

Issue 2

June—July 2025



WHALEY BRIDGE UNITING CHURCH

FAITH MATTERS

WELCOME ALL AND ENJOY!



As we draw nearer Summer our thoughts turn to leisure activities like Tom here preparing his model boat to sail with his Dad on the Pavilion Gardens lake. Rev Andrew reflects



Dear friends

Like me, my son Tom enjoys Airfix models. There is something inherently satisfying about building a model kit. It's not instant, its not perfect, but it's yours. You built it! And that means something.

It was interesting to see Tom's reaction when we popped into a charity shop and came across a big box filled with already assembled kits. He looked at them but wasn't interested. Kits mean the most when built by yourself.

I was thinking how faith is similar. That faith becomes ours, not just passed on from our parents, our church, or our culture.

I don't know the origin of the quote 'God only has children, not Grandchildren'. Real faith can't be handed down like a family heirloom. It has to be built piece by piece. Sometimes we get it wrong and have to go back a step (or two). Sometimes things don't quite line up.

Faith shaped by our prayers and actions, our own questions and experiences become something meaningful. So however your faith has started to take shape, be encouraged, God delights not in mass-produced religion, but in the honest assembling of lives turned to follow him. Grace and peace.

Andrew

Whaley Bridge Carnival
June 28th Procession
starts at 1.30pm.



Art exhibition with refreshments all day in the church and OTR pop up shop in the morning -outside if the weather is kind.

June 13 -15th Pride and Prejudice celebrations at Chatsworth

A prayer for Summer

Long warm days, the pace of life slows.....

Time for picnics and rest in the shade

Lord, help me to rest awhile in the cooling shade of your presence.

Slow down my restless heart and fill me with gentle compassion for all your people.

Author unknown

Over the Road celebrated VE Day with a festive commemorative window and a visit from this 1928 Ford used 80 years ago and still going. It belongs to one of our customers and created a lot of interest.





We are delighted that Joan and Bill's daughter, Louise, will be sending us her wonderful photographs for Faith Matters

And a joke for dentist Robert

What is a dentist's favourite hymn?

Crown him with many crowns!

Don't forget the sunscreen it may be hotter than you think!

One of life's mysteries

Back in 2006 my youngest son James was taking time out to see the world and decided to go and work for family friends who had a farm in the Outback, north of Perth in Australia. He took a bus which stopped for a comfort break and continued in the blistering sun and on incredibly dusty roads.

After a while the bus stopped to pick up a hitchhiker. Now nobody in their right minds hitches in the Outback - but this young man was, for some reason.

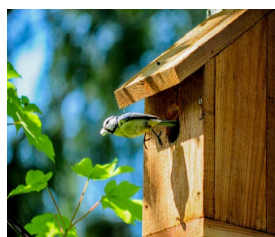
As he walked up the bus he passed our James and very casually said "Hi James" and equally casually James replied "Hi James".

It was my godson from New Mills. Neither knew each other that well and had met only on the odd occasion. He had been on an earlier bus that had left him behind at the stop off so he thought he would just walk!

Have you ever bumped into someone you knew on holiday? I once did in America on a Jaws ride at Universal studios. It's a small world!

Little Johnny went to Sunday school. The lesson for the day was from Genesis. 'God opened up Adam's side, took a rib from him, and created Eve from it,' this text really stuck with Johnny.

Later that afternoon Johnny started to feel sick and his side began to hurt. He laid on the couch and his Mother asked if he was OK. He replied "Not really—I have a pain in my side, I think I'm going to have a wife!"



BIRD BOX CORNER

Now is the season for many of our garden birds. Some people provide nest boxes for the tit families, robins, nut hatches and fly catchers. Please remember to place them where there are a good number of native tree species. These provide the birds with the insects and caterpillars necessary to rear their young. Many ornamental bushes and trees do not support these native insects which must be stressed are a vital source of food for their young. During the breeding season remove peanuts from your bird feeders as the young chicks find it difficult to digest this type of food. Meal worms and fat balls are a very good alternative. Also please remember that uncleaned bird feeders can create breeding sites for bacteria which are killing many of our finches. So please clean them weekly.

