



Sunrise



Issue 54 - Easter 2026

This magazine seems very soon after our last one but the last issue was only a short one. I am hoping that you enjoy

this magazine but, sadly, there aren't a lot of photographs in it because nobody has sent me any articles or any news about events to put in here.

Instead there is a very interesting interview with our Spiritual Leader, Revd Jack Dunion. This is going to be one of a series of interviews and I hope you enjoy learning a little bit about these people and the roles they play in our church. I'd like to thank Jack here for doing this, very much at the last minute, and so quickly too.

Also in this magazine there is news about the two summer camps coming up in August. I do hope someone will let me have some photos to put in the Harvest issue.

Also there is news about our Creative Session and AGM on the 5th July at Bradford New Church. We hope that as many of you who can will come to this. Right in the centre is a craft activity accompanied by an explanation of the Easter Story. I would love to see your creations.

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE

Interview with Revd Jack Dunion

Spiritual Leader



1. For the benefit of my readers please can you tell me what the main objective of your role as Spiritual Leader is?

In my role as Spiritual Leader (SL) I have many specific duties to consider. In all I do I enjoy the support of my Deputy Spiritual Leader Revd Becky Jarratt. Besides my normal duties, I do get involved in lots of other groups and activities relating to Committee of Minister's (CoM) and the work of Conference Council (CC) etc. A sample of my more specific duties as SL though may involve, for example:

- Looking after the pastoral and theological aspects of the Church.
- Holding and communicating a balanced application of the Word and the Writings of the Church.
- Offering guidance on navigating through our rapidly changing spiritual sandscape.
- Fostering a spirit of democratic, participative leadership within CoM, so that decisions can be made.
- Attendings meetings, such as Minister's Committee's & Seminar, Conference Council, Conference AGM, Strategic Planning and many others.
- Line managing the paid ministry

Although my job keeps me busy, I feel blessed in doing it. And, I get to enjoy the fellowship of colleagues and friends whom I work alongside in serving the Lord and His Church.

2. Can anyone be a Spiritual Leader or do you have to have special qualifications?

Whilst I would expect that anyone appointed as Spiritual Leader would need to have experience in many of the key areas of ministry, there are no other formal qualifications required. It is important to say that in this role I am merely in a representative figure and I will hopefully return to my normal ministerial duties after a designated period of time.

NB - I think it is fair to add to this to say that you do need to be a minister though!

3. Can you tell me what a typical day/week might be like as Spiritual Leader?

I always make a point of beginning each day by reading a section of the Lord's Word, while seeking His strength in all I have been appointed to do. If I don't do this, I soon begin to realise that I haven't!! I usually begin my weeks work by going through the many emails that arrive in my inbox, after prioritising emails towards the end of the previous week. I also host a radio show and take monthly, and occasional other services. So if I am lucky, I will get to start preparing those early in the week, to have them completed by the end of that week. In between, I will have many meetings to attend which usually include some preparation work, before and after. A good few of the meetings I attend also involve being away from home for a few days. So, I am very grateful to my wife Suzie, for never complaining and for being supportive of that.

