Blackley Baptist Church

Gatherings for Peace



The Broadcaster

August - September 2025

Welcome to this edition of The Broadcaster.

We hope that you enjoy reading our magazine, and that it helps to keep you in touch and up to date with all that is happening here at Blackley. We are a friendly and inclusive church, meeting together every Sunday, gathering for Peace.

Hello from our Ministers!

Dear Friends,

It can be difficult to learn about things that it seems you have always known or done because you know them. In my childhood I learned to ride a bike and I can still ride a bike. I don't need to learn.

Growing up in a Christian family, I learned to pray from my parents. I learned more in Sunday School and from being part of church worship and life. In becoming a Christian, I prayed a prayer very much like the 'Raising the Sail Prayer' that we've been using. Then, in my church's Disciple Groups, I learned to pray out loud in a small home group setting, with thanksgiving to God and bringing our concerns for others. In training for ministry, I was part of a twice-daily rhythm of shared prayers in the morning and before our evening meal. In life as a minister, I've led the church in prayer in worship and been part of prayers in small group settings of different kinds, as well as my own personal prayers.

However, last autumn, I saw the publicity for Christian Meditation that had been booked to take place at the Blackley Centre. I thought, 'Meditation, that's not really something I've done,' and I decided to give it a go. In doing so, I really engaged with the listening aspect of prayer, as opposed to the talking aspect, and it has broadened my practice of prayer and experience of God.

Perhaps this laid the seed for helping me to face the challenge of exploring the Sailboat Church and how, as a Christian, I might be a sailor. The book 'Sailboat Church' introduces the idea that prayer is the mainsail for the Church and, for each one of us as sailors it says, 'God has chosen prayer as the main way God's power flows. This kind of prayer is not about telling God what to do… rather we hold hands out to receive what God wants to do in and through us.' (Gray, Joan, 2014, Sailboat Church, p51)

For me, this is at best, unsettling and at worse, scary, because I like to have some control. However, whilst I can't make any great claims so far for the effects of my listening times of prayer, I can say that they slow me down, that I'm more conscious of God and that I have a greater sense of peace. I think all three of these are good!

So, working with the 'Sailboat Church' and the insight that prayer is the mainsail through which God works in and through our lives, Jo and I will be exploring prayer as the theme of our worship on Sundays during August, and perhaps beyond. Obviously, this is not because, as a congregation, we don't pray or know how to pray, but to explore how we can deepen and broaden our life of prayer together and personally, with the humble understanding that there is more that we can learn. In true Sailboat fashion, I don't yet know how this will unfold, but I trust that God will use it to bless us, challenges us and help us grow as disciples.

I conclude by inviting you to say again the Raising the Sail prayer, which says much of what I've been trying to say better than I can say it!

God of love, thank you that you love me through Jesus Christ and call me to be a disciple. I trust you and give you control of my life. May your will be done in me, around me, through me and in spite of me, today and everyday by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen

Andy



Peace with God...

... through Worship at Blackley

Worship on Sundays most Sundays will be in the chapel at Blackley, and on Facebook, at 10.30 am, and now on YouTube. It will be led by one or both of our ministers, Andy and Jo unless otherwise stated. Please note that Worship for Everyone on the first Sunday of the month will not be on Facebook or YouTube for Safeguarding reasons but will be on the church Zoom account. Contact Andy or Jo for the link.

Sun 3 rd Aug	BBC 1	2.00 pm	Worship for Everyone at 2.00 pm in the TJ	
Sun 10 th Aug	BBC 2	10.30 am	Worship	
Sun 17 th Aug	BBC 3	10.30 am	Worship with Communion	
		6.00 pm	Prayers for Peace and Justice	
Sun 24 th Aug	BBC 4	10.30 am	Worship	
Sun 31st Aug	BBC 5	Worship and Holiday Club Presentation service.		
Sun 7 th Sept	BBC 1	2.00 pm	Worship for Everyone at 2.00 pm in TJ	
Sun 7 th Sept Sun 14 th Sept	BBC 1	2.00 pm 10.30 am	Worship for Everyone at 2.00 pm in TJ Worship	
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Sun 14 th Sept	BBC 2	10.30 am	Worship	
Sun 14 th Sept Sun 21 st Sept	BBC 2 BBC 3	10.30 am 10.30 am	Worship Worship with Communion	

... through thinking and learning together

'KAIROS' - PRAYER - HOLY SPIRIT.

