

February / March 2026

The **MESSENGER**



Bramhope **Methodist** Church 

For details of weekly Worship please check the service list or the church website

SUNDAY @ 10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP - First Sunday in the month with HOLY COMMUNION
MONDAY 9.30-10am 4.30-5.30	PRAYER TIME in the Low Room FIRST CLASS LEARNING - Maths, English & Science Tuition - 07415 190952
TUESDAY 10.30-12.00 10.30-11.30 4-6pm From 7pm	COFFEE SHOP in the Hall WHAT'S IN THE BOX for pre-school children – term time only. FIRST CLASS LEARNING - Maths, English & Science Tuition - 07415 190952 FILM CLUB – 1 st Tuesday in the month from Oct–April. Tel 0113-2678332
WEDNESDAY 10.15- 11.15am 2.15-3pm 4.30-5.30pm	TAI CHI – organised by OPAL Tel 0113-2619103 MOVE IT OR LOSE IT. Suzie 07786 393375 MUSICAL THEATRE LIFE. Rebecca 07814 451017
THURSDAY 7.30pm	THURSDAY LADIES' GROUP - Second Thursday in the month September-May
FRIDAY 9.30-10.30 2pm	ZUMBA – Tel 07887 561908 HISTORICAL SOCIETY – meets twice monthly from Sept–May. Tel 0113-2672906
SATURDAY 9.30am (monthly) 9-10.30am	WALKING GROUP – guided walks throughout the year – meet at Church for car sharing or self-drive to the start. DANCE INC – a range of different dance classes for children from 3 to 10yrs+. Emma 07707 055491

February/March 2026
The Methodist Church at
Bramhope, Eastgate,
Leeds LS16 9AA
Minister: Rev Wendy Walker
wendy.walker@methodist.org.uk
Tel: 07482 717 810

WORDS FROM WENDY

Dear Friends

As we step into Lent, we're invited into a season that is quieter and slower than much of the year. Lent isn't about proving our spiritual strength or setting ourselves impossible tasks. It's about making room — room for God, room for honesty, room for hope to grow in places we may have overlooked.

This season gives us the chance to pause and ask gentle but important questions: *What helps me draw closer to God? What might I need to lay down? What might I need to pick up again?*

These questions aren't meant to weigh us down but to open us up.

This year, we will share with St Giles in **The Difference Course**, which aims to help Christians become everyday peacemakers. It invites us to explore how we cross divides, navigate disagreement, and practise the kind of reconciling love Jesus shows throughout the Gospels. Each session offers space to listen, to wonder, to share, and to discover how God is at work in our ordinary relationships and encounters. In a world that is deeply fractured at present, this feels like a timely and hopeful journey to take together. I hope that those who take part will be equipped for discipleship in powerful ways.

The dates are as follows:

All sessions 7.30 – 9pm

- 23rd February - St Giles Church Hall
- 2nd March - Bramhope Methodist Church Hall
- 9th March - St Giles Church Hall
- 16th March - Bramhope Methodist Church Hall
- 23rd March - St Giles Church Hall

I commend also to you **Stones in the Wilderness** - a powerful journey taken through material written by Rev David Halstead. I am personally looking forward to sharing in that daily spiritual practice.

May this season draw us deeper into God's love, and may we find, together, the quiet gifts that Lent always brings.

With every blessing for the weeks ahead.

Wendy

REV WENDY WALKER she/her
The Chevin Methodist Church
Wharfedale & Aireborough Circuit
Circuit Office 07544 165040

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

Check out the Circuit Website for Special Services, News and Events <https://wandamethodists.org.uk> and the Church website for our Services, Events, the Messenger and Bible Verse of the Day www.bramhopemethodist.org.uk

Our Church Mission Statement:

"Together as a Church family we are aspiring to love God, the Community and each other through worship, prayer, learning, service and outreach."



Can you volunteer at MHA?

Alongside her role as our minister, Rev Wendy is a chaplain at MHA Glen Rosa in Ilkley, usually visiting the care home to offer spiritual support on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday afternoons.

