



Otley Parish

CHURCH



In Touch

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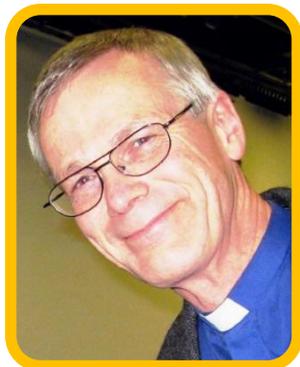
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OTLEY PARISH CHURCH

Kirkgate • Otley • West Yorkshire • LS21 3HW
www.otleyparishchurch.org

Vicar: The Reverend Graham Buttanshaw

Registered Charity Number 1153498



Graham Buttanshaw
Vicar

Letter From Graham

Dear Friends,

Paradigms are, roughly speaking, sets of assumptions about the world around and how we view it. The way we look at things.

Since the 1960s, when the first photographs of earth from space were published, we have been entering a new paradigm. In particular, the beautiful photograph of earth taken from Apollo 17 (the one often called “the blue marble”) has changed how we see our world.



Such photographs of earth are now accessible to the vast majority of people on our beautiful and fragile planet. It is one thing being told about our planet at school, or reading about it in a newspaper. It is another thing entirely to be able to see it. Even hardened Trump supporters (most of whom probably believe the world is flat) have to work hard to deny this as fake news!

I was reminded of this changing paradigm as Janet and I watched an episode of 'The Crown' set in 1969 when Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, said "That's one small step for man. One giant leap for mankind."

It was indeed an extraordinary scientific achievement. One that has changed and continues to change the way we think about our world. It's like we took a first step out into the rest of the universe. And as we looked back at earth, it was like looking in a mirror for the first time. Seeing ourselves as we are.

So small. And in so many ways this planet has been getting smaller. We can talk to people on the far side of the earth, get news from there just seconds after it happens. We are more than ever one community who all have responsibility to preserve and care for this extraordinary place where we all live.

If the earth was a National Trust treasure, which could be visited and admired, we would be transfixed by the beauty and horrified by the neglect.

Covid-19 has offered us a mirror. The lessons we learn fall into this wider context, in which we are like a spaceship, with limited resources, travelling in the vastness of the universe. We are together and inter-dependent on this small planet.

We have seen that we need international co-operation not competition. The problems of disease like all the big issues we face in our small world can only be addressed successfully together.

As we look in the mirror, we have seen the vulnerable suffer most, although children have been largely spared. We see with shame now much we rely on social carers, but pay them a pittance, and we have seen them suffer and die.

We have seen the value of the NHS more than ever, and also learned the value of so many who keep the basics of life going with little reward and little recognition.

We have seen people across the world suffering just like our own loved ones – cut off from family, desperately ill and

dying. We have seen they are no different from us. (Did you know that your DNA is 99.9% the same as any other human being of any ethnic background?)

We have noticed the birds sing and given the environment a breather. We have seen the value of relationships and being with people we love.

We have looked out for one another and 'seen' needy folk for the first time. We have found purpose, contentment and happiness when we've been able to help others.

There is one world, and one human family, loved and delighted in by God, yet deeply penetrated and driven by forces opposed to God's kingdom. Our world is plagued by the evils of narrow nationalism, greed and prejudice.

But the mirror doesn't only show our blemishes, it shows our beauty, character and possibility. It offers us vision. Perhaps we could chant: "Mirror, mirror on the wall. What is the fairest way for all?" Of course, Jesus is the way. We need to keep looking, asking, praying, growing and

living out the vision – so we can become the first fruits of his kingdom, and people will be able to taste and see that the Lord is good.

Every blessing.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'G' being particularly large and stylized.

IN THE HOT SEAT

Getting to know you better



When and where were you born?

I was born at 4 o'clock in the morning on Wednesday 4th April 2012 at Harrogate Hospital, so I am now 8 years old.

How big were you when you were born?

I was about the average size for a new-born baby girl. I weighed 7lbs 9oz.

Tabitha Alice Rose

Hello Tabitha. Many of us see you running around in church on Sunday mornings and always with a big smile on your face. We also see you rushing into the Parish Room after the service to grab a nice piece of cake or a handful of biscuits! We don't really know much about you other than that you are the daughter of Amie. Will you answer a few questions to help us get to know a little about you? Thank you very much!

