

Blackley Baptist Church

Gatherings for Peace



The Broadcaster

April – May 2025

Welcome to the April/May 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,

Happy Easter 2025!

Easter 2023 – we had just accepted our new ‘statement of purpose’–

‘Gathering for Peace: with God, with Creation, with Justice, With One Another, Within

Easter 2024 – we had just received our new banners on these themes – seem like they have been with us in Chapel a lot longer – wouldn’t it look bare without them!

What is new this Easter, I wonder?

Well, Jenny has recently been leading a Gathering Group looking at ‘New Creation,’ exploring God’s new creation heralded by the resurrection of Jesus. This was a new way of thinking about Resurrection for some in the group. We discovered that New Creation began when the stone was rolled away and Jesus rose from death, and continues to be built day by day in every act of kindness, love, justice and peace. We celebrate the beginning of New Creation on Easter Sunday but live it every day of our lives. This means that when we hear of atrocities, wars and violence; when we see the impact of climate crisis through natural disasters, when we comfort the broken, lonely, and depressed, we can do it not minimising the suffering and struggle in an ‘It’ll be alright when we die’ type way, but knowing that every good act, however small, is steadfastly and faithfully building the New Creation begun by God in Jesus. Nothing is wasted. Nothing is so small or insignificant that it doesn’t add to the flow of love and life that pours out of God. It is part of God’s response, God’s answer to the prayers for justice and peace that we and others, cry out. We are part of God’s answer!

This is amazing! It gives value to all we do. Sometimes we can be overwhelmed by the challenge of living faithfully as God’s people – especially when our numbers are few, the finances are fragile, the bills are growing, the buildings are aging – as are we! – and the world is hurting. But this tells us that what we do, and more importantly, **who we are**, is Good News to others. We do not do this alone – we live this life, building God’s New Creation, together. It is not a solo enterprise. We are led by Jesus, enabled by God’s Holy Spirit, and blessed by each other.

‘Doing Life Together’ – our theme for 2025 – being present for one another as we journey together, companions on the way, doing life together with Jesus Christ as Lord and inviting others to join in. One way we are looking to make this more ‘concrete’ is in a gathering similar to ‘Young at Heart’, the group that runs at Sion, Burnley and which we heard about when Diana Roberts joined us in March. What an inspiring time we had hearing from her! I hope that you have been thinking about what we can do here at Blackley. If you would like to be a part of the team that brings this to fruition, please let Andy or myself know. This is a new creation for Blackley building God’s New Creation as we do life together! Happy Easter!



With our love, Jo and 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 You Tube. It will be led by one or both of our ministers, Andy and Jo unless otherwise stated. Please note that **Worship for Everyone at 2.00 pm on the first Sunday of the month will not be on Facebook or You Tube** for Safeguarding reasons but will be on the church Zoom account. Contact Andy or Jo for the link.

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Sun 6 th April | BBC 1 | Worship for Everyone at 2.00 pm in the TJ |
| Sun 13 th April | BBC 2 | Worship for Palm Sunday |
| Sun 20 th April | BBC 3 | Easter Sunday Worship with Communion |
| Sun 27 th April | BBC 4 | Worship |
| <hr/> | | |
| Sun 4 th May | BBC 1 | Worship for Everyone at 2.00 pm in TJ |
| Sun 11 th May | BBC 2 | Worship |
| Sun 17 th Nov | BBC 3 | Worship with Communion |
| Sun 24 th Nov | BBC 4 | Worship and 6.00 pm Prayers for Peace and Justice |

... through Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week and Easter is a special time for all Christians and churches, and here at Blackley we have our own particular ways of journeying with Jesus and remembering the story that is central to our faith and our lives. We hope that you can join us for all or part of our reflections and celebrations, but know that this is often holiday time for many. If you are not able to journey with us, we would encourage you to create space for Jesus this Easter. If you are away, why not visit a local church, celebrate with them, and take greetings from Blackley to our sisters and brothers in other places.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Easter Programme

Sunday 13th April Worship for Palm Sunday

**Monday 14th April – Good Friday, 18th April
Holy Week Breakfasts 'People in the Story'**

at 8.00 am in the TJ Hall

Gathering each morning of Holy Week to reflect together on this special week, sharing a simple breakfast together afterwards.

