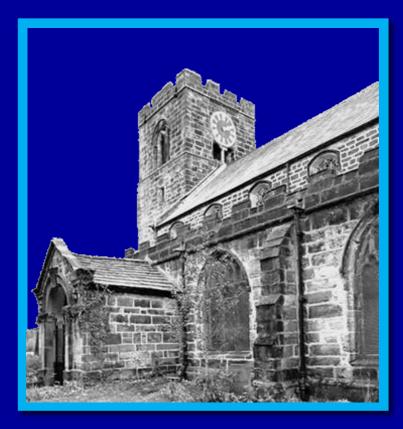
IN TOUCH

JUNE 2025

£1







TLEY PARISH CHURCH is the oldest building in Otley. It's at the heart of our town and, for over 1,000 years, people have been gathering here for worship, with significant family as well as community events.

We are a gathering place for pilgrims on a journey of discovery, kindling hope as we go, and helping one another to be more fully alive to the wonders, the joys and the sorrows of life. We'd love you to share the journey with us.

We want to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to Christ and in service to our local community. Join us in worshipping our God together on Sundays and in daily life; be with us as we study and discern how to use the Bible in the 21st century; also learn with us what it is to be disciples in the 21st century following Jesus, and help us, with other churches in the town, to bring good news to Otley and far beyond.

"There is a place for everyone, with CHRIST at the centre of it all"

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I find that the older I get, the less I know. No. I am not experiencing cognitive decline, not yet anyway! I am just more comfortable with acknowledging that a lot of theology is complicated and less certain and clear cut that my younger self liked to think. One subject I am less certain of is prayer. I have heard multiple sermons on the subject, attended seminars, read books and attended a lot of prayer meetings. But these days I am not really sure how it works. Do I believe in an interventionist God who changes circumstances because I pray? Do I believe in a powerful God who wills what is best, despite what

I may, or may not ask for? Does my brain hurt when I think too much about all that? Yes, it does! But have I benefited from the prayers of others? Yes, I have!

Martin and I have had a few months of challenging things to deal with. We have had to deal with some complex practical matters that needed things to come together at the right time, and some personal matters that needed us to be resilient. Whatever I do, or do not understand about prayer, I can testify that I have felt the power of praying friends carry me through. I have felt a peace and an endurance that was not mine. I had this same experience several years ago whilst going through intense grief and being unable to pray myself. Knowing that there are friends upholding you in prayer and loving you enough to pray for you is the most wonderful thing to experience. We have certainly used more than our fair share of prayer requests on our house group

WhatsApp group. I may not understand how it works, but I can bear witness that it does!

As well as what is happening at a supernatural level, asking for prayer means a sharing of one's life with others, an acknowledgement of vulnerability. Praying for someone requires a willingness to want to be involved in their life and take the time and effort to serve them in this way. It builds fellowship and strengthens community.

Some of us will have participated in the national prayer initiative, "Thy Kingdom Come". As a church we are introducing new opportunities to pray together, so look out for details of these. We have opportunities for weekly prayer ministry and our Prayer Tree is well used. But asking for and receiving prayer for ourselves requires us to know people well enough to trust them. There are several ways in our church to get to know people. One of the best ways where you can not only get to know others better but also grow in your faith is by joining a house group. Speak to me if that is of interest.

If you are one of the people who has prayed for me, thank you. Why do I pray? Well, because the bible tells me I should. Jesus did, and because I have felt its benefits in my own life. I still don't really understand it, but that's ok!

IN THE



with **Marjorie Dunn**

We know that you come regularly to Otley Parish Church, Marjorie, and many of us will know you by sight but not really know much about you. Will you please answer a few questions that will help us all to get to know you a little better? Thank you!

When were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born at St James's Hospital in Leeds 90 years ago on 16th June 1935. My mother was a single lady. I grew up in Halton in Leeds, near Temple Newsam. She eventually married in 1939.

Where did you go to school?

I first went to Halton Village School, and then because of the war we were evacuated to Otley where I went to Westgate Primary School. And then later to a further two schools - Rowland Road School between Hunslet and Beeston, and Cross Flats School in Leeds 11. I failed my 11+ exam and left school at the age of 15.

When and where did you meet your husband?

