

April / May 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

April/May 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 move through these early Spring months, our eyes and hearts turn once again toward the hope of Easter. This is always a season of deep meaning – a time when we remember the story at the centre of our faith: a love that overcomes all things!

I want to take a moment to thank you all for the warmth and generosity you have shown in welcoming our friends from Pool on alternate Sundays. Your hospitality has been noticed and appreciated by those who have joined in our worship. It is a joy to see our congregations growing closer and strengthening bonds.

As Holy Week approaches, I want to encourage you – warmly and wholeheartedly – to consider attending our joint service at Pool on Good Friday at 10.30am, an important shared act of worship.

I also commend to you our Maundy Thursday service, a quieter and more contemplative space in the week. It is a time to pause, to reflect on Jesus' final meal with his friends, and to let the still whisper of God's love speak to us. These moments of reflection prepare our hearts for the joy that follows.

As Easter dawns, may you know the peace of Christ, the joy of companionship, and the renewing hope that God continues to bring into our world.

With every blessing,
Wendy

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.”

FLOWER ROTA - April and May

5 th April	Easter Flowers	3 rd May	S Leadbeater
12 th	B Neville	10 th	S Neville
19 th	D Martin	17 th	C Halstead
26 th	S Ward	24 th	At Otley Church

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.

Easter Sunday – Remember to bring a daffodil or other flower to decorate the cross during our Service.



Worship in April and May
Sunday morning Services all start at 10.30am

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
5 th	Easter Sunday Holy Communion Service led by Rev Wendy Walker
12 th	Service led by Roland Henney
19 th	Local Arrangement Service led by the Stewards
26 th	Service led by Philip Gibson
May	
3 rd	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Wendy Walker
10 th	Service led by David Tate (Please note this is the Rob Burrows Marathon Day)
17 th	Service led by Rev Dr Roberta Topham
24 th	Pentecost Sunday – United Service at Otley No service at Bramhope this day.
31 st	Trinity Sunday – Service led by Rev Wendy Walker

CHRISTIAN AID - A powerful history

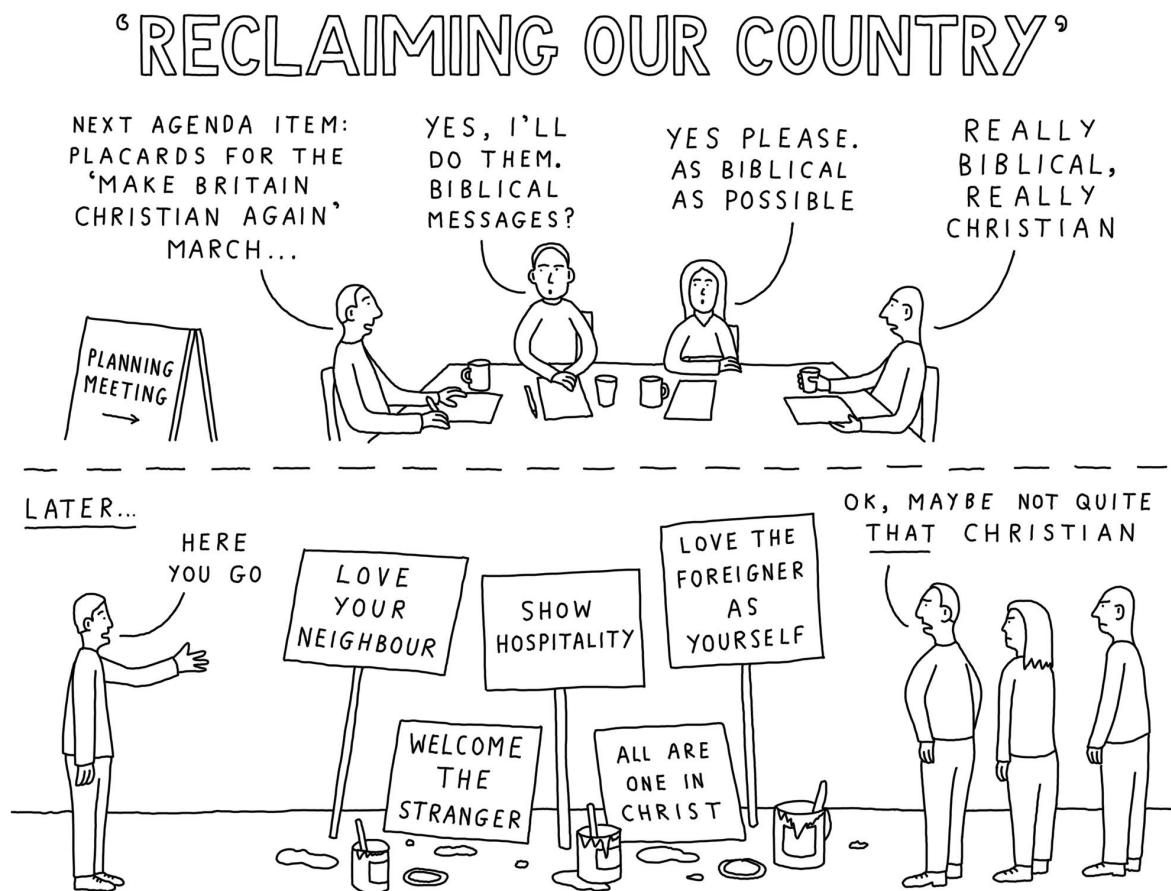
Christian Aid Week began in 1957 with a small act of generosity, raising £26,000 in its first year. That single week in May sparked a national movement that became central to Christian Aid's mission.

