

June / July 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



Words from Wendy

JUNE/JULY 2026

The Methodist Church at Bramhope
Eastgate, Leeds LS16 9AA
Minister: **Rev Wendy Walker**
wendy.walker@methodist.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Summer is here. Long days. Warm nights. Gardens bursting with colour and life. This season invites us to pause for a moment — to notice what is growing around us and within us, and to reflect on the ways God moves among us.

This year has been a time of transition as we work out what it means to be part of a multisite church. This has involved change, challenge, and a measure of uncertainty that deserves to be acknowledged. Yet through it all, our congregation has maintained their gentle Christian witness as a welcoming hub through friendship, worship, and prayer. I have been grateful for your patience as we find a way forward together. It is a privilege to serve as your minister, and your support, kindness, and trust is deeply valued.

We're in this together — and part of that is creating space to share thoughts and feelings together. So, I am looking forward to an opportunity, on 5th July, to gather after our morning service for a “**Reflect and Renew**” meeting. This will be a chance for the whole congregation to celebrate what is going well and consider our future as a congregation — all while sharing in fellowship over refreshments. My hope is that it will be a positive and encouraging moment — a space to listen, to share, and to look forward with hope.

Yours in Christ, **Wendy**

Please see 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 - June and July

7 th June	T Clifton	5 th July	D Emmett
14 th	D Martin	12 th	tbc
21 st	E Fry	19 th	At Pool Church
28 th	C Birkby	26 th	S Lawrence

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.

We continue to hold Rev Tim Perkins in prayer as he resumes his superintendent role after several weeks off work. Tim will be working approximately four afternoons per week in this first stage of his return and will focus on aspects related to circuit leadership and management. We look forward to Tim's guidance and care as we move forward as a Circuit.

Worship in June and July
Sunday morning Services all start at 10.30am

June	
7 th	MHA Sunday - Holy Communion Service led by Rev Wendy Walker
14 th	Service led by Mrs Joan Bosomworth
21 st	Service led by Rev Keith Reed Pool Church have a Hymn Singing Service at 3.30pm this day – all are welcome
28 th	Service led by Mrs Lindsey Hurst
July	
5 th	Holy Communion Service led by Rev Wendy Walker followed by a Reflect & Renew Meeting for the whole congregation over refreshments
12 th	Service led by Rev Alistair Newton
19 th	No Morning Service at Bramhope Joint Service at Pool at 3.30pm followed by Afternoon Tea – all welcome For those who like a morning Service – Otley have a local arrangement Service at 10.30am or Mrs Joan Bosomworth will be preaching at Yeadon at 10.30am
26 th	Service led by Mr Michael Noble

REFLECT AND RENEW MEETING after the morning service on Sunday 5th July – an opportunity for the whole congregation to get together with our Minister Wendy.



TREASURER'S INTERIM REPORT to APRIL 2026

Accounts

The averaged weekly collections for the periods to April were:

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Envelopes, Cash and Standing Orders	£531	£520

The level of Giving has increased by 2%. 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 increased them. Thank you all for this generosity.

Charity collections have raised £351 for Action for Children and £111 for the Easter appeal for World Mission. Gifts of toys have been 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 slightly down at £14,500. Quizzes raised £1,088.

Total Income is £47,113 compared to £45,986.

Expenditure is £43,669 compared to £45,633 the reduction is mainly reducing costs of repairs (pipe repair last year), utilities (long winter last year) with gas down and electricity up.

Overall there is a surplus to date of £3,443 compared to £352 last year.

The General Reserve stands at £12,121 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 modest surplus for the year, however this is after the benefit of the £ 5,000 bequest. 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.



MHA Sunday 7th June

This year, 7th June will mark MHA Sunday, where we will celebrate the work of Methodist Homes, founded in 1943, offering care, housing, and community for older people, as well as hearing more about Wendy's ministry as a MHA chaplain. This year's theme, "Second Cup," invites us to slow down, linger a little longer, and recognise the sacredness of simple shared moments. As we celebrate MHA's story and its ongoing work, we're also reminded that we can play a part. Chaplaincy volunteers are needed locally — people willing to offer a listening ear, a bit of gardening help, or support in other small but deeply valued ways. Speak to Wendy for more info.

**Worship services take place at Glen Rosa on Fridays at 3.30pm...
why not pop in one day to help the residents lift voices in praise?**

We pray for God's blessing on Rev Roberta Topham as she commences her new role as MHA Chaplain at Emmandjay Court.



Heritage Open Day – Sunday 20th September 1-4pm

There have been Methodists worshipping in Bramhope for over 200 years. The present building dates from 1895 when Mrs S Fawcett laid the foundation stone. The opening of the church took place on the 29th September 1896 when the aforementioned Mrs Fawcett was presented with a golden key to unlock the door of the church!

This year the theme of the Heritage Open Days is 'Everyday Histories'. Please come in and find out about some of the people who have worshipped in the church during its 130 year history. We do have links to the Fawcett family but did you know about our connection to Bramhope Children's Home (now Hilton Grange)? Come and discover the impact that the church had on the lives of some of these children and their teachers.