4. What do you enjoy about being our Spiritual Leader?

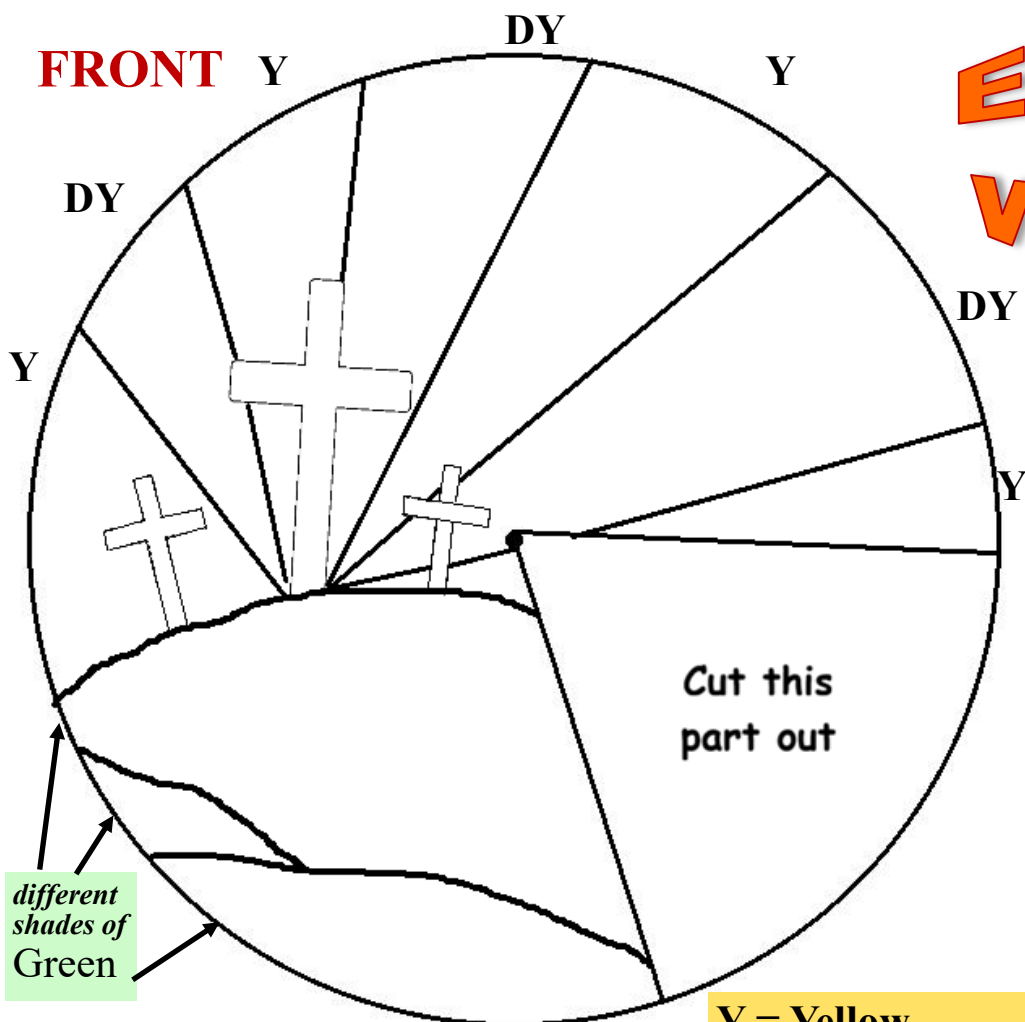
I feel honoured that people have felt able to put their trust in me in fulfilling this role to the best of my ability. But, it is knowing that I am serving our Lord and Saviour in what is by far the greatest mission of them all, which gives me the greatest joy! I so often feel the Lord's help in all that I am trying to do and it makes me feel deeply grateful to be in a position where I can serve Him, and work alongside others with the same goals.

5. Do you have a message you would like to share with the readers?

If you feel called to serve our church in any way, from doing the small and equally important supportive roles, to the more committed and longer term roles, please do not hesitate in reaching out to any of us in exploring ways you could further the Lord's work on earth.

Note from the editor: WOW, Jack! That sounds amazing but also a lot of work. It is good that you have great support from Revd Becky Jarratt and it is clear that you enjoy the role and that the Lord is very important in your life. I am sure my readers would like to wish you well in your continued role as Spiritual Leader.

Easter Wheel



1. Either cut out the shapes or photocopy the shapes first and then cut out. Stick it to card to make it more sturdy. Also you could use a plate and draw your own design on to the plate of the Easter story.