I met Ray on my very last day at school when I was walking home. He offered to take me to the pictures (cinema). We stayed friends for five years and then got married in 1955 when I was 20 years old. Ray was born on 1st March 1934. He was greatly loved by each of our families. In his own words he described himself as wonderfully blessed. Ray was a former Mayor of Otley, a keen footballer, runner and cyclist. His Christian faith was strong, and he faced his final chapter of life with peace, dignity, humour and love. He died peacefully at home in my arms, his beloved wife of 69 years, on 26th June 2024.

What was your occupation and where did you work?

I was a filing clerk at an engineering company in Leeds 11. I used to travel there from home by tram – those were the days!

Do you have brothers and sisters?

I have a half-sister, Joyce, born in 1941.

How many children/grandchildren do you have?

3 children – Carol, Graham and Helen. Also, 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Why did you eventually choose to come to live here permanently on Otley?

We had been living in London but then Ray changed his job, and we moved back to Leeds. We didn't want to live in the city centre so did a tour around the outskirts of the city and alighted on Otley which seemed the perfect place to move to.

When did you become a Christian?

My becoming a Christian was a process in attending several churches. The first church that I went to was the Band of Hope here in Otley. Other churches included the United Reformed Church, and New Life Community which was held in a room above Kirkgate Arcade. Eventually, I was baptised at Guiseley Baptist Church in 2002.

How long have you been coming to Otley Parish Church?

I think for about 50 years. But not continuously, having been to several other churches too across the years. I come regularly now.

Do you have a favourite verse of Scripture? If so, what is it?

I love the whole Book of Colossians. It's a special book to me, and I especially love any verse in which Paul is speaking.

Do you have a favourite Christian hymn or song?

I love "One more step along the way". Ray and I were travellers around the UK for at least 20 years during school holidays.

Do you like classical music? Or a favourite traditional or modern song – anything in particular?

I'm not a great fan of classical music but I enjoy musical shows. I do love, though, all of Cliff Richard's songs.

Can you play a musical instrument?

I once tried to play the guitar but never got anywhere with it!

Do you have a favourite part of Yorkshire that you like to visit? I enjoy Bolton Abbey and surrounding areas which are all lovely places.

Is there somewhere you would like to go on holiday where you've not been before, regardless of expense?

Yes! I would love to visit Guernsey, the second largest island in the Channel Islands.

A book you enjoyed reading – Christian or general? Any reason? The Bible with SACRED which helps my intellectual education.

Do you have a hobby or something you enjoy doing to relax?

In days gone past, I enjoyed walking and cycling. Jobwise I used to be a dress maker. After retirement I found designing and making of garments relaxing. I do enjoy cooking. But I especially now enjoy studying the Bible with SACRED.

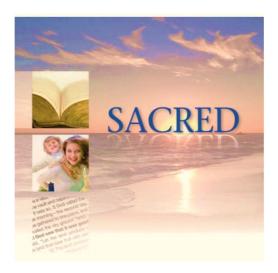
What would be your favourite meal – 2 or even 3 courses?

Crisp Breast of Lamb or anything. I love all food - no dislikes!

If you were to spend a whole year on a desert island *on your own,* what luxury or luxuries would you take with you?

People!! I love being with people. They are my real luxury!

Which one word best describes your life right now? Loved.



SACRED

'simply a chapter read each day'

One Year In

In early March this year, an Away Day at Parcevall Hall in Wharfedale was held to reflect on the SACRED journey through the Bible after a year, and to share how it has impacted different people. As part of the day, several of the participants shared what they had found inspiring about one of the books read in the year - the book of Ruth was one looked at.

Ruth is just one of two books in the Bible named after a woman (the other is Esther). Ruth means friendly, and the book is quite friendly - short at just 4 chapters and a good story, plus not too many unpronounceable names! Indeed, in "The Message" version of the Bible Ruth opens with the words "Once upon a time..."

It's a story with a good plot that is really well constructed with all the necessary ingredients:

- interesting characters (Ruth, Naomi, Boaz)
- a touch of sadness (a few deaths)
- a journey (back to Judah from Moab)
- a possible villain (Orpah maybe)
- a hero (Boaz)

- a heroine (Ruth)
- a bit of duplicity (the visit to the threshing floor)
- a few cliff hangers (Will Ruth go with Naomi? What will happen on the threshing floor?)
- a bit of romance (Ruth and Boaz)

and, most importantly, a happy ending!