**Maundy Thursday, 17th April at 7.00 pm
'At the Table'**

Join us in the 'Upper Room' of the Prospect Suite for our reflective sharing of Communion as we remember the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. We finish outside in the Garden

Good Friday, 18th April

At 10.30am in Elland Town Centre 'Good Friday Walk of Witness'

Led by the churches in Elland, and finishing with refreshments at Elland Christian Fellowship

**At 2.00 pm at Blackley Church
'At the Cross'**

A quiet, special time, gathering at the Cross, as we reflect and journey with Jesus.

Easter Saturday, 10.00 am

Coffee, Flowers, Crafts and Hot Cross Buns

Gathering together to decorate the Church with flowers, enjoying each other's company during the waiting time. Bring a bunch of yellow and white flowers if you can. Everyone – all ages- welcome!

Easter Sunday, 10.30 am

Easter Celebration Communion

Join us as we celebrate the Good News

Christ is Risen!

BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH

(according to John)

Jesus was alive!

The inconceivable had happened! Our beloved Master had come out of the tomb alive, recognizably Himself – and yet somehow strangely different! We'd seen him, touched him, and talked with him; and we were carried away in our joy, and the wonderful relief of the overwhelming grief we had been feeling since that terrible day when they crucified him.

Yet one of us was still wrapped in a distress we couldn't understand. Peter stood apart, somehow unable to share our joy, cut off, and outside it all. He didn't explain, but I suspect he was looking back to that evening in the High Priest's courtyard, when his courage failed him. Knowing Peter as I do, I am sure he would not be able to block out the memory that he had failed his Master.

Then one evening, several of us had met together. We were discussing yet again the incredible events of the last week, and where we, Jesus' disciples, might stand in the eyes of the authorities, when Peter suddenly and very abruptly said, "I'm going fishing!" We replied that we would go with him. You might think that this wasn't very surprising since some of us were fishermen, but no plans had been made, and it was still Passover time. But we all felt the need to be *doing* something. So we went!

All night we fished and caught nothing! Cold, tired and hungry, and feeling frustrated and miserable, we turned for home. Then as daylight was breaking, we saw someone on the beach. He called out to us, seeming to know that we'd had a wasted night. "Throw the nets on the right side!" he called out. So we did. He must have seen a shoal, because our nets were soon so heavy with fish that we could scarcely draw them up. Then, as I looked at the figure on the shore, my heart leapt! It was Jesus! "*It's the Lord!*" I said to Peter, and he recognized the beloved figure too. His reaction, typical Peter, was to leap over the side of the boat, into the water, struggling to get into his clothes as he went. The rest of us rowed after him, dragging the laden nets with us.



There, on the beach stood Jesus, beside a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it and bread. How we enjoyed that breakfast! Never had food tasted so good, or a fire felt so welcoming, and to receive the bread from Jesus' hands was unforgettable!

But Peter had remained very quiet – not his usual self at all, and quite often I saw Jesus' eyes resting upon him, and wondered what he would do. Soon it was full daylight and we needed to be on our way with the great catch; but I saw Jesus draw Peter aside and walk away with him, and I'll leave Peter himself to tell you something of the conversation they had...

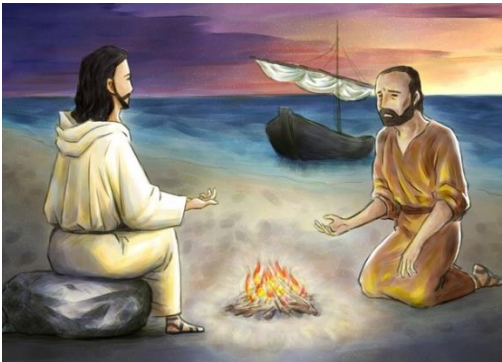
Peter Remembers...

When Jesus joined me as we walked up the beach, I was so afraid that he would send me away from him and the others. After all I'd declared quite openly that I hadn't known him! In the Garden, before they came to arrest him, I had had courage and was really prepared to die for him: but when he just let them take him, and wouldn't let me try to defend him, I felt so vulnerable and afraid! Seeing him a prisoner, surrounded by guards, drained me of all purpose and my courage too just disappeared. And then, in the High Priest's courtyard, I denied openly that he was my friend! I said I didn't know him! That I'd had nothing to do with him! How could he forgive me, or still want me as one of his disciples?

