

Why become a Member?

All are welcome in this church whether members or not

So, why do we invite you to become:

- * A member of this particular loving, Christian, community &
- * A member of the world-wide Methodist Church?

We are 150 members plus friends, supporting about 1000 other people of all ages who value our welcome for a whole range of activities, & we give to a huge range of charities which support vulnerable people and which improve the environment for future generations.

We support the work of Guide & Scout volunteers, & of Youth leaders; we encourage young parents and older, isolated, people to find companionship in our midst.

Our volunteers and cooks provide affordable meals every weekday, mainly for people who would otherwise eat alone, or with small children. We provide free food, free meals, free warm clothes, free warm space, & free Wi-Fi, for all those who need it

Does it cost anything to become a member? *No, although most members choose to support the work of the church financially. Our costs (about £200,000 a year) are raised in approximately equal parts from freewill donations and from lettings*

Do I have to sign up to a set of beliefs or recite a creed? *..No, our members have a wide range of beliefs. We do all agree about the importance of the love of God in our lives and in the life of the church. Can you answer "Yes" to three questions?*

Will you continue to commit yourself to the Christian life of worship & service, & to be open to the renewing power of God?

Will you continue to seek the strength of God's Spirit as you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ in your daily life?

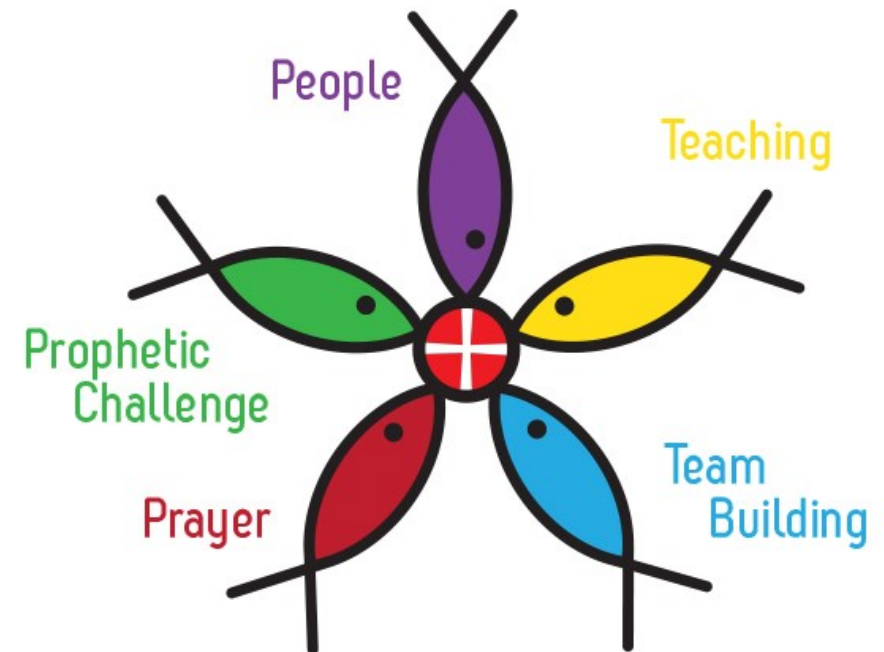
Will you continue to follow the commands of Jesus:, to love God & to love your fellow men and women?

If so, why not move on from just enjoying our Christian Community to helping to lead it; becoming an influence in its development? **We invite you to join us.**

Please talk to one of our Lay Pastors,

Claire Nott, Peter Jackson, or Merwyn Flecknoe

We gratefully acknowledge our debt to Rev Gordon Dey and to the JSP Foundation



Getting to the heart of Christian living

Our 10-year JSP anniversary 2024

baildonmeth⁺dists.org
Join us!

Prayers for “Jesus-Shaped People”

Lord Jesus, enter our minds and hearts today.
Open our spirits to learn from your life and example.
Help us recognise those habits that blight our lives:
Which bind us to earthly comforts;
Which blind us to your ways;
Which make us blame ourselves for past mistakes.
As you broke the bonds of death,
Help us to break the habits that limit our lives.

From our pride, set us free.
From our guilt, set us free.
From our fear, set us free.
From our wealth, set us free.
Set us free to take your yoke upon us, to do your work.

Come with us, Lord Jesus;
Fill us with your Spirit;
Shape us to your likeness;
Use us to enfold with love our needy world.