Two teenagers are on 'Study Leave' from school, in the run-up to A levels. For one, it is a time to relax and enjoy freedom from lessons and from nagging teachers, always going on about the necessity for hard work in the last few weeks before the exams start. After all, they've earned a bit of a rest! Her friend sees it differently. 'A levels', for her, are the gateway to University, and she needs all the time she can get to acquire the necessary grades, and she makes the most of it, revising, memorizing and making sure she covers everything. In these two young people we can see two quite different attitudes to time. For one, the free weeks ahead are just time to be lived through; for the other, they are *kairos* time, a special opportunity time to prepare for all that lies ahead,

and the exams themselves are in the same category. It is all 'opportunity time', and presents a quite distinctive challenge.

Here at Blackley Church we are being challenged to recognise that *kairos* time is offered to us too. We are a group of Christian people who are loving and worshipping God and want to serve Jesus, but we need to know *how* to go about it. We want to respond to the *Kairos* challenge, to meet it, be excited by it and feel the power of the Holy Spirit enabling and guiding us, but sometimes the risk and the time and effort needed seem too much. We ask that God will give us the will and commitment necessary to become a sailboat church whose sails are filled with God's Spirit, so that the people amongst whom we live may come to know and love our Lord Jesus Christ, because they meet Him in us, in our lives, our relationships and this lovely space where they may feel His Presence. We also recognise that if this is to happen, we need to give God space in our lives to communicate with us and enable us for all that lies ahead.

We are, I think, very hesitant to talk about prayer and our experience of it. Our relationship with God is something very personal, and it is not always easy to share it. Yet Jesus clearly depended on the time He spent with His Father for the power and strength to live those three wonderful years of teaching, healing and eventually dying, to carry out the purpose for which He came. So, in the middle of all our planning, doing and general busy-ness, should not we too spend time with our Father, just as Jesus did, and allow Him to equip us for the *Kairos* road? We will achieve very little if we try to 'go it alone' without the Holy Spirit's strength and guidance. We need our sails to be filled!

Jenny

As the wind brushes through – like a North wind can do,
Its effect may be strong and might last all day long
So too can the Spirit of your God and mine.
It can travel through space – it can travel through time.
Although we can't see it, the Spirit is true
It brushes through me, and it brushes through you
Its effect can be massive, unless we stay passive!
Along with the Son, and his father too
It CAN work its magic...through me and through you.

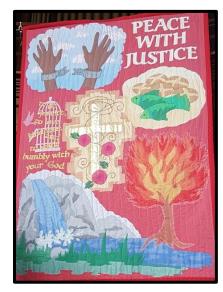
So, as the wind blows, through this World of despair, Always remember the Spirit *IS* there!

Ray Williams

Peace with Justice...

...through St Augustine's Centre

In our last edition of the Broadcaster we publicised the Open Day at St Augustine's Centre. It was a brilliant afternoon, not just in terms of fab entertainment and good food but through the opportunity to hear and see the amazing work of the Centre with and for refugees and asylum seekers. The range of activities, mainly facilitated



and enabled by volunteers was staggering and so inspiring as to how all of us can make a difference. In the face of rising antipathy and antagonism to the vulnerable, yet courageous, women, men and children who have left their homes, families and livelihoods seeking sanctuary and safety, it is wonderful to see people of all faiths and none, coming together to care and support. In Matthew 25 Jesus calls us to feed, clothe, visit, welcome and love our neighbours, wherever they come from – no 'ifs', no 'buts'. St Augustine's Centre offers us a way we can live out that calling.

Here is a list of volunteering roles and opportunities. Could you do something to show your love and care?

I remember when Megan was living in Tanzania, and just how important small gestures of care and welcome, from complete strangers, were to her. One way is to donate unwanted technology: laptops, mobile phones, tablets etc. They would need completely wiping before donating (which Andrew Taylor has offered to help with) but it is such an easy way to help people, many of whom arrive here with absolutely nothing – including any way to communicate with loved ones left behind,





let alone make appointments and get information. So, have a rootle through that drawer (you know the one!) and find that old mobile.

