

Magazine & Newsletter



*Morley Community Church
June - August 2021*

**A warm welcome every Sunday at 10.00 am
Meeting at Zion Chapel, Merlyn Rees Avenue, off Wesley Street, Morley, LS27 9SL
(at bottom corner of Morrison's Car Park)**

Worship Services in June, July & August

6 June	<i>Worship Service</i>	Pastor John White (Bramley)
13 June	<i>Worship Service</i>	Dr Ray Baker
20 June	<i>Worship Service</i>	Rev Capt Steve Wright
27 June	<i>Worship Service</i>	Leeds City Mission
4 July	<i>Worship Service</i>	Carl Elliott
11 July	<i>Worship Service</i>	Michael Romagnoli
18 July	<i>Apostles Creed (10)</i>	Cllr Andy Dalton
25 July	<i>Open Service</i>	All
1 August	<i>To be arranged</i>	
8 August	<i>Worship Service</i>	Rev Capt Steve Wright
15 August	<i>Worship Service</i>	Carl Elliott
22 August	<i>Worship Service</i>	Guest internet speaker
29 August Bank Holiday Weekend	<i>Apostles Creed (11) - conclusion</i>	Cllr Andy Dalton

Church website: www.morleycommunitychurch.org.uk

This magazine is a cooperative edition between Morley and Birstall Community Churches

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

WATER WHERE WE NEED IT

Lake Baikal, the world's deepest lake, is vast and magnificent. Measuring one-mile-deep and nearly 400 miles (636 km) by 49 miles (79 km) across, it contains one-fifth of all the surface fresh water in the world. But this water is largely inaccessible. Lake Baikal is located in Siberia—one of the most remote areas of Russia. With water so desperately needed for much of our planet, it's ironic that such a vast supply of water is tucked away in a place where not many people can access it.

Although Lake Baikal may be remote, there is an endless source of life-giving water that is available and accessible to those who need it most. When at a well in Samaria, Jesus engaged a woman in conversation, probing at the edges of her deep spiritual thirst. The solution to her heart-need? Jesus Himself.

In contrast to the water she had come to draw from the well, Jesus offered something better: *“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life”* (John chapter 4 verses 13–14).

Many things promise satisfaction but never fully quench our thirsty hearts. Jesus alone can truly satisfy our spiritual thirst, and His provision is available to everyone, everywhere.

Bible verse:

*“For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of **living water**.
(Revelation chapter 7 verse 17)*

A prayer:

Loving God, thank You for the life You provide and the purpose and meaning You give to me. Teach me to find my truest satisfaction in You and Your love.

Morley Matters

It is getting better. 80% of the adult population have now been vaccinated for Covid-19, death rates are tumbling. Warm weather, bright sunshine, longer days and a sense of the good hand of the Lord upon us. It makes all the difference after fifteen months of lockdown and gloom.

The publication of the last edition of this magazine was too late to report on significant developments in the life of Morley Community Church. As most people know, we started to use Zion Chapel for our worship services in January as Lockdown 3 impacted the availability of our previous venue. In February the Zion Chapel Trustees approached the leadership team asking us to consider an offer to transfer chapel, manse and graveyard to MCC so that the site continues to be used for christian purposes. The subsequent Church Meeting in late March gratefully accepted this generous offer and in coming months a number of procedures and legal issues will be expedited to finalise the arrangements. Later in this magazine you will find a potted history of Zion Chapel - this is an occasional article in our local church history series. Recently the last surviving member of the chapel (Grace Metcalfe) died and her funeral was held in the chapel before burial along with her pre-deceased husband Allan in the graveyard. Her son Phil (who is also a trustee) also lost his wife who had been battling with cancer just two weeks later. Her funeral was also held at the chapel later in May. Our sincere condolences to Phil and wider family at the loss of his mother and dear wife Alicia at this time. We remember them in our prayers at this terribly sad time.

Despite the pandemic restrictions we have been able to undertake a number of initiatives. We held a 'hybrid' passover service ie some folks at the chapel and some joining over zoom. We were also able to distribute 250 cards with an Easter greeting and message to the streets immediately around the chapel. Our food distribution programme to people in need continues. We are moving forward and organising a youth camp again at High Legh in Cheshire in August. We are also planning a regular delivery round of the Good News Newspaper to surrounding houses. We will also be thinking and planning about the future of the church and how we best adapt to our new set of circumstances. In everything we want to honour the Lord and serve Him with all our hearts.

