

Issue 9

July–Aug 2026



WHALEY BRIDGE UNITING CHURCH

FAITH MATTERS



BUMPER SUMMER EDITION



One of the things that I have found since moving to Whaley Bridge, is that I like water! That may sound strange but I've never really been keen on it and would only drink it when necessary. I think this stems from where I grew up in Hertfordshire, a hard water area. I can remember barely being able to see the other side of the glass and there was a chalky taste to the water! Here the water is so different!

We all need water to survive, but I wonder how much we appreciate the clean fresh water that we have everyday, to wash, cook, clean as well as drink. I encourage you to pause for a moment and think about the times you have used water today and take the opportunity to thank God for the clean fresh water that we have so readily available. According to the charity, Water Aid 696 million don't have clean water close to their home worldwide. Water Aid works with communities across the world ensuring that they have clean water as well as sanitation. For many communities lack of clean water can affect so much of everyday life. <https://www.wateraid.org/uk>.

We are approaching the time of the Well Dressing where there will be a service on the Sunday afternoon. This is an opportunity to thank God for the water that we have, life giving water that refreshes and is essential to all creation. Every drop is precious! I hope that you have a lovely Summer

Love and prayers

Georgina <><

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO PACK
THE SUNCREAM!**





UPCYCLED AND
HANDMADE
CARDS FOR ALL
OCCASIONS



CARD SALE SATURDAY
AUGUST 22ND
GLASS FOYER FROM 10AM
COFFEE AND CAKES

ALL PROCEEDS TO WB
UNITING CHURCH

And elsewhere this summer

Buxton wells dressing 4th July –13th

Chapel wells dressing 11th to 19th July

Buxton Festival 10th —17th July. World class opera, music, books and jazz

Bakewell Country Festival 13th July– agricultural and horticultural show

Cromford steam rally 2nd to 3rd August, the very best of steam and transport

Ashover show 13th August

Buxton Eat in the Park 16th to 17th August, music and food

Ashbourne show 16th August

Eyam wells dressing 23rd to 31st August

Peak District Highland games 24th August, Matlock Hall Farm Park

Chatsworth Country Fair 28th to 30th August, countryside crafts, cooking, grand ring.





Where are they now?

We are delighted to hear from the Thatcher family.

When we left the High Peak 15 years ago it was very much into the unknown. There were reasons why it worked better for us to be in the southeast, but we also felt drawn to Bluntisham. It was a big step, but the Lord has been good to us.

Our church is the centre of village life, and we both spend much of our time there. Peter is Deacon for Finance, and we were on the team leading the church through a large rebuild project in 2022. As a fallout from that, I am now Head of Fabric. If anything breaks it is my problem.

Workwise Peter continued with his training consultancy and got thoroughly fed up of foreign travel as a result! I retired from acting as a JP and worked as a Registrar – Births Marriages and Deaths and had a great time conducting weddings all over Cambridgeshire.

Our 3 boys are now grown up with families of their own. Nick (Senior Tax Manager), lives near Doncaster with Laura, Lily 10, and Ella 7. Ben (Construction Site Manager) lives near Ely with Laura, Arthur 10 and Albert 6. Adam (Corporate Law Partner) lives in Bluntisham, with Lucy, Noah 10 and Ava 7, and yes, he still plays the piano in church. Sport is the glue between the boys and cycling is the favourite with Peter in tow. We are very blessed to have 6 lovely grandchildren as part of our lives.

For 18 months we were without a minister, and the leadership team led the church brilliantly. Simon is now in place and as we have both now retired, we are beginning to properly enjoy more free time.

Our newfound love is our motorhome, and we have just enjoyed a long trip up in Scotland. Not warm weather but that didn't matter. Our other new challenge is to visit every cathedral in England. 12 seen so far – another 30 to go! Carlisle is our favourite, but the best scone was in Newcastle.

I am doing an Alzheimer's walk again this year with my sister, however, we are tackling the Lake District. Somehow, I must be strong enough to scale over 1700 feet while training in one of the flattest parts of the country. However, the big skies here are amazing, and we rarely need an umbrella!