To quote a Radio 4's Sunday Morning Service a couple of months back, "The Book of Ruth is a story of love, loyalty and guaranteed company". In the notes in SACRED Phil Moon tells a story of Benjamin Franklin reading and discussing the story with friends, having anonymised it - everyone said it was one of the most beautiful stories they had ever heard. He then revealed his source!!!

Perhaps the most famous words from Ruth are Chapter 1:16-17,

"Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried."

A great story of love, loyalty and devotion. The book shows not just human love (Ruth and Naomi, and then Ruth and Boaz) but also God's love for us all - Ruth wasn't from Israel, she was a Gentile from another land, maybe a bit like us all?

If it's a while since you read Ruth then why not do so - it won't take you long at just 4 short chapters, and you can enjoy this great story of love, loyalty and devotion. And maybe have a chat to Phil Moon about joining the SACRED journey.

- A SACRED Journeyer at OPC

SACRED is a companion to the Bible written by Phil Moon, a member of Otley Parish Church. It is published in six volumes, each containing either six or seven months of readings. Phil recommends using a modern translation of the Bible such as the New International Version or the Good News Bible. Before you begin each day, pray that God will speak to you. Then read the passage, read the notes, and reflect quietly and prayerfully for a short time.

Phil says, "However you approach SACRED, my prayer is that through it you may grow spiritually, day by day.

• For more details of SACRED and how to purchase the books or simply download the scheme and guidance notes, see the OPC website: www.otleyparishchurch.org/sacred

Creation Care

A monthly column for us to share environmental and sustainability ideas

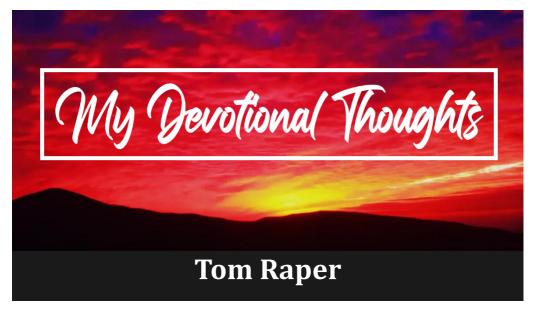
This year the Spring weather has been unseasonably dry, which might lead us to thinking about how to save the valuable resource that is water.

The Archbishop of York is supporting a programme by the campaigning organisation Waterwise www.waterwise.org.uk

Waterwise suggest 5 small, simple yet impactful actions that we can take which, if done collectively, can make a significant impact:

- Make every laundry wash count run full loads to save water and energy. Look for eco modes or low water options as they are more water efficient. Using eco-friendly detergent (ideally with no phosphates) is gentler on water systems and the planet.
- Save water, one drop at a time imagine if we all turned off the tap while brushing our teeth. Leaving the tap running wastes up to 6 litres per minute.
- Trim a minute in the shower, save litres if everyone in the UK cut just 1 minute from their shower time, we could save enough water to fill over 1,000 Olympic size swimming pools every year.
- Dishwash wisely waste less water by dishwashing only full loads and using eco modes. A full dishwasher uses up to 10 x less water than dishwashing by hand. Another way to save water is to skip the pre-wash (scrape instead).
- Find and fix sneaky leaks from taps and toilets by fixing a toilet leak, Waterwise estimate that we can save up to 400 litres of water a day, helping to conserve this precious resource. Reducing water waste lowers our household water bill and by reducing waste, we're helping to lower the carbon emissions from treating and delivering water.

Look out for more tips in future In Touch magazines or you may wish to share any actions you have taken with the rest of the Parish. We will continue to pray for God's creation, nature's preservation and the reduction in fossil fuel usage.



"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38 & 39 (NIV)

"I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you."

Jeremiah 31:3 (ESV)

THE LOVE OF GOD

From mid-December 2024 until the end of March this year, I have attended seven funerals, with two on consecutive days in February. This was a challenge to me spiritually as at some of these funerals, although well attended, there was no mention of Jesus nor hope for the future spoken about. Two funerals were for dear friends who were great Christian leaders in their own right and their services were full of hope in the resurrection and eternal life. The first funeral was for a dear friend who had lived a gentle life with Down's Syndrome and learning

difficulties. At his funeral it was mentioned that God had walked alongside him all his life.

