep relationship with Jesus Christ, which will carry you through any and all turmoil. No matter what storms are raging all around, you'll stand firm if you stand on His love."*

At OPC, our vision statement is for young people to:

- Meet Jesus in a way that enables them to cement a deep and lasting relationship with our living God, freeing them to explore the world with confidence and resilience
- Know that they are cherished as individuals, both by God and by us, exactly as they are
- Feel that group and by extension OPC is a safe place where they can share hopes and doubts without fear of judgement or reprisal
- Be exposed to a community where we try to learn how to care for each other the way God cares for us

Please do pray for our leaders and young people. We currently meet every other week on a Friday and Sunday with the support of our fantastic youth worker Maria O'Hagan from Missional Generation - but we would love to be able to meet weekly. If you feel that you could turn up, drink some hot chocolate, and take an interest in our young people, you would be extremely welcome to join our team.

Equally, our younger children need the same from us as a church and are also always in need of more adults to love and take an interest in them. My prayer is that God would challenge us all as a church to learn to love each other as He loves us, whether young or old, poor or rich, friend or stranger.

If you want to know any more about our youth group, please speak to me, Maria, Geoff Park or Abi Pitchford (youth leadership team). For children's work, please speak to Mary Pike.

FRIDAY CAFÉ

10am until noon



Reopens 6th September

We welcome back visitors and regulars, young and old.

Tea, coffee and homemade cake, buns & scones
or toasted tea cakes.





Otley Parish Church Services in September

Each 10.30am service is live streamed to YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@otleyparishchurch

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|--|
| Sunday 1st | 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 8th | 10.30am | Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Sunday Club (KS1, KS2 and pre-schoolers) OPC Youth Group (Yr7 and upwards) |
| Sunday 15th | 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 22nd | 10.30am | Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Sunday Club (KS1, KS2 and pre-schoolers) OPC Youth Group (Yr7 and upwards) |
| Sunday 29th | 10.30am | Service of the Word Sunday Club (KS1, KS2 and pre-schoolers) |

Our Midweek Services in September

| | | |
|---|----------------|--|
| Every Tuesday | 11.00am | Holy Communion A short service with no hymns |
| Every Monday to Thursday | 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 |

**ARE
YOU
NEW
HERE?**



If you are fairly new to Otley Parish Church, you are indeed very welcome here!

If you'd like to get connected, involved, or find out more about us, please pick up a *Welcome to Otley Parish Church* card which you'll find on the table at the back of the church.

Please fill in the details and return it to us, or put it into the red wall safe on the back wall.

We will use your contact information to help you find a way to connect into the life of our church. We do take care to ensure that your data is kept secure.

Please Keep in Touch

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

NO LATER THAN

Saturday 14th September



Otley Parish CHURCH

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: [@otleyparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/otleyparishchurch)

X (TWITTER): [@otleyallsaints](https://twitter.com/otleyallsaints)

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.

KEY CHURCH CONTACTS

VICAR

Rev. Aaron Kennedy 01943 462240 vicar@otleyparishchurch.org

ASSOCIATE MINISTERS

Rev. Roger Dedman 01943 467540 rogerjdedman@gmail.com

Rev. Stewart Hartley 01943 464106 sr.hartley47@gmail.com

Rev. Colin Hopkinson 01943 514113 cchopkinson@aol.com

Rev. Phil Moon 01943 464731 familyofmoon@aol.com

Rev. Rachel Wilson 01943 968902 revrachel.wilson@gmail.com

LICENSED LAY MINISTER

Jackie Hird 01943 462858 hirds@phonecoop.coop

CHURCHWARDENS

Tom Raper 01943 461567 thomas.raper@btinternet.com

Vacant: hoping for someone to step-in and offer their support

ASSISTANT CHURCHWARDENS

Martin Hird 01943 462858 hirds@phonecoop.coop

Kevin Keefe 01943 466177 kevin@keefe.org.uk

Barry Milner 01943 462472 barrynglynis.milner@outlook.com

Barbara Nicholls 07747 848074 babs.nicholls@gmail.com

PCC TREASURER

Tony Pike 07977 463562 treasurer@otleyparishchurch.org

PCC SECRETARY

Barry Milner 01943 462472 barrynglynis.milner@outlook.com

BAPTISM CO-ORDINATOR

Glynis Milner 01943 462472 barrynglynis.milner@outlook.com

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Jenny Liston 07743 330264 jenny@otleyparishchurch.org

CHURCH WEBSITE MANAGER

Kevin Keefe 01943 466177 kevin@keefe.org.uk

IN TOUCH EDITOR

Stephen Hey 01943 969624 stephenhey01@gmail.com

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Jean Boddy 01943 466182

BELL RINGERS

Julia Thornley 07979 957394

Jenny Liston 07743 330264

CARBON NET ZERO

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CHOIR & BAND

Pam Beck pam.beck@hotmail.co.uk

CRAFTYNUTS CRAFT GROUP

Lynne Barber 01943 466493

FLOWER ARRANGING

Val Tait 01943 464032

LOCAL TO GLOBAL

Stewart Hartley sr.hartley47@gmail.com

MUSIC GROUPS & WORSHIP TEAM

Rick Mayers richardmayers87@gmail.com

NEWALL LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Val Tait 01943 464032

OPEN HOUSE

Barry Milner barrynglynis.milner@outlook.com

SUNDAY CLUB

Mary Pike youth@otleyparishchurch.org

YOUTH GROUP

Katie Mayers sundayclub@otleyparishchurch.org



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