Release it to have a new life! After all, it isn't doing much in there, is it!



Peace with Creation

... through the Peace Garden

Do you have a beautiful buddleia, a happy hydrangea or an amazing azalea?

Wanted!

Cuttings, flowers, pots, and volunteers to help develop our peace garden, around the circular bench, and if possible, at other places around the site.

... through Holiday Club

It may seem a bit tenuous to put Holiday Club under Peace with Creation, but our children are part of God's wonderful creation, and we will definitely be thinking as part of our activities about how we care for God's world.

This year the theme of Holiday Club is 'The Lighthouse' and I am sure that it will be as fun, whacky, chaotic and as great as it always is.

If you, or anyone you know aged 5 – 11 years wants to come down to Blackley on Wed, Thurs and Friday, 27^{th} – 29^{th} August from 9.30 – 12.15 to join in the fun and games, please let us know. Take an invitation or 5 and pass them on. This will be the last week of the summer holidays, and if you are able to help, please do let Jo know asap.





Peace with One

Another...

Part of our collective life here at Blackley is sharing in each other's joys and struggles, and those of our families. In the Community News we share each week on Sundays, we remind ourselves that we are part of a wider family. If any of our readers has information that it would be good to share either here or in Community News, mindful that we broadcast our services, please do let us know.

So often we begin this section with news of a death or bereavement. Well, we are bucking the trend and beginning with good news and celebrations! We were delighted to hear in the early part of June that Gordon Smith kept infection–free and was able to have his long-awaited procedure, which delivered the good news that he is clear of cancer. We rejoiced with Pam when she received the call whilst at 'As Yet Untitled', resulting in the title for that session being 'Gordon's Good News!' Well done, Gordon.

It has been wonderful to have Joe Braithwaite back in church recently. Joe is not back to full health by any means but is making progress and we were thrilled to have Joe back where he belongs – at Blackley. We continue to hold Joe in our prayers as he continues to adjust and hopefully improve, thanking God for him, and for Mark and the family who care for him so well.

As we approached the end of the school year, we heard lots of good news of achievements and awards to children and young people connected with the church. Well done to them all. If I try to mention them I will only miss someone! However, I'm indulging myself with a special mention of Jenny's grandson (and my nephew!) Joshua Howland. Our wonderful Josh has a rare genetic condition (NARS-1) which means that he is differently gifted from other children. This September he begins at a new special school, so his school had to say goodbye to him. They did so with an outpouring of love and appreciation for Josh that was quite remarkable, thanking him for the difference that he has made to the school, to children and staff alike. He is a force for joy and love and life, and we couldn't be prouder of him.

Other celebrations have included Jean and Michael Whitworth's Diamond Wedding. Huge thanks to them both for including us all in their celebrations, and we wish them health and happiness as they enter their 61st year of blissful marriage! (That is right, isn't it?) We also wished Joyce Woodhouse a very happy 100th birthday! Jo, John and

Margaret were able to join with family and friends to celebrate 100 years of Joyce, who looked amazing!

So lots to bring a smile to our faces, but of course there have been our sadnesses and struggles too. John Green, elder brother of Steve, sadly was taken ill at the beginning of June, and although he recovered enough to go home, very sadly he became very ill and died. The funeral, led by Andy, was held on Friday July 18th. We send our love and prayers to Steve and Chris, sister Susan and all the family at this time of loss.

Mary Crowther has recently had a chest infection, from which she is recovering. However, it has knocked her back, and she is increasingly frail and tired. We remember Mary in our prayers.

... through Gathering Together

Join us at

"As Yet Untitled..."

An opportunity to get together with friends, old and new on Tuesday afternoons 1.45 pm to 3.45 pm

As part of our Church Theme for the year of 'Doing Life Together' we have decided to spend time together, enjoying each other's company and having a bit of fun. Each week we will do something altogether for about 45 mins, have tea (and biscuits, cakes, crisps... or whatever turns up on the afternoon) and then spend 45 mins or so playing games, making something, having a chat – in fact, 'doing life together!' So far we have decorated vases with Pam, listened to favourite songs with Joan, quizzed with Pauline, kept fit and sung with Jo (although not at the same time!) and heard about Read Easy from Michelle.

And there is lots more to come! At the end of each session we choose the title for the week!