And now! I was walking beside him, not knowing what to say, and remembering that the last time he had looked at me, he had been a prisoner, standing before his accusers. He had just turned his head, and I knew that he was somehow aware of just how badly I had failed him! I could see him quite clearly, and I realized that he knew! He knew that, despite my fine words, I had not remained faithful to him! I will never forget how sad he looked. Not angry – nor contemptuous – just so *sad*.

Then, he began to speak.

He asked me if I loved him!



Of course, I assured him that I did.

Again, he asked me the same question, and again I said the same.

Then he asked me a third time, and I was shattered! Why does he keep asking?

But quite suddenly, my mind cleared, and it dawned on me that I was being given a chance to reverse my three denials. Yet, even more than that! Each time I declared my love *he gave me a task!* He still wanted me! He still trusted me!

I was to tend his flock and feed his sheep! What sheep? What flock? Then the wonderful truth flooded through me, and I remembered what he had said when I first met him. He had called me *petros* – Peter – a rock – and had gone on to say, “On this rock I will build my church”. He was still calling me to be the rock on which he would build! Even though he went on to warn me that this would involve hardship, I knew that Jesus, who was also the Son of God, would give me the strength and courage to be a faithful shepherd of his flock and spread the Good News of Jesus the Messiah.

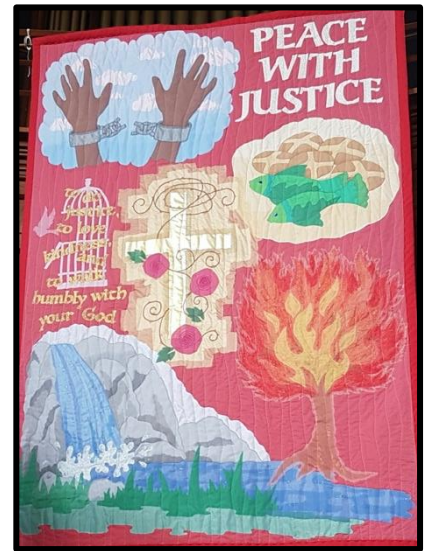
May this be true for us as well, here in Blackley Church, both as individuals and as a loving, serving and worshipping community so that, like Peter, we may have the same strength and courage in spreading the Good News of Jesus who is our Messiah too.

Jenny

Peace with Justice...

...through Christian Aid

This Christian Aid Week we get to meet Aurelia, from Guatemala. You may see her featured on the TV adverts. We will be hearing more of her story in Church on Christian Aid Sunday.



Meet Aurelia

An inspirational farmer and community leader. Aurelia and her family belong to the Indigenous Q'eqchi' community of the Alta Verapaz region. The climate crisis and industrial plantations have changed Q'eqchi' land dramatically. Gruelling heatwaves, savage storms and unpredictable seasons are ravaging farms. Industrial agriculture is taking over the last of the region's natural resources to feed the world's richest countries. Many of the vital crops that Aurelia depends on are withering and dying before her eyes.



When Aurelia was two years old, her father, Ricardo, brought her to the land that she now calls home. Ricardo speaks of the changes that he has seen due to climate crisis.

'I came to this community when I was 25 years old, I'm 78 now. This was a forest with different types of trees. You could really feel the freshness of the environment while walking through the mountains, under the shade of these trees. It has all gone.'

It's a heartbreaking injustice that a community should be threatened by a climate crisis they didn't cause. Aurelia tries to grow a range of crops so she can provide her family with a balanced diet that contains the vitamins and minerals they need to thrive. In this way, Aurelia can protect her loved ones from malnutrition and ill health. But as increasingly intense conditions kill her crops, Aurelia's ability to safeguard her family slips away.

Aurelia has observed many **impacts of the climate crisis**, including extended dry seasons, the degradation of soil, contaminated water and a decreasing diversity of plants and crops.

'There was a prediction this would happen in the future, but it has come earlier. This is very worrying for our kids and especially our grandkids.'

