

KEIGHLEY NEW CHURCH

Founded 1789

Braithwaite Village

Dedicated to the worship of the Lord Jesus Christ

Newsletter December 2023

All at Keighley New Church wish everyone peace, hope and love this Christmas time and always.



A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

Isaiah 11:1

KEIGHLEY NEW CHURCH

Braithwaite Village, Braithwaite Road, Keighley BD22 6PX

(Please send all correspondence to the above address)

CONTACTS

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All ages are welcome in Church each Sunday. Our services start at 10:30 am followed by complimentary refreshments in the hall.

www.keighleynewchurch.org.uk



Church Services in December

Sunday 3rd December

Nativity service 10:30 am.

Sunday 10th December

Lessons and Carols 10:30 am.

Sunday 17th December

Christingle service 3:30pm, there will be no morning service.

Sunday 24th December, Christmas Eve

Midnight Sacramental (Communion) Service 11:45 pm, there will be no morning service.

Monday 25th December, Christmas Day

Half hour Family Celebration Service 10:30 am.

Sunday 31st December

Morning service 10:30am.

All services led by Rev. Christine Bank

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

Luke 2:14

Simon T Pritchard

Our thoughts and prayers go out to you Simon at this difficult time. We hope that you have a swift recovery and will be able to join us again soon.

Minister's letter:

I know this time of year is all about Christmas, and it seems that the season starts earlier every year, but in many ways, it also seems like time to look ahead and make plans which can come into effect in the coming year

Then we are suddenly beyond 25th December, and it becomes a focus toward New Year and what that may bring, be it staying up until midnight to watch a televised firework display or the plans we hope to be able to set out and accomplish at some not too distant date.

The church community has had a busy year and each of us as individuals experience the mix of happy and challenging times among our own circumstances and situations. There seems to be a sense of togetherness and a real buzz in the conversations we enjoy each week after church with our refreshments. Whatever it is that enables people to come together and to find it enjoyable to do so, we are all in favour of it and are delighted to welcome people to join us.

The Christmas season is almost entirely self-indulgent fun and festivities according to the advertisers, with their products being an essential part of this, but the reality is a whole host of different emotions or feelings depending on who you are, how old (or young) you are and the circumstances which dominate life at the time.

The unexpected events which Mary and Joseph found themselves facing are contained in a few verses of Luke's gospel, a decree simply must be obeyed.

Minister's letter continued:

Luke 2: 1-7 (King James Version)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so, it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

This simple story is told and retold each year, there is always some way people can find a personal resonance in the idea of events overtaking their expectations, of finding ourselves where we didn't think we would be and still having to continue to do what is needed among a whirlwind of emotions.

Whatever we find in this Christmas season, the simplicity of the story which is truly at the core of this is of miracles, of virgin birth and new beginnings. How we find the Nativity story touching our life in 2023 will vary, each of us is unique and our own sense of faith, belief, of having a spiritual foundation to support us day by day is ours alone.

The close presence of the Lord Jesus with us is a gift we can receive into our life each day. May we all know His love and care for us, particularly through this most wonderful of seasons.

Much love, Christine

New Church Websites

If you are looking for a deeper meaning about our daily lives or more information about spiritual development based on the Bible, you may want to browse the internet on these websites. These sites are trying to offer help in understanding this world and the next. You may even find something useful for your life or relationships with others.

www.newchristianbiblestudy.org

This site was started in 2017 under the auspices of the Pittsburgh Society of the New Church, and now carried forward by the New Christian Bible Study Corporation, an online clearing house for people who are interested in the Bible, not just in its powerful literal sense, but also in its inner, spiritual sense.

The theological underpinnings of this site are based on Emanuel Swedenborg's religious works.

www.purleychasecentre.org.uk

Look through this website and you will discover a range of events, workshops and retreats



Come and join our Christingle service on Sunday 17th December at 3:30pm, everyone of all ages is very welcome.

Christingle, from a word of German origin, Christkindl meaning “Little Christ Child” is used to celebrate Jesus Christ as the “Light of the World”

Open house in December

Marie's Christmas Event

Marie Cooper is inviting everyone to an open house on Saturday 2nd December and Saturday 9th December, 11am to 2pm at:

63, North Dean Avenue Keighley BD22 6QJ.

£3 to enjoy Marie's Christmas decorations and tea and coffee with biscuits, all proceeds to be donated to Keighley New Church.

There will be a list in the Church hall for you to add your name to. If the dates are not convenient, Marie may be able to organise an alternative date for you.



Knitted Angels by Marie

Child waiting for Christmas

A squeak on the stairs
Could Santa be here?
Better pull my blankets
Up to my ears.
He comes down the chimney
That's how he gets in
Santa uses magic
To make himself thin.
I'd better keep still
Can't make a peep
He doesn't leave toys
Unless you're asleep.
My door just opened
Someone's by my bed
It wasn't Santa after all
Cause Mum just kissed my head.