Stay a while and enjoy our beautiful stained glass windows and explore the church's history. The door will be open; you will not need a Golden Key!

Please come along and discover for yourselves why it is locally called the 'Cathedral of the Dales.'

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

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

Breary Lane, Rise and Court	7 th June
Parklands, Parklands Gate, Crescent and Walk and Silvertrees	14 th
Eastgate, The Parade, Eastgate Close, The Cross and Old Forge Mews	21 st
Church Hill, Church Gate, Church Gate Court and Holland Mount	28 th
Manor Close, Moor Road and Moorland Road	5 th July
Old Lane, Occupation Lane, Hilton Court, Hilton Grange and Hilton Mews	12 th
All those living outside the Village who worship with us	19 th
Staircase Lane and Hall Drive	26 th

PRAYER DIARY for June and July



We pray for:

Monday - The work of MHA and those who support it in many different ways, its residents and staff.

Tuesday - All those attending the Methodist Conference. Guide them in their decision making, that we will be your true disciples.

Wednesday - We ask a blessing on all those who will be ordained at Conference. Fill them with your Spirit as they go forward in Ministry.

Thursday - We think of all the other Christians in Bramhope, wherever or however they worship.

Friday - We commend to you all those who have been selected in recent elections.

Guide them as they take up their duties.

Give them wisdom, integrity, and compassion.

Saturday - We continue to pray for world peace and pray for all whose lives have been shattered in so many ways

Amen

Joan Bosomworth

Trinity

From heaven He watches over us.
Always ready to listen and respond.
Taking care of our needs.
He guides our lives.
Reaching out in loving forgiveness.



So we like children respond.
Our lives should reflect His image.
Nurtured by Him we grow in faith.

His Spirit guides us through life's trials.
Our pathway He lights up.
Leading us ever onward.
Year in, year out, He is there.

So do not be afraid.
Put your trust in God.
In Him is life everlasting.
Rich and fulfilling.
Inspired by His Holy Spirit,
Tell your story that others may find Jesus.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
We worship our one true God.

Joan Bosomworth

SACRED SERENDIPITY By Rev David Halstead

THE FAITH JOURNEY of Rev David Halstead

David started sharing the 'story' of his faith journey in the Christmas issue of the Messenger in 2023. He believes that 'faith journeys' are invariably punctuated by sacred moments of serendipity. Unexpected things happen 'out of the blue' which often turn out to be life changing.

He has been sharing 'his story', as a 'testimony' to the involvement of God in his life and in the life of the churches he has served.

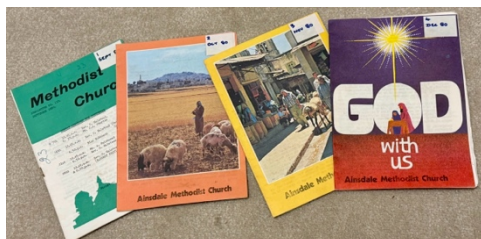
He does not want his story to be read as a BLUE PRINT for being the church today. This month's chapter is about a particular church, on the other side of the country, 45 years ago – things were very different then – what worked then would not necessarily work now. The only thing that has not changed is the way God uses serendipity to help us engage with the new ideas which may well be appropriate for today.

CHAPTER 17: WE ARRIVE IN AINSDALE IN AUGUST 1980 AND ALL DOES NOT GO ACCORDING TO PLAN.

When we got to Ainsdale we were disappointed to find they were not really ready for us. In the great scheme of things it was a minor irritation but it did not bode well. We arrived at the Manse expecting that some of the promised work on the very outdated kitchen would have been started but nothing had been done – lead pipes with taps on the end stuck out of the wall and the last time the inadequate cupboards had been painted must have been in the fifties. Things were not much better at the church which was situated next to the beautiful village green on the main road between Liverpool and Southport. The church was set in a large garden area which looked unkempt. The grass was 3ft high! There seemed to be no plans to cut it before our Welcome Service so I decided that the best way to tackle the problem was to cheerfully cut it myself with my own mower. It was the best thing I could have done. The first time some of our members ever saw me was with my sleeves rolled up. It was to become my 'trade mark' – that and a boiler suit – over the next ten years. I never had to cut the grass again but I was often involved in 'hands on' practical activities – I lost my car keys when crawling underneath the church floor to sort out a problem - as far as I know they are still there!

The Manse kitchen required more drastic action. At my first service, I announced that as the Circuit had not kept its promise, I would spend the

next four weeks fitting a new MFI kitchen myself. I would preach every Sunday and respond to pastoral emergencies but my ministry proper would only begin in October. The congregation accepted the situation and encouraged me to get on with it.