- *Are you a kind and caring person with a listening ear?*
- *Can you play a musical instrument or sing with confidence?*
- *Would you like to make a difference for those living with dementia?*

Speak with Wendy to be a part of the ministry at Glen Rosa through becoming a befriender to an older person, being a steward for worship services, helping to form a Bible study or pastoral group, helping with musical provision or more!

wendy.walker@mha.org.uk.

FLOWER ROTA - February and March

1 st Feb	J Bosomworth	1 st March	V Sykes
8 th	P Khan	8 th	A Rollinson
15 th	M Fielding	15 th	Mothering Sunday
22 nd	R Handby	22 nd	B Foster
		29 th	J Hodges

The church is open on Saturday mornings between 9.30 and 10.30am. Please use the Low Room to prepare your flowers where the vases are stored. Ring 0113-2678773 if you have any queries, or would like to be included or taken off the Rota.

Thank you to all those who generously donate flowers every week, these are distributed to our friends and neighbours after our Services.

Easter Saturday – April 4th at 10am – we will be pleased to welcome anyone able to donate spring flowers and/or foliage, or who can come and help decorate the church. All help and donations gratefully received.

Worship in February and March

Sunday morning Services all start at 10.30am

February	
1 st	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Wendy Walker
8 th	Service led by Mrs Lindsey Hurst
15 th	Service led by Mrs Joan Bosomworth – celebrating Mission in Britain – with the Rev Andy Muckle, Chaplain to St George’s Crypt
22 nd	Local Arrangement Service led by the Stewards and members of the Congregation
March	
1 st	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Wendy Walker
8 th	Service led by Mrs Pauline Tate
15 th	Mothering Sunday - Service led by Rev Tim Perkins and Rev Wendy Walker
22 nd	Service led by Mrs Lindsey Hurst
29 th	Palm Sunday – United Service at Menston British Summer Time Begins
April 2 nd	Maundy Thursday - a Tenebrae Service of Light and Darkness from 7pm
3 rd	Good Friday - A joint Service at Pool Methodist Church at 10.30am

Shrove Tuesday: 17th February

We are invited to join others from The Chevin Methodist Church for a Pancake Event at Cornerstone Café in Menston.

More details to follow.





February Collection for St George's Crypt
During February we will again be collecting toiletries for The Crypt.

eg toothpastes + brushes, soap, shampoo, deodorant, sanitary items, combs/brushes, shower gel etc.
The last date for donations is Sunday 1st March.

Please give generously and support this appeal.
Thank you.

<https://www.stgeorgescrypt.org.uk>

St George's Crypt – We offer care, compassion and hope to the homeless and vulnerable

Toy Collection for the Salvation Army – We want to thank everyone for the very generous donations received towards our Christmas Toy Appeal. These were delivered to the Central Leeds Salvation Army Citadel on the 7th December for distribution to needy families and children.

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity.

TREASURER'S INTERIM REPORT to DECEMBER 2025

Accounts

The averaged weekly collections for the period to December were:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Envelopes, Cash and Standing Orders	£ 458	£ 471



The level of Giving has increased by 3%. We have had the benefit of new members giving by standing order and existing members have reviewed their standing orders and increased them. Thank you all for this generosity.

Action for Children raised £351 from the Carol Service and Carol Singing at The Fox.

A donation of £50 was made to the Jamaica Disaster Appeal.

We have benefitted from a bequest of £5,000.

Ignoring collections, donations and bequests, Receipts are level at £7,800.

The Autumn Quiz raised £613.

Total Income is £22,942 compared to £21,407.

Expenditure is £19,139 compared to £21,116, down £1,977, mainly due to repairs down £1,828 (pipe repair last year) and utilities up this year £653.

Overall there is a surplus to date of £3,803 compared to £291 last year.

Looking forward for the Financial Year to August 2026

Subject to the following I anticipate a small surplus for the year.

While we have fortunately benefitted from donations and bequests for several years. Ongoing Income and Expenditure, which may not include these incomes, must be monitored to ensure a realistic assessment of the ongoing position.

Heating costs, which have remained stable in recent years, have increased sharply, although this is being monitored to ensure usage is kept to a minimum.

