Issue 10

September to October 2026



FAITH MATTERS

Whaley Bridge Uniting Church



I'm sure that we all have memories of Harvest Festivals over the years.

When we lived in Staffordshire, in what had been a traditional mining community, there was always a piece of coal and a miners lamp alongside the usual carrots and other produce.

Harvest is a time when we thank God for all that he has provided. At the same time we can remember those who don't have as much as we have to eat, both in our community and overseas.

We have heard on the news recently about how farmers in the UK are struggling with crops because of the extreme heat we have had over the summer. This has led to some problems with the crops and some vegetables have not grown as much as they should.

I want to encourage everyone over this harvest time to pray for all farmers, as they work incredibly long hours to provide the food we eat.

Love and prayers

Georgina<><

After reading the
the sentence, you are
now aware that the
the man brain
often does not let you know that the
the word 'the' has been repeated twice
Every time.

Noel Coward said this about visiting relations

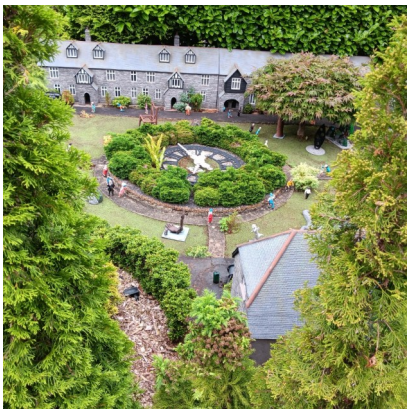
Relations are like fish—
they go off after 3 days

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO THIS SUMMER?



The D'Oyley Carte's holiday home in Torquay.





Model village

Babbacombe

Chris



Bull Bay. Anglesey. Enid and Charlie





George and this cute red panda, High Peak Wildlife Zoo

The occupations and other clues below give you the answers to well known hymns

I will give you the first one as an example



1. Dentist - Crown him with many crowns (get it !)
2. Building contractor
3. Baker
4. Opthalmist
5. Tailor
6. Teacher
7. Boxer
8. Fisherman
9. Cleaner
10. Maid
11. Vet
12. Hotelier
13. Sailor
14. Insurance salesman
15. Painter and decorator
16. Church choir
17. Somebody with a secret
18. Somebody with a sore throat
19. Miner
20. Astronaut
21. Weatherman
22. If you are stuck up a ladder
23. Shepherd
24. Audiologist
25. Licensee
26. Librarian
27. Farmer
28. Doctor
29. Solicitor
30. Athlete/runner
31. Said on your birthday or Christmas morning
32. Ghostbuster
33. At your Grandmother's knee
34. New parents
35. After a meal
36. Chiropodist
37. Author
38. The clue is 'This is the last clue of this quiz'.

My suggestion is to look at the hymn book first and all will become clear.

Answers to last issues photo quiz

Maureen G. Albert W. Chris M

Pat M. Emily E. Lynn T

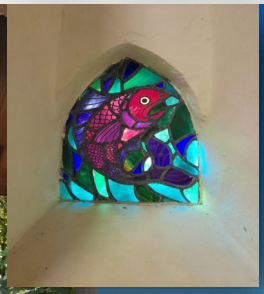
Georgina B. Richard B. Brenda W.

CHURCH NOTICES

The fasting and prayers conference includes meals

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO THIS SUMMER?







Caldey

Far from all
in the outside world,
seeming distant in time
as well as space;
a place where nature thrives,
a place where arum lilies
grow like weeds;
where the earth awakens
crisp and pure;
where all the outside world's allure
does not monastic peace disturb;
where solitude and silence speak
in the presence of the Word;
where God delights in giving,
bountiful and forgiving;
where God gives and waits,
our joyful, free response anticipates.

Lynn had a wonderful week in Tenby and visited Caldey Island



Graham and Carol enjoyed the seaside



George's bird spotting this autumn



In a study by scientists working for the RSPB they found that supplying food in summer is causing a decline of greenfinches, chaffinches and other birds who visit. This is because feeding birds in the summer months, on one fixed site, on a regular basis, can cause the disease known a Trichomoniasis to spread among local bird population.

The RSPPB recommend not feeding birds nuts and seeds from May to October, especially on flat topped bird tables .Such areas can act as a breeding ground for this disease when birds regurgitate their food and also in their droppings. (The RSPB have stopped selling such tables.) They also advise that mealworms and suet are used during the summer months and that feeding sites are moved to various locations during this time.

It is essential that whatever feeding station you have that it is cleaned at least once a week– the RSPB sell disinfectant called ARK-KLENS.