Best wished to you all - we have fond memories of WB

Helen

xx



Summer is the time to let your hair down and dance ...you are NEVER too old. Summer songs for your holiday playlist may include

Isley Brothers—Summer breeze

ABBA - Summer Night City

Cliff Richard—Summer holiday

Bryan Adams—Summer of '69

The Beach Boys—California Girls

Alice Cooper- School's out

Beatles -Here comes the sun

Martha and the Vandellas-(Love is like a) heat wave

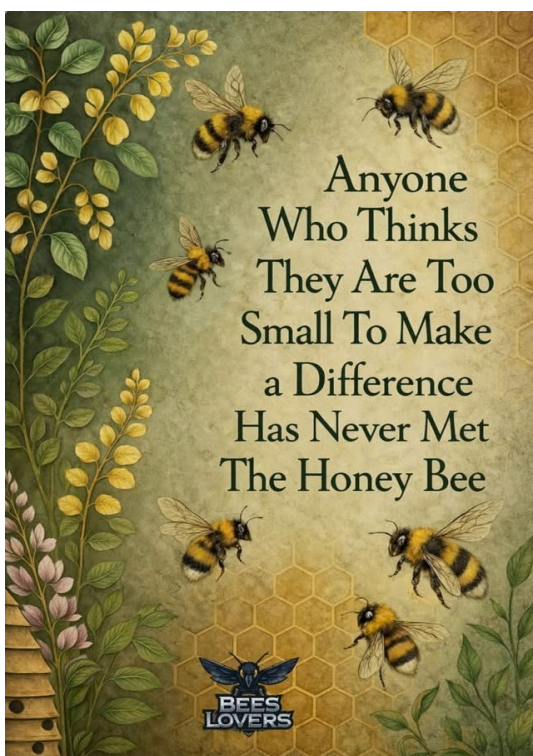
Olivia Newton John and John Travolta—Summer nights

Katrina and the Waves—Walking on Sunshine

Donna Summer—Hot stuff

GET DANCING!!

GUESS THE LOGO- ANSWERS ON THE LAST PAGE



The Bee's whisper

In the garden's heart, whispers fly,
Barely seen by the naked eye.
Gentle bees, in soft flight,
In their whisper, the day's delight.

A subtle touch, on petals light,
In their motion, nature's sight.
Softly buzzing, a tender call,
In their whisper, life's thrall.



Nature's secret, in whispers told,
In their flight, stories unfold.
In the bee's hush, a world alive,
In their murmur, nature thrives.

Anon

Abecedary of the Peaks



K for KNIGHT

Legend has it that a knight in full armour was found buried by a tree on ladder hill. The farmer who found him left him there to lie in peace. This is probably true as the Black Prince was known to have taken some his knights from this area.

KNITTING

There were two frame knitters shops in Bonsall, now restored they were built around 1737. William Oliver lived and worked in one and had 24 frames working at one time for Brettles in Belper. There was a large window for the light as they only had tallow and oil lamps. Hand knitting goes back 5 centuries. Woollen caps were worn by all men at the time of Henry V11 and the prices were regulated by Parliament. Elizabeth 1 was presented with a pair of silk knitted stockings with hand embroidery and she would wear nothing else afterwards. It took 6 months to learn how to knit in silk and most workers were women. Children wound the hanks of yarn onto the bobbins. The family lived below the first floor workshop. The later introduction of machines led to the Luddite riots.

L for LEGENDS



Eldon Hole near Peak Forest is supposed to be the entrance to a bottomless pit or some thought to hell. In Elizabethan time the Earl of Leicester bribed a peasant to be lowered into the depths. They say that the poor man had gone quite mad when he was hauled back to the surface and died 8 days later. Local legend has it that a goose thrown down reappeared with singed feathers from the flames below ground.

There are lots of local legends around the spooky lead mines such as Magpie Mine on Sheldon Moor. On Kinder, Mermaids Pool is supposed to have links to the Atlantic Ocean and animals should not drink from it. However there is a mermaid who lives in the water and rises on Easter Eve.