Guatemala's dry and rainy seasons dictate that farming families like Aurelia's must carefully plan how and when to use their harvests. It's essential that they build reserves to sustain them through lean periods. A pressing concern is that smaller yields will result in smaller reserves, leaving people exceptionally vulnerable to hunger in between harvests.

When Aurelia discovered the work of Christian Aid's partner, Congcoop, she put herself forward to attend the specialist agricultural training on offer, along with 22 members of nearby

communities. With funding from Christian Aid, Congcoop supports communities to return to Indigenous farming practices and adopt agroecological approaches that conserve their land, culture and livelihood. Agroecology, put simply, is farming in a sustainable way that works with, not against, nature. It's the application of ecological principles in farming – a blend of ancient and modern wisdom. By working with Congcoop, Aurelia's gained the skills and knowledge to cultivate native seeds that are better suited to the changing climate. She's producing her own organic fertiliser, creating nurseries, constructing rainwater collection systems, and making nutritious food and medicine for her chickens.

Thanks to Aurelia's ever-growing knowledge base, she's now cultivating cacao, sugarcane, cinnamon, corn and pineapples. It's steady progress that holds promise. Aurelia's resolute hope has also inspired her to develop and lead other activities in her community, including producing chocolate, establishing a farmers' market, and fighting for **women's rights**.

Gladys Mucu Choc, Congcoop Territorial Facilitator says,

"Aurelia's community is unbelievably impressive. There's no electricity, water or phone signal, but this hasn't been a barrier for the women. They are very proactive, and I think that's because Aurelia has become a role model for them. Many are showing up at meetings they didn't previously participate in and selling their cocoa balls and other products. They're not dependent on Congcoop – they mobilise themselves."

Aurelia's story reminds us that even the most proactive, determined and ambitious among us can need a helping hand in life.

Christian Aid reminds us that our support is urgently needed to ensure they can be there for Indigenous families who are bearing the full force of the climate crisis.

Together, we can be more like Aurelia, and put the unstoppable power of hope into action, because a brighter, fairer future is possible.

'I want to tell donors to continue supporting Christian Aid, because, through Congcoop, they've been supporting us.' Aurelia.

11-17 May 2025

7 days to

make a difference

This Christian Aid Week, we are all being asked the question...

What will you do?

One suggestion that Christian Aid is asking us to consider is...

70k in May

It's simple: travel 70K, in whatever way you want, throughout the month of May. Invite your friends and family to sponsor you or even complete the challenge with you.

More details about this challenge: <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/70k-in-may>

Peace with Creation

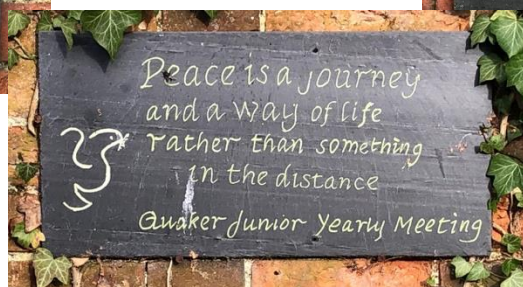
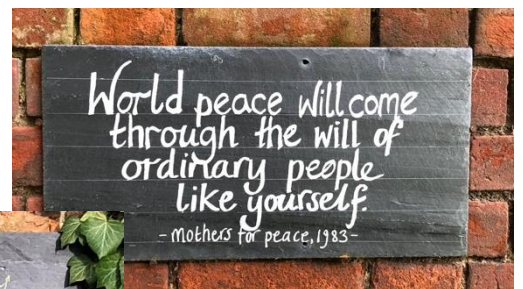
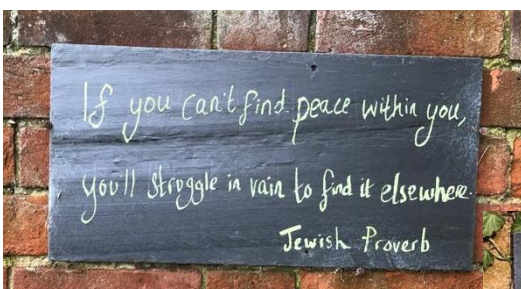