Please do continue to provide birds with drinking and bathing water especially during hot dry conditions. But remember change the water regularly and clean any of the containers used.

A Summer 6 mile stroll round Whaley



From the Station Car Park, turn right, passing under the Railway Bridge. Continue up Reservoir Road, taking a left turn into Memorial Park. Cross over Todd Brook below the dam and take the lower path until the next bridge. Cross the River Goyt into Wheatsheaf Road and turn right onto the main road.

Immediately before the bridge over Randall Carr Brook cross the main road and take the track of the former Cromford and High Peak Railway. Turn right onto the track bed and follow the path under Chapel Road, past Cromford Court to Shallcross Incline.

Follow the incline to Shallcross Road, turn left to reach Elnor Lane. Cross the road and take the track past Shallcross Nursery. Follow this path over the next three stiles, fork left and descend to the rear of Cadster House, where a left turn leads down below the railway to join Chapel Road.

Cross the main road, turn left and continue to a signposted track. Follow the track passing Ivy Bank Farm. Proceed down Eccles Road, taking the first right by Park House. The path then runs from Horwich Fold through open fields with good stiles, passing the cricket pitch to emerge on the New Horwich track. A left turn onto the rough path takes you to a signposted path to the right. This skirts Throstledale, keeping close to the Roosdyche. Continue over a series of ladder stiles.

The route follows a fence into open fields below Mosley Hall Farm, to a stone stile above you. Follow the well-marked path through fields, exiting onto Western Lane, Buxworth. Turn right and take the path on the left between the football and cricket pitches.

Cross the footbridge over the A6 bypass to arrive at the Buxworth Basin at the head of the Peak Forest Canal. Pass the Navigation pub and take the towpath towards Bridgemont.

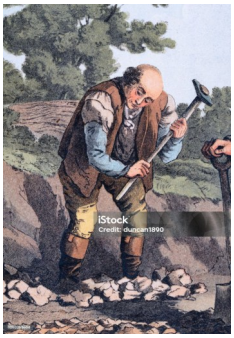
Continue around the bend under the A6, and cross the canal using footbridge no. 34. Cross the A6 to a track heading to the railway bridge. Immediately after the bridge take the footpath on the left to Hockerley Farm and Hockerley Old Hall to enter the field over a stone stile. Turn left to follow the wall behind the houses up to Stoneheads.

On reaching the Whaley Bridge to Disley road, turn left and follow the road downhill to turn right onto Start Lane. Proceed along the lane, until you reach the stone ginnel footpath just past Purdown's garage and before Springbank. Follow this down to Reservoir Road, turn left to pass Todd Brook Reservoir and Brookfield Pond nature reserve to return to the station.

Whaley Bridge Town Council walk, takes about 3hrs 20 mins, firm paths and gentle walking, many stiles.

Abecedary of the Peaks

R. Roads, tracks and trails



Tracks around villages in the Peak District were usually used by pedlars, miners and farmers with packhorses carrying everything from stone, salt, wool to lead ore. The old trading routes were marked with guideposts.

Roads were made in the past as they are today (although probably better then!) Large stones around a foot long were put in the base and then smaller crushed stones on the top. The parish employed men and women to break stones at the side of the road to provide the top surface. This had a slight camber to allow the water to run off into ditches or gullies. Eventually Macadam was introduced which bubbled and melted in the heat. Children would sit at the side on the kerb with a stick and pop the tar bubbles in the hot summer. Parents made children breathe in the hot tar fumes which were thought to be good for the chest.



S Spa and taking the waters

During Tudor, Stuart and Victorian times in particular Buxton was famous as the town to stay in to take the waters. Mary Queen of Scots recorded it as a very pleasant place to stay and rumour has it that she carved her initials in the glass of a window at the Old Hall. Most likely just a tourist tale but it would make her one of the most famous first graffiti vandals ever if true.

T. Toil



In the 1600's farm labourers were paid 10 shillings a year but were provided with food and accommodation. However there was little comfort in the one room cottage with a dirt floor, mud and wattle walls and rarely any glass in the window which would be covered in sacking. There were no chimneys and the smoke escaped through the glass-less windows.

Very occasionally a cottage would have two rooms but these were thought impractical as all the family were out all day working on the farm and only used the cottage for sleeping. If you did have the two rooms the door would be on hinges so that it could be moved around according to the draughts (our shippon doors on the farm were all like this until the 1980s) .

After the plague the shortage of farm workers became critical and surviving labourers could name their price. A resulting law made sure that they were hired—often at a hiring fair– for a fair wage.