LEPERS

There was once a medieval leper hospital on the outskirts of Castleton dated pre 1153. Sheffield University began working on the excavations in 2014.

M for MARRIAGE

The young Rector at Eyam, Joseph Hunt, played the part of a groom in a tipsy mock wedding. He was in the Miners Arms at the time and the tipsy bride was the landlord's daughter. Everybody thought it was hilarious except the Bishop, who when he found out about it he ordered the couple to officially marry. Joseph, however, was engaged to someone else and she tried to sue him. The newlyweds had to take refuge in the vestry and spent their married life there. They had two children and died in 1703 and 1709. You can see a plaque on the pub to this day.

MARKETS

Were first held to sell local cheeses and they began to attract pedlars and quack doctors who set up stalls. Petty criminals were often punished in the market square on market day for pilfering. In some towns bull baiting and cock fighting were rife and as gambling became a huge issue one man was said to have sold his wife to have the money to gamble. Bargains were sealed by spitting on hands and then shaking, and luck money would be given.

N for NAMES

Oddly the most common surname in Derbyshire is Smith and denotes one who works in metal such as a blacksmith or farrier. The second is Taylor deriving from the French word 'tailleur', Anglo Saxon for a tailor. Brown comes next and is thought to have been used to refer to someone of that hair colour. Families called Fletcher were archers (ref Black Prince earlier) or made arrows.

NONSENSE

Little John (one of Robin Hood's merry men) came from Hathersage and lived in a cottage near to the church. An old lady remembers when they reopened his grave in the churchyard and found the remains of an 8 foot man. They used to say that as he lay dying in bed he shot an arrow and where it landed he wanted to be buried. (good job it didn't land on top of the wardrobe then!!)



O is for ODOURS

Disposing of your earth closet or lavatories as they were called .was simple. You just emptied the bucket onto the garden. Even better onto your veggie patch!!! (Leave you to think about that one !!)

A garderobe was a tiny cubicle built into an outer wall of grand houses and castles. The waste would drop down a chute which was carted away. In castles the waste ran into the moat to stagnate.

Peveril Castle had a garderobe and there is a mock of a Tudor one in Bakewell Museum. Human waste was called night soil and by the 20th century most councils employed night soil men. They came when people were asleep and their cart was known as the primrose Wagon- certainly not because of the smell!!



P is for PINFOLDS

Known as 'pounds' they were used to pen stray animals. You can still see them in many villages, four square walls with a opening at one end, once gated. The man in charge was called ' the pinner' or 'pinder' and it was his job to round up all the strays and pen them. The owners then had to pay him to get their animals back.

Pinfold estate in Tideswell is next to the site of the old pound and the one as you go into Monyash has a plaque with its history.

The story attached to the one in Tideswell is of a local man who used to turn his wife's cattle loose on purpose. He had an arrangement with the local pinder that they would share the money when she paid to get the animals back. They then went off to the Wakes with the money!

Q for QUARRYING AND MINING

For centuries lead mining was the most important industry in the Peak District. The Romans worked it and it was notorious for the dangers particularly in wet weather. Women also worked down the mines and one woman gave birth while at work. Once out of the ground the galena had to be cleaned and broken down ready to be smelted in a furnace to extract the metal. These fumes were very poisonous. The refined lead was then poured into moulds and cooled into solid pigs to be made into lead for church windows, roofs and pewter dishes. Solomons Temple in Buxton was commissioned by the Duke of Devonshire to provide employment for poor lead miners. The miners built themselves homes in mounds of earth around the field surrounding it. Apparently there is a plaque telling the story of the turf houses.

Quarrying has always played an important part of industrial life in the Peaks, extracting limestone and aggregates, production dwindled for many years as fewer villagers relied on the quarry for work.



Liz and Sue

OUR LYNN



Over the Road hosted a very successful fashion show in May. Angela and Lynn were 2 of the models and they all did a splendid job. It raised a fantastic £645 for our charitable causes this year. Well done to everyone.

Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourself and know that summer is near. Luke 21 v 29 & 30

Plant of the week

COSMOS

Native to Mexico, cosmos enjoys the sunshine of Whaley just as much. Feathery and colourful it adds abundant colour and joy to any garden.