Tabitha answered these questions before lockdown.

If your Mum and Dad hadn't named you Tabitha when you were born, what would you have liked your name to be?

Willow.

Do you have any brothers and sisters?

I have two brothers who are both older than me. Seb is 15 and Arlo was 13 last month.

Which school do you go to? Do you like it?

I go to All Saints Church of England Primary in Otley. Yes, I love school!

What do you like doing best at school?

I love doing maths and learning about history.

What is your favourite food?

It's fish & chips. We have them every Friday with my Grandma.

If you had to eat a spider or a worm which would you choose?

Well, my Mum told me that we eat spiders in our sleep, and we don't even realise it. So, because we eat them anyway, I would definitely choose a spider.

What is the best thing you enjoy doing?

I love playing with LEGO.

What's the worst thing you have to do?

I hate having to do chores at home.

What is your favourite colour and why?

My favourite colour is yellow because it's like the sun!

What is the best surprise you've ever had?

When I got a bike for my 7th

birthday last year.

Why do you come to Church Tea on a Wednesday evening?

I like chatting with people. I also like crawling under the tables and playing with Graham, the vicar!

Why do you come to church on a Sunday?

Because my Mum comes, and I enjoy Sunday Club. I also love seeing my friends.

What is the most exciting place you have ever been to?

Disneyland Paris.

Why did you go there?

My Aunty very generously paid for me and my Mum to go there the Christmas before last.

Do you have a favourite song?

Yes, I do - it's 'Blackbird' by the Beatles.

Have you got a boyfriend?

Yes!

In just one word, how would you describe your life today?

Good!

One-liners that have appeared outside churches:

"A lot of kneeling will leave you in good standing"

"Plan ahead – it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark"

"Are you wrinkled with burdens? Come to the church for a faith-lift!"

"This church is prayer-conditioned"



GOING BACK TO SQUARE ONE?

ON SUNDAY 20th MAY there was a VE Day themed service on Radio 4. In his sermon, Dr Rowan Williams reflected on how much needed to be rebuilt after the war - literally and metaphorically - the buildings yes, but also lives and relationships, personally and globally.

He said the shared suffering and loss made going back to square one and continuing life as if nothing had happened, impossible. He then asked, "Will we now go back to square one?"

We were at this point in the centre of this terrible time with Covid-19 virus

and I'm sure lots of us were thinking the same, "Will we go back to *our* square one?"

His wise words reminded me of something I read some years ago that each of us, with God's grace and the Holy Spirit dwelling deep within us can move from square one, indeed move mountains! We can rebuild, uphold and protect, acknowledge and honour and never forget that everyone is equally precious. The God we love and trust has told us so.

This is the piece pinned on my kitchen noticeboard:

*Not one of us needs to be a giant, a leader, a slayer of dragons
in order to make a difference.*

*It only needs a kind deed, a word of encouragement, a gesture of
thoughtfulness to make our world the happier place
that God and we would wish it to be.*

Glynis Milner



Revd Stewart Hartley

It Shouldn't Happen To A Vicar (But It Did)!

This is the tenth in a series of interesting articles by Stewart Hartley, now retired and a member of Otley Parish Church

The Little Red Notebook

EVENTUALLY THE CHURCH RESTORATION WAS COMPLETE. We now had a big kitchen, toilets, a large church hall and a smaller children's hall. We were open for business! Things began to grow. Quite soon we had lunch clubs, mums and toddlers, a youth club, holiday clubs, Alpha Courses, a food bank, and a weekday after school service which was an early form of Messy Church, to name just some.

Because the church was now so attractive, couples began to enquire about weddings. Three young couples came to faith and soon were helping with clubs and activities. We persisted through the years with Family Services and they became popular and brought in other families. Two of those couples are now in full-time ministry.

Eventually the town, because of its economic deprivation, was given European and Regional Funding and I was asked to be on the funding committee. The headteacher of our little Church School had a vision for a Family Support Centre to give 'wrap-around' support to families with childcare so that parents could access employment *and* asked if it could be based at the Church? By the end of the 1990s we were employing Nursery Nurses and doing vocational training. How things had changed!

In the early days I spent a lot of time praying in the empty church and I had a little red notebook. On the first page, if I remember correctly, were 5 BIG requests. Now, over 30 years on I can only remember one of them. I asked God for 80 people to come to Church on a Sunday morning. This was a big ask considering the state we were in. With all the ensuing building work the notebook disappeared and I forgot both the book and the prayer request.