It is something to invite friends and family to attend - as a way of building relationships, connections and helping others who may be a bit lonely, isolated or who just need our special Blackley warmth and welcome.

Come and join in!

It's new – and we are not quite sure what will happen – or even what it will be called.

It is 'As yet untitled...'

... through Meetings and Events

Regular Meetings

Tuesdays 1.45 – 3.45 'As Yet Untitled' – Doing Life Together on a Tuesday.

5th Aug: tea at Jenny's, 16 Broomfield 12th Aug: Trip to Tong Garden Centre

19th Aug: tbd

26th Aug: Lighthouse preparation!

Wednesdays 9.30 – 11.00 'Playing with Peace' Parent and Toddler group.

We are not meeting in August, but begin again on September 3rd. If anyone would like to come along and help with snacks, or chat with parents do check with Jo, and/or sign the list in the

kitchen.

Thursdays @ 10.00 Gathering to Work and Pray at 10.00 am

We gather together for a brief time to commit our work, our prayers, our lives to God, going to..

Northumbria Community Morning Prayer (PS)

Church Working Party. Volunteers always welcome!

Thursdays @ 11.00 Gathering for Coffee and Chat – Prayers, Workers, Walkers, & You!

Thursdays @ 11.20 Gathering to Sing (occasionally, as advised)

Regular users of the building include:

Tuesday mornings: Chi Chi Dance and Fitness

Tuesday Afternoons: Inner Wheel (one Tues per month)

Tuesday evenings: Halifax SingSpace Musical Theatre Choir (Restarts 23/09)

Wednesday Evenings: ChiChi Dance and Fitness

Thursday Evenings: Luv'ly Lasses

Other Meetings/Events (known at the time of printing)

Sun 10th Aug 12.30 pm Sunday lunch at The Fleece

Tues 12th 10.00 am Deacons, Officers and Ministers Meeting (Agenda)

Wed 27th Aug 11.30 am Rock Cooking

Wed, Thurs, Fri: 27th, 28th, 29th Aug: 9.30am - 12.15pm

The Lighthouse Holiday Club.

Tues 9th Sept 10.00 am Deacons, Officers and Ministers Meeting (Discussion)

Thurs 11th Sept 11.00 – 3.30 Blackley Centre Trustees Meeting

Thurs 18th Sept 9.00 – 3.00 David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors Training Fri 19th Sept 9.00 – 3.00 David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors Training

Fri 26th Sept 10.00 – 4.00 Peace and Quiet Day

... through Eating Together



This lovely picture is of our 'Playing with Peace' children enjoying Snack Time. They love eating sat around the tables together, learning the importance of sharing, helping others, as well as protecting your food from your neighbour! Eating together is important and we want our youngest ones to learn and enjoy the experience of sharing food.

It is important for us all – so instead of disappearing off to your home after church, possibly on our own, you are invited to have lunch together as part of our 'Doing Life Together' focus. Andy, Jo and Jenny are having lunch at The Golden Fleece on Sunday 10^{th} Aug, and if you are free and would like to join them, then please come along! (Sorry, you have to pay for yourself!!) Let us know if you can join us, or if you need a lift. Hope to see you there!

... through the FLOWER ROTA

Thank you all for donating your flowers. This is an important part of the church's caring ministry and flowers are much appreciated by those who receive them.

If you wish to change your slot or rearrange please contact Desley Taylor

AUGUST 2025		SEPTEMBER 2025	
3rd	-	7th	-
10th	Linda and Mike Greenwood	14th	Sue and Alan Clough
17th	Elizabeth Norris	21st	Jean and Mike Whitworth
24th	Jill Sykes	28th	Pam and Gordon Smith
31st	Guy Hirst		

OCTOBER 2025		I	NOVEMBER 2025	
5th	HARVEST	2nd	-	
12th	Jenny Howland	9th	Jenny and Howard Whitely	
19th	Robert Ambler	16th	Margaret Shutt	
26th	Margaret and Neil Arber	23rd	Vacant	
		30th	Chris and Ray Williams	

С	DECEMBER 2025	
7th	-	
14th	Ian and Susan Taylor	
21st	CHRISTMAS TREE	
28th	CHRISTMAS TREE	