Repair costs for such an old building can be large and somewhat haphazard timing wise. The Resources Committee deal with repairs promptly and make improvements as circumstances allow. Other costs are being controlled where possible.

Maintenance of Collection Income and the ability to continue providing Special Events is a matter of concern in the longer term.

Thank you to those organising and helping to put on Special Events.

Continued Giving cannot be stressed too highly. Please continue to Give so generously.

Norman Sykes, Honorary Treasurer

NEWS and DIARY DATES

Care for a Cuppa Cafe

A welcoming cafe for those living with memory problems.

Come Join us

for tea, cakes, activities and support

When: First Tuesday of each month

Time: 1:30-3:30pm

Where: Bramhope Village Hall,
Old Lane, LS16 9AZ

Cost: £2 per person



For further information, please contact:



catherinebirkby@outlook.com



**Dementia
Friends**

An Alzheimer's Society initiative

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

**Every Tuesday Morning during Term Time
from 10.30-11.30 in the Low Room at Church**

Relaxed story based sessions for pre-school children/babies and their Carers. Each week we look at 'What's in the Box' and try to guess what the story is and the children love seeing what's there. We have a story and then we do a craft activity.

For more information please contact: Rev Wendy Walker

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS to help with this thriving group – please contact Wendy for more information.



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Our next ever popular Quiz Night is planned for

Friday 17th April – 7 for 7.30 start



With a delicious
PIE, PEAS & PUDDING SUPPER



(vegetarian option available on request)

Save the date in your diaries.
Come and enjoy a fun-filled night with fabulous food and prizes to be won.

Tickets £10 Adult and £5 under 13s

CIRCUIT TREASURERS REQUIRED

Volunteer Church Treasurers

The Wharfedale & Aireborough Methodist Circuit is looking for two committed Church Treasurers of the Chevin Church and Church Treasurer of the Ilkley Moor Church

to take the lead on all financial matters within our newly formed multisite church framework.

This key role overlooks accounts, payments, donations, and financial reporting.

Appointed annually by the Church Council, you'll work closely with ministers, finance representatives, and the Circuit Resources Team.

What you'll do

- Keep clear, accurate accounts for each congregation
- Produce Year End accounts
- Liaise with the Trustees as they prepare their annual reports
- Record donations, collections, and other income
- Manage payments in a timely manner
- Provide financial reports
- Attend relevant church meetings

What you'll bring

- Basic accounting or bookkeeping knowledge (training available)
- Commitment to the life of the church
- Ability to provide references and complete an enhanced DBS check

For a full job description, contact Juliana Caukwell, Circuit Manager

Tel: 07544 165040

Email: circuitmanager@wandamethodists.org.uk

Putting the
Pieces
Together



Wharfedale &
Aireborough
methodist circuit

Prayer, Worship, Study and Mission

STONES IN THE WILDERNESS 2026

A Message from Rev David Halstead

LENT and HOLY WEEK

Ash Wednesday 18th February to Easter Sunday 5th April 2026

STONES IN THE WILDERNESS is a unique daily 'experience' intended to nurture your heart, mind and soul during Lent and Holy Week.

It is based on setting aside TIME TO BE STILL with Jesus in an imaginary wilderness setting in order to focus on a WORD written on a STONE. A photograph of a STONE will be sent to you each morning by email.

We think of the TIME OF STILLNESS, the WORD on the STONE, and the element of SERENDIPITY associated with it, as a GIFT from God to help us with all that is going on in our lives and to bring us closer to Him.



A KEY element of the exercise is the emphasis on LISTENING. The only thing to read will be the one WORD, sometimes a short introductory paragraph, and your Bible should you wish to refer to it.

Last year 162+ people shared the STONES IN THE WILDERNESS experience.

Invitations have just gone out to those who took part last year. We would love others to join our very ecumenical STONES IN THE WILDERNESS family. Should you wish to join send me your email address and I will send you a Welcome Letter and INFORMATION SHEET by return. dcmulutil@icloud.com



Raise the stone and thou will find me; cleave the wood and I am there. MHB
601

PRAYING TOGETHER

A joint prayer time with St Giles is held every Monday morning from 9.30-10am in the Low Room at Church.