U. Unusual and underground

There are many unusual things in the area. One of most unusual is at Chatsworth which has a 3 D painting attributed to the 17th century painter Jan Van Der Vaart. Translated as ‘a deceiver of the eye’ this trompe l’oeil is actually a door with a violin painted on it. This rock near Bamford affords the most spectacular views of the countryside if you dare sit there.



Underground there is another world, from caves and caverns to mines and many of them still unexplored. Situated on the Manifold Way the spectacular Thors Cave is breathtaking inside and dates back to the Palaeolithic age.

Treak Cliff cavern at Castelton is known for its stalagmites and stalactites, enchanting Fairyland and Dome of St Pauls Caves.

Reynard's cave in the Dovedale Gorge is named after a local outlaw who used it as a hideout.

V Village pumps



Water was often brought from pumps to cottages using a wooden yoke and buckets. Farmers right up until the second world war would go to the village spring and fill up churns. The water was often then sold to villagers. In the early 1900’s Bings Farm supplied the cottages on Bings Road with water and villagers would call in to collect the water for one shilling a week.

The well in Youlgreave was so fresh that in the springtime frogs would block the joints of the pipes at the water works . In 1829 the old stocks in Youlgreave made way for a 1500ft 3 m high reservoir which still stands there today. Only villagers who paid sixpence (2.5p) a year could buy the water, it is still known as the Fountain. It was locked overnight and opened up again at 6am by the water keeper. The buckets filled up so slowly that women brought their knitting for a long gossip.

W - Z in the next issue will be my last of the Peak District Abacedary.If you have enjoyed it and would like something similar in the future please let me know. Coming soon ……..

The weirdest houses in the world.

Oh the glorious smells of summer! Just another day in Paradise!!

It was on a glorious summer's day, just like the ones we have been having recently, that I drove down Winnats Pass into the Hope Valley to start my morning's work. Images of an eloping couple travelling through the craggy rocks and their attackers sprang to mind as they always did as I passed through them. But it was a day to rejoice and so singing 'Summers suns are glowing ' followed by 'Glad that I live am I' , seemed very fitting.

I was the happiest Health and Safety Advisor , if not in the world, then at least in Derbyshire. What a gift! Working in this beautiful countryside, visiting farms today.

However that hadn't always been the case. In the 1990's the Government had decided, in their wisdom to introduce written risk assessments and I was caught up in a huge bureaucratic exercise which compelled businesses, including farmers to comply. You can imagine how much farmers , in the highest risk environment, loved this. They considered it a complete and utter waste of their time. However a farming friend of mine lost a leg at this time when his overalls were caught in a revolving PTA shaft.

I had been called everything from a dog to a duck yet here I was happily singing and happily visiting my first farm of the day and hoping that his two unfriendly dogs were chained up.

As usual the farm yard was very dirty so I donned my wellies and knocked on the house door, several times.

Eventually a taciturn farmer came to the door and I went into the kitchen where the floor stuck to my socks, and the pots and pans from two decades were piled on the sink next to a tea towel which hadn't been washed since 1962.However needs must and I gazed with trepidation at the mug of tea in front of me. To grin and bear it was the only thing to do and hope that a shot of antibiotics would work and I wouldn't contract foot and mouth or anthrax!

"I'm telling you now, it's no good you coming with your Health and Safety ideas and your papers because I'm not signing anything!" - The usual stuff, so I had to bring out the big ace, and in my broadest Derbyshire I asked "Do you remember my Dad Harry Wilkson from Flagg?" To which he came back "Old Harry, by heck I do, good farmer was Harry, got a lot of time for him, and you are his daughter you say?" - And there it was ,the magic that got the risk assessments done and the papers signed. Thanks Dad.

However they also got what they wanted as I helped them to write their risk assessments and made the paperwork simple to understand. The word must have got around at Bakewell market because I don't remember one bad visit to a farm after that day. Mind you they all got the help they needed , which is all they ever wanted and the Government had failed to understand.

So life down in the valley was perfect on a summers morning.

Then I got the call from a farmer who could only see me at 8pm, because he milked late. As I needed him to sign papers this was my only option, even though I didn't work in the evenings and it was some distance from home on a dark snowy night.

So that evening I congratulated myself on a job well done, with no problems as I left the shippon, trying to hide a smile, clutching my signed triplicate format forms.

Just then a cow beside me gave a cough and sprayed both me and my nice , clean, triplicate forms with .....