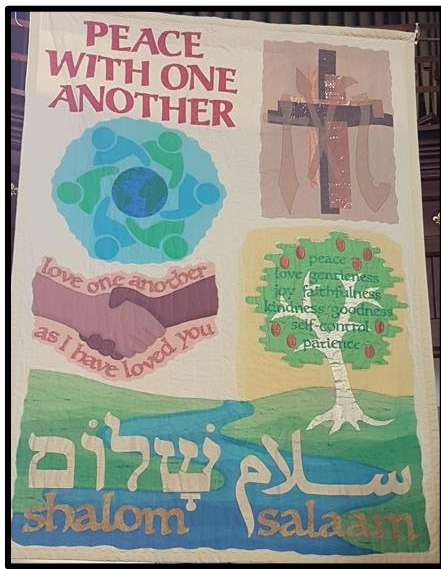
... through the Peace Garden!

We received the good news that we have been given £400 from Arnold Clark Fund for the development of our Peace Garden. This project has been on hold over the winter, but now Spring has definitely sprung it is great that we have some funds to move on with this. It has been lovely seeing David's bench lit by the sun over recent afternoons, with the daffodils emerging all around, so now is the time to add to it.



We are hoping to create some slate signs with quotations about peace, and for these to be sighted around the bench and the graveyard. Below are some examples from another Peace Garden. We are hoping to get our own ones made, so if you know of a good quotation, or words about peace, that have been helpful for you write them down and give them to Andy or Jo. We also have a sign for the Peace Garden which was begun last autumn with the Young Peace Ambassadors. This needs finishing and installing. Therefore, it would be wonderful if there were two or three people who would be interested in shaping this with us, choosing some additional plants and features to make this a place of peace and tranquillity within our lovely grounds. If any of our 'Readers from Afar' wanted to contribute something to this Garden, please do get in touch. Cuttings from gardens would be appreciated!





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 our Community News we share, week by 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.

I had hoped to begin this edition's 'News' without the mention of a death or a funeral – but sadly, this has changed within the last few days. On Monday 31st March we heard that Beryl Mason at 101, had deteriorated and was moving to end of life care. Beryl is mother of Rosemary Wright, who works for CICS which the church supports as part of our regular giving. Beryl moved a few years ago, into Angel Care Residential Home in West Vale, and whilst she has never been able to attend worship at Blackley in person, has regularly attended by watching on Facebook, joining in Zooms and connecting through email – even at 101 – an inspiration to us all. Beryl died peacefully on Wednesday 2nd April, bringing to an end a life lived faithfully and well in the service of God. We look forward to celebrating this wonderful woman, and supporting her family and friends in their loss, at a Service of Thanksgiving for her life on Thursday 8th May at 3.15 at Blackley. We send Rosemary and the family our love, remembering them in our prayers.

Alan Odams has finally had long awaited surgery to remove cancerous growths from his head. We are delighted that this has finally happened and that Alan is recovering well. Gordon Smith was expecting to also have a 'procedure', following his recent course of chemotherapy but this had to be postponed due to a very inconvenient bout of pneumonia, which developed on the same day as grandson William's baptism! Thankfully Gordon was well enough to share in that great family occasion ("Well done, William!") and is now recovering his strength from the infection. Hopefully the procedure will be rescheduled soon.

Sadly Joe Braithwaite recently received the tragic news of the death of Haris, who was married to his grand-daughter Sarah. Joe's son Mark says...

'Haris was 34 yrs old and married to our younger daughter Sarah. They married in January 2024 after an 18 year courtship (from their schooldays). He was a practising barrister working out of Dere Street Chambers in Newcastle and specialised in family work. Their daughter Nora was born 4 days before Christmas 2024 and is now three and a half months old. Haris died suddenly and unexpectedly on Friday 28th March in Austria.'

We know all at Blackley will support Joe in this, particularly after he has experienced so much loss in his family and in friendships in the last couple of years. Joe we send you our love with our thoughts and prayers and support. We also send our love and prayers to Sarah and little Nora and Mark and Kay and all the family in this sad time.

