

OCTOBER

Happy Birthday to:-

3rd Anne Graham
11th Tracy Howes
17th Paula Jackson

and Best Wishes to anyone else celebrating this month.

Flowers
Hilary Horner &
Alvin & Chrissy Chislett



Door Stewards

1st Rod and Jean Slater
8th Steven and Shirley Moorhouse
15th Ken Brand
22nd Jim and Alyson Gill
29th Pat Haycock & Shirley Woolner

Communion Stewards

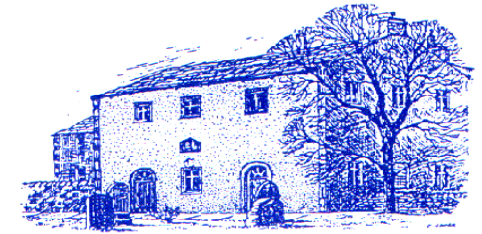
Jim and Alyson Gill



Contacts

Secretary	Christine Chisholm	01756 752357
Treasurer	Jean Slater	01756 752267
Minister	Peter Thomas	01756 753848
	revpt@btinternet.com	07740 543677

Grassington
Congregational
Church



OCTOBER

Dear Members and Friends,

At this time of year the focus of many churches up and down the land is Harvest, in several church magazines over recent weeks I have read announcements about themes, dates and times. Our Harvest was held last weekend. We had a particular focus upon items and needs for the Skipton Food Bank. I don't think I have ever seen such an arrangement of toothbrushes, toiletries and household items, not very few items of fresh fruit in evidence.

Many thanks for your contributions and to Alyson for arranging to take it down. Soil, seeds, farmers, birds, rocks, good soil, fruit, water all combine to create a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for the many things we frequently take for granted. We listened to the invitation of Jesus to come, all who are thirsty, all who are hungry.

If you look at the passage and context of these words (John 7) they come at the end of a festival where many people had celebrated and rejoiced at God's goodness, they followed with a request from the people for even greater blessing. How did they picture God? What did they think/pray that he would continue to do for them? What happened when harvest failed or things were difficult?

We face similar problems these days, yet to expect God to continue to pour out his blessing without doing anything in return

is at the heart of the Christian message. God is constantly taking the initiative, again and again in terms of offering help, Harvest is just one moment, a time, a Sunday within the Christian year when we can say thank you. There must surely be others.

Thank You, two little words which as children Mum or Dad reminded us to say along with Please. After a while we used them without the need to feel prompted, it became natural. We need to continue to share those words, not just among others but in our prayers and reflections before God.

If you have an opportunity this week pause and think about the number of occasions you will say, Please or Thank You, consider the number of occasions people will say them to you and how many times you may offer them to God. If we expect a harvest we need to sow the seeds of love, joy and forgiveness and watch them grow.

Every blessing,

Yours in Christ name,

Peter



Outreach Event
Friday 3rd November
Town Hall 7.00pm
Rod Williams

Free Tickets Available..... and Supper
Bigger advert page 6.

Prayer,

- We pray for those who are continuing to battle with ongoing illness and hospital treatment. As we journey together we pray for comfort, encouragement and love.
- We hold before God those who are affected by war and violence around the world, those who flee their homes, land and livelihood. This is very much an ongoing difficulty across the world and each day there are many needs of so many people.
- We pray for the many victims of natural disaster around the world in recent weeks, the people of the Caribbean, Mexico, Myanmar, and those caught up in ongoing battles of loss.
- We pray for members of our family and friends as we remember the ongoing loss of loved ones and people who shared our lives.
- We give thanks for family and friends and the people who share our lives, we give thanks for the ongoing opportunities to share something of our faith through the action and attitude of our lives.
- We pray that God may grant us opportunities to share our resources, time and talent in the community.
- We acknowledge and give thanks for the provision and blessing of our faith and trust in God, the journey of those who walk with us, and the freedom to express that faith.
- We pray for young people who have begun a new journey at University over recent weeks. Parents and wider family members.
- Pause, read a scripture and pray, give thanks, ask forgiveness, praise, think of others, lift up your offering to God and ask his blessing upon your life.

WAGs Corner

Tuesday September 12th.

This, the first meeting of the WAGS after the summer break was a time to share lunch and a cup of tea, whilst discussing the programme of events for the coming year. There were some good ideas for future trips out, speakers and demonstrations.