Guess what? The notebook turned up again. By then the average Sunday Morning attendance was over 80! Our God is faithful, not just in the short term, but he has a long memory too! Our Heavenly Father is faithful always.



A SICK MAN turned to his doctor as he was leaving the room after paying a visit, and said, “Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.”

Very quietly the doctor said, “I don’t know”.

“You don’t know? You, a Christian doctor, do not know what is on the other side?”

The doctor was holding the handle of the door, on the other side of which came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door a dog sprang into the room and leaped

onto him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient the doctor said,

“Did you notice my dog? He’s never been in this room before. He didn’t know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened he sprang in without fear.

“I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing: I know my Master is there, and that is enough. And when the door opens, I shall pass through with no fear, but with gladness.”

“A Day in the Life of Norman Barr” was a feature in our May magazine in which Norman offered £5 to anyone who could guess what the letters of his VIP airport volunteering role stood for. Nobody guessed correctly, so lucky Norman can keep his fiver! The letters stand for **Volunteer Information Patron**.

LOCAL TO GLOBAL



Dear Friends,

We want to extend our thanks for the generosity of many at Church in continuing to support Kisiizi Hospital in Uganda, either as part of *Local to Global* or personally. We would like to say a particular thanks to Paul Briscoe for his online music festival, to the Parochial Church Council for a special donation early on in the coronavirus pandemic, and to Elliot and Anna Smith who have recently completed a sponsored Gorilla Challenge for the hospital.

The area where the hospital is has so far been untouched by coronavirus itself, partly due to a drastic lockdown, but cases are still appearing in Uganda and the hospital has very much experienced the secondary effects of lock down, struggling to get regular supplies and losing income from overseas visitors, which often goes towards subsidising care for the poorest. Patients have also experienced the secondary effects of the

pandemic. In the same way that here in the UK we are starting to see what happens when people find it less easy to access healthcare, people in Uganda have struggled to travel even more than usual, which means that people often arrive at hospital much more unwell than they usually would. The hospital has also been trying to increase its capacity to care for very unwell patients, as currently it does not have a functioning ICU area or staff trained to provide one, and has just one ventilator designed for short-term use in theatre.

Having extra financial resilience at this time through increased donations means so much to our friends in Kisiizi. Financial benefits aside, it also helps staff to know that they are not alone at a frightening and intimidating time. Knowing that their brothers and sisters in Christ around the world are standing in solidarity with them reassures them that God is providing for the work of Kisiizi in the same way that He has done for the past 60 years.

If you are running out of walks on the Chevin (!) or fancy a new challenge, please take a look at our Kisiizi Partners 2020 Challenge information (page 11). We are encouraging people to take on a sponsored walking or cycling challenge for the hospital, with money going to support the Good Samaritan Fund which subsidises care for those who are destitute, and towards the general running costs of the hospital. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with Rick or Katie Mayers, or look at our Facebook, Twitter, or website: <http://www.kisiizipartners.org.uk/>

Thank you again,

**Katie and Rick Mayers
and the rest of the Kisiizi Partners Trustees**

Kisiizi Partners 2020 Challenge

Why not use your daily exercise for a good cause?

We are encouraging people to take on a sponsored challenge for Kisiizi Partners over the next few months to help the hospital to build up its financial reserve in the face of the many challenges that coronavirus brings, in addition to a locust plague and localised flooding in East Africa.

Below are some ideas for a Ugandan themed challenge – why not pick a distance and walk/run/cycle it over a time period that works for you?

For the young/young at heart: The Animal Challenge – can you walk/cycle as far as an African animal family travel in a week?

Gorilla families - 12 miles/week

Chimpanzee families - 42 miles/week

Elephant families - 100 miles/week



For those who like walking up hills: The Mountain Challenge – can you climb the equivalent of one of these Ugandan giants?



Hint – you would need to walk up the Chevin 18 times to equal Mount Stanley!

Mount Moroto – 3083 metres

Mount Elgon – 4321 metres

Mount Stanley – 5109 metres

For those who prefer the flat: The Distance Challenge – can you walk/cycle the equivalent of one of these journeys?