The Bible all readings taken from “The Message”

Matthew 25:41-45

“Then he will turn to the ‘goats,’ the ones on his left, and say, ‘Get out, worthless goats! You’re good for nothing but the fires of hell. And why? Because—

I was hungry and you gave me no meal,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
I was homeless and you gave me no bed,
I was shivering and you gave me no clothes,
Sick and in prison, and you never visited.’

“Then those ‘goats’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn’t help?’

“He will answer them, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.’

Mark 2:23-28

One Sabbath day he was walking through a field of ripe grain. As his disciples made a path, they pulled off heads of grain. The Pharisees told on them to Jesus: “Look, your disciples are breaking Sabbath rules!”

Jesus said, “Really? Haven’t you ever read what David did when he was hungry, along with those who were with him? How he entered the sanctuary and ate fresh bread off the altar, with the Chief Priest Abiathar right there watching—holy bread that no one but priests were allowed to eat—and handed it out to his companions?” Then Jesus said, “The Sabbath was made to serve us; we weren’t made to serve the Sabbath. The Son of Man is no yes-man to the Sabbath. He’s in charge!”

Matthew 23: 13-28

“I’ve had it with you! You’re hopeless, you religion scholars, you Pharisees! Frauds! Your lives are roadblocks to God’s kingdom. You refuse to enter, and won’t let anyone else in either...

“You’re hopeless, you religion scholars and Pharisees! Frauds! You keep meticulous account books, tithing on every nickel and dime you get, but on the meat of God’s Law, things like fairness and compassion and commitment—the absolute basics!—you carelessly take it or leave it. Careful bookkeeping is commendable, but the basics are required. Do you have any idea how silly you look, writing a life story that’s wrong from start to finish, nitpicking over commas and semicolons?...

“You’re hopeless, you religion scholars and Pharisees! Frauds! You’re like manicured grave plots, grass clipped and the flowers bright, but six feet down it’s all rotting bones and worm-eaten flesh. People look at you and think you’re saints, but beneath the skin you’re total frauds.

February II 2024

Prophetic Challenge



Week 6

Led by

Jonathan Hayes

Collect for the day

Spirit of God,
We ask that our only scripture
be the message of love & care
for your children & for your
World; we ask that we should
always speak up, giving voice to
the voiceless and speaking truth
to power. **Amen**

Questions:

Do the people of Baildon look to us to speak truth to power?

Do we avoid offending those with power, even when we think that they are in the wrong?

Do we criticise ourselves and seek forgiveness when we have betrayed our calling?

How can we have more influence over the future health of our environment and the freedom of our people?

Have we ever allowed our religious beliefs to prevent us from doing the right thing?

Pray for

- ***All those who put their freedom and lives in peril by standing up for truth and justice***
- ***All those who weigh difficult decisions in politics***
- ***All those caught in a web of untruth***
- ***All those deluded by conspiracy theories***



Ten years ago, we at Baildon Methodist Church committed ourselves to becoming more Jesus-Shaped in our living, in our thinking, in our church, and in our homes. Since then, many changes have taken place and we have faced many new challenges:

- Many new members have joined us;
- More people volunteer here to do God's work;
- There are many new activities for all ages;
- We have raised much more money for charities;
- Our buildings are larger and busier;
- We are responding to new needs.

It is time to renew our commitment to following the life, teaching, and example of our Lord Jesus Christ
We are an Eco-Congregation, committed to protecting the environment and reducing our impact upon it.

Claire, Merwyn & Peter Lay Pastors
Rev Nick Blundell, Minister

Welcome to our church

January 7th 2024

Why “Jesus-Shaped People”?

Led by

Rev Nick Blundell with
Covenant Vows



Week 1

Our Covenant with God

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you,
or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven

Prayer for the day

Have mercy on me, O God,
in your constant love;
in the fullness of your mercy
blot out my offences.
Wash away all my guilt,
and cleanse me from my sin.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Give me the joy of your help again
and strengthen me with a willing
spirit.
Amen

The Bible all readings taken from “The Message”

Mark 1:35-39

While it was still night, way before dawn, he got up and went out to a secluded spot and prayed. Simon and those with him went looking for him. They found him and said, “Everybody’s looking for you.”

Jesus said, “Let’s go to the rest of the villages so I can preach there also. This is why I’ve come.” He went to their meeting places all through Galilee, preaching and throwing out the demons.

Matthew 6: 5-15

“And when you come before God, don’t turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for fifteen minutes of fame! Do you think God sits in a box seat?

“Here’s what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.

“The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They’re full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don’t fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this:

*Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right;
Do what’s best—
as above, so below.
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.
You’re in charge!
You can do anything you want!
You’re ablaze in beauty!
Yes. Yes. Yes.*

“In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can’t get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God’s part.