One of the group's strengths is the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere it offers to all. It was good to see some of our regular ladies as well as some new faces. We have decided as a group to change the monthly meeting date after Christmas from the second Tuesday in the month to the first Tuesday in the month. This means the group won't meet during the same week as the Town Hall Luncheon Club.

We were also lucky to have Marlene from Phoenix Cards visit us again with a lovely selection of birthday, occasion and Christmas cards, as well as some lovely Advent Calendars. So we all feel a bit more prepared for the festive period!!

The next meeting is on the 10th of October when we hope to have a truffle making demonstration.

Cathy

Thanksgiving News and Views

- Many thanks to those who were able to help and volunteer for events and shows over the 1940's weekend, it was good to welcome many visitors and appreciate once again the ongoing work of the village. Peter was able to lead the service in the square which attracted its largest crowd since the event was first started, with several hundred in attendance. Many thanks for your help and support along with the local committee and volunteers. Roll on, or is it, next stop Dickensian...steady !!! December 2nd/3rd, 9th/10th. This will feature on our October agenda.
- Thanks again for your help and support over the Harvest weekend and your many gifts. We will also reflect upon the service and meal at our meeting.
- Many thanks to Alyson, Cathy and Jackie for attending the Resources event held in Skipton last week it was greatly rewarding to see their efforts and the efforts of many people in church on show. Our resources will continue to be available to schools, groups and local churches.
- Sermon Series, 'The Way of Jesus' continues week to week at church. We will be joined on 22nd October by Gill Harrison and Ann Wilks, Readers from the Methodist church who will lead our service. Peter is away.
- 'Crafty Ladies,' continue to meet and share in making resources for Christmas, if you would like to help, join in or support please have a word with Alyson.
- Bible reading notes, publications, magazines and other free gifts are all available from Church, please, please, pick them up and take some for your neighbours and friends.
- Please sign up for the coffee rota or we will be forced to stop, we know you like cake, sign up now !!!

A magical evening with

Rod Williams

Author of the 'Real Deal' and professional magician

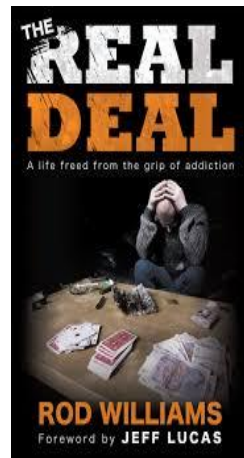


Friday 3rd November
Grassington Town Hall
7.00pm

FREE EVENT

with pie and peas included

- admission by ticket only -
from 'Hub' or Janice Calvert
Bar Available to purchase drinks



Rod will be talking about his astounding story turning from drugs and crime to God and will also be performing his amazing MAGIC TRICKS!

An entertaining evening for everyone

Craven Schools Partnership

During the opening weeks of the new school year I have been travelling around conducting assemblies and meeting new staff. Last week South Craven played host to my latest thoughts and ramblings. Wednesday's year 8 group brought me reunited with a former member of staff from Skipton Girls who was now head of year, students recognised me from previous visits and Primary schools. I was joined by Chris Holmes a local Methodist Church worker who was curious to see what I did. Theme, 'Friendship'

We took around 20-30 cardboard boxes of various sizes, some post-it notes and a sharpie. I invited the students to think of anything that goes into making a good friendship/relationship. For each suggestion I wrote on the notes and stuck them on the boxes, slowly building a big pile, after around a dozen ideas as to what friendship/relationship may be about it was complete. I had placed one suggestion 'Trust' near the bottom then proceeded to remove it, collapsing the whole edifice, ARRR... they cried. I then invited two students to rebuild the boxes. It became evident that it could be rebuilt but did not look the same as before.



I made reference to the Old Testament people of God who constantly let him down, only for God to offer to rebuild, reshape and remould. Having taken the opportunity to rebuild it may look and feel a different friendship/relationship but can be done. We listened to a piece of music, reflected for a moment and out we go, enjoy the day building friendships and relationships.

Resources

During the resources open evening at Trinity Methodist, Skipton we were joined by many different people from schools, churches and individual groups across the area. The focus was around ideas for Remembrance, Advent and Christmas with plenty of new ideas along with those tried and trusted favourites available. We also took opportunity to book a number of RE days for local schools. We currently have six project ideas on offer to schools throughout the year, taking in themes of Easter, Christmas, Images of God, Trinity, Prayer reflections and Happenings. These are offered in combination with ideas to borrow, share and reflect upon God and the message of Christianity. Thank You for your ongoing support, prayers and financial gifts.