We hold each other close in prayer when walking through these times of shadow and hardship. At the moment we especially remember Sue and Alan, Ray and Chris, and Steve and Wendy and their family as they grieve the loss of cousin Philippa; Daniel and Kath and family as they continue through treatment at St James, Leeds, as well as continuing to think of the Caroline, Gordon and Poppy Buckle missing Pat, and Jamie, Clare and Tim Ingram missing Brenda, and all for whom this Mother's Day will have been especially hard. As we walk towards Easter may we hold onto the hope of new life in God, heralded by the resurrection of Jesus.

Finally, as part of our gatherings on Sundays we share moments of joy as well as concern. I'm afraid I have lost track of the number of good things that have happened for our children, and grandchildren – they have been coming thick and fast! New jobs, new homes, degrees, babies – it is lovely to share these moments of joy and hope as we 'Do life together.' We give thanks to God for all these precious and joyful moments. Keep the good news coming!

... through Meetings and Events

Regular Meetings

Wednesdays 9.30 – 11.00 **'Playing with Peace' Parent and Toddler group.** We have more children attending which is great. 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

Northumbria Community Morning Prayer (PS) All welcome
Church Working Party. Volunteers always welcome!

Thursdays @ 11.00

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

Thursdays @ 11.20

Gathering to Sing (as advised)

Regular users of the building include:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Monday evenings: | Chi Chi Dance and Fitness |
| Tuesday mornings: | Chi Chi Dance and Fitness |
| Tuesday Afternoons: | Inner Wheel (one Tues per month) |
| Tuesday evenings: | Halifax SingSpace Musical Theatre Choir, |
| Wednesday Evenings: | ChiChi Dance and Fitness |
| Thursday Evenings: | Luv'ly Lasses |

| Other Meetings/Events | (known at the time of printing) | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Thurs 10 th April | 10.00 | Property and Finance Meeting |
| Sat 12 th April | 2.30 pm | Wedding of Ben and Vickie |
| Sun 13 th April | Frugal Lunch for the Leprosy Mission after worship | |
| Tues 15 th | 10.00 am | Deacons Officers and Minsters Meeting |
| Fri 2 nd May | 10 -4 pm | Peace and Quiet day |
| Thurs 8 th May | 3.15 pm | Funeral for Beryl Mason -2.15 at Parkwood Crematorium |
| Tues 13 th May | 10.00 | Deacons and Officers meeting |
| Sat 17 th May | Baptist Assembly at West Bromwich | |
| Frid 30 th May | Peace and Quiet Day. | |
| Saturday 31 st May | Antiques Valuation Day. | |

... through Gathering Together

Do you enjoy the company of other people?

Do you like to have a laugh, a natter with friends?

Do you drink tea, and eat biscuits and or cake?

Do you sometimes feel a bit low, isolated, lonely even?

Do you want healthy relationships for yourself and others here?

Do you want Blackley to grow, and care, and serve?

If you can answer "Yes" to all or some of the above, YOU are the person/s we are looking for!



Here at Blackley we are going to be creating a new opportunity to gather together for fun, fellowship, laughter, learning, playing, singing, trips & whatever takes our fancy! Along the lines of 'Young at Heart' which we heard about from Diana Roberts, the idea is that we take seriously the fact that many of us are now on our own. As we explore our church theme of 'Doing Life Together' we are going to have a group which does just that – does and enjoys life together! If your brain has been thinking about what this may look like here at Blackley, or you would like to be part of the team that puts this together, please have a word with Jo and Andy.

... through Eating Together



After church each Sunday we all scurry off to our own homes to have our Sunday lunches, so we wondered if every once in a while, instead of eating separately those who wanted it could have lunch together? We don't want to make this a burden on anyone having to cook for a large number, and also want to support our local businesses, so we are suggesting gathering at The Golden Fleece for lunch. Let Andy or Jo know if you'd like to go .

