

THE BRIDGE

September 2012



The Magazine of the Parish Church
of the Ascension, Church Street,
Oughtibridge

Our Vicar Julian Mann writes: It was a real eye-opener when earlier this summer I conducted the 'Jesus Survey' with teenagers in our local community.

The survey involves asking respondents a series of factual questions about Jesus, what his message was, whether it differs from that of other religious teachers and why Jesus got killed.

The teenagers I spoke to around our parish were very willing to engage and were a pleasure to talk to. Unfortunately, most had only a vague idea about Jesus' message and no idea why he was crucified.

But they were agreed on this: his message does not substantially differ from that of other world religions. This would lend support to the view that religious education over the past 25 years or so has not been very successful in getting across what is distinctive and special about Christianity.

Only Christianity teaches that the one true Creator God became human in his eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Only Christianity teaches that Jesus died on the Cross to bear the penalty of death our sins deserve.

Only Christianity teaches that Jesus rose again bodily as the eternal conqueror of sin and death and hell.

It would be a tragic loss to our local community if the message of the Lord Jesus were lost in a multi-faith mishmash.

That is because only his gospel truth can save us for eternity.



Brenda Woolhouse speaks to parish church member and well-known person in our local community, Helen Hayward: I have known Helen for many years as I went to college with her parents.

She was born in the same year as one of my daughters and they attended Bradfield School together. Then we had a surprise when they both had their children baptised on the same Sunday at Oughtibridge Church. Helen had married

David, one of the late Jack Hayward's sons, a well known farmer. I found out how she came to find her faith and her love of singing and how it has affected her life.

Helen was 8 years old when she joined the Sunday school at Christ Church Stannington, was confirmed at 13 and married there in 1975. She joined the choir and was inspired by the messages contained in the hymns.

About 13 years ago Helen felt the need to return to worship and eventually joined our church choir and then became churchwarden and is on the PCC. This has given Helen a different outlook on life. She is not as judgemental, is more forgiving, and patient.

At Bradfield School, where she works as a supervisor, she tries to mediate amongst the young people in a Christian way and to encourage contemporaries about the Christian life.

Having a husband from a farming background has

made her appreciate God's wonderful creation. All good things around us are sent from heaven above and when problems arrive her faith keeps her strong to enable her to deal with them.

A lovely person to chat to.

Our music director Beryl Hanson chooses her favourite hymn: "Love Divine All Loves Excelling"

is one which I have known all my life. It is chosen for weddings (in fact we had it at our wedding), funerals, baptisms and, of course, its message is



relevant in all kinds of situations.

The words were written by one of our great hymn writers, Charles Wesley, brother of John and Samuel and we usually sing it to a great Welsh melody, Blaenwern. Although he lived

in the 18th century, Charles Wesley's words are just as pertinent to Christians today. They speak of God's great love and bring it closer to us. Certain lines seem to speak out to us and show us how we should live.

"Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love Thou art."

In verse 2 we hear:- “Take away our love of sinning...”

Verse 3 says:- “Thee we would be always blessing....Pray and praise Thee without ceasing.”

In the last verse Charles Wesley is speaking of Heaven, and it speaks to me overwhelmingly of love...“till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.” Perhaps he was inspired by St. Paul's words: - “The greatest of these is love.” If **you** have a favourite Christian hymn you would enjoy singing, please let us know and we can include it in our 10.30am service (contact details on back page).

Charlotte Pinney on the Purpose for Life

Mission For one weekend in May we welcomed four students from Wycliffe Hall theological college, Oxford into the parish to support our Purpose for Life Mission. The aim of the mission? To spread the



truth
of
the

gospel in Oughtibridge, Worrall & Wharnccliffe Side.

Christianity on Tap, taking the Word into pubs, was popular on Friday evening, with the visiting mission team being warmly welcomed .Saturday morning saw men enjoying a great British fry-up in the Parish Centre and there was a delicious tea party in the afternoon. A quiz & curry night on Saturday evening was very well-attended, with many people asking questions about the Christian faith .At each of these events a member of the team gave a talk.

A children's picnic on Saturday afternoon had to be moved from the park to church due to rain. About 30 children, together with parents & grandparents, had a lot of fun; pews were moved to the side to allow room for wacky races and a game of rounders, and whilst tucking into our bread sandwiches and much



Mr Geoff Hanson opening church Summer Party

more, we heard that Jesus is the Bread of Life!

After a Guest Service on Sunday morning, church family and mission team all enjoyed a shared lunch to close a positive and fruitful weekend. Our thanks go to the four from Wycliffe Hall, with prayers for their future ministry of the gospel.

The Parish Church serving the three villages of Oughtibridge, Worrall and Wharnccliffe Side is located on Church Street, Oughtibridge, just below and opposite Shop Local. Our main Sunday Service is at 10.30am.

Website: www.oughtibridgechurch.org.uk

For thanksgivings, baptisms and weddings please contact the vicar Rev Julian Mann 0114 2862317

email ; julianascension@aol.com

If you are interested in coming on Christianity Explored, a six week DVD-based course, starting Tuesday October 9th at 7 pm in the Parish Centre please contact Julian Mann.