First brought to England in 1789 by the Marchioness of Bute whose husband was the ambassador to Spain. I have grown them from seeds and plugs which I buy from Chatsworth. (As an aside I can recommend the plugs from Chatsworth garden centre. I bought a £4.50 plug of lobelia and split it on later to 160 plants which are all out in the garden now. All my geraniums are grown the same way).. Back to cosmos—they are all out of the greenhouse now and in the garden doing very well. There are lots of different colours - pink, white, yellow, dark red and orange and they are loved by a huge variety of wildlife.

Butterflies, bees, hoverflies and birds, who feast on the seeds, enjoy cosmos. Planting in a sunny position and deadheading regularly is the key to a wonderful display. Leave some flowerheads on at the end of the season as they will grow again next year.

'This a plant to make your heart sing'.

Chris

And now the RHS jobs for July and August

'As July is usually the hottest month of the year enjoy the garden. Keep deadheading and watering to prolong blooms. Tomatoes need sideshoots removing or may be ready to pick. Clear ponds of algae and top up. Pick courgettes before they become marrows. Prune and train apples and pears in August and collect seeds as the flowers die back. Harvest vegetables then sit back and enjoy your garden.'



It's competition time. Who are the children from church?
TO WIN A PRIZE. Yes you read it right — A PRIZE.

Answers to Chris by August 1st.



What to look for this summer in the 555 square miles of the Peak District.

We all know about bats in the belfry, but in reality bats don't like draughty, noisy bell towers. Pippistrelles can be seen in July and August flying around our homes in the warm evening breeze.

If you are walking on Kinder Scout or the high moorlands you might spot a mountain hare or red grouse, these are harder to spot as they blend into their surroundings. Overhead the skylarks sing in the meadows and peregrine falcons swoop in Dovedale where they nest in clifftops. The area is full of abundant meadow wildflowers with fat bees to pollinate them and wild deer are often spotted hiding in the trees. However these are 'crepuscular' which means they are most active at dawn or dusk. Sadly many try to cross main roads at this time.

Take a look at the beautiful mosses and lichens, the heathers that attract butterflies - the brown argus, small blue and dingy dipper. Listen for the woodpecker and watch for a kingfisher. What a wonderful world!

This summer why not collect pebbles and paint them as birds

OR

Firmly glue an old cup and saucer for a lovely bird feeder



The Christian Aid Big Breakfast (pictured right) was a huge success raising over £600 and enjoyed by all. Thank you to the chefs and waitresses for a lovely start to the day.

They never forecast rain !!!!!



How many animals can you see? Answer on the back



Summer quiz. Answers on the back page

1. Which summer flower appears in the painting by Van Gogh?
2. Which essential vitamin does the body create from sunlight?
3. What would be your star sign if you were born in August?
4. Crocodiles and desert tortoises do what in the summer?
5. July is named after which Roman leader?
6. Which city will host the 2032 summer Olympics?
7. In the film, Summer Holiday, what did Cliff Richard and the Shadows travel to Greece in?
8. Esther Summerson is the heroine and narrator of which Charles Dickens novel?
9. According to the lyrics of the song Summer of 69 what did Bryan Adams buy at the 5 & dime?
10. What is the first line of the Grease ,Summer Nights lyrics?
11. According to the nursery rhyme what did the Queen of hearts make, all on a summers day' ?
12. On what date does British Summer Time begin each year?



Happy birthday
this issue to

July

1 Sheila Talbot

7 Sam Smith

8 Clare Lösel

10 Jean Hutton

14 Lynn Timmins

18 Emily Emmett

19 Jeanette Nicholls

30 Eric Baldwin

Nobody was born in August!

Standing at the gate of heaven

At the end of the age when all the believers were standing in line waiting to get into heaven, the angel Gabriel appeared and said "I want all the men to form two lines. One line will be for the men who were the true heads of their households. The other will be for the men who were dominated by their wives."

Gabriel continued" And now we need all of the women to report to Martha and Mary on the other side of the gate."