2. Colour in the picture on the 'front', alternating between yellow and dark yellow to make the suns rays.

Y = Yellow
DY = Dark yellow

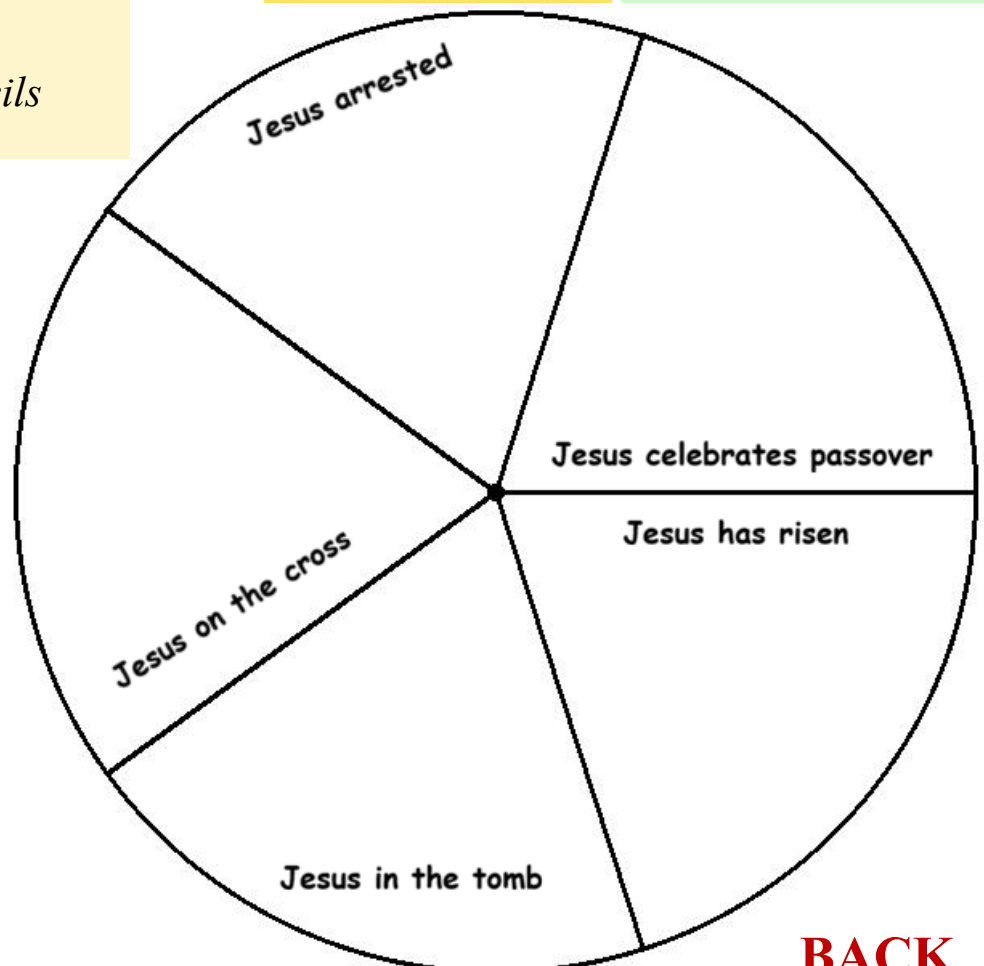
**For this project you will need:*

- *A paper fastener*
- *Scissors*
- *Colouring pens/pencils*

3. Draw a picture in each of the spaces on the 'back'.

4. Pierce a hole in the Centre of both the front and the back and join the two parts together with the paper fastener.

You might like look up the different parts of the story in the Bible. See next page to find out where they are.



Easter Message

*All the references in this message
are from Matthew's Gospel*

From our perspective the story of Easter starts with Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey for Palm Sunday where everyone is shouting out and celebrating his arrival(Chapter(Ch) 21 v1-11). However as the week goes on things change. First of all he upsets people by overturning the tables in the temple (v12-17); We then hear the parable of the tenants, and the Pharisees believe he is talking about them, so they look for ways to arrest him(v33-end).

We hear in Ch 22 the Pharisees trying to trap Jesus by seeking to ask him about if it is right to pay taxes to Caesar but Jesus replies, pay to Caesar what belongs to him and to God what is his thus not falling into their trap.

Then moving onto Ch 24 we hear the very dramatic reading about the destruction of the temple and the end of the age at a day and hour unknown. Jesus says to keep watch for no one knows when it is coming.