I have chosen two passages from Romans and Jeremiah as I used them in cards I gave to a family member, and to a friend I was supporting whose wife had died following a long illness. I was trying to be a messenger of the gospel in difficult times.

The passages speak about the love of God towards us all that transcends our human understanding. Indeed, my friend the late Canon Roger Cressey, often preached that God is closer to us all than our own breath. Roger was a celebration of Christ's love.

We pray for the opportunities to offer comfort and peace for the grieving. Help us to help the grieving to express gratitude for the lives of loved ones departed. Through our own lives as disciples of Christ help us to find the right words of comfort and hope for the future and the promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A 17th Century Nun's Prayer

Lord thou knowest better that I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and every occasion.

Release me from craving to sort out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful not moody, helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask to enjoy the tales of other's pains but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet, I do not want to be a saint, some of them are so hard to live with but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people and give me O Lord the grace to tell them so.



This prayer was submitted for In Touch by Rosemary Ellen (OPC)





HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARIA!

Maria O'Hagan was born on 26th April 2001 in Epsom Hospital, Surrey. She then grew up near Kingston upon Thames. Maria, who works with Missional Generation, is involved in running our OPC Youth Group and works closely with other leaders supporting young people in our church.

THE WEDDING OF ISLA AND JOSH

Isla and Josh were married at Otley Parish Church on Saturday 10th May 2025.

They are seen here with Isla's parents Jackie and Martin



A VERY HAPPY WEDDING COUPLE!









ELIZA PARK

celebrated her 6th birthday on 5th May 2025



Sam Briscoe, the son of Jo and Paul, celebrated his 21st birthday on 7th May 2025.

He was born in 2004.



Please pray for those being Ordained this Petertide, among them

Zoë Smith

who will be ordained a Deacon by Nick, Lord Bishop of Leeds in Wakefield Cathedral on Saturday 28th June 2025, 11am.

Please also pray for Martyn, Elliot, Anna and Ben, and the Rev. Phil Bishop and the people of St. Mary's Parish, Burley in Wharfedale where Zoë will serve her curacy.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matt 6:33



Two Pennies

A Widow's Story



Y NAME IS NAOMI. I have been a widow for a long time. When I was younger and bringing up the boys, I was able to work and keep the family together. My boys left home to find work, and that was many years ago. So now I am old!

Slowly, one by one, the gold coins of my dowery were gone. However careful I was I had no other means but to spend them. Now there were just 2 pennies left. When they were gone, I had no one to rely on except My Heavenly Father, the God of Israel.

If I was to trust him completely tomorrow then I would go again to the Temple, as I often did, and give him my last 2 pennies!

The Temple was busy as it always was, with jostling crowds and a long queue giving gifts into the Temple Treasury. My turn came and I put in my 2 pennies with a hasty prayer and some feeling of shame that I had so little to give. As I looked up, I saw 'The Teacher', the one who some said was the Messiah, looking at me.

His look showed so much love; it poured out of him. It was a look I will never forget as long as I live. The crowd bustled past me, but I knew I was loved and would be taken care of.

As I returned home, a new family was moving into the empty house next door - a mother with several children. She smiled at me and said, "Hello, I am Miriam and this is my family". I welcomed them and then she said, "Come and share our meal tonight, there is always enough for one more".

Miriam's husband, Isaac ,was a day labourer. He worked hard, was well thought of and was never without a day's work. So, though life was hard the family never went without their daily meal.

That day was my first. Each day I shared the family meal. I cared for the younger children while Miriam went to the market, and every day she came back saying, "I have got this or that for such a low price I was able to find a treat for the family. We thanked and praised God for his goodness".

I share with the children the scriptures I was taught as a girl and remember this one especially: Psalm 37 verses 25 and 26.

I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.

I still remember that look of amazing love and, whatever people say, I am convinced that the one I later learned about is called Jesus - truly the Messiah, the hope of Israel.