Enjoy the rest of the magazine - history, a devotional article from the Bible, recipe, news, humour. If you enjoy reading this publication - pass it on to a friend!

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT THE BIBLE?

Here are some known and lesser known favourite 'facts' about the Bible

- The word 'bible' is from the Greek *ta biblia*, which means 'the scrolls' or 'the books'. The word is derived from the ancient city of Byblos, which was the official supplier of paper products to the ancient world
- Women are more likely than men, older people are more likely than young, and African Americans are more likely than any other race, to read the Bible
- John Wycliffe produced the first translation of the entire Bible from Latin into English. However, after he died, the authorities exhumed and burned his corpse as punishment for his translation work
- Shakespeare most likely helped in the translation of the King James Bible in 1611
- There are 93 women who speak in the bible, 49 of whom are named. They speak a total of 14,056 words or about 1.1% of the Bible
- The most expensive book in the world is the translation of the biblical psalms, "*The Bay Psalm Book*" which sold for over \$14 million and was written by the Puritans in America
- Esther and the Song of Solomon do not contain the word 'God'
- Psalm 118 verse 8 is in the very centre of the Bible, with 594 chapters before it and 594 chapters after it
- Dogs are mentioned 14 times, lions 55 times and unicorns 5 times

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

What an empty world it would be without any birds. Birds have muscles enabling them to fly in a way no man can do. What variety there is in God's creation of many 'kinds' of birds. Here are a few amazing facts.

Each year the Arctic tern flies halfway round the world, from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back again, about 40,000 kilometres altogether.

The male South American rhea bird incubates the combined clutch of several females, perhaps 50 eggs of more, and in the last stage they somehow communicate with each other so that they all hatch together: this has been observed in quail and godwit eggs, where the chicks are immediately mobile when born.

Ostriches are the biggest birds and lay the biggest eggs, each about 15 cm (6 inches) long. We read about the ostrich in the book of Job in the Bible.

The honey-guide bird will chatter and lead men to wild honey, in Africa for example: they will then wait in a tree while the men start a fire with burning elephant dung to stupefy the bees and when the men get the honey they always give the bird a piece of the very precious 14lb (6.5kg) haul, which the bird eats: it is the only bird known that is able to digest wax and get good out of it.

The spine-tailed swift is the fastest bird; it can fly at 145km (90 miles) per hour. Swifts are thought to hunt their insect prey at about 25 mph, and can catch over 300 different species. They rarely land, and it is true that they can sleep and mate on the wing: they have to come to land during the nesting season. A swift found dying in Oxford in 1964 had been ringed 16 years earlier, and in its lifetime must have flown about four million miles, equal to flying to the moon and back eight times!

Humming -birds are the smallest birds, and the only birds that can fly backwards.

***All things wise and wonderful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all***

.....
Contributed by an unemployed client turning up at the City Mission Pantry Project

***The Light of God surrounds me
The Love of God enfolds me
The Power of God protects me
The Presence of God Watches over me
The Mind of God guides me
The life of God directs me
The Power of God abides within me
The Joy of God uplifts me
The Strength of God renews me
The Beauty of God inspires me***

Wherever I am, God is!!

GIGGLE IN THE MIDDLE

What's the best thing about Switzerland?

I don't know, but the flag is a big plus.

I invented a new word!

Plagiarism!

Did you hear about the mathematician who's afraid of negative numbers?

He'll stop at nothing to avoid them.

Yesterday I saw a guy spill all his Scrabble letters on the road.

I asked him, "What's the word on the street?"

Once my dog ate all the Scrabble tiles.

For days he kept leaving little messages around the house.

A bear walks into a bar and says, "Give me a whiskey and ... cola."

"Why the big pause?" asks the bartender. The bear shrugged. "I'm not sure; I was born with them."

Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards?

He was just going through a stage.

Did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut?

He just needed a little space.

A man tells his doctor, "Doc, help me. I'm addicted to Twitter!"