This affords the opportunity for members of both Churches to come together, to pray for the village and the work of our Churches.

Do join us – all are welcome

PRAYER MINISTRY

A member of the Prayer Ministry Team will be available on most Sunday mornings at the end of the Service to pray with those who would find this helpful. Leaflets, booklets and copies of prayers are available on the prayer table.

Please feel free to take them away for use.

VILLAGE PRAYERS – every Sunday, together with our friends at St Giles, we pray for the residents of our Village:

Old Lane, Occupation Lane, Hilton Court, Hilton Grange and Hilton Mews	1 st February
All those people living outside the village who worship with us	8 th
Staircase Lane and Hall Drive	15 th
Leeds Road, St Giles' Garth and Glenmore Court	22 nd
Hall Rise, Hall Close, Hall Rise Close and Hall Rise Croft	1 st March
Wellhead Close, Creskeld Drive, Crescent, Garth and Gardens	8 th
Creskeld Lane, Creskeld Park and Breary Lane East	15 th
High Ridge Way, Kings Road and Kings Drive	22 nd
Springwood Crescent, Cardenden Drive, Grizedale Place, Falling Foss Grange and Way	29 th

PRAYER DIARY for February and March



Monday - We ask God to bless the joint prayer group who meet on a Monday morning.

Tuesday - We lift up to God the coffee shop, the helpers and those who come and find warmth, friendship and fellowship.

Wednesday - We give thanks for all those on the flower rota, and for Gillian's work in drawing it up and distributing the flowers.

A powerful part of our ministry of care.

Thursday - We pray for the NHS and all those, often working under difficult circumstances, who keep us fit and well. May God's spirit be with them giving them patience, strength and hope.

Friday - In a troubled world we continue to pray for all leaders with difficult decisions to make. May your peace be with them and us and lead us into a better world.

Saturday - As we approach St. Valentine's Day we give thanks for the joy of human love and relationships. We pray for all those beginning a new life with someone they love.

Amen

Joan Bosomworth

SACRED SERENDIPITY By Rev David Halstead

THE FAITH JOURNEY of Rev David Halstead

David believes his life has been punctuated by sacred moments of **serendipity**. Unexpected things have happened ‘out of the blue’, which turned out to be life changing. He believes that **serendipitous** events and encounters are one of the ways God reaches out to us.

Chapter 15 - Another Postscript to my ministry at Platt Lane in the Manchester and Stockport District

As soon as I arrived at Platt Lane I was asked if I would be prepared to be the **District Overseas Missions Secretary**. I said YES – because, now that my time as a ‘mission partner’ had been brought unexpectedly to an end, it was good to have another way in which I could support the work of overseas missions. This involved me in representing the District on the Central Committee of the Methodist Missionary Society and promoting support for ‘**overseas missions**’ in all the churches in the District by speaking at specially arranged meetings, taking Overseas Mission Sunday services and arranging District events.

I was especially keen to encourage children and young people to be **JMA Collectors** (Junior Missionary Association – now Junior Mission for All.) They recruited regular DONORS and collected a set amount from them each week and recorded the results in a COLLECTING BOOK, on the basis of which they were given an award at the end of each Connexional year. See JMA below.

One of the things I used to do on a regular basis, as I went round the District, was to tell the story of two special friends **RAHABA and JACOBO from our time living in Zambia - which I wrote about in detail in the 2025 issues of the Messenger.**