The distance a pregnant woman might walk to have her baby at Kisiizi – 40 miles

Around Lake Bunyonyi – 116 miles

From Kisiizi to Kampala (capital city) – 236 miles



How to organise sponsorship

We use an online platform called Kindlink for regular and one off giving, and can set you up with a personal fundraising page that you can share – just email richard@kisiizipartners.org.uk

You can use Facebook Donate if you prefer – just go to “create” on the top right of your Facebook homepage and select “fundraiser” and search for “Kisiizi Partners” as your charity

We are also registered on JustGiving – you can set up your own fundraising page and select “Kisiizi Partners” as your charity.

We have created downloadable picture posters for the different challenges which are available from: http://www.kisiizipartners.org.uk/?page_id=578

Please share your pictures with us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram!! #KP2020Challenge

Learning Lessons in Lockdown

Linda Sharp

MOST of you reading this will know by now that I have recently taken the decision to resign from my job as Church Administrator and I felt it would be good to write one last article for the magazine before I leave.

When Robert and I moved back to Otley in the Spring of 2015, it was after an extremely difficult decade of traumatic life events. I arrived at Otley Parish Church feeling I had very little to offer, but nonetheless came with open hands, to share what little I had and receive whatever the Lord had for me.

Almost immediately, after I'd responded to a plea in the weekly notice sheet, He gave me the church office and you a church administrator. Five years on, I sense my work here is done.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many of you and working alongside you as we've moved from an icy-cold, pew-lined building, through an under-floor-heated, comfy-chair-filled building, to the closed building we've experienced in lockdown.

Highlights of my time here as administrator have been the three Flower Festivals, hosting the Otley Business Awards and Jimmy's last Easter Day sermon last year. Lowlights have been GDPR, IT, IT and IT (!) but as it takes rain as well as sunshine to make a rainbow, I'm not complaining!



Linda Sharp with Oliver (left) and Poppet (right)

On one of my recent, early morning walks, after 10 weeks of shielding at home, I had a strong sense that I should walk straight ahead instead of turning right and I literally stopped in my tracks because I didn't think there was a path straight ahead. Then it came back to me that there is indeed a narrow footpath and I was delighted to rediscover some hidden allotments and spent a very enjoyable time wandering up and down admiring them.

Reflecting again on my journey through life, I'm starting to see that the times I've chosen to turn right or left, instead of continuing straight ahead, have been the times when I've wandered slightly off track and how patient and faithful the Lord has been in allowing me to make my own choices, walking with me and gradually steering me back onto the narrow path that leads to Life.

I often look back and firmly believe there is great benefit to be found from reflection and rejoicing and repentance but if I look back for too long, I can forget the path I'm meant to be on and become stuck and unable to move ahead.

Lockdown has been one of those times of deep reflection, and as I've had the opportunity to do church in a totally different way by worshipping and sharing Communion every Sunday with one of my oldest and dearest friends, I've come to see I'm at another of life's crossroads; the decision to lay down my paid employment is the decision to walk straight ahead.

*With my love and prayers as you seek the way ahead
for Otley Parish Church*

Linda x

“I hope you didn't take it personally, vicar,” an embarrassed woman said after a church service, “when my husband walked out during your sermon.”

“I did find it rather disconcerting,” the vicar replied.

“It's not a reflection on you, sir,” insisted the churchgoer. “Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child.”



Jo Briscoe

SEEING THE UNSEEN

JO BRISCOE, a full-time Practice Nurse and a member of Otley Parish Church, is an emerging textile artist working primarily in woven textile art.

Jo fell in love with weaving during her HNC Contemporary Constructed Textiles course at Bradford School of Art where she has just completed her final year as a part-time mature student. She says, “My inspiration for this collection came from a BBC programme ‘Earth from Space’, showing satellite photographs of amazing details of the earth on which we live. What struck me was how the satellite view differed from the view with the naked eye; the sense of scale and of things previously unseen, hence the



title, ‘Seeing the Unseen’. The specific images I focused on are of the Sandaban Delta in the Bay of Bengal with its intricate network of meandering tidal channels which change colour with the ebb and flow of the tide.”

OUTGOING TIDE

Silk and monofilament double cloth

What's next for you, Jo? "To be a thread! Kay Sekimachi, a Japanese artist, said, 'To be a good weaver, you have to feel like a thread'. I am interested in the therapeutic value of being creative. With over 30 years' experience in a caring profession and a lifetime of creativity, I envisage combining these skills whilst maintaining my weaving practice."