February 4 2024

Prayer & Reflection



Week 5

Led by
Kate Beck

Collect for the day

Reflective Lord,
You were always asking God for
direction before You went to
work,
help us to follow your example,
taking time to review and
reflect in God's presence
Amen

Questions:

What is the point of prayer?
Do we ever discuss it?

Is prayer at the heart of all
our decision-making?

Do we share our knowledge
of other's needs prayerfully,
to enable action?

Do we ever use prayer as an
excuse for inaction?

When we pray, do we also
listen, or do we just hector
God?

Do we ask unreasonable
miracles for the small group
of our friends and relations?

Pray for

- ***All who rush in where Angels fear to tread***
- ***All who cannot make time to reflect on their lives and works***
- ***All who pray without ever braving the action***
- ***All who have never learned to pray***
- ***All who quietly lift those who suffer in prayer, and hold them in their hearts***

The Bible all readings taken from "The Message"

Romans 12:1-2

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.

Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.

Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out.

Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it.

Unlike culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

John 15: 1-17

I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate & organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.

This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples...

This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning.

No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father... But remember the root command: **Love one another!**

January 14 2024

Responding to real needs of People on the Edge, & Out on the Streets



Led by

Mervyn Flecknoe
Lay Pastor

Week 2

Collect for the day

God of the dispossessed,
Your time on Earth was spent
on the streets, on the edge,
responding to real needs;
I am your presence on Earth
now, help me to continue your
work.

Amen

Questions:

Is our church doing enough for
those living in poverty, those
who are refugees, or homeless?

What more could we do?

Am I content with how I use my
wealth?

Do I always refer to the life and
example of Jesus when making
decisions?

How could I go the “Extra Mile”
for the dispossessed?

Do I treat those with power with
more respect than those
without?

Do I do enough to protect
neighbours across the World
suffering the effects of the
climate emergency?

Pray for

- **All who eat free food here or who use our community pantry**
- **All who, in Bradford, are homeless**
- **All who are refugees from war and famine**
- **All who flee domestic violence, or who suffer in silence**
- **All who see no alternative but to travel in small boats in dangerous waters to a better place**

The Bible all readings taken from “The Message”

Mark 10:35-45

James and John, Zebedee’s sons, came up to him. “Teacher, we have something we want you to do for us.”

“What is it? I’ll see what I can do.”

“Arrange it,” they said, “so that we will be awarded the highest places of honor in your glory—one of us at your right, the other at your left.”

Jesus said, “You have no idea what you’re asking. Are you capable of drinking the cup I drink, of being baptized in the baptism I’m about to be plunged into?”

“Sure,” they said. “Why not?”

Jesus said, “Come to think of it, you *will* drink the cup I drink, and be baptized in my baptism. But as to awarding places of honor, that’s not my business. There are other arrangements for that.”

When the other ten heard of this conversation, they lost their tempers with James and John. Jesus got them together to settle things down.

“You’ve observed how godless rulers throw their weight around,” he said, “and when people get a little power how quickly it goes to their heads. It’s not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for many who are held hostage.”

Mark 6:6-13

Jesus told them, “A prophet has little honour in his hometown, among his relatives, on the streets he played in as a child.”

Jesus wasn’t able to do much of anything there—he laid hands on a few sick people and healed them, that’s all. He couldn’t get over their stubbornness. He left and made a circuit of the other villages, teaching.

Jesus called the Twelve to him, and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority and power to deal with the evil opposition. He sent them off with these instructions:

“Don’t think you need a lot of extra equipment for this. *You* are the equipment. No special appeals for funds. Keep it simple.

“And no luxury inns. Get a modest place and be content there until you leave. If you’re not welcomed, not listened to, quietly withdraw. Don’t make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way.”

Then they were on the road. They preached with joyful urgency that life can be radically different; right and left they sent the demons packing; they brought wellness to the sick, anointing their bodies, healing their spirits.

January 28 2024

Team Building



Led by

Claire Nott Lay
Pastor

Week 4

Collect for the day

Spirit of God,
Whom we share with all people,
help us to cooperate & bring
new people in to become
members of our teams so that
we may work together more
effectively to spread your good
news. **Amen**

Pray for

- **All who feel the need to be superior**
- **All who feel relegated to second class**
- **All who try to build effective teams**
- **All who try to resolve conflicts**
- **All leaders, that they may be humble and try to involve others in leadership**

Questions:

Do we tackle problems in teams, or are we content to be organised by the most willing volunteer?