George

SUMMER

WORD SEARCH



DIRECTIONS: FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS. THE WORDS HAVE BEEN PLACED HORIZONTALLY, VERTICALLY, AND DIAGONALLY IN BOTH DIRECTIONS.



BARBECUE
BEACH
BERRIES
BICYCLE

CAMPING
HEAT
ICE CREAM
LEMONADE

OUTSIDE
PICNIC
POOL
SANDALS

SUNGLASSES
SUNSHINE
THUNDERSTORM
WATERMELON

Apologies

Sincere apologies for the mistake with last issues crossword. Unfortunately the crossword didn't print in its entirety- hopefully I will do better in future!!

Things can only get better, put it down to teething problems!!

This one is tried and tested!



Happy birthday in June to

Pat Mirams 4th

Maureen Gerrard 17th

Alan Talbot 26th

July

Sheila Talbot 1st

Claire Losel 8th

Jean Hutton 10th

Lynn Timmins 14th

Jeanette Nicholls 19th

Eric Baldwin 30th



Photos from the Easter Sunday egg hunt in the park, hosted by the Uniting Church. Lots of families there having lots of fun, finding eggs and taking part in an egg and spoon race. Remember the twins?

Thank you to John and all those helping to create memories.



At the time of this issue going to print we sadly lost our dear friend Jeanne Bowker. Jeanne died peacefully, Diane and Sue with her. I will be writing a longer piece about Jeanne's life in the next edition. Like Agnes she was a very active member of our church, always baking or helping out at events and her smile and cheerfulness, right to the end, will be so missed. Sleep well dear friends.

On January 8th 1753 a wedding took place in Sheldon village. The bride was a frail 80 year old and her bridegroom was 14 years old. All the villagers turned out for the nuptials, mainly lead mine families working at the Magpie mine. There was much toasting apparently with liquor, and the bride danced supported by her crutches and her new husband. The usual bedding ceremony took place but unfortunately the bride was dead and buried within the month! It is absolutely true and recorded in the parish records.



Where are they now?



Faith Matters will be bringing you news of 'old friends' from time to time. They remain in our thoughts even though we don't see them often.

Today we say hello again to the Morten girls. All three were a vibrant and cheerful part of our church, appearing in pantos, raising money for Church -in fact, taking part in most things.

Claire lives in Cheddleton, Staffs and works for the NHS as a Clinical Research Accountant. Helen lives in Meltham, near Holmfirth, is a Teaching Assistant at her local primary school and an active member of Almondbury Methodist Church. Issy lives in Bramhope, North of Leeds and is Deputy Operations Director (Education) in the faculty of Medicine and Health at the University of Leeds.

They each have two children and it is lovely to see them all together in this photo.

Walking once again with our old friend David Frith. So worth repeating!

Taxal to Hillbridge, 2 miles -1hour.

From Taxal Church turn south with the old rectory on your right and the Church on your left and take the road passing Glebe Farm and carry on down to Widows Clough. On the left is a footpath sign across the pasture, continue and stop to look back at the church. At the gate enter into Hillbridge Wood managed by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. The path descends downwards towards the River Goyt. Side streams are crossed and bed rock is exposed. The path reaches open grass on the Valley floor. There is an interpretation board as you leave the wood and take a left onto Hill Bridge, spanning the Goyt.

Turn left and follow the river's true bank. Enter Shallcross Woods, (the bluebells may be finished but are always glorious- Chris). Carry on along the path until you come to the ford. No need to wade as there is a footbridge a few yards downstream. Cross the Goyt by the footbridge and climb uphill, passing the older burial yard and the more recent cemetery, the gradient eases and you are back at Taxal Church.



This photograph, courtesy of Si Togg, is of one of the helicopters that dropped huge buckets of water to put out the fire in the Goyt Valley. The pilots did a sterling job to contain the spread at great risk to themselves. Thank you.

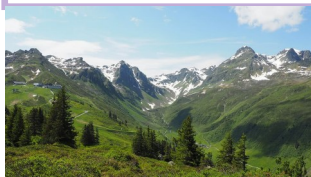
We are all sad at the passing of Agnes Jodrell who has worshipped at the Uniting Church for many years.