Stewart Hartley



Proverbs 3:5-6 (New KJV)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Forgive me - I have taken the liberty of choosing two verses which were given to my wife Eileen and I, either when we were married in 1969 or soon afterwards. I think they summarise the

foundations of a life that is Heavenly Father. Firstly, we trust in the Almighty.

recognise that we are knows best. Thirdly, every involved with Finally, God promises best way to go. I chose the NIV version says,

in relationship with are encouraged to put our Secondly, we need

> not always right, and He God wants to aspect of our lives. He will show us the the NEW KJV because 'He make

paths straight' which I don't find so helpful. In my experience, the path certainly isn't always straightforward, but God is there.

Norman Barr



Revd. Joshua Hart Vicar of Otley, 1837-1865

Paul Wood

With the restoration of the early 20th century sand stone replacement of the Navvies Memorial in Otley Churchyard, the work of Elizabeth Garnett of the Navvy Mission Society has been remembered. It is now the right time to celebrate the founding father, whose mission built the foundation for the work.

Inducted at Otley Parish Church on the 1st of July 1837, the 39 year old Middlesex man, and his wife Hannah, took up residence in the Church Lane Vicarage. Elizabeth, their first daughter was born here on 23rd September 1839 and joined brothers Peter and Henry, the expanding family needing a two room addition to the house by 1841. Hart's BA from Queen's College, Cambridge had also given him the Masters position at Prince Henry's Grammar School in Otley from 1838 and throughout his ministry.

The peaceful parish life of a rural incumbent would be changed dramatically by the 21st of July 1845, with the Royal Assent of the Leeds Thirsk Railway Act. Gathering on the eastern horizon would be the labouring outlaws on the outskirts who would go on to challenge some of the spiritual assumptions of his living. As his later missionary daughter Elizabeth would witness, "There was a navvy death for every mile of finished track – one to thirty deaths a tunnel".

The troglodytes of the Bramhope tunnel and the mason mountaineers of Wharfedale Viaduct would follow the same statistical railway curve towards Thirsk, daily descending into hell with little hope of heaven.

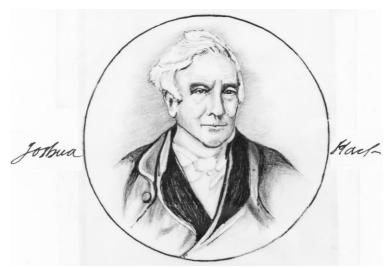
Hart's conventional theology had to confront again and again the morality of mortality, in what was said to be the most dangerous job of its day. His

daughter's life work would thus follow in father's footsteps in support of the men and their families who were building Victorian Britain.

The 'extraordinary' navvy funeral of 1846 was followed by Hart's impressive sermon the following year on the 'uncertainty of human life' when two men were crushed to death falling from Arthington Viaduct when the arch collapsed. The Navvies Monument of 1849, to the 23 casualties of the railway work, can also be seen as a memorial to Hart's extraordinary mission.

The Vicar's ordinary calling continued with a rhetorical sermon at Farnley in words of one syllable: 'The Barren Fig Tree' published by William Walker. In 1839 came 'The Stormy Wind' followed by 'The Lamp Put Out', published by Webb Millington. Joshua Hart's support for the Mechanics Institute movement, then housed at the Wesleyan Chapel on Nelson Street, can be noted through his regular lecture programme during the 1850s. In the 1851 Census, the Hart family had further filled the Vicarage with Joshua 9, Hannah 7, Henrietta 6, Gertrude 1 and 2 house servants.

Joshua senior continued his talks with 'Costumes of All Nations' and 'China and the Chinese' followed by a River Wharfe trail and an account of the Church, which was in the midst of its own restoration in 1851. Hart's 'Lecture on Wharfedale' was also issued by Webb Millington in 1857.



Joshua Hart, re-drawn by Paul Wood in December 2018 from an original nineteenth century photo portrait by Wm. Barraclough which exists in Otley Museum's collection. In early October 1865, 'Mr. Hart being slightly unwell had been at Redcar to resuscitate his health, from whence he returned very much improved'.

The very reverend gentleman also sat, or to be more accurate, stood squarely for his portrait by William Barraclough, Otley photographic artist, which would join the likeness later published in Cobley's History of the Grammar School of Prince Henry.