TIDAL FLOW

Hand dyed monofilament and strimmer cable leno double cloth



MEANDERING CHANNELS

Work in progress on the loom. The image to the right is the finished effect: silk, mono-filament, paper & guitar strings, Swedish lacing

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF JIMMY & HANNAH

*Jimmy Lawrence was curate at Otley Parish Church from July 2016.
His last Sunday with us was on 16th June 2019.*

I T WAS BEAUTIFUL AND SUNNY the day we left Otley and with Yorkshire shining in all its brilliance to remind us what we'd be missing in New York. That last service at OPC has stayed with us all this past year as a warm reminder of our time with you all. And what a busy summer it turned out to be...

As the days got hotter, we had a month of moving. We managed to sleep on a blow-up mattress one last time in Wrenbeck Close, before driving down to Batley and moving our good friend Darren into his new home. We had our last decent curry (!) and then drove south to London, where we then completed move number 3, by moving Hannah out of her London flat and both of us moving in with her Mum. At this stage we were living in uncertainty - Hannah had to jump on a flight the moment her visa came through and I was to do the same as soon as my spousal visa was approved afterwards. We had no way of knowing how quickly this would happen, so we were camping at my mother-in-law's for the foreseeable...

But by the grace of God it all turned out smoothly: Hannah left for New York on the 1st of August and my visa was approved less than a week later. Hannah, amazingly, met a friend of mine in the immigration queue at JFK and was (unsurprisingly) fast making friends in our new city. When I arrived there we already had social events in the calendar! I submitted my Master's dissertation in a frenzy, having to write the vast majority of it in 6 weeks. But once we had finally settled, the rest of our summer was taken up by a long rest and an attempt to acclimatise to the blistering heat of our new home.



Jimmy and Hannah having coffee in their garden in Manhattan

As the days finally cooled off, we began to find our feet. I (Hannah) got settled in my new job, making friends with my new colleagues, and quickly discovering that commuting to work on the subway can be a grim business. I wasn't in Kansas (Otley) anymore! We quickly agreed on a lovely Anglican Church in Manhattan, which in so many ways reminded us of Otley: a diverse, boldly faithful community full of lifelong friendships and prayer-warriors. We were particularly inspired by the homeless ministry which welcomed NYC's most vulnerable into the worshipping community. Through the Church we found new friends, and started to engage in some of the cultural festivities in our diverse Brooklyn neighbourhood.



New York in summer

The leaves started to turn (and what colour!) just as I (Jimmy) returned to the UK to start at Oxford. This was such a humbling two weeks for me where I got to matriculate (fancy Oxford speak for joining the university) and experience the privilege of enrolling at Oxford. Hannah spent a quiet two weeks getting stuck in at work, which was going from strength to strength. At this point in the year we really started to feel settled as we began to see New York in all its glory: holiday season!! We went to a Pumpkin Festival, shared Thanksgiving with our Church house group and were able to really engage in all the cheesy and heart-warming festivities of the city with our newfound friends and community.

We also began to throw ourselves into city life as much as possible: I (Jimmy) started volunteering as a chef for the Church soup kitchen (which I know will make many of the Otley Wednesday Church Tea crowd gasp as I didn't bring a single meal in all my years of attendance!). We found a number of local eateries that have fast become our regular spots for delicious food, and we received our first set of visitors! Family and friends came to see us and we got a chance to share our discoveries and feel that important connection back to home. We also got the opportunity to venture further afield by spending a lovely romantic 'fall' weekend in Boston and learning all about American history.

As the year transitioned into winter we both realised how cold New York gets (we thought Yorkshire had 'hardened' us up - apparently not!) so we both invested in a new winter coat to combat the freezing temperatures. The Christmas markets, shop windows and street lights were nothing short of film-worthy: we regularly had pinch-me moments when we felt like we were living in a movie set (because in reality, we were and still are).

December flew by in a flurry of concerts (did we mention Jimmy joined a choir?!) and then a whistle-stop tour back to London to see family over Christmas. It was really lovely to come home after such a full 6 months, albeit briefly!

The new year brought with it even colder temperatures, but that forced us to find indoor activities, which included learning about American Football. Our local 'pub' showed every game and we realised Americans were all too happy to explain their beloved sport to us over a beer. Of course, we know it is not as good as rugby, but we daren't risk saying that out loud!