Then we get to **ch 26** and we hear of the plot against Jesus. Clearly things have changed. Judas, one of the disciples agrees to betray Jesus.

In **verses 17-30** we hear how Jesus shares a last meal with his disciples, the **Passover meal**. For those of you who have been to a Holy Supper service you will recognise the words read out in the invitation to take the bread and wine. Notice he is aware that he is going to be betrayed and yet does nothing to stop this happening. These events had to unfold this way.

Then Jesus goes to a garden called, Gesthemane, where he invites his disciples to keep watch with him. Do they?..... I leave you to check that out in verses 33-46,

Next we hear of **Jesus arrest** in the garden in verses **47-56**. Following this we hear various stories about what happens leading up to him dying on the cross. He comes before Pilate who asks the people what they should do with Jesus. This is where things have really changed. They shout, 'Crucify him'. What a difference from only 5 days ago when he was being celebrated.

In **Ch 27 verses 32-56** we hear about the crucifixion and the **death of Jesus**. And we note that there are women including his mother (James and Joseph were his brothers) at the cross. How hard that must have been for her.

Moving on(**v57-end**) we hear how Joseph of Arimathea asks for the body of Jesus and **buries him** in a new tomb and rolls a stone across the entrance. Even then this isn't enough for the Pharisees, they want Jesus guarded for fear his disciples will take him away and he will rise again.

Then, finally, in **Ch 28** we hear that **Jesus has risen**. And we hear again it is the women who go to the tomb first and discover this.

So as we go through the Easter weekend we hear a story of death rising to life again and this reminds us that even in our darkest times God never leaves us and we will find times where we will find joy again and, in a sense, rise to life again. So although the story of Easter can seem like a really tragic tale and a puzzling story there is a beautiful meaning, reminding us, that we too can be raised to life. Not just when we feel down, not just when we are feeling low but at the very end when our life is over we too will be raised to a heavenly life.

So whatever you are doing at Easter, try and find time to remember the Easter story and to celebrate that rise to life knowing its significance for us.

Summer Camps

9 - 13 SUMMER CAMP

3rd-6th August 2026

Wellspring House

During the day, there are sessions in the morning where we have discussion and activities based on a Bible story. In the afternoons we go out and explore the local area! There are trips to Heaton Park, a park close to Wellspring House, and we sometimes have a guided walk of the local area.

If the weather isn't so good, there are plenty of other activities to do. There is a table tennis table, and we have endless games to share with the young people.

On 9-13 Summer Camp we also go on a larger trip that fits the theme of the camp. This year we will be looking at Harry Potter and working out what things we can apply from the books and films to our everyday lives. No prior broom riding or wand work necessary!

This weekend is being led by:
Becky Jarratt and Robert Clarke



13 - 18 SUMMER CAMP

2nd-8th August 2026

Purley Chase

During the day, there are sessions in the morning where we have discussion and activities based on a Bible story. More information about the theme for the week will be available soon - watch this space!