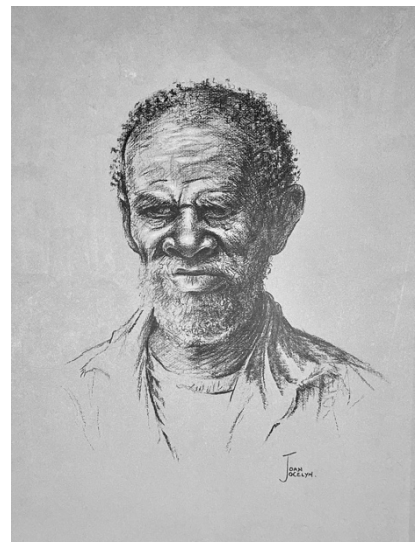
RAHABA was an old lady who came to see us at the manse, on a regular basis, to make sure that I, and my family, were OK. She lived in Libuyu, Livingstone, about a mile and a half away from our house. and would always walk. This was amazing in itself because she only had one leg and a crutch! She also had a lovely smile, one tooth, and a warm heart. She sat on the floor in the manse, had a cup of tea and asked if Carol, Naomi and I were alright. Once she was satisfied that we were OK she made to go home and I would take her home in the mission Diahatsu (once on the mission 50cc Honda motorbike on which she rode side saddle!) When we got to her little house I saw how very poor she was.



It was a very small house and she only owned a tin mug and plate and a few cooking utensils and bits of furniture. The only thing she had of any worth was a mango tree in her garden. When the mangoes were ripe she would get the children in the Sunday School to climb the tree, pick the mangoes and help her carry them to the market on the Saturday morning where she would sell them. On the Sunday she would go to church and when the time came for the offering she would join the queue, hobble to the Communion Table and put every 'ngwee' (penny) that she had made into the offering plate on the table.

JACOBO was a member of my church at Mambova which was 50 miles from Livingstone. I would go to take the Sunday Service every four or five weeks in the village school. Because of the state of the road the congregation would only assemble when they knew I had arrived. The steward would alert the village to my arrival by ringing the school 'bell' – a length of old railway line - with an iron bar.

Jacobo lived on the Zambezi and made a living making sleeping mats from the reeds growing on the banks of the river. He would sell them at the market and go to church on Sunday and put a portion of the money he raised into the offering plate. If he had not sold any that week he would put a reed mat on the table as his gift to God. The problem was that he could only make reed mats at certain times of the year so he felt he had to find something else to give at other times. It was not unusual for him to put a duck egg on the collection plate and there was one particular Sunday, I will never



forget, when the duck had not laid any eggs, so he put the duck (in a cage) on the plate instead! I took the eggs and the duck back to Livingstone, sold them and took the money back to the church on my next visit.

If you had asked **Jacobo** or **Rahaba** why they gave so generously - they would both say God had been so good to them they just wanted to give Him something back to say **THANK YOU**.

JMA Collector Nellie Beswick in Seacombe near Wallasey had an outstanding record.

She started collecting in 1919 and stopped collecting in 1970. Inscribed ZEAL FOR CHRIST the JMA DSO Medal (and Bars) were given to those who had collected £5 or more in the course of a year - (about £330 in today's money). Those who raised less got a Certificate. I am proud to be the custodian of Nellie's Medal and 50 Bars.



-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O

Church Family

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

Belated Congratulations to Norman on reaching a milestone birthday in January.

ALSO

Belated Birthday wishes, Love and Blessings to Livi Walker who celebrated her Third Birthday in January.

SACRIFICE FOR LENT

Should I give something up for lent?

An age old tradition.

Could I do something else?

Realistically there's no hardship in giving up chocolate.

I need to think again.

Find a new way to walk with Jesus.

Identify with what He endured.

Can I take up rather than give up.

Engage with other Christians.

Find more time for prayer and study.

Open my hand and heart generously.

Responding to those in need.

Leave behind selfish indulgences.

Exercise restraint.

Notice those around me who need a friend.

Try to give something of myself to others.

Jesus gave His life for us. What will you give this Lent?

Joan Bosomworth



Church Groups

THURSDAY LADIES' GROUP

Feb 12th - Speaker - Rev'd Wendy Walker

March 12th - Speaker - Rev'd David Halstead - What a Wonderful World

If you enjoy interesting speakers, friendly company and a cuppa do join us, you will be made very welcome.

Telephone 0113 2672906 for more details.

COFFEE SHOP opens EVERY TUESDAY



From 10.30 to 12 in the Church Hall. Come and meet old friends and make new ones in a warm, safe space. Enjoy coffee, toasted teacakes and lots of conversation. We look forward to welcoming you.