Do we actively seek out younger people to join our decision-making?

Is the trust between us enough to allow all opinions to be heard and considered?

Do we try to understand the burdens our leaders take on, and do we support them in their work?

Do we try to work with people who have different opinions?

Do we try to bring out the best in each other?

The Bible

all readings taken from "The Message"

Mark 3:7-12

Jesus went off with his disciples to the sea to get away. But a huge crowd from Galilee trailed after them—also from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, across the Jordan, and around Tyre and Sidon—swarms of people who had heard the reports and had come to see for themselves. He told his disciples to get a boat ready so he wouldn't be trampled by the crowd.

He had healed many people, and now everyone who had something wrong was pushing and shoving to get near and touch him. Evil spirits, when they recognized him, fell down and cried out, "You are the Son of God!" But Jesus would have none of it. He shut them up, forbidding them to identify him in public.

Mark 10:46-52

They spent some time in Jericho. As Jesus was leaving town, trailed by his disciples & a parade of people, a blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, was sitting alongside the road. When he heard that Jesus the Nazarene was passing by, he began to cry out, "Son of David, Jesus! Mercy, have mercy on me!" Many tried to hush him up, but he yelled all the louder, "Son of David! Mercy, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped in his tracks. "Call him over." They called him. "It's your lucky day! Get up! He's calling you to come!" Throwing off his coat, he was on his feet at once and came to Jesus.

Jesus said, "What can I do for you?"

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

On your way," said Jesus. "Your faith has saved and healed you."

In that very instant he recovered his sight and followed Jesus down the road.

January 21 2024

Capturing Hearts & Minds Learning to Unlearn



Week 3

Led by
Rev Sarah Jemison

Collect for the day

Jesus, our teacher,
show us how to persuade your
people with plain language and
everyday examples;
show us how to unlearn the
errors of our past,
clinging only to the task of
spreading your love
Amen

Questions:

When we welcome visitors, or preach your word, do we use everyday language, or a religious code?

Do we make our welcome clear and inviting? Do we try to understand how our visitors see us?

Do we cling to ancient beliefs, supported by a few lines of scripture, whilst ignoring Jesus' command to love?

The Church has held many beliefs in the past that we now believe to be wrong. What are do we believe to be true today that future generations may regret?

Jesus allowed a foreign woman to change his mind. Are we open to learning from people who are different from ourselves?

Pray for

- **All who greet those who visit this church**
- **All who are prejudiced against those who are different**
- **All whose lives are poisoned by inability to forgive**
- **All who read your Word without understanding**
- **All those who have winter, but no Christmas**

The Bible

all readings taken from "The Message"

Mark 7:14-23

Jesus called the crowd together again and said, "Listen now, all of you—take this to heart. It's not what you swallow that pollutes your life; it's what you vomit—that's the real pollution." When he was back home after being with the crowd, his disciples said, "We don't get it. Put it in plain language." Jesus said, "Are you being willfully stupid? Don't you see that what you swallow can't contaminate you? It doesn't enter your heart but your stomach, works its way through the intestines, and is finally flushed." (That took care of dietary quibbling; Jesus was saying that all foods are fit to eat.) He went on: "It's what comes out of a person that pollutes: obscenities, lusts, thefts, murders, adulteries, greed, depravity, deceptive dealings, carousing, mean looks, slander, arrogance, foolishness—all these are vomit from the heart. There is the source of your pollution."

Mark 7:24-37

From there Jesus set out for the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house there where he didn't think he would be found, but he couldn't escape notice. He was barely inside when a woman who had a disturbed daughter heard where he was. She came & knelt at his feet, begging for help. The woman was Greek, Syro-Phoenician by birth. She asked him to cure her daughter. He said, "Stand in line and take your turn. The children get fed first. If there's any left over, the dogs get it." She said, "Of course, Master. But don't dogs under the table get scraps dropped by the children?" Jesus was impressed. "You're right! On your way! Your daughter is no longer disturbed. The demonic affliction is gone." She went home and found her daughter relaxed on the bed, the torment gone for good.

Mark 1:14-22

After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: "Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message" Passing along the beach of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew net-fishing. Fishing was their regular work. Jesus said to them, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." They didn't ask questions. They dropped their nets and followed. A dozen yards or so down the beach, he saw the brothers James and John, Zebedee's sons. They were in the boat, mending their fishnets. Right off, he made the same offer. Immediately, they left their father Zebedee, the boat, and the hired hands, and followed.