The women left while the men hurriedly formed two lines. The line of men who were dominated by their wives was seemingly unending.

The line of men who were the true head of their household had just one man standing in it.

Gabriel said to the first line "You men ought to be ashamed of yourselves. You were appointed to be the heads of your households and you have not fulfilled your purpose. Of all of you there is only one man who obeyed."

Then Gabriel turned to the lone man and asked "How did you come to be in this line?"

The man sheepishly replied "My wife told me to stand there."



Cool idea for a
summer supper.

And if you've ever
wanted to crack the
Rubiks cube -
here's how



Cooking with Carol

Apple and Blueberry tart

Usually it is soup that I make from leftovers in the fridge but recently I had apple, blueberry and pastry and I tried this. We enjoyed the result - hope you do too.

Ingredients

Large Bramley apple
70-80 g of blueberries - frozen or fresh
2 tablespoons of sugar
Short crust pastry - shop bought is fine
2 eggs
Milk

Method

Peel, core and chop the apple. Cook in a saucepan with the sugar and a little water until soft (as if making apple sauce).
Roll out pastry and line a 20cm cake/flan tin.
Line pastry with baking parchment, fill with baking beans and bake at 180 °C fan for about 7 minutes.
Remove beans and parchment,
Beat 2 eggs with a little milk
Add blueberries to the apples and pour into pastry case.
Pour over the beaten egg.
Add a few more blueberries on to the top.
Bake for 15-20 minutes until cooked through
Serve warm or cold - with cream or yoghurt if preferred.



When the vicar stops by for a visit

A new vicar was visiting his parishioners. At one house it was obvious that someone was at home, but despite knocking several times no one answered. So he took out a printed card that had just for such an occasion as this, it read.

Revelation 3:20 'Behold I stand at the door and knock'.

and he put it through the letter box. When the offering plate came to the front on the following Sunday there was a card on it.

Genesis 3:10 'I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked'!!!



Lovely view of Whaley taken by Louise

Our prayers as always go to

Joyce Clayton, Bill Jackson and Jean Mellor

We also hold Brenda Page ,at Over the Road, in our prayers at the loss of her brother

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.

Let's all Jump for Joy

Commencing Tuesday 22nd September 2026 we will be offering the preschool children of Whaley Bridge a praise time in the Sanctuary called 'Jump for Joy' so that they may experience something of the abundance of God's love for them in the person of Jesus through an age-appropriate time of worship.

Along with their parents/carers they will be able to participate in action worship songs; a short Bible story; a related craft and time of prayer.

Starting at 9.00am it will last about 45 minutes with an opportunity to remain afterwards to share refreshments as the regular coffee morning begins.

What is needed:-

Practically,

Help with the welcome and sign in each week.
Help with the sound system and screen projection
Sharing flyers with neighbours.

Prayer.

For those leading the Praise time
For conversations with family, friends and neighbours inviting them to come along.
That social media would reach families.

Contacts: Deacon Georgina and Jeanette Nicholls.



Answers to logo quiz

Nestle	Samsung	VW
Amazon	Michelin	McDonalds
BMW	Lacoste	YouTube
Twitter	Pringles	PayPal
Nike	Android	Kodak
Pepsi	Audi	Apple
Google	Adobe	Unilever
United Nations		Dream works
Burger King		Dominos pizza

Well done if you got them all

Answers to summer quiz

1. Sunflower
2. Vitamin D
3. Leo
4. Hibernate
5. Julius Caesar
6. Brisbane
7. London Bus
8. Bleak House
9. His first real 6 string guitar
10. Summer loving had me a blast
11. Some tarts
12. Last Sunday in March

A Summer blessing—Anon

May you walk with God this summer, in whatever you do, wherever you go.

Walking with God means walking with honesty and with courage

Walking with love and respect and concern for the feeling of others.

May you talk to God this summer, and every day, and in every situation

Talking with God means praying words of praise.

For the beauty of creation

Saying prayers of thanks for friends and good times

Asking God's help in all your decisions

Expressing sorrow when you have failed,

May you talk with God every day. Amen



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