WALKING GROUP



Saturday 28th February - TBA

Saturday 28th March - Leader - Jenny Godfrey - details to follow

Contact Margaret 01132 673143 for more details

FREEDOM FOR GIRLS GROUP

Meets once a month on Thursday afternoons to make up sanitary kits for Africa. Group members employ a range of skills, including measuring and cutting fabric, preparing or machining and finishing the products.

Telephone 07939 909424 for more details

BRAMHOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY GROUP

Friday 6th February - David Hardcastle - The Mounted Police Section

Friday 20th February - Dorothy Schofield - Origins of Temple Newsam

Friday 6th March - Andrew Willocks - History of Harlow Carr

Friday 20th March - Malcolm Johnson - Preserve your memories - Charting the 60's

For further details contact Jack on 0113 2672906



BRAMHOPE FILM CLUB

The Film Club's New Year opened with 'Mr Burton', and the great majority enjoyed seeing the story of Richard Burton's early troubled life and the influence his English teacher had on him in establishing his acting career.

Our films for February and March are equally good, with 'Black Bag' (3rd Feb) and 'Anatomy of a Fall' (3rd March). The former film is a spy thriller and the latter, a "did he fall or was he pushed?" thriller - I'll let you decide for yourselves.

We meet in the Church Hall on the first Tuesday of each month from October until April. Doors open at 7pm for a cuppa, a biscuit and a raffle, prior to screenings at 7.30pm. Admission is £5 unless you are already a member.

For membership details please contact Mrs Jane Sykes on 07968 250009.

We wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible,

Rob (Chair)

LADIES AT THE FOX

The Fox has generously opened its doors only for us every fourth Monday of the month from 10.30-12noon. This is so that all ladies can come together to be treated to a lovely cup of coffee, including biscuits. We chat, laugh, share our frustrations, as well as our sadnesses and find refreshment, not only in the coffee, but in the sharing and enjoyment of each other's company.

Beryl Weatherley



BERNARD'S HOMEMADE MARMALADE & JAMS

Bernard was awarded a Silver Certificate for his entry in the 2025 Dalemain World Famous Marmalade Awards Festival, which celebrated its 20th Anniversary last year. The Festival this year is on Saturday 25th April and as usual Bernard is planning to enter.

At just £3 a jar these are a delicious bargain and all sale proceeds go towards Church funds. Pick up a jar after Sunday Service, or from Tuesday morning Coffee Shop, or phone 0113-2678169 to arrange a home delivery you won't be disappointed.

<https://www.dalemain.com/about-the-festival>

WHO'S WHO?

CHURCH CONTACT LIST

FILM Club THURSDAY Group WALKING Group	Rob Handby Betty Foster Margaret Fielding
Action4Children/MHA & MWinB Coffee Shop Communion Stewards Cradle Roll Facebook Flower Rota Gift Aid Secretary Room Lettings Messenger Mission in Britain Organist Outreach Committee Secretary Pastoral Committee Secretary Resources Committee Safeguarding Officer Senior Steward Treasurer Tools with a Mission (TWAM) Website World Mission/All We Can	Margaret Fielding Margaret Fielding Catherine Birkby Sarah Fletcher Tonia Clifton Gillian Acomb Bernard Neville Jack Foster Susan Ward Outreach Cttee Jack Foster Susan Ward Catherine Birkby Jack Foster Vacancy Marion Rider Norman Sykes Norman Sykes Susan Ward Outreach Cttee

QUALITY PHOTOCOPYING SERVICE

available by arrangement

COLOUR or BLACK and WHITE

For a competitive price
telephone 0113 267 8169

THE CHURCH HALL and other **ROOMS** are
available to hire at reasonable charges.

For bookings please telephone
0113 2672906
(terms and conditions apply)

The MESSENGER is produced and distributed free
of charge to members and friends of Bramhope
Methodist Church. If you no longer wish to receive
a paper copy please telephone 01943 467517 and
ask to be removed from the distribution list.

The Messenger, News, Events and Daily Bible
Verse can all be found on the website.

www.bramhopemethodist.org.uk

Copy deadline for the April/May Edition is the 16th March
2026. Please telephone 07484 154032