... by going to a concert together



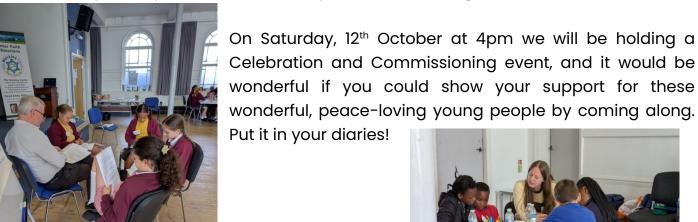
On 27th July the fantastic Eilidh (pronounced I-Lee)Patterson came to Blackley. Eilidh is a brilliant story-teller and musician, with, as one member of the audience described it, the voice of an angel. We were entertained and moved by both music, song and story, and would like to thank Eilidh once again for coming. We also thank Steve for helping to make this evening happen.

Since the concert, we have already had other enquiries as to whether Blackley could be a venue for a concert, so watch this space... We would certainly love to invite Eilidh back some time in the future.

...through the Blackley Centre

David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors.

The initial training took place in June when 48 children from Old Earth, St Patricks, Holywell Green, Cross Lane, and Elland CE Primary School, together with their teachers came to Blackley. They were amazing! We look forward to welcoming them back for their refresher days in September, which completes their training.





Peace Within...

... through Prayer

People or families are listed each week together with some other areas to think about. This is not meant as an 'ought' or a pressure but something that is helpful so please use it in whatever way works for you. Thanks to Jean Whitworth for providing this for us each time. If there is something or someone which you feel should be included, please do let Jean know.

Week Com	People to remember this week	Areas of Church Life	Local Areas/Groups
Sunday 3 rd August All Age Worship 2pm TJ Hall	Christine Allcock and family Lissa, Simon, Stanley, Nancy Allison The Ambler family Kath Avis and her family. Darren, Deborah, Phoebe, Thomas Arber, Neil and Margaret Arber Doreen and Roger Barlow Happy Birthday to Jenny Howland (3 rd)	We pray for our ministers Jo and Andy as they lead us in our worship Be with our church and congregation. We give thanks for our young families asking God's blessing on the children who will be present. We pray for the Tuesday group that started recently and hope it will be a great addition to our church life.	We pray for the community of Blackley village, for the residents of Hazlemore Fold and the local meeting places such as the Cricket Club, The Fleece and the Farm Shop. Loving God, be with them in their diverse needs.
Sunday 10 th August 10.30am Reader: Jean Whitworth	Pauline & George Barnard, Charlotte and Rob The Baume family Jean Bennett and family The Bolton family Joe Braithwaite and family Suzanne, Sonny & Jonah Broster. Bright Happy Birthday to Margaret Jackson (10 th)	We pray for the church Deacons, Officers and Ministers at the Deacons meeting on Tuesday We also pray for our Property and Finance Team as they take care of our church, its finances and its buildings.	Please pray for all the local children. Let their school and family holidays be a time of interest and renewal. Let us not forget the suffering Of the children and young people in Gaza and pray that this starvation will cease.
Sunday 17 th August 10.30am Communion Bible Reader Doreen Barlow	Ann Bryant and family Caroline, Gordon and Poppy Buckle Susan and Alan Clough and family here and in Australia Mary Crowther and family Glenda & John Dekker and Family David & Carole Denton & family Roy and Linda Dicken Happy Birthday to Linda Greenwood (17 th)	We pray for the Peace and Reconciliation work which takes place at our Centre. It is being used in greater numbers and whilst this is good for the Centre it does indicate an increase in conflict and argument in churches. We pray for Jo and bless her work in this field. We pray too for our relationships that they may be respectful and honouring of you.	Please be with families and individuals who are finding life and finances difficult at this time. We pray for the work of Elland Foodbank and all who work so hard to help those who struggle to put food on the table.