A stream of hot, smelly cow muck. Covered as I was I quickly wiped the worst of it in the snow and raced home for a long shower.

The following day I filed the forms, which were a delightful shade of taupe and smelling of

hot cow. The staff never did work out where the smell was coming from. Still it had cleared in 3 months, which was a positive!

Smells stay with you for a long time and this was never more true when I had to visit the Sewerage Treatment works in Buxton. The then Manager met me, dressed in a smart navy suit ,as was I. The effluent ran down Ashwood Park and under Morrisons to the treatment plant where it began its processes. Midway was an open grid which the Manager chose to stand on to talk to me. I realised that this was a ploy to make me sick and not bother him for too long , so I said "As a farmer's daughter I grew up smelling methane gas so this doesn't bother me at all." In fact I was beginning to feel very queasy and turning slightly green. With-in seconds he had moved from the grid- as he was greener than me!

(Sadly he was one of many at that time who thought that Health and Safety was man's work.!)

My suit went straight to the cleaners but the smell stayed in my nose for the next 3 days. Not a job I would recommend ,and I have great respect for those who do it.

So give me the kitchen visits any day, the lovely smell of cooking, except of course when the chicken is going off!

Feeling sick came with the territory, like the time when I was asked as a member of the Institute of Safety and Health (and I only flash my letters to show that this was a seriously big job) to go to Alton Towers to look at the new Oblivion ride before it was tested. After a long technical day, they offered us a ride.

Me with my sickness record? Not blooming likely!!!

Next year Good News Church celebrates 90 years on Old Road..

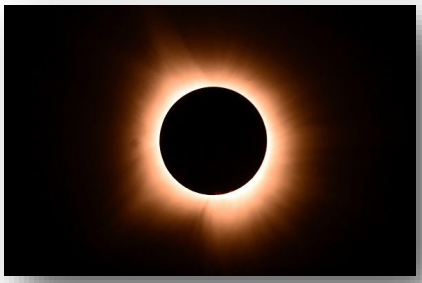
The Chapel was originally built as a United Methodist free Chapel in 1871 on land bought off the Jodrell estate. In 1919 as servicemen returned from WW1 a group joined together and felt the call to found a free evangelical Church and met in rented premises above shops. The cause grew and sought premises for worship.

By 1920 the Chapel had become a Liberal Club known as Partington Hall and the free United/Free Methodist cause seems to have ceased. After the purchase of the club it became a Church gain—Gospel Hall in 1937.The bar and billiard tables were removed and a pulpit and stage built. It was certified as a place of meeting for Christian religious worship by Robert James a haulage contractor and church trustee, on 7th July 1938. In the 1990's Gospel Hall was rebranded as Good News Church. We hope to gather accounts of the work of God here and the people involved over the years.
If you have any photos or records of the Church or building please contact Goodnewschurch.whaleybridge@gmail.com Rob Cross, Pastor



Wednesday August 12th saw the total solar eclipse. It was visible over Northern Siberia, the Arctic, Greenland, Iceland and Northern Spain. Elsewhere in Europe, the UK and Ireland we got to see an impressive partial solar eclipse with over 90% of the sun obscured in places. It took 2 minutes 18 secs. and was the first total solar eclipse since June 30th 1954 .

We were so privileged to see the awesome wonder of God's world.



A SAUNTER IN THE GARDEN WITH GRAHAM

I am writing this on the 11th August and it's that time of year when we realise summer will change into autumn in the next few weeks. That said, some plants look like autumn is already here. I've seen trees suffering from what I suppose is water stress in our hot and dry summer. Mostly, trees remain green as all the grasses and crops ripen to golds and yellows but this year I noticed that a few of the birch trees on the A555 embankments are already losing their foliage. I guess they are only a few years old and perhaps not fully established. We were in Norfolk in July we saw a couple of beech trees which seemed to be suffering as well. However late summer does bring us one of the most colourful times in the garden as plants like dahlias, echinacea and heleniums flower prolifically. That is, of course if you can keep up with watering and dead heading them. We grew them in Northampton but don't have any in our Whaley garden – maybe next year.



One colourful display I noticed last week was the high level bed in the church garden. This is largely left to look after itself but in the early evening sun it was aglow with a mixture of moon daisies (Leucanthemum - white), golden rod (solidago - golden yellow) and rosebay willowherb (pinky purple). I tried to capture a photo but was probably a couple of days late.