Decades later, the purpose of Christian Aid Week remains the same – to mobilise the Christian community to take action against poverty and injustice.

This year marks the 69th Christian Aid Week — a rich legacy that has raised millions of pounds to support life-changing work in the world's most vulnerable communities.



Christian Aid Week – 10-16 May



© Dave Walker

TREASURER'S INTERIM REPORT to FEBRUARY 2026

Accounts

The averaged weekly collections for the periods to February were:

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Envelopes, Cash and Standing Orders	£482	£462



The level of Giving has increased by 4%. We have had the benefit of new members giving in cash terms and by standing order and a proportion of existing members have reviewed their standing orders and increasing them. Thank you all for this generosity.

Charity collections have raised £351 for Action for Children and gifts of toys made to the Salvation Army and toiletries to St George's crypt. Grants have been made to the Royal British Legion and the Jamaica Appeal.

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

Ignoring collections, donations and bequests, Receipts are level at £11,000. The Autumn Quiz raised £613.

Total Income is £30,161 compared to £28,740.

Expenditure is £34,935 compared to £37,284 mainly due to repairs down £1,400 (pipe repair last year) and utilities steady with gas down and electricity up.

Overall there is a deficit to date of £4,943 compared to £8,544 last year.

The General Reserve stands at £3,755 and maintenance reserves for the Church at £12,290 and for the cottage £6,000.

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 are now stabilising at the higher unit price costs and usage is being monitored to ensure it 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.



QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 17th APRIL – 7 FOR 7.30pm start



With a delicious
PIE, PEAS & PUDDING SUPPER



(vegetarian option available on request when booking
your ticket)

Come and enjoy a fun-filled night with fabulous food and
prizes to be won.

Tickets £10 Adult and £5 under 13s
Tickets from 0113 2673143

CIRCUIT TREASURER REQUIRED FOR THE CHEVIN CHURCH COUNCIL

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

VACANCIES ALSO EXIST ON THE CHEVIN CHURCH COUNCIL FOR A PROPERTY STEWARD, A SAFEGUARDING OFFICER AND A PASTORAL SECRETARY

Job Descriptions are available for all these posts from susanward29@icoud.com. If you are interested in helping to fill one of these roles please speak to Rev Wendy or one of the Stewards.