The doctor replies, "Sorry, I don't follow you ..."

What do you call a parade of rabbits hopping backwards?

A receding hare-line.

What's the different between a cat and a comma?

A cat has claws at the end of paws; A comma is a pause at the end of a clause.

What did the bald man exclaim when he received a comb for a present?

Thanks— I'll never part with it!

Local History Corner

A Potted History of Zion Independent Chapel

We begin our historical account by quoting from an account of the chapel's beginnings as written by William Smith's *History of Morley* (1876) from pages 188-189

"In the latter part of the 1700s, during the ministry of the Rev Thomas Clough at the Old New Chapel as it was called (later known as Rehoboth Congregational Church), a section of worshippers at that place resolved to withdraw from it, and betook themselves to the house of Margeson at Churwell. After meeting for a while the house proved too small to accommodate the people, and a resolution was passed to build a chapel, each member of that small band engaging to exert himself to the utmost of his ability. In the year 1804 they erected a chapel near the top of Churwell Hill, at a cost of little more than £300 and from its proximity to Daffil or Daffield Wood, it was called "Daffil Chapel". The first and only stated minister who ever occupied the pulpit was Mr Nathaniel Dickenson, a native of Morley, and one of their own number. He was a man of eminent piety, and though possessed of few scholarly attainments, he was distinguished by a strong and active mind. He preached for the space of forty years, with great acceptance, and his labours were rewarded with success. He was never ordained to the pastoral office. The ministers in the district refused him the rite, excusing themselves on the ground that "he was self taught, and would not hold on in the work of preaching for more than a year or two". He finished his course on the 16th of May, 1846 in the 73rd year of his age. His loss was long and deeply felt, and his memory is still fragrant in the recollection of many.

For several years after Mr Dickenson's death, the pulpit was supplied by the Leeds Town Mission (later known as Leeds City Mission) and others. In 1850 the congregation, chiefly residing at Morley, determined to build a new chapel at Morley, and to this end bought an eligible plot of land, in the centre of the town, on which they erected the present chapel and laid out a burying ground. The opening services took place in 1851, and for about four years the pulpit was supplied by "itinerants," when a call was given to the Rev Richard Harris, of Westbury, who accepted it, and became the pastor of this people for about five years. In 1862, an unanimous call was given to, and accepted by, the Rev D W Rowe, of Gainsborough, who resigned the pastorate in 1865. In January 1872, a call was given to the Rev Wm. Frost, who still retains the office of pastor.

Zion Chapel is a neat brick edifice, and is approached by a flight of ten steps and a small vestibule with two entrances to the body of the chapel. On one side of the vestibule is the vestry, and on the other, the staircase leading to the gallery. The gallery is nearly semi-circular. The pews in the bottom are made of deal and varnished, having mahogany cappings. The accommodation is estimated for 600 persons. The chapel contains a small organ, placed in a recess behind the pulpit; is lighted by a large gasalier suspended from the ceiling, and warmed by hot air. The total cost was £1200

In 1866, a commodious schoolroom, with lecture hall and classrooms was erected in Queen Street, at a cost of £1200, the first stone of which was laid on Good Friday, 1866 by Joshua Taylor Esq of Batley

Smith's introduction needs some expansion and further details about subsequent years -

The arrival of the railway in Morley (1849), the growth of local industries such as textiles and mining industries saw the population of the town grow at a tremendous rate in the last quarter of the 1800s. Zion (along with other chapels) was able to benefit with the addition of new adherents and conversions which came with population expansion and the willingness of people to listen and respond (in contrast to people today) to the gospel message. In contrast to the rapidly expanding methodist movement (with its distinctly arminian theology) it maintained an alternative robust doctrinal position. It was unashamedly calvinist and never wavered from this position throughout its history. It was also strongly independent and (especially in later years) was never enthusiastic about any links beyond its own tightly defined circles. Its ecclesiastical origins were congregational - however it never affiliated to the Congregational Union of Independent Churches in England and Wales (CUEW) when this was established in 1831 preferring its status as an entirely independent and congregational church. It even published its own hymnbook in 1891 which contained over 1400 hymns and continued to be used until the demise of the congregation. It insisted on using only the Authorised (King James) Version of the Bible.

