

Lent & other events leading up to Easter 2025

Ash Wednesday Service

5 March at 7pm: There will be a service that Circuit folks are invited to on Ash Wednesday, THIS Wednesday at Menston Methodist Church led by Rev. Cameron Stirk. This will be a quieter service of devotion and the power of symbol. Do feel free to join us.

Stones in the Wilderness (led by Rev David Halstead)

5 March to 20 April: Starting Ash Wednesday (5 Mar) for 47 days and finishing on Easter Sunday (20 Apr) A daily Lent and Holy Week Meditation and Contemplation devotional exercise Each day on this journey, you will imagine turning over a stone and finding a WORD written underneath it. You will then spend some time thinking about the way the WORD might help you with some aspects of your life. The intention is to support those who have regular prayer time and are looking for something different in Lent to compliment it. It is also for those who want to nurture the spiritual side of their lives and do something in Lent to feel closer to God. If you would like to take part in this global 'Community prayer' please contact Rev David Halstead on dcmuluti1@icloud.com indicating which church you are associated with.

The Lectio Course - How to Hear God by Praying the Bible (led by Rev Tim Perkins)

10-13 March: This year's Lent Course is designed to help us deepen our prayer life as we draw near to God through Scripture and prayer. We will be running this as Churches Together in Burley. The course comprises 5 sessions, one each week, and each session includes videos, discussion and the opportunity try out what we've learned. There will be 3 times and venues for the course, you are welcome to swap between venues to suit your availability.

- Mon, 10 March at 1.30pm in St Mary's Parish Centre
- Tue, 11 March at 7.30pm at SS Fisher More Church Hall and
- Thu, 13 March at 10.30am in the Methodist Church Welcome Area

In the footsteps of Jesus (led by Rev Roger Smith)

10 March to 14 April 2025: Mondays, from 2-3pm at Yeadon Methodist Church: Following Jesus' life from Bethlehem to Jerusalem & exploring significant places along the way. As we make this journey together, Roger would welcome suggestions on where we should pause and reflect. Is there a story of Jesus in a particular place that speaks to you? Have you been to the Holy Land and can tell us about a place that was special to you? Thinking of the Middle East today, is there a place you want to hold in prayer? Contact Roger. We're on a journey but each session will be complete in itself so come along whenever you can.

- Mon, 10 Mar: Bethlehem
- Mon, 17 Mar: Nazareth
- Mon, 24 Mar: Around Galilee
- Mon, 31 Mar: On the road to Jerusalem
- Mon, 7 Apr: In Jerusalem
- Mon, 14 Apr: Holy Week service

Lent Groups (led by Rev Cameron Stirk)

10 March – 14 April: Mondays, from 7pm on Zoom

11 March – 15 April: Tuesdays, from 2.30pm in-person at Cornerstone Cafe, Menston

To join either of the groups let Cameron know on 01943 463258 or thestirks@tiscali.co.uk

The Mystery of God

11 March (Tues) from 7.30-9pm at Bramhope Methodist Church: a five week journey exploring the mystery of God in preparation for Holy Week & Easter

Charity Lent events

12 March to 8 April: Three Lent Coffee events will be taking place organised by the Otley Methodist Church Missions Committee and supporting three charities as part of our Lent commitment: Compassion, Dementia UK & the local branch of the Salvation Army and their work with the homeless in Leeds. Do come along to any or all of these events. Donations welcome. The venues are:-

12 March from 2-3.30pm: Gill & Howard Chaplin 19 Harecroft, Otley Road

29 March from 2-3.30pm: Joyce Walls 101 St Richards Road, Otley

8 April from 10-11.30pm: Lindsey Hurst 43 Mill Way, Otley

The Church, the Far Right and the Claim to Christianity

15 March (Sat) at 10.30am Revd Dr Helen Paynter is coming to Bridge United Reformed Church in Otley to speak on 'The Church, the Far Right and the Claim to Christianity!' Revd Dr. Helen Paynter is Director of the Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence, as well as an academic and educator of biblical and theological education at Bristol Baptist College. She has researched and published extensively on topics of religion and violence. Helen is coming to Otley to speak to the topics central to this book and to open a conversation about how Christian communities and individuals grapple with the Far Right. You don't need to have read the book! Just bring your questions and thoughts. Together we will look at such questions as: What is the Far Right? How and why does it claim Christianity? What can we do about this? Why is the Far Right influential, and why is it both compelling and dangerous, including for Christian communities? This event, hosted by The Bridge United Reformed Church of Otley, aims to explore a timely and difficult topic. We very much hope to engage in free, frank and constructive dialogue. The event will take place on Saturday 15 March, in the Church's community rooms upstairs. We will begin with tea, coffee and biscuits at 10.30am and start Helen's presentation and discussion at 11. The event will end no later than 1pm. Everyone is welcome.

Messy Church in Lent

23 March at 3.30pm: Pool Methodist Church: Crafts, refreshments, celebration. Fun for all ages. Children needed to be accompanied by an adult. Free – donations welcome.

Circuit Retreat

27 March (Thu) Rev. Cameron & Lucy Stirk and Rev. Shannon DeLaureal will be hosting another Circuit Retreat at Norwood Methodist Church from 10am-4pm. It is open to anyone and will be a time of space, quietness, creativity, fellowship and worship. The theme of the day is: '**The path of unknowing**'. There will be some input, but also plenty of time for people to walk, reflect, ponder and be creative. Please bring a packed lunch - we shall provide the drinks, soup and cake! Suggested minimum donation of £10 for the day for Water Aid. To book a place (only 19 places available) speak to Cameron on: thestirks@tiscali.co.uk or 01943 463258 or 07981 072277.

Breathe

2 April (Wed) at 7.30pm at Cornerstone Cafe, attached to Menston Methodist Church. This is a great opportunity to introduce people to the Christian faith in a gentle, non-threatening way. We are an open and inclusive community and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere where we can discuss, reflect, and hear people's stories. Live music, great coffee and cake – real life clips and testimony. It's Church – but not maybe as you know it!! Do see this as a good place to direct people who are a bit younger and have given up on traditional Church.

Menston Easter Fayre

12 April (Sat) from 10am to 12noon: Lots of stalls – bargains and crafts. Refreshments also served. Do come along.