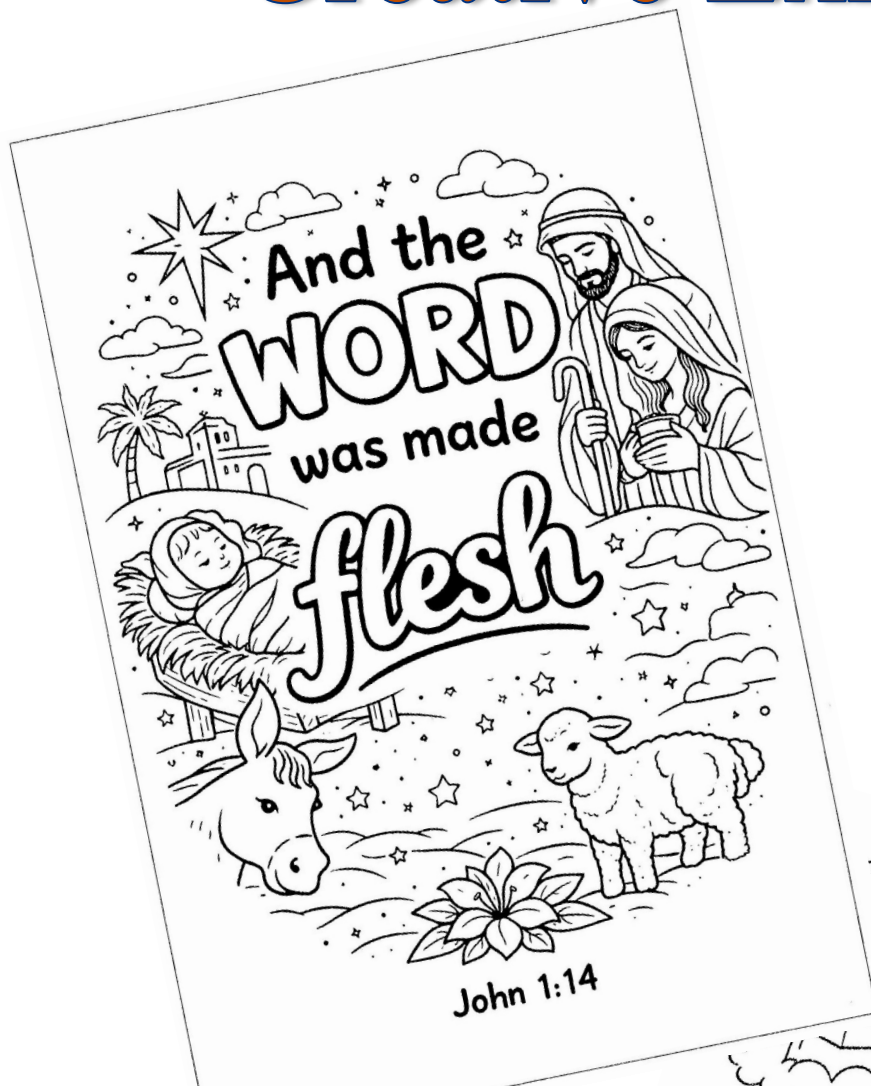
There will be a big outing one day. For 2026 the trip hasn't yet been decided as the leaders like to consult with the young people in between them booking and the camp itself happening. Recent trips have included: a visit to an amazing inflatable Aqua Park at Cliff Lakes; swinging through the treetops at Go Ape at Coombe Abbey, Warwick Castle, and a day out at Drayton Manor theme park so there are many activities that could be chosen from!



This weekend is being led by:
Rob Taylor, Andy Leather, Lynne Griffiths & Jenny Jones

Consult the following website for further information and how to book:
<https://newchurchcamps.org.uk>

Creative Exhibition



Our Creative Exhibition is coming up. Have you received your Home Sunday Pack with this in or has your Church started doing the artwork with you. The theme at our Conference this year is 'Unpacking the New Church' and these pictures show the main Bible verses we are looking at.

The idea is that we are looking at what it is about our church that is special? Why do we come to this church and not another? If we look deeply are there some wonderful reasons why this church is so important to us? So with stories in the Bible, looking beneath the surface of the story to find its meaning which is truly special.



Please contact Carolyn Kennion if you haven't received the details for this or would like to receive them.

**The Closing date is:
Friday
22nd May
2026**



New Church Youth Association Creative Session/ AGM



Bradford New Church

Ashfield Avenue, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD22 3AL

Service - 10.45am

5th July 2026

The day will start with a service of worship led by Gwendolen Rowe with assistance from NCYA members, on the theme - Unpacking the New Church.

Lunch - 12.30pm

A lunch will be provided which will be provided by the NCYA

Creative Session - 1.30pm

Using the theme there will be varied activities supervised by someone from the NCYA.

AGM - 3.15pm

The Annual General Meeting will include nominations and voting in of Officers.

It may be possible to attend the AGM on Zoom. Please can you let Gwendolen know if you are interested in this possibility. This will depend on interest and the strength of the wifi on the day.

Please contact Gwendolen Rowe for further information and to let her know if you are attending:
gwendolen.e.rowe@gmail.com