One of the three beds in the back garden was planted up earlier this year with some new roses and these have flowered well. We'll add in a few perennials around the roses to complete the effect. The roses in the well-established middle bed flowered well in June and early July. The third bed has been left empty as it has been agreed that this will be paved over so that we have more space to sit outside and perhaps will find new ways to use the garden, hopefully, we'll get this done over winter so it can used next year, The front garden continues to frame the church nicely thanks to Rob's care.

An update on the tomato plants I wrote about in the spring edition of Faith Matters. They were sown 10th April and Carol picked the first tomato on 5th August. I'm very happy with that for outdoor toms – obviously helped by the heatwaves. One thing – several fruits developed splits; I think this may have been due to the wet day we had on Sat 25th July. Sudden rain can cause the fruit to swell more than the skin can accommodate. The split fruit wouldn't do for the supermarket but they are fine for us!

It's a little while till the Harvest Festival but a seasoning of thanksgiving improves the flavour on the fruits and veg we enjoy.



A friends photo of lions on Safari this week, seems its hot everywhere

In our thoughts and prayers, as always

Joyce Clayton

Bill Jackson

Jean Mellor

Charlie Winterbottom

The family of Mrs Carrie Prior

Happy birthday this issue to

September

7 Lynne Whittle

19 Alison Wheeldon

October

7 Pauline Land

23 Sheila Morten

27 Margaret Smith

30 Graham Peasland







After the darkness the daylight shines through

After the showers, the rainbow's in view,

After life's heartaches, there comes from above

The peace and the comfort of God's healing love.

A teacher was testing the children in her Sunday school class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven. She said " If I sold my house and my car and gave all my money to the church would that get me to heaven?"

"NO" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into heaven?"

Again the answer was "No"!

Now she was smiling, they are getting it she thought.

"Well then if I was kind to animals and gave sweets to all the children and loved my husband, would that get me into heaven?"

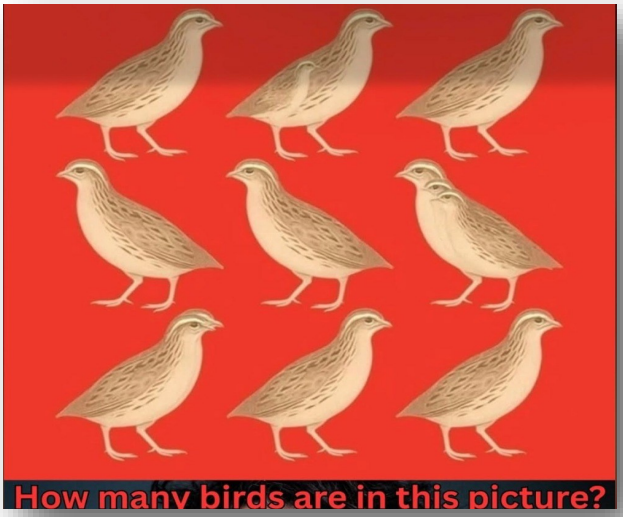
Again they all answered "NO"! She was just bursting with pride for them. "Then how CAN I get into heaven" she said.

A 5 year old boy shouted out " You've got to be dead miss."

This year Over the Road, as the Uniting Church 's charity shop, has once again given away 100% of its profits to charity. The following organisations along with the Uniting Church have benefitted from substantial donations.

Community wellbeing outing– Wednesday Sept 23rd to Halifax Piece Hall
Plus significant donations to the following registered charities

Oasis group, Windyways Animal rescue, Buxton sea cadets, New Mills Volunteer Centre, Musical memories,Chinley, WB Brownies, Buxton Parkinsons group, Christies Macclesfield, Fernilee Mindfulness, Rock Mill Centre, Beardwood Natural Living , Good News Youth project Chinley baby group, Kinder Mountain rescue, Cystinosis UK





A chap decided it would be fun to have a pet, so he went to the pet store looking for something unusual. He decided on a talking centipede which came in a little white box .

He decided on the Sunday to take his new pet with him to church . So he asked the centipede "Would you like to go to church with me today, we will have a good time?" When there was no answer from his new pet he became a bit bothered so after a few minutes he asked again.

"How about going to church with me and receive a blessing!"

Again there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

This time he put his face to the little box and shouted " Hey in there. Would you like to go to church and learn about the Lord?"

A little voice came from the box "I heard you the first time, I'm just putting on my shoes."

May the rains sweep gentle across your fields. May the sum warm the land. May every good seed you have planted bear fruit, and late summer find you standing in fields of plenty.

An Irish blessing.



November will be a stand alone issue as December/ January will be our Christmas bumper edition. Please submit any ideas for articles to Chris.

Last date October 8th.

