

KEIGHLEY NEW CHURCH

Founded 1789

Dedicated to the worship of the Lord Jesus Christ

Newsletter September 2026



"When you are reluctant to change, think of the beauty of autumn."
(V V Brown)

KEIGHLEY NEW CHURCH

Braithwaite Village,
Braithwaite Road,
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(Please send all correspondence to the above address)

Contacts for the Church

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keighleynewchurch@gmail.com

Secretary: Rev. Christine Bank

Treasurer: Mrs Kathryn Higgins

Newsletter: Mrs Janet Benson

Hall hire: Rev. Christine Bank

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 September

September 6th

Service Leader: Rev. Lynne Griffiths

September 13th Holy Supper service

Service Leader: Rev. Christine Bank

September 20th

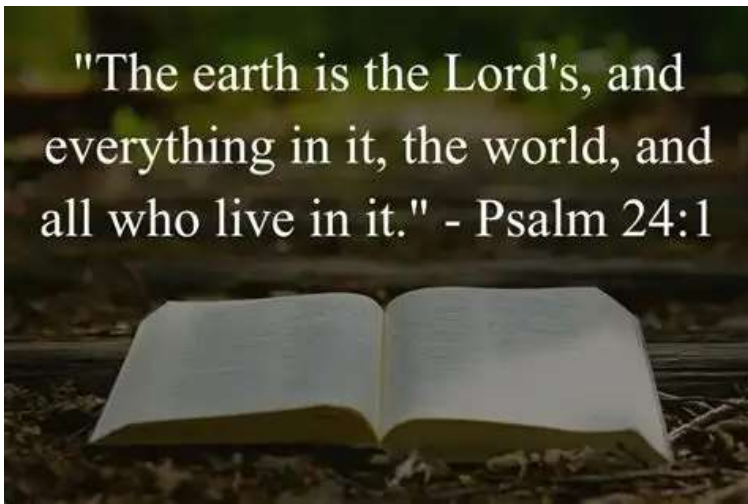
Service Leaders: Janet Benson, Kathryn Higgins

September 27th

Service Leader: Rev. Christine Bank

All services start at 10:30am.

September tries its best to have us forget summer (**Bernard Williams**)



Minister's letter:

Another month and we are heading into the last quarter of the year. After all the dry months there's understandably concern as to how all the parched lands will recover and the farmers as well as the wildlife have suffered from lack of water and, for those unfortunately affected, devastation by fire too.

Earth that has been baked hard is very difficult to break up, even in small ways. My garden has a flower bed which seems to have a special capacity for growing grass, especially the very tall variety which clearly fits the category of 'weed' rather than there by design. Getting it out has proved extremely tough. The plant may look distressed and dry, but it breaks rather than comes out of the ground so clearly has a survival strategy which leaves roots in the ground for when better times come. The surface is close to rock hard, and as well as being difficult to break it, I am reluctant to breach the protection it offers to the hopefully moist layer below which is probably the reason any plants are still surviving.

In the Old Testament, Divine favour is often closely linked with productive and fertile conditions for crops and flocks. Failure among the people to devoutly observe the requirements of their faith, or their leader's failure to implement the right ways on their behalf, can be highlighted by warnings such as conditions leading to less productive harvests. The way back to prosperity and plenty is to take note and repent, changing their collective ways and humbly returning to following the Lord again.

1 Samuel 12: 14-15

If you fear the Lord and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the Lord your God—good! But if you do not obey the Lord, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your ancestor

Minister's letter continued:

This idea of very clear reward or punishment by the Lord is one that isn't part of modern thinking. We do see the need for the natural world to be in balance, but there isn't the connection in modern life that Samuel refers to.

What we do have is the idea of the Bible corresponding to our life, elements in the written word that connect to our inward states and attitudes. If we look at the idea of the earth, the land, being the place can individually grow spiritually, then ideas of journeys, going here and there into different types of landscape may make sense.

All the stages of growing up before leaving the childhood home, starting adult independent life, setting up our own home and whatever life brings us in the ways of opportunities, challenges and then growing into older age can be seen as our personal landscape or journey.

How would you describe it? The good times, when life is joyful and everything flourishes contrast with times of challenge and sheer hard work when results aren't necessarily coming as fast as we would like. Ups and downs, highs and lows, times of abundance or shortage can fill our emotional and spiritual life when we think in those terms.

The approach we bring to these different stages are the places those Biblical images can connect to. Feeling flooded and overwhelmed, living with gratitude for an abundance of good things, feeling inwardly dried up and withered then refreshed and invigorated are the natural cycles around us which connect to our separate emotional states too.

The Lord is always with us, wanting us to follow Him towards the places described as good pasture and where our deepest happiness can be found.

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

As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously
give other people permission to do the same.

Nelson Mandela

The Human Touch
'Tis the human touch in the world that counts,
The touch of your hand and mine,
Which means far more to the fainting heart,
Than shelter, bread and wine;
For shelter is gone when the night is o'er
And bread lasts only a day.
But the touch of a hand
And the sound of a voice
Sing on in the soul always.

Spencer Michael Free

September dates for your diary

- Monday 31st August to Sunday 6th September Rev. Christine Bank annual leave.
- Tuesday 1st September and Tuesday 15th September, Craft and Chat meet in the Church hall 10am to 12pm.
- Monday 14th to Thursday 17th Rev. Christine Bank: Purley Chase for Ministers Seminar.
- Saturday 19th September, work party 9:30am to 11:30am.
- Saturday 19th September, Church Council meeting, 12pm to 2pm.
- Thursday 24th September, coffee morning in the church hall, 11am to 1pm.
- Sunday 27th September, Discussion Group, 12:30pm to 2pm.

Advanced dates for October

- Sunday 4th October, Harvest Service
- Saturday 31st October, Autumn Fair.



The Harvest Festival service this year will be held on Sunday 4th October.
Collection boxes in the Hall and Church for dried and tinned goods for
the Salvation Army.
Once again we support this worthy cause at Harvest time.

“In every Harvest, kindness grows”

Yoko Ono



Peter and Jackie Narey and the blessing for 30 years of marriage by the Rev. Christine Bank on Saturday July 25th at Keighley New Church.



A celebration of 30 years of Keighley New Church in its present location.



The Keighley church marked 30 years at the Braithwaite Village location with a service looking at Noah's Ark. The church commissioned a window to mark 10th August 1996 when they held their first formal service there. Photos of the church life through the years were on display in the hall and a model Ark from the old Sunday school days, a jigsaw of the Ark and animals and a modern pull along toy ark were all involved in the service. The congregation completed the jigsaw, it's for age 2+ and we were all over that age and found it quite manageable!

Home-made cake and scones with jam and cream were an indulgent and delicious change to our refreshments after the service.

Thanks to all who continue to support the church in whatever way they can; we appreciate the efforts of those at work parties, church council meetings, attending any or all of the social or worship activities and generally being part of the community, which is connected through the church.

We are thankful for the 30 years in our beautiful building and look forward to whatever the future brings us. **(Rev Christine Bank)**



Neil wondering why nobody was joining him at craft and chat, until...



He realised it was Sunday morning!



Baptism of Daniel De Vere, Rev. Christine Bank's grandson, at Keighley New Church

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.