As winter dragged into February, Hannah got the opportunity to get some sunshine in Las Vegas. Things had been going increasingly well with her new job, so much so that they supported her idea to go to a work conference on the west coast. This was a huge milestone for her in developing her seniority in the firm and cementing her network in the US. Things seemed to snowball from there: we continued having dinners with friends and colleagues, saw Swan Lake at our local theatre and were getting more and more involved with our Church as we approached Lent. We also managed to squeeze in a holiday which was such a welcome break, a real opportunity to reflect on the 8 months behind us, the hard work and many blessings we had received that had gone into building our new life overseas.

On our return from holiday spring had finally sprung: the New York blossom welcomed us home. For a crowded and polluted city, it feels like a different place in spring - there are trees blooming on every street and the birdsong rings in your ears. Hannah's Mum came to visit and we had a lovely time showing her the sites, which further cemented our feelings of belonging. For the first time, I (Hannah) felt like I was a proper local being able to take Mum off the beaten track to all the places regular tourists don't know about. As I (Jimmy) got more and more involved in our new Church, I was offered a part-time position with the title of Pastor for Discipleship and Formation. I had initially relished my break from ministry as it gave me a chance to focus fully on my PhD and, of course, it gave me some much-needed time to reflect on and emotionally process the grief of leaving OPC. But the truth was, after 9 months out of action, I was itching to get back to it - it seems my calling is not easily forgotten! I've been really pleased to get back into a Priestly role.



Our favourite local New York Diner

As you all know, the coronavirus hit New York hard and the city was put in 'lockdown' around this time. I began my new role at the beginning of Holy Week, one week after the schools were shut. We suddenly had to calibrate to online services and pastoral care within a new, and increasingly uncertain landscape. This was incredibly hard for all of us, as I'm sure it was for you all too.

But as ever, the Church has to find new ways to adapt and persevere as it fulfills its calling to "proclaim the Gospel afresh in each generation." We have got much better at communicating through a camera lens and finding ways to keep our fellowship alive amidst all the sadness, fear and chaos of COVID-19. We have experienced a strange and harsh duality living in NYC: living in the 'epicentre'. On the one hand we were reminded every 30 minutes by the sound of ambulance sirens screaming that we lived in a viral hotbed; on the other hand, we were also able to go for early morning runs in the most beautiful, blossom-lined streets. We learned to bake bread together and create new routines as we lived and worked in the same space.

In the last 6 weeks sirens have been replaced by the sound of helicopters circling overhead as the Black Lives Matter protests have taken place just a stone's throw from where we live (a majority black neighbourhood). Months earlier Jimmy and I went to see *Just Mercy*, the film about Harvard lawyer and Christian, Bryan Stevenson who defends wrongly condemned inmates on death row. We watched the film months ago at a cinema in the heart of Brooklyn and by the end of the film the sound of sobbing from the majority black audience was audible. That moment, along with any others, has left an indelible mark on our hearts.

In summary, through all the highs and the lows, through times of uncertainty and anxiety, we have been hugely blessed throughout this last year. There were many unknowns and, at times, points of loneliness, homesickness and that feeling of not-quite-getting-your-bearings in a new place. And yet, we couldn't have imagined all the ways that God would bless us and change us (and even bless us *by* changing us) in this city.

One year on we continue to experience culture shock: Jimmy's first sermon at All Angels Church involved the words 'bloke', 'faff' and 'chuffed', none of which translated to the American audience. They drive on the wrong side of the road,



Times Square in winter

they put the month before the day when writing the date and we have to get our Yorkshire tea bags shipped in from abroad. (That is not a joke - Hannah's Mum brings a load every time she visits. She describes them as humanitarian aid, and we have to pray that she doesn't get stopped at customs for bringing in drugs!). We consistently find ourselves living out the maxim that the UK and the US are two nations divided by a common language.

But the reasons we are here are becoming increasingly clear: it is very likely that Hannah is about to be made a Partner in the firm she is currently working for; my PhD research is going from strength to strength and we have really grown as a couple having been on this adventure together.

As we write this, we are about to celebrate our second wedding anniversary (16th June) and have been thinking, praying and reflecting on the past year and how we celebrated our first anniversary with a meal at Buon Apps, feeling very emotional after our final service at OPC, and with the long road ahead.