By November I sensed that if I came up with any creative ideas for taking the church forward I would get a lot of support. So to get things going I wrote this in the Newsletter *'Some months ago publicity was given to a report by a group of Methodists based in Manchester calling for radical changes in the Methodist Church. While acknowledging that some individual churches were flourishing, they are persuaded that 'the general pattern is one of decay'. They believe that we have reached a crisis point in the life of the Church - a crisis characterised by retreat and defeat. The group believe that one of the reasons for the present crisis is the general devaluation of church membership which has taken place in recent years - we make too few demands on our members. The report says that the Church 'must have the attraction of a centre of excellence, not be something which is undemanding, easily entered and easily forsaken'.*

I had no connection with the group in Manchester which produced the report but I did have some sympathy with their views. Ainsdale was a church which was doing reasonably well and had recently embarked on a two stage development programme for the church buildings, but I sensed Ainsdale could so easily be caught up in the general apathy which characterised many other churches at that time. The long grass I had cut in August was a warning. **Serendipity had taken me to Ainsdale.** Within weeks I knew why I was there and I had begun to realise that most, but not all, of the members were ready for the leadership I was able to offer.

I believed we should focus on the needs of our community as a way of expressing our commitment to Jesus and if we were to do that I would have to enthuse our existing members. This was not the time to be kicking any 'thoughts about the future direction of our church' into the long grass because it might be too difficult to talk about and even more difficult to deliver.

I began in a small way by saying in the November issue of the Newsletter that throughout my ministry it had been a matter of concern to me that a significant number of the 'members' of the churches I had been Minister

of did not honour the basic obligations of membership in the Annual Methodist Membership Ticket.

Renewal and Growth could only happen at Ainsdale if we **ALL** took this matter seriously.

As a member of the Methodist Church I am called to:
worship within the local church, including regular sharing in Holy Communion, and through personal prayer
learning and caring, through Bible study and meeting for fellowship, so that I may grow in faith and support others in their discipleship
service by being a good neighbour in the community, challenging injustice and using my resources to support the church and its mission in the world
evangelism, through working out my faith in daily life and sharing Christ with others

In December 1980 the Pastoral Committee met for the Annual Membership Review with a view to encouraging all of our members to take their 'membership' seriously and encouraging our adherents to consider the possibility of becoming members. The foundation for all the work the church would be doing in the following 10 years was laid.

When I look back on our first four months in Ainsdale I realise that the 'chemistry' which had developed between me and my new church family, especially during our discussions about the way forward, was key to success of our ministry there. The fact that, I had a young family, like many of the people in the church and village, also helped. Seeds were sown and there was to be an amazing harvest. When we left Ainsdale ten years later we were putting seats in the aisles on Sunday, there were over 1000 people on the Community Roll, the offering was five times what it had been when we went and we were running a Senior Citizens' Luncheon club serving over 100 roast dinners a day every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. In 1989-90 our volunteers served over 16,000 meals!

Next Month in the Messenger. We launch the Luncheon Club and Neighbourhood Care Scheme but an older member of the Church Council doesn't like the direction I am leading the church in and resigns.

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

Church Family

In memory of Ben

It is with great sadness that we learnt that Ben Emmett died in hospital on the 1st February 2026. Ben was 88 years old. His Funeral Service was held in our Church on Monday 9th March 2026 and was taken by our Minister Rev Wendy Walker with the Eulogy given by the Rev. Roy Yates. The Service was attended by not only his family but many friends and ex work colleagues.

Ben, along with his Wife Dorothy and Sons Paul & David (Wig) moved to Bramhope in 1982 and they began worshipping with us here in Bramhope Methodist Church.

Over the years and prior to his illness, Ben served as a Steward and was also a Member of the Property Committee. Ben was also a Circuit Steward during his time at Adel Methodist.

In the past, Ben and Dorothy were one of the Host families for Safari Suppers run by the Church and they also opened their garden for Church BBQs.

Ben will be sadly missed and we send our deepest sympathy to Dorothy, Paul, David and all the Family.

Dorothy, Paul and David would like to thank all who have offered their sincere condolences and very kind thoughts to help us cope with the loss of Ben.

The loss of a very special man after 63years of marriage will take a while to adjust to, but with all your support it will certainly help us on the way.

Thank you all so very much.

Dorothy.

We continue to hold Dorothy, Paul, David and the family in our thoughts and prayers.

Church Groups

THURSDAY LADIES' GROUP

June 11th - Annual General Meeting

July - no Meeting

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 open 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 27th June - to be arranged details to follow

Saturday 25th July - to be arranged details to follow

Contact Margaret 01132 673143

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

Not meeting during the summer months but returning in September.
For further details contact Jack on 0113 2672906

BRAMHOPE FILM CLUB

Currently on summer holiday but meeting again in October.
Contact for membership enquiries - 07593 370886



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 another Silver Certificate for his entry in the 2026 Dalemmain World Famous Marmalade Awards Festival this year. WELL DONE BERNARD!

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 Coffee Shop, or phone 0113-2678169 to arrange a home delivery - you won't be disappointed.

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 Rep Senior Steward Treasurer 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 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 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 August/September Edition is the 16th July
2026. Please telephone 07484 154032