...through the FLOWER ROTA


Thank you all for donating your flowers

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|---------------|
| APRIL 2025 | | MAY 2025 | |
|  | |  | |
| 6 th | - | 4 th | - |
| 13 th | Margaret Jackson | 11 th | Joan Thornton |
| 20th | EASTER | 18 th | Elaine Dyson |
| 27 th | Pauline Goodridge | 25 th | Vacant |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| JUNE 2025 | | JULY 2025 | |
|  | |  | |
| 1 st | - | 6 th | - |
| 8 th | Steve and Wendy Williams | 13 th | John and Glenda Dekker |
| 15 th | Vacant | 20 th | David and Carole Denton |
| 22 nd | Jean Bennett | 27 th | Doreen and Roger Barlow |
| 29 th | Chris Allcock | | |

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

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

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

If anyone wishes to change dates, please arrange between yourselves, but notify Desley Taylor
Tel: 01484 304199

...through the Blackley Centre

We're delighted that the Prospect Suite refurbishment of the toilets and entrance is complete. Do pop in for a visit! If you do, you'll notice the new exterior door with vision panel and new internal half glazed doors, keeping the draughts out and letting the light in. The access to the lobby of the toilets has been widened to make more space and improve wheelchair access, as well as the refurbishment of the accessible toilet. Jo and I are also very grateful for the new double-glazed window in the office which has made it warmer and cut out the draught! Our thanks to the Community Fund of the National Lottery for the grant of £20,000 towards this refurbishment and improvement. Thanks also to the Property and Finance Team who have overseen this and especially to Ian Taylor as the clerk of works, with Ray Williams deputising when he was away.

The other great news and an answer to the prayer request that appeared here last month, was that the Community Foundation for Calderdale agreed to fund **all the work** for the **David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors** in this school year and to contribute for the following 4 years! The story behind this is rather wonderful! Back in 2013, one Trevor Wilson set up the 'Wilson Fund' as part of the Community Foundation who secured match funding, doubling the value. Following conversations with Guy Hirst and myself, the Chief Exec, good friend Steve Duncan, had the bright idea of setting aside the income from the Wilson Fund for five years to support the David Shutt YPAs. Given Trevor and David's shared passions for investing in the local community and young people, with David's Quaker passion for peace, I'm sure you'll agree this is the perfect way of honouring the memories of both special men.

We're working with five local primary schools this year to train between 40 and 60 children as Young Peace Ambassadors. The schools are Cross Lane, Old Earth, St Patrick's, Elland CofE, and for the first time Holywell Green. We are also hoping to reach agreement to work with a secondary school any day now, so please keep praying for this work and watch this space!

In March we began our second **Paths of Peace** Course with ten participants (another answer to prayer from last month!). This began with a day at the Centre, with participants gathering from as far away as Oakes and Suffolk! It was all a great success and when reflecting on the day the first appreciation expressed was for the lovely lunch provided by the catering team of Jean W and Andrew. Despite the allegedly vegetarian catering, a pork pie was spotted. I wonder why? The course has continued with three further mornings on Zoom and concludes on April 11th with a final full day at the Centre. [No pork pies anticipated – Jo]

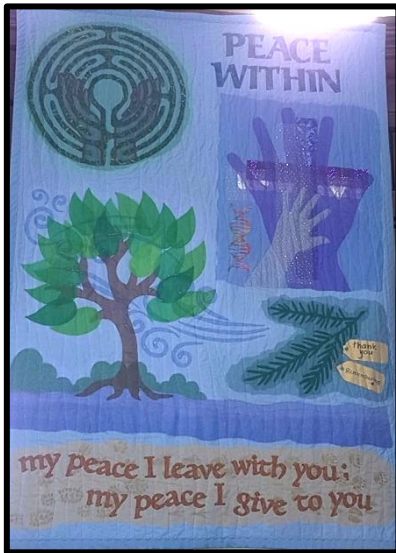
Jo recently led part of the Southern Counties Baptist Association Ministers Conference and the Northern Baptist Regional Association Ministers Conference. Please continue to pray for her as she continues the demanding work of mediation with people, couples and churches who are in destructive conflict, helping them to find ways to resolve conflict and live in peace.

The **Centre's AGM** on March 15th was said by one participant from the church to have been an inspiration. That's pretty impressive for an AGM, so if you are a member of the Centre, as most of the church are, don't miss next year's AGM on March 14th. Why not pop it in your 2026 diary planner now?