This year will look a little different in lockdown, but we continue to thank God for the many blessings he has bestowed on us over these 12 months. Please do pray for us, as we pray for you all, that "the Lord will watch over [our] coming and going, both now and for evermore" (Psalm 121).

With lots of love,

Jimmy & Hannah xxx



Jimmy and Hannah by the beach with New York in the background



Extract from
Yorkshire Evening Post
Saturday 07 October 1933

MOTHER, DAUGHTER, AND SON MARRIED.

Three members of one family – mother, son, and daughter, were all married at Otley Parish Church to-day.

First the son was married and then there was a double ceremony at which the brides were the mother and daughter.

The son went back to the church after his wedding to give his mother away.

A younger son who does not live at home was best man at the weddings of his brother and his sister.

The family concerned were Mrs Wardman, a widow, of Lawn Cottage in Otley, her son Harry, and her daughter Hilda.

After the ceremonies, the three couples attended a reception at Chevin Lodge.

Extract from
Yorkshire Evening Post
Wednesday 26 February 1930

VICAR FORMS A LINK IN BUCKET CHAIN.

A broken window and blackened walls appear to be the full extent of the damage done by a fire at Otley Parish Church last night.

The outbreak occurred in the boiler-house, which is immediately under the vestry, where the valuable church plate, registers and other documents are kept. Had the fire reached the vestry the whole of the ancient fabric would have been in danger.

Smoke coming from the cellar attracted the attention of passers-by, who raised the alarm, and the fire brigade was summoned.

In the meantime people living in a neighbouring row of cottages tried to put out the fire with buckets of water. A chain was formed, and the buckets had to be hoisted over a 10ft wall into the church yard. The helpers were assisted by the Vicar, Canon Lowe.

When the brigade arrived, a pipe was quickly laid, and a mullioned window had to be broken to allow it to play on the fire.

The fire appears to have had its origin in some old wreaths removed from the war memorial.



Bible Statistics

Number of books in the Bible: 66

Chapters: 1,189

Verses: 31,101

Words: 783,137

Letters: 3,566,480

Number of promises given in the Bible: 1,260

Commands: 6,468

Predictions: over 8,000

Fulfilled prophecy: 3,268 verses

Unfulfilled prophecy: 3,140

Number of questions: 3,294

Longest name: Mahershalalhashbaz (Isaiah 8:1)

Longest verse: Esther 8:9 (72 words)

Shortest verse: John 11:35 (“Jesus wept”)

Middle verse: Psalm 118:8

Middle chapter: Psalm 117

Shortest chapter: (number of words): Psalm 117

Longest book: Psalms (150 chapters)

Longest chapter: Psalm 119 (176 verses)

Shortest book: 3 John

Number of times the word “God” appears: 3,358

Number of times the word “Lord” appears: 7,736

Number of different authors: 40

Middle 2 books of the Bible: Micah and Nahum

Number of languages the Bible has been translated into: at least 1,200

LOCKDOWN

ENCOURAGING BIBLE VERSES AND A PRAYER FOR CHILDREN and FAMILIES

SCRIPTURES ON GOD'S COMFORT AND STRENGTH FOR FEAR AND ANXIETY

Jesus is Calm in the Storm

"Then [Jesus] got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping" (Matthew 8:23-24).

When You're Stressed and Tired Jesus Offers Rest for Your Soul

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

God Takes Your Hand to Comfort Your Fears and Help You

"I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed. For I am your God... For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, 'Do not fear; I will help you'" (Isaiah 41:9-10, 13).

Fear Melts Away When You Hear God's Love Song for You

"Never again will you fear any harm... The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you with his love; he will rejoice over you with singing" (Zephaniah 3:15, 17).

Be Still to Take Refuge in God in Trouble

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea... He makes wars cease... He says, 'Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.' The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob God of Jacob is our fortress" (Psalm 46:1-2, 9-11).

A Prayer for Children and Families

by Eileen Barr for our Prayer Corner in Church



Father in Heaven, how we miss seeing children, young people and their carers in our church! We thank God that His loving arms are around them, even though we are unable to meet and be in groups to share.

Gracious God we ask you to encourage and equip parents as they support their children's learning needs, yet still have household tasks and work pressures. Bless them with learning, laughter and imaginative ways of making the best of their times together. Oh – and lots of patience!!

We pray for family challenges as young people miss their friends and wider family; maybe they're bored! Tensions can run a bit high! Many are facing uncertainty, wondering when and how education can continue safely. God our Rock, please let them know that You are *their* Rock, trustworthy and promising to always be with them.