In its day Zion chapel produced citizens of note and wealth in Morley. William Henry Dodgshun was the first Morley Councillor elected to the West Riding County Council. The Brumfitt family owned the mill that stood next door to Morley Academy (after it ceased textile production it became the base of Dunn & Wilson Bookbinder Company, then Vallances Putty and also other small business units. It was knocked down 15 years ago and a housing estate built on its land). Brumfitt descendants entered the legal profession working for a local law practice. The Hardcastles were millowners. Few people know that the **Jagger** family were adherents at Zion Chapel over many years. Mick Jagger's (of Rolling Stones fame) great grandfather lived in Morley Bottoms and his musical interests were confined to singing hymns in Zion chapel - a significant contrast to the pop songs written and sung by his descendant a century later. Brian Turner the TV chef was a member of the Zion Sunday School in the 1960s. Family graves in the churchyard give testimony to prominent, influential Morley families who were connected with the chapel.

Zion Chapel was not without its setbacks. During World War 1 a total of 75 men associated with the chapel served in the Armed Forces. Nine men became battlefield casualties – two of whom were siblings (the Slack brothers). In World War 2 the roll call was mercifully smaller (3) – however again another two siblings (the Waring brothers) were both killed in the Far East in 1943 within one month of each other. Thus subsequent generations were robbed of men who could have contributed so much to the life and health of chapel life had they lived and returned. Five casualties are commemorated on family graves in the churchyard. The Waring brothers are commemorated on the family grave which is still maintained by relatives.

Despite its strongly independent status and clearly delineated theological position, the then small and diminishing congregation surprised everybody by displaying an act of magnanimity and christian generosity in the early 1980s. When the Church of the Nazarene blew down in a gale in 1983 and had to be demolished - the Zion congregation made their premises available to them over a two year period for their use while the new Nazarene building was erected.

In the mid 1960s the Sunday School building on Queen Street was sold to a developer, demolished and new retail units erected (Lawsons Greengrocers, Mayfair Hair Stylists etc). The proceeds were used to build a new Sunday School Hall on the back of the (1852) chapel. In 1991 the chapel building developed significant structural problems and had to be demolished. The congregation then made the Sunday School Hall its new chapel holding all its services and activities in the smaller but much more modern premises

In the last sixty years the chapel has declined. Removal, death and a vastly different social context saw the congregation contract and in the last decade the congregation could be counted on one hand. In 2019 the congregation had declined to just one very elderly married couple. The death of the husband and incapacity of the wife meant that services were discontinued. Thus the future of the chapel was in jeopardy.

Early in 2021 an invitation was extended by the chapel trustees to ourselves at Morley Community Church to use the chapel for services and activities. Lockdown and other issues had resulted in not being able to use our previous rented premises. Already we feel very much at home in this compact little chapel. Once legal procedures are completed, Zion Chapel, its manse and estate will be the permanent home of Morley Community Church. Thus a worshipping community will continue a christian presence on this site which has existed over three centuries.

EFCC

Morley Community Church along with Birstall Community Church are both affiliated to the EFCC – *Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches*. EFCC recently held its annual general meeting in May. It could not be held last year because of the lockdown and this year (because of the coronavirus pandemic) it had to be held online. This was a technical challenge which was managed with skill by Paul Walker from the EFCC office in Beverley. A range of issues were discussed, the fellowship's position on a variety of doctrinal and moral issues were adopted/re-affirmed. The annual accounts were approved. Reports were received. Information about future developments regarding the EFCC Trust Corporation future strategy for Holding Trusteeships was shared. This was a worthwhile meeting and everyone was looking forward to next year when it can return to a physical face to face meeting

RECIPE

Salted Caramel Millionaire's Shortbread Recipe

This indulgent take on a millionaire's shortbread has a modern twist with a thick layer of salted caramel in the middle. With a crumbly shortbread base and thick chocolate topping, these make a delicious treat that everyone will love.