Family poems December 2008

Dates for your diary

- All our Christmas service dates can be found on page 3.
- Tuesday 5th December and Tuesday 19th December, Craft and Chat meet in the Church hall: 10am to 12pm.
- Sunday 7th January, taking Christmas decorations down after the morning's service.

Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday December 10th at 10:30am

If you would like to read a passage from the Bible at this service, we are looking for volunteers, please add your name to the list in the hall or speak to Christine if you would like to participate.



In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
John 1 4:5

Bible Study

Rev. Christine Bank is hoping to start a Bible Study group in the new year, based in the Church hall. If you are interested please add your name to the list in the hall, or speak to Christine.

Rhoda Longbottom.
August 18th 1924 - 5th September 2023

Rhoda passed peacefully into the spiritual world at the Lindisfarne care home in Haworth where she had lived for the last five years.

Her life had been in and around Keighley; born into a staunch New Church family she attended the church in Devonshire Street, the Sunday School, led the Cubs and became a member of the church Council and served as Treasurer.

Age only thirteen, her father was tragically killed and her mother took in lodgers to make ends meet with Nurse Donnelly coming for a fortnight to see how it went and then staying 40 years, becoming a strong figure in Rhoda's life.

The Bottomley family were particularly supportive, as friends but also in practical ways including finding Rhoda a job at the tax office and starting her career as a tax inspector. Rhoda and her great friend Edna Wilson lived in Malsis Road and later Shann Avenue; their support for the church was immense and they hosted safari suppers and enjoyed the social as well as the worship life of the church and encouraged others to do so too.

Among the many memories and photos which were shared at her well attended funeral service was her role in a nativity play from about 15 years ago. Rhoda had been involved in so many things through her church life but never the nativity – so as she said “you're never too old to play an Angel” and duly did so.

Rev. Christine Bank

Salvation Army Toy Appeal



Kindness is the
language which
the deaf can
hear, and the
blind can see

Mark Twain

Rev. Christine Bank led a beautiful service, dedicating the gifts of toys to the 'Salvation Army Toy Appeal', as well as the gifts shown £171 in cash donations were received. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity.

We wish everyone health and happiness this Christmas and hope you can join us in our weekly services and social events in the coming year.

We received a letter from the Salvation Army, thanking us for our support. Last year with the help of the community and volunteers, they were able to collect, wrap and deliver Christmas presents to over 350 children and provide each family with a Christmas food parcel.

A surprising find

Kathie and I enjoyed our October visit to Yorkshire, as we had more time to explore in detail than we did when we lived in West Yorkshire! So, we chose to explore Pateley Bridge in North Yorkshire,

We found the wonderful Nidderdale Museum in the old Victorian Workhouse, which has a wealth of information on the industrial and social history of the area. Imagine our surprise to find a wooden

pulpit, tucked away in a corner between a cupboard and a stack of chairs. This came from the old St. Mary's Chapel in Pateley Bridge which was closed in 1826 as it was too small and too difficult to reach due to the severe gradient of the hill! A larger church was built lower down the hill.

One of the few items kept from the old church was this pulpit, because John Wesley had preached from this twice, in 1782 and 1788, the latter when he was 85! He had preached twice before that in other buildings, then the vicar offered John Wesley the use of his church. A good example of inter-denominational cooperation!

John Wesley was kept busy in 1788, as his journal records tell us:

4 am with tea - prayers,

9 am tea - conversation with Elizabeth from Otley,

12 noon Conference, 1 pm dinner - prayers,

2 pm wrote narrative then tea, 4 pm preached on Hebrews 6,

5 pm met Society -prayed- journal,

8pm supper, 9:15 bed.



What an example to us all!

Phillip Brooks

Wanting help?

If you wish to know more about our church, or be baptised or married here, if you need comfort in sorrow or advice on personal problems, or want someone to pray with you, please ask and we will do what we can.

You will be most welcome to join in our worship or other meetings or receive a copy of our newsletter.

CONTACT – Rev Christine Bank Telephone 07928047253/ 01274772451

What does the New Church believe?

In one wise and loving **God**, who manifests as the LORD JESUS CHRIST, who shows us the Divine the qualities of love and wisdom.

Salvation means repeatedly being made new by opening our life to God, turning away from our selfish tendencies, and living a life guided by His Commandments.

The Bible is a symbolic parable of our inner life. It is to be understood spiritually rather than literally.

We are given free-will and reason so that we can choose between good and evil, truth and falsity, and we freely enter a state of heaven or hell as a result of these choices.

After we die, as our true character emerges, we shall be with those we love.