Loving God we pray for all those where home does not seem a safe place. Protect them from harm we pray and give them access to the support that they need. Please bring peace to troubled hearts and reconciliation where there is conflict.

Lord, we take a few moments now to think and pray for families, homes and young people that we know, and place them into Your kind hands.

AMEN

Otley Parish Church Giving



WE ARE GRATEFUL to those who have responded to using online banking or by sending cheques to Barclays Bank to be credited to the Church's bank account.

We have provided a new facility for giving on our Church's website and we hope some people will find this to be another useful option. Follow this link to take you to the giving page:

otleyparishchurch.org/giving

EASY. FAST. SAFE.



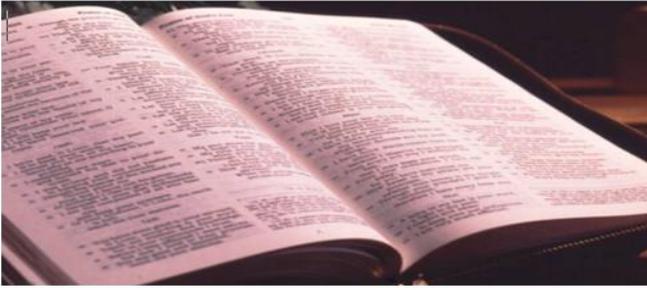
**STAY ALERT
STAY
IN
TOUCH**

we're missing you!



We'd love to hear from you especially now that we can't chat in church on a Sunday like we used to. What have you been up to recently? How are you feeling with all the strange things that are going on around us? Do let us know during this coming week and we'll let you know what others have been up to and how they are feeling. Please send your little stories by email to: info@otleyparishchurch.org or 07902 164504.

We'd love to hear from you!



HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW

Within the words of this story are hidden 30 books of the Bible. Can you find them? To give you a clue as to how to find them, one book of the Bible is shown highlighted. The answers will be revealed next month!

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves.

There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this feature.

During a recent fund-raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen.

As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight". Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this article waiting to be found!

Otley Parish Church

Kirkgate • Otley • West Yorkshire

Church Administrator: Linda Sharp (until 15th July)

Church Office: “The Chestnuts”, Burras Lane, Otley LS21 3HS

N.B. The office is currently closed

You may leave a message on the church answerphone on
01943 495927

Church Website: www.otleyparishchurch.org

@otleyallsaints   @otleyparishchurch

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

Revd John Parkin jamparkin@talktalk.net 01943 466895

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Otley Parish Church

Groups and Activities

Beer Festival	Allan Boddy	01943 466182
Bell Ringers	Meg Morton	01943 461836
Craftynuts Craft Group	Lynne Barber	01943 466493
Flower Arranging	Val Tait	01943 464032
Knit and Natter	Jo Briscoe	01943 466515
Little Rascals / Baby Rascals	Eileen Barber Jean Boddy	01943 464382 01943 466182
Local to Global	Rosemary Martley	01943 464106
Messy Church	Janet Buttanshaw	01943 462240
Music Groups <i>Worship Singing Team & ACFVATC Band</i>	Rick Mayers richardmayers87@gmail.com	07745 387446
<i>Church Band & Church Choir</i>	Pam Beck	01943 462283
Newall Ladies Fellowship	Val Tait	01943 464032
Open House	Church Office	01943 465927
Scrapbooking	Lynne Barber	01943 466493
Steel Magnolias	Shirley Parker	01943 466956
Sunday Club and 7up	Janet Buttanshaw	01943 462240
Sustainability Group	Dave Cherry	01943 463896
Uniformed Groups	Bev and Mark Rothery	01943 467016
Welcome & Hospitality	Jackie Hird	01943 462858

WHO ARE WE?

OTLEY PARISH CHURCH – the oldest building in Otley – is at the heart of our town and, for over 1,000 years, people have been gathering here for worship and significant family and community events. *“There is a place for everyone, with Christ at the centre of it all.”*

We are a gathering place for pilgrims on a journey of discovery, kindling hope as we go, helping one another to be more fully alive to the wonders, joys and 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 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; learn with us what it is to be 21st century disciples following Jesus and help us, with the other churches in the town, to bring good news to Otley and far beyond.



Otley Parish
CHURCH