Happenings

A number of regional shows to advertise and promote the work are booked for later this year along with continuing sales to schools up and down the land. We continue to offer advice, help and support to schools, churches and groups on the use of the series. Bethan has even carried out some of the ideas at her CU prayer group, to rave reviews and interest from Youth and Church leaders in Scotland.

Journey's, Doodles and Daydreams

I was recently invited to Holy Trinity School in Ripon, the former head at Grassington, Mrs Wheildon has moved there as their head teacher. I spent the morning reflecting with several classes using pictures, labyrinth boards and everyday items, glasses, shoes, maps etc. The children were encouraged to think of the many journeys they make from day to day, holidays and places that are special to them. As six and seven year olds their life experience is limited and for the most part the places they go are directed by others, parents, teachers etc. Never the less, we enjoyed the experience of travelling together. Twists and turns, ups and downs, are part of our daily lives. We hear about the journeys of others and are encouraged to reflect upon our own story. Where we have been, where we are going ?



Over the past few weeks I have been walking up in Grass woods, amazed by the number of different paths and routes you can take or get lost upon, pathways that have been created over time by many people who have walked that way before, encouraged to follow, trust even try a new pathway is all part of the human experience. Next time you sit daydreaming, doodling or on a journey, pause and pray, ask God for guidance, direction and help.

Who do you follow ? Are you lost ?
Could you do with some guidance ?

We have a number of prayer guides and labyrinth boards available if you would like to explore, journey and reflect.

How to turn your fast food Bible into a feast

It's time to change the way we consume scripture, says Glenn Paauw

It seems pretty obvious the Bible is currently an underachiever. Despite remaining a best-selling title around the world, and being more readily available than at any other time in world history, vast numbers of people don't read the Bible, don't understand it, and therefore don't know it. This includes people within the Church, not just those on the outside.

Pew Research estimates that less than 30 per cent of Christians in the world will ever read through the entire Bible. So, what's the diagnosis for our Bible-reading famine? And how do we encourage Christians to rediscover a closed book?

The fact is, we shouldn't be surprised at Bible (non) reading practices when we look at the nature of modernity's Bible. Part of the problem is that we've turned what should be a banquet into fast food. Philip Yancey says we've created an entire culture of Scripture McNuggets and assumed they were nutritious. We snack on the Bible when we should be feasting.



We need the Bible

We need God the Father, we need Jesus and we need the Holy Spirit. But we also need the Bible. God sent his holy word and it does what only it can do. It tells us the story of Jesus. We can't get that anywhere else. It tells us, crucially, where the story is going so our work is in line with his ultimate intentions. Without knowing our Bible, we constantly run the risk of

shrinking the story, or trying to control it so it ends up serving our own predetermined agenda.

The Bible is on a mission to move the creation in the direction of God's ultimate purposes for the flourishing of life. This is what it means to say the word of God is alive. But here's the thing: if we don't hold up our end of the covenant with the Bible, if we don't do right by it, we have it in our power to hinder the mission of the Bible.

And hinder is precisely what we have done. We've changed the Bible, grossly distorting its form and so misunderstanding its true character.

We pluck bits and pieces out of context and think that's what it means to be biblical

The way we commonly try to apply it to contemporary life is largely based on cherry-picking the verses we like and ignoring vast swathes of the biblical material. We try to survive spiritually off a verse-of-the-day. We proof-text. We pluck bits and pieces out of context and think that's what it means to be biblical.

How many believers who post Jeremiah 29:11, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'", to their Facebook feed realise that those words are spoken to the Jewish community exiled in Babylon, or have read the 28 chapters preceding that feel-good verse? So what is the path to a revived mission for the Bible in our world? What must we do to begin upholding our end of this partnership with God? How do we turn the Bible back into a soul-nourishing feast for all of us?

This article originally featured in the July issue of Christianity magazine and was part of a larger article about Bible reading. The full report is available on request. ©premier christianity

** The church has a number of daily, weekly and monthly Bible guides and reflections that are free and available. Please have a word with Alyson or visit Cornerstone Christian Bookshop in Skipton and tell them I sent you !!