The Chevin Church Council has oversight of the Bramhope, Guiseley, Hawksworth, Menston, Norwood, Otley, Pool in Wharfedale and Yeadon Churches

The Council will next meet on Monday 6th July at Yeadon at 7.15pm

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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

Prayer, Worship, Study and Mission

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:

Heartwood Close, Dalby Fold, Grove, Lane and Court, Keldy Gardens and Approach	5 th April
Guisborough Croft and Avenue, May Beck Green and Court	12 th
Eccleshall Grove and Gardens, Hatfield Close and Green and Galloway Croft	19 th
The Sycamores and Sycamore Close	26 th
The Birches, Cedars, Rowans, Poplars and Sandy Walk	3 rd May
Wynmore Crescent, Wynmore Avenue and Wynmore Drive	10 th
Wyncroft Grove and North Drive	17 th
Tredgold Avenue, Close, Crescent and Garth	24 th
Long Meadows, School Green, Meadow End and Garth, North and South Mead and South Field	31 st



PRAYER DIARY for April and May

Monday - We pray for all people living in war torn areas, lacking the essential things in life that are basic needs.

Tuesday - We give thanks for all who work for and support Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust, and the financial and prayerful support given to all those who need it.

Wednesday - We pray for all leaders of worship and local preachers who faithfully prepare and lead worship for so many of our services.

Thursday - We remember the work of Christian Aid and pray for all the people and communities they help. Bless all those who will be fund raising during May.

Friday - We bring to God in prayer all our young people who will be preparing for exams. Give them patience, hope and the knowledge that they are special even if they are not great academics.

Saturday - We continue to pray for the work of St. George's Crypt and all other agencies reaching out to support the homeless.

Amen
Joan Bosomworth

Ascension A -Z based on Acts 1:6-8

All together on the hillside.
Bringing back memories.
Cherished times together.
Daring to ask 'Will you give the kingdom back to Israel'
Eyes on Jesus, breath held.
For a moment all is silent.
Grief slips away.
His presence an assurance that all is well.
In the silence we await His answer.
Jesus replies, and it's not what we expected.
Kingdom times are not for you to know.
Look and wait.
My Spirit will come upon you.
New ministries await you, not always easy.
Others will hear your testimonies
People will accept or reject you.
Questioning the validity of your beliefs.
Resurrection a step too far for many.
Stay faithful.
Trust Me.
Unseen, but not unfelt I will be with you.
Value what you learnt from me.
Witness to the world the power of my loving forgiveness.
Xenophobic idealism must be crushed.
You must build up my kingdom throughout the world.
Zealously declare and show Christ's inclusive love for all.

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 16: Serendipity has a part to play in our next move

We had been very happy as a family at Platt Lane in the inner City of Manchester. Once Naomi and Fiona were enjoying being at Primary School Carol felt able to go back to teaching and started work as a Junior Class teacher at Cornbrook Primary School in Hulme, at the end of the Mancunian Way. I mention this first because it is very important, when it comes to ‘moving on’, that ministers take into account the education of their children and try, at least, to organise things round the change from Primary school to Secondary school. We decided to move in 1980 because Naomi would need to move to Secondary School that year. Fiona was two years behind her but we knew she would benefit from being able to follow Naomi into whatever school she was in.

I knew that Carol was hoping to carry on teaching but she had said, at the beginning of our marriage, that she would never expect her work to influence where I might be stationed – she would look for a new school once our next move had been decided thereby introducing an element of **SERENDIPITY** into her own career path!

In those days the stationing process was a lot less complicated than it is now. My move to Southport came about with the help of **SERENDIPITY**. As the District Overseas Missions Secretary I had got to know the Liverpool District Overseas Missions Secretary. He knew someone involved in the invitation process in the Southport Circuit and, unknown to me, he told this person that I might be a good fit for the Ainsdale appointment in 1980. I knew something was afoot when I saw a party of ten strangers sitting on the back row at Platt Lane one

Sunday evening! Not long after we were sent information about the appointment at Ainsdale and then we were invited to go and meet some of the people there.



The church at Ainsdale was built in 1866. There was room for about 250 people. It had a large hall and several other rooms all in need of some maintenance. It was on the main road between Liverpool and Southport on the edge of the village

green. There was a large car park and garden. The people we met were friendly and enthusiastic. The congregation was made up of retirees between 65 and 100 years old, a group of middle aged 'professionals' and a reasonable number of young families. There were a lot of children and young people in the Sunday School and uniformed organisations. The Manse was only one third of a mile away from the church and, apart from the kitchen, it was in good order and large enough to accommodate a young people's group on Sunday nights. There were 14,000 people living in the village in 1980, served by a police station, two fish and chip shops, a full range of shops and restaurants in the main street, two primary schools and a large secondary school and an excellent Doctors' Surgery. There was a Railway Station with a frequent service on the Southport to Liverpool line. The church was about a mile from the sea when the tide was in and two miles from the sea when it wasn't. It was very different from Platt Lane and Moss Side but it had POTENTIAL and Carol and I could see ourselves working and living there very happily. We said YES and they said YES and also promised to sort out the kitchen, which still had taps attached to lead pipes sticking out of the walls, before we arrived in August 1980.