Serves 16 squares

1 hr 20 mins to prepare and 35 mins to cook

385 calories / serving

Freezable

Ingredients

For the shortbread

185g butter 75g caster sugar 250g plain flour

For the caramel filling

185g butter 75g caster sugar *Three* tbsp golden syrup

300g sweetened condensed milk *One* tsp salt (or to taste)

For the chocolate topping

150g milk or plain chocolate, chopped

Method

1. Line a 18 x 27cm rectangular cake tin with nonstick baking paper. Heat the oven to gas 4, 180°C, fan 160°C.
2. For the shortbread base, put the butter and sugar in a bowl and beat with a wooden spoon until pale and creamy. Beat in the flour until it forms a soft dough. Press the mixture evenly into the prepared tin. Bake for 20-25 mins until pale golden. Set aside to cool.
3. Meanwhile, make the salted caramel. Put the butter, sugar, golden syrup and condensed milk into a large pan over a medium heat. Stir continuously until the sugar has dissolved then turn up the heat and boil for 5-7 mins, stirring all the time to ensure the mixture doesn't burn on the bottom of the pan.
4. The mixture is ready when it turns a deep golden colour and has thickened to a soft fudge consistency. Stir in the salt, then pour the caramel over the shortbread and leave to cool for 1 hr or until just set.
5. For the topping, melt the chocolate in a bowl placed over a pan of barely simmering water, being careful not to let the bowl touch the water (or melt in the microwave in short bursts, stirring regularly). Pour the melted chocolate over the caramel, spreading out to an even layer if needed, then leave in a cool place to set. Cut into squares to serve, the shortbread will keep in a tin for up to 1 week.

Tip: To make a classic millionaire's shortbread, cook as above and omit the salt from step 4. For a hint of salt, you could add just a pinch or sprinkle some sea salt flakes over the melted chocolate topping to finish instead.

Birstall News

Birstall Community Church are moving forward. In recent weeks numbers attending have been increasing. This includes a young man. Also one young lady. She recently came to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour. The congregation are very encouraged by this. At the moment they are finishing off the repairs and upgrade of the Minor Hall which features a new heating system and a suspended ceiling. The congregation are also looking forward to future opportunities, post pandemic, when we can resume occasional joint services and events together. Their Sunday worship service is held at 10.30 am. However all their midweek meetings are currently on hold until the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

Directions to Morley Community Church at Zion Chapel

By Foot

Walk 100 metres up the pedestrianized section of Queen Street from Morley Town Hall. The Market and the Queens Hotel are on your left. Opposite is Carl's Cobblers & the entrance to Beryl Burton Gardens. Turn right into Beryl Burton Gardens entrance, walk through the courtyard into Merlyn-Rees Avenue and you will see the church directly ahead.

By Bus

Buses 46, 47, 65, 200, 201, 201a, 205, 425, 425a, 427, 51,52
Alight at Morley Town Hall

By Car

The chapel is in the bottom corner of Morrisons Car Park in the centre of Morley. Park your car in the car park and enter the churchyard by the parsonage house at the corner with Merlyn-Rees Avenue. There is also parking in the church car park by the entrance gates in Merlyn Rees Avenue. Also on Sundays - additional parking in adjoining Groundwork Offices Car Park

MORLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Below are the current regular weekly activities of the church. Physical worship services are taking place at Zion Chapel, Merlyn-Rees Avenue, off Wesley Street, Morley, LS27 9SL (at bottom corner of Morrison's Car Park) All of these are streamed on Zoom over the internet for the duration of the coronavirus outbreak (ID 9638133406 & passcode R0mans08 – please note '0' is the numeral zero, not the letter 'O'). Normal services and activities will be resumed as soon as possible!

SUNDAY	10.00 am	Worship Service <i>During the current coronavirus lockdown a worship service is held at Zion Chapel observing social distancing and other related safety protocols. The service is also streamed on Zoom for those unable to attend the normal service</i>
TUESDAY	7.30 pm	Zoom Prayer Session <i>A short prayer session over Zoom interceding for the needs of Morley and the wider world.</i>
WEDNESDAY	11.00 am	Zoom Coffee Morning <i>Join others over the internet or on the telephone for coffee, chat and quiz.</i>
THURSDAY	7.30– 8.45 pm	Zoom Prayer & Bible Hour <i>Studying Scripture together over the internet</i>

Further Details:

Website: www.morleycommunitychurch.org.uk

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