



Altofts Methodist Church

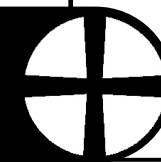
www.altoftsmethodist.org.uk

Holy Week and Easter

Monday 18 April	7:30pm	Holy Week Service (Altofts) <i>Rev. Barry Lotz</i>
Tuesday 19 April	7:30pm	Holy Week Service (Normanton) <i>Rev. Barry Lotz</i>
Wednesday 20 April	7:30pm	Holy Week Service (Streethouse) <i>Rev. Barry Lotz</i>
Maundy Thursday 21 April	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday Simple Meal (Altofts) <i>Rev. Barry Lotz</i>
Good Friday 22 April	10.00am	Service at Normanton with the Baptists <i>Rev. Barry Lotz</i>
	11.00am	Silent Walk of Witness <i>from outside Netto</i>
	2:00pm	Good Friday Service at Altofts
	6:00pm	Stations of the Cross <i>at Normanton Parish Church</i>
Easter Sunday 24 April	8:30am	Communion followed by breakfast at Normanton MC <i>Rev. Barry Lotz</i>
	10:45am	Service of Holy Communion <i>Rev. Barry Lotz</i>
	6:00pm	Service of Holy Communion <i>Rev. Barry Lotz</i>

Growing Through Sharing

Altofts Methodist Church Newsletter



Minister's Letter

Easter is quite late this year, 24 April. But not as late as it can be in the Western calendar. In 2008 it was on 27 April and in 2019 it will be on 28 April. This means there are quite a few weeks between the end of Christmas and the beginning of Lent – this year Ash Wednesday is on 9 March. And if we take the Christmas season to end at Candlemas on 2 February, then we have weeks and weeks of being between one and the other.

Easter is a moveable feast. The date is set (in theory) by the formula: the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the spring equinox. The roots of the formula lie in the calculation of the date of the Jewish Passover and in the Germanic pagan practices relating to Spring.

It is easy to get way laid about the matter of dates, especially moveable dates. You may feel some of the frustration expressed in “Why can’t we have Easter at the same time every year? Surely that will make life much easier.” For the commercial sector it may perhaps be easier, and I suppose there is very little that does not eventually bow to commercial

pressure. But Easter is one of those festivals which seems to stick to being moveable.

As if our moveable feast were not difficult enough, the Western Church and the Eastern Church even use different calendars to calculate the date. In the West the so-called Gregorian calendar is authoritative and in the East the Julian calendar. As recently as 1997 the World Council of Churches became a forum in which this issue could be resolved. Agreement was reached and proposed

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Minister's Letter

that the world wide church should use a common set of dates from 2001. As long ago as 1928, here in the UK, the Easter Act declared Easter to be the Sunday between 9 to 15 April, the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April. Has either of these come into effect? Not a chance!

Somehow dates seem very important to us. We remember anniversaries and make much of some of them. First dates, birthdays, weddings are among those we like to tell everyone about. Deaths and divorces, while we may not make a show of them, we remember them, and we remember them carefully.

All this focus on specific dates can sometimes mislead us about the significance of dates in the Christian calendar. In the Church there are no original historical dates for any of our festivals. We are much more concerned with seasons. So we have the season of Christmas which begins in preparation with Advent four Sundays before Christmas Day. Then the season of Christmas does not end with Christmas Day. Nor does it end with Epiphany on 6 January, 12 days later. Christmas only comes to an end with Candlemas on 2 February, a full 40 days after Christmas Day (counting inclusively). That's a big block of time. Well, Christmas is an important festival.

With Easter we have this same pattern of preparation and then reflection afterwards. In preparation for Easter we begin Lent on Ash Wednesday and then we have six Sundays before the big day of Easter Sunday (40 days, but excluding Sundays in the count). Then the week before Easter Day, almost as if the day is too great for us to just come upon, we spend a week of intense preparation – Holy Week. Then afterwards we spend another 40 days in celebration and preparation culminating in Ascension Day.