One other important arrangement was also agreed. One of the key features of my ministry at Platt Lane was that I had an OFFICE at the church where I worked from each day. It meant that I was AVAILABLE far more than I otherwise would have been. It had made a huge difference to my ministry – not least because it increased the

opportunity for ‘serendipitous’ encounters. Ainsdale agreed that I could have an OFFICE for my exclusive use at the Church. I was happy. Up to now I have given the impression that I was going from one ‘pastorate’ to another. I was so fortunate to have had the opportunity to preach to the same congregation nearly every Sunday for 8 years and I started to look forward to the possibility of doing it again.



When I was first approached to go to Ainsdale I was told I might also have to look after Russell Road Methodist Church on the other side of Southport. However, they said, there was a very strong possibility it would have closed before I got there. When I got there it was still going strong. I was warmly welcomed and enjoyed having pastoral responsibility for Russell Road, with the help of a pastoral assistant, for the ten years I was in Southport. I still got to preach at Ainsdale nearly every Sunday! When we left Russell Road was still going strong and it is still open today!

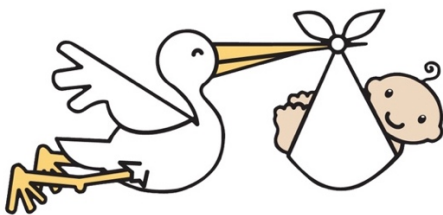
NEXT TIME: All does not go according to plan. When we get there the grass in front of the church is 3ft high, there is talk of ‘dry rot’ in the ancillary buildings and the manse kitchen still had lead pipes sticking out of the wall and no other improvements had been made to the kitchen. I deal with the problem in an unusual way and seeds are sown.

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Church Family

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

Belated Congratulations to Beryl W on reaching a milestone birthday in February.



CONGRATULATIONS to Jack and Betty on the safe arrival of a new Great Granddaughter, Rosie.

And

CONGRATULATIONS to Catherine and Richard Birkby who welcomed their first Grandchild, Annie Jane, born in February.



St George's Crypt

We thank everyone who donated to our toiletries appeal during February. These were very gratefully received by the Crypt. Thank you again for your generosity.

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

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

Church Groups

THURSDAY LADIES' GROUP

April 16th - Speaker - Brian Joyce - The Commonwealth War Graves

May 14th - Summer Outing

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



No Walk in April

Saturday 23rd May - walking in and around Fountains Abbey

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 17th April - visit to Abbey House Museum, Kirkstall

Friday 1st May - Speaker - David Oddy - Antiques and Collectables

Friday 15th May - AGM and Planning Meeting

For further details contact Jack on 0113 2672906



BRAMHOPE FILM CLUB

As we draw to the end of April, we can reflect on another generally successful season with some very enjoyable films, notably 'Mr Burton' (the film of Richard Burton's early life and the influence of his English teacher), 'The Penguin Lessons' and the Oscar winning 'Conclave' being the most appreciated. At the other end of the scale, 'Black Bag', a spy story, was the least popular. This was unfortunate because that evening saw the highest attendance! However, we shall be ending on a high with the telling of the story of Bob Dylan's transformation from folk to pop music in 'A Complete Unknown' on Tuesday, 7th April.

Please, do come along and enjoy this last film before the summer break. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you all in October.

N.B. If anyone has missed seeing any of the films we have shown and would like to watch them at home, then please let a committee member know, as copies can be loaned out.

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 Bernard has submitted his usual entry.

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 Margaret Fielding Marion Rider Norman Sykes Norman Sykes Susan Ward Outreach Cttee

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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 0113 2673143 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 June/July Edition is the 16th May 2026.
Please telephone 07484 154032