Sunday 24 th August 10.30am Bible Reader Jenny Howland	Elaine Dyson and family Michelle Edwards and family Margaret Ellis John Farrar and Margaret Jackson and family The Field and Smith families Chris and Steve Green and family Linda and Mike Greenwood and family. Happy Birthday to Roger Barlow (28 th)	Pray for Rev David Denton who is conducting our service this week. Also think of our ministers Jo and Andy as they visit Greenbelt. Be with the Holiday Club which meets from Wednesday to Friday this week. Bless the children and the organisers. Support the Rock cooking group as they meet together on Wednesday.	Think of and pray for all the local Churches, their ministers and congregations: Upper Edge, St Marys'/All Saints, Southgate and Bethesda, St Patricks, Elland Christian Fellowship, St Thomas and St Andrews. We pray for Old Earth, Holywell Green, Cross Lane, St Patricks and Elland Cofe Schools
Sunday 31 st August 10.30 am Bible Reader. Christine Williams	Elaine Harvie Guy Hirst and family Jenny Howland and Family Jamie and Tim Ingram Nikki and Stuart Jenkins Patricia and Richard Lindsay Patricia & Graham Mitchell & family	Pray for our ministers Jo and Andy as they lead us in becoming a Sailboat church. Pray for our church members remembering, those who live away or are unable to be with us due to ill health or mobility issues. Think also of the friends of our church and bless our community.	Pray for the local children as schools reopen this week. Those who are starting and those who are changing schools, plus those embarking on college courses or apprenticeships .Pray for Project.Colt with the work they do with addiction and mental health problems and the new Community Hub, that it will be of help to those in need.
Sunday 7 th September All Age Worship TJ Hall pm	Alan and Maureen Odams Joan Parkinson Jenny Peckett and Eric Nannette, Stuart, Oscar and Wilbur Quarmby Pam and Gordon Smith and family Margaret Shutt and family Lynn and Philip Smith and family Happy Birthday to Alan Odams (9 th)	Please be with all the families and their children as they join us today. We pray for our Playing with Peace group, children, parents and grandparents, and for our play leader Michelle. Help us as a church to show love and welcome to all. Please pray for the Centre Trustees as they seek God's guidance at their meeting on Thursday	We pray for all in the war torn areas of the world, for the civilian populations living in fear and hunger. Let there be a breakthrough in attempts to bring peace and understanding. We pray particularly for Gaza and for Ukraine, that these horrendous conflicts and unjust killings will cease. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Sunday 14 th September 10.30 am Bible Reader Steve Green	Jean Sykes and family Jill Sykes and family here and in Australia . Desley and Andrew Taylor and family Susan and Ian Taylor and family. Joan Thornton and family Clare and Annie & families (Townend)	Let us remember the groups who use our centre and facilities on a regular basis, particularly those from other churches who find a place of retreat and learning. We are pleased to welcome the young Peace Ambassadors as they return for two refresher days this week.	Let us remember the work done by our health services: for the hospices, supported by volunteers and charities. Overgate, Forget Me Not and Kirkwood. We pray for doctors nurses and paramedics who care for our health in this district, through local surgeries and our hospitals, praying for Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, Calderdale Royal and The Spire.

Sunday 21 st September 10.30am Communion Bible Reader Pam Smith	Jean and Michael Whitworth & family Chris and Ray Williams and family Wendy and Steve Williams and family. Jo, Andy, Alys and Megan Tricia Wilkinson and family Joyce Woodhouse, Penny, Hester and Affrica and family	We pray for our whole congregation this week. May our Communion Service be a special time for them Be with those with health concerns, undergoing tests and treatment. We all have worries and concerns which others do not know about but you do and we bring them to you for your comfort and guidance.	Pray for our leaders and the local community councillors and representatives. May they put the local concerns of residents of their areas forefront in their working for everyone. May those who receive their assistance be thankful for this voluntary work which they do.
Sunday 28 th September 10.30 am Bible Reader Christine Williams	'The Blackley Centre for Peace and Reconciliation. The Interfaith Work done at the Centre. The Young men from the Rock. The David Shutt Peacemaker Project in Schools Happy Birthday to Margaret Arber (2 nd September)	Pray for the Peace and Reconciliation and Interfaith work, which goes on at the centre. Also pray for Christine who organises our centre bookings those who do the catering and Pauline who manages all the finances.	Be with other Baptist churches in the area Upper Edge, New North Rd, Salendine Nook, Scapegoat Hill. And for the Yorkshire Baptist Association. Pray for the young men from the Rock , that they may feel welcome and supported

And finally...

If you have items for the next Broadcaster please get them to Jo or Jenny by Sunday 28^{th} September . Thank you.