Andy

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 6th April 5th Sunday in Lent 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 | We pray for our ministers Jo and Andy as they lead us through the last week of Lent. Be with our church and congregation and with those who come to our afternoon service. May they feel encouraged and welcomed. | Pray for our children and schools as they start their Easter Holidays. May they and their families be aware of the significance of the Easter period. May it be a time of rest and renewal |
| 13th April Palm Sunday 10.30am Reader Doreen Barlow | Pauline & George Barnard , Charlotte and Rob The Baume family Jean Bennett and family The Bolton family Joe Braithwaite and family Suzanne, Sonny and Jonah Broster Bright | Pray for our ministers as they lead us through Holy Week to Easter. May our Holy Week Breakfasts be a time of reflection for us and for friends from other churches. Be with us as we prepare for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. | Pray for all who look after our health. The doctors, nurses, technicians and ambulance services. Be with all who work in this sector when great changes seem to be in view, and all who work in social care. |
| Easter Sunday 20th April 2025 10.30am Communion Bible Reader Jean Whitworth | 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 Margaret Shutt (22 nd) | Pray for our church at Blackley as we celebrate Easter Sunday. May we celebrate God's New Creation which began with Christ's Resurrection and give thanks for the life that this brings to all. Remember our friends and members both near and far, old and young, and bless our church community this Easter. | Please pray for the congregations of all our local churches as they celebrate this important time in our Christian calendar. Be with our local Baptist churches, Upper Edge, Salendine Nook New North Rd, and Lee Mount. |
| Sunday 27th April 2025 10.30am Bible Reader | 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 | We welcome and give thanks for Rev David Denton who will conduct our service today, as Jo and Andy have a break. Pray for our church officials as they seek your guidance in leading our church | As the children return to school we pay that they and their teachers are rested and refreshed. Think of those children who are doing the David Shutt Peace Ambassador course and let |

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| Christine Williams | Linda and Mike Greenwood and family. Happy Birthday Elaine Dyson(30 th) | | their example be a positive one . |
| Sunday 4th May 2025 All age Worship TJ Hall 2pm. | Elaine Harvie Guy Hirst and family Jenny Howland and Family Jamie, Clare and Tim Ingram Nikki and Stuart Jenkins Patricia and Richard Lindsay Patricia & Graham Mitchell & family Happy Birthday; Gordon Buckle (9 th) | Be with the families who come to the afternoon service . May their numbers grow, and their welcome increase We give thanks for the church officers, Steve and Pauline plus the deacons who work on our behalf . | On this May day weekend let us all remember the sacrifices made by many in the second world war. May we celebrate the 80 th anniversary of the end of the war |
| Sunday 11th May 2025 10.30 am Bible reader Joan Parkinson | 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 Andrew Taylor (17 th) | We offer our thanks for the work of our ministers. We bring to you the groups and individuals who help in many different ways: the prayer group , the Thursday working party, Christine and her catering team. We pray for Michelle and Jo for running Playing with Peace and ask your blessing on all who come along, especially for the little ones. | Pray for our wider Elland Community Give support to those who are trying to prevent anti-social behaviour and make the town a safer pleasant place. Be with those who run the groups and clubs for young people. |
| Sunday 18th May 2025 Church 10.30 am Communion Bible Reader Doreen Barlow | 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) Happy birthday ; Carole Denton (21 st) | Pray for the work carried on at the Centre and led by Jo and Andy, and for the Centre Trustees. We pray for The Peace and Reconciliation Work which is offered to churches, individuals and groups, the encouragement of Interfaith work and meetings. Give thanks for the Lads from the Rock and be with other groups who use the centre premises on a regular basis . | We pray for other organisations within our area, for the Food for Families project, and the Foodbank, for Project Colt especially for their work with addiction , and the new Elland Hub which is promoting community events locally. |
| Sunday 25th May 2025 Church 10.30am Bible reader Alan Odams | 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 Happy Birthday Susan Clough . Ray Williams (30 th) | .Pray for church families and friends . Be with the ones with health concerns,, undergoing tests and treatment . Some have worries and concerns which we do not know about but we bring them to you for your comfort and guidance. Be with those who are grieving loss both recent and longer ago. | Our friends at The Rock . The young men at the Rock - uncertain of their future – whom we have had the privilege of getting to know. Please pray for them as they miss their loved ones, and do not know what the future holds for them. We give thanks for St Augustine’s Centre and all who bring hope and support to those seeking asylum. |

. If you have items for the next Broadcaster please get them to Jo or Jenny by Sunday 25th May. Thank you.