On Sunday 15th, intending to preach both morning and evening services, Hart rose at 6am but was 'suddenly seized with apoplexy and expired about half past twelve'. Parishioners meeting on the following Monday agreed the funeral should be a public one and expenses should be borne by subscription.

'Be Ye Also Ready' was the scriptural offering on the Vicar's Mourning Card. The Rev. Hart was buried at Otley Cemetery, Pool Road. His wife Hannah died at Ripon on 16th October 1886, where the Cathedral plaque to their daughter Elizabeth would be unveiled in 1926.

Of course, the original 'exquisite workmanship' of the Otley Navvies Memorial in Caen Stone, is no more. Carved by Bradford masons Francis Lapish of St. James Street and Jonas Clapham, this was a 'noble work of art which will be held in admiration by future generations' (Bradford Obs. 21st June 1849). A solitary decayed turret of the first monument remains as a flower planter outside the Musgrave Hall, next to The Chestnuts on Burras Lane.

Although memories are also eroded, the Otley Parish Church Magazine of 1904 reminds us that Joshua Hart and the welfare of his daughter's 'mates' were not forgotten. Parishioners great and good offered their charitable support of £26 15s 0d, to Elizabeth's Navvy Mission.

• Paul Wood, author of this feature about Joshua Hart was Otley Museum's keeper for nearly 30 years. He says he has poured all of his 40-plus years' experience into historical research. He is also the author of "A Guide to the Townscape of Otley, Thirteenth to Twentieth Century", and an earlier book, "A Guide to the Landscape of Otley, Seventh to Seventeenth Century".



Otley Parish Church Services in June Each 10.30am service is live streamed to YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@otleyparishchurch

		<u> </u>
Sunday 1st	8.30am	Holy Communion This monthly service of Holy Communion is based on Common Worship, with a short talk
	10.30am	Service of the Word Sunday Club (KS1, KS2 and pre-schoolers) OPC Youth Group (school years 7-13)
	6.00pm	ACTIVATE Lively, informal and reflective worship (followed by pizza)
Sunday 8th	10.30am	Pentecost Service of Holy Communion Sunday Club (KS1, KS2 and pre-schoolers) OPC Youth Group (school years 7-13)
Sunday 15th	10.30am	All-age Service of the Word
Sunday 22nd	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion Sunday Club (KS1, KS2 and pre-schoolers)
Sunday 29th	10.30am	Service of the Word Sunday Club (KS1, KS2 and pre-schoolers) OPC Youth Group (school years 7-13)
Our Midweek Services in June		
Everv		Holy Communion

Every Tuesday	11.00am	Holy Communion A short service with no hymns (followed by light refreshments)
Every Monday to Thursday except in school holidays	4.30pm	Evening Prayer There will be a variety of approaches to prayer; also, a reflection on a Bible passage, and time for silence to pray for others





f you are fairly new to Otley Parish Church, you are indeed very welcome here!

If you'd like to get connected, involved, or find out more about us, please pick up a *Welcome to Otley Parish Church* card which you'll find on the table at the back of the church.

Please fill in the details and return the card to us, or put it in the red wall safe on the back wall.

We will use your contact information to help you find a way to connect into the life of our church. We do take care to ensure that your data is kept secure.

Please Keep in Touch

We would love you to keep in touch and tell us what you'd like to see in *your* monthly IN ToUCH Church magazine. If you've got something you would like to share with us in the April edition of IN ToUCH, please send it to our editor, stephenhey01@gmail.com

NO LATER THAN

Saturday 14th June



Kirkgate ● Otley ● West Yorkshire ● LS21 3HW Vicar: Revd. Aaron Kennedy

Registered Charity Number: 1153498

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR Sarah McCormack

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CHURCH WEBSITE www.otleyparishchurch.org

see our website for details of Church services and a link to our streamed services on YouTube

FACEBOOK: @otleyparishchurch X (TWITTER): @otleyallsaints

CHURCH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account name: Parochial Church Council of Otley Sort code: 20-37-13 Account No: 10088811

Gift Aid: if you are a tax payer, please consider signing a Gift Aid declaration, available on the Church website or from the Treasurer, Tony Pike

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