Agnes was born in 1930. She grew up in a small mountain village in Austria and when she was 18 she saw an advert asking for girls to come to England to work in the cotton mills. The offer was to pay for their transport, provide a job and accommodation for two years but with an assurance that if they didn't like it they would be given their fare home.

Agnes, along with several other girls, decided to take up the offer and came to Whaley Bridge in 1948. She stayed, along with the other Austrian girls in a hostel on Eccles Road.

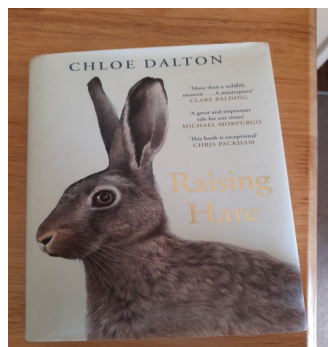
She met and then married John in 1950 and Linda was born in 1952. Agnes went back to the mill to work as a weaver until the mill was closed. Sadly John died when he was only 54 and Agnes did a variety of part time jobs over the years and later was one of the first to volunteer at the new church shop.

Agnes enjoyed church and the WI, but it is thanks to her skills as a gardener that we had such lovely displays on the church railings, walking to water them every day. If you would like to know more about the Austrian mill workers there is a book in Whaley Library called Destination UK. (As told to me by Linda.)



May you both live as long as you want,
and never want as long as you live.

Summer read reviewed by Lynn T



The Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton

What an amazing account of a wild creature, a leveret found injured and nursed back to health by Chloe. This took place during the pandemic when Chloe was working from her countryside home.

The leveret's recovery, maturity and trust are portrayed in the special relationship formed.

It is both heart warming and thought provoking as it reminds us of how we need to live in harmony with natural world.

My thanks to Sue and Peter Callister for lending it to me.

Marmalade Bread & Butter Pudding

6 thick slices of a brioche loaf
50g (2 oz) softened butter
2 large tablespoons of chunky marmalade
275ml (10 fl oz) whole milk
60ml (2 fl oz) double cream
3 large eggs
Grated orange zest
1 level tablespoon demerara sugar
Butter the bread on one side then spread the marmalade on 3 of the slices.
Make into 3 sandwiches. Butter the top of each sandwich and cut into 4 triangles.
Arrange in a buttered baking dish approx. 7x9inch (18x23cm) standing nearly upright, butter side up. Whisk, milk, eggs and cream together and pour over. Sprinkle the sugar and orange zest over and bake in a preheated oven Fan 160/ Gas 4 for 35-40 minutes. Best eaten immediately while crunchy.



COOKS CORNER WITH SHEILA

What could be nicer than an outing to a garden this Summer. The other day we visited Biddulph Gardens and had a lovely day out. I can thoroughly recommend it. The tulips were fantastic , every colour from shades of pink to black.

I am itching to buy my begonias. I buy around 35 plants from Oak Nursery at Mottram every year as my treat to myself and they spread to fill the garden and bring me so much joy. The other garden plants which I love are my hollyhocks. Given to me many years ago as a cutting from Barry (Goodier) they were originally peach and since then they have spread to 11 plants in every colour . People on the street ask me for cuttings but for some reason they won't grow in every garden. I have to add that I do take care of them as rust spots are a nightmare and so the leaves have to be checked regularly. The only person who doesn't like them is the postman as he has to crawl beneath them in wet weather to get to the letterbox!

I spend every hour I can in the garden, I put it to bed in the Autumn and wake it up in the Spring but other than that I pretty much leave it alone, just the odd little bit of weeding if necessary.

I will be going on the Buxton Garden trail on 21st and 22nd June. There are 30 gardens to see over 2 days and costs just £5. Tickets are from the pump room and the brewery in the Gardens.

Chris



Always in our thoughts and prayers

Joyce Clayton

Dorothy Hulme

Bill Jackson

Jean Mellor

Anne Reeves

Lynn Timmins recovering from her op

There is no place
where God is not.

Maya Angelou

HYMN CHOICE FOR THE SUMMER HAS TO BE

Summer suns are glowing, over land and sea, happy light is flowing, bountiful and free

Everything rejoices, in the mellow rays. All earth's thousand voices swell the psalm of praise.