All these blocks of time are a gift from those who have gone before us, to give us a chance to gather our wits and appreciate what it is we are embarked upon as we approach a festival. And afterwards, after the festival, we need some time to settle down and adjust ourselves for the life of faith ahead of us. There are times of rest too, almost as if pausing in the doorway to get a measure of the room we are about to walk into. As it happens, this year we have four and a half weeks to get ready for Lent – to realize that Christmas is behind and that Lent is coming. I hope this pause between two of our great festivals is a useful time of reflection for you.

Rev. Barry Lotz.

Desert Island Discs

My book (the Bible & Shakespeare are already on the island)....

“A Dinner of Herbs” by Catherine Cookson.

My luxury would be a solar radio

Why? Because I like listening to music.

THANK YOU JOAN for sharing your choice of music with us.

Joan's hobbies include gardening - after giving up her allotment she has

turned the back garden from flowers to vegetables. Swimming! Every week – she wouldn't miss it!

Keep up the good work Joan – and please keep reading the bible lessons for us!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR FAVOURITE MUSIC WITH US PLEASE SEE BRENDA WALMSLEY.

Mothering Sunday Family Service

Sunday 3 April, 10.45am

The Family Service will be led by **Mr. Kevin Dobson** from the Castleford Circuit.

Coffee and Fairtrade stall after the service

All Welcome

Church Family News

Baptisms

23 January 2011

Maisie Grace Edge, daughter of Paul and Kate Edge

Funerals

8 December 2010

Mr. Maurice Randall, age 61 of Lee Brigg

17 January 2011

Mr. Arthur Bastow, age 88 of Coronation Avenue

2 February 2011

Mr. William Turner, age 88 of Foxholes Lane

Desert Island Discs

Mrs. Joan Silcock

Brief autobiography

I am 81 years old and worked throughout my life finishing as a domestic supervisor at Pinderfields Hospital. I have been married for 63 years and have two daughters and four grandchildren.

1st Record:

Title - I DREAMED A DREAM
sung by Susan Boyle

Reason for choice -

This is the song that gave Susan Boyle fame after her appearance on "Britain's Got Talent".

2nd Record:

Title - I'LL WALK WITH GOD
sung by Rhydian Roberts

Reason for choice -

A boy from Wales with a lovely voice, who was the runner up on "X-Factor" 2007.

3rd Record:

Title - HALLELUJAH
sung by Susan Boyle

Reason for choice -

I enjoy listening to her singing of this lovely piece of music.

4th Record:

Title - O HOLY NIGHT
sung by Susan Boyle

Reason for choice -

As above.

5th Record:

Title - O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL sung by Susan Boyle
Susan has a lovely voice which she can adapt to the style of the song she sings.

6th Record:

Title - AVE MARIA
sung by Russell Watson

Reason for choice -

He is a good singer who after surgery for a tumour in 2008, made a comeback into music

7th Record:

Title - SAY A LITTLE PRAYER
sung by Jane McDonald

Reason for choice -

A local Wakefield girl with a lovely voice

8th Record:

Title - SOMETHING
sung by Shirley Bassey

Reason for choice -

A great popular song and singer.

Finally :

If I could only take one record it would have to be

HALLELUJAH sung by Susan Boyle, a lady from a council flat in West Lothian who surprised the World with her lovely voice. She goes to Church and has won a place in our hearts with her voice and heart warming story.

It's a Dog's Life at Midweek Break



Sorry! That's the best I could come up with. If you can come up with a better caption, please email tomferg80@gmail.com. I might publish any inoffensive ones in the next edition!

LENT COURSE

at Normanton Methodist
Coffee: 7.00pm
Meeting: 7.30—9.00pm
on Thursdays during Lent
First meeting: 17 March
Final meeting: 14 April

Ash Wednesday—Accreditation of Sam Aldridge

On Ash Wednesday, 9 March Sam Aldridge's Local Preacher Accreditation service will take place at Altofts Methodist Church starting at 7.30pm. As it is Ash Wednesday this service will also incorporate an Ashing Ceremony. Refreshments will be served in the schoolroom after the service. You are warmly invited to attend this special occasion.

Chapel Anniversary

Palm Sunday - 17 April

10:45am Family Service led by **Mrs. Sandra Oldroyd** from the Wakefield Circuit.

Coffee and cake served after the service

6:00pm Evening Service led by **Rev. Richard Oldroyd** superintendent designate of the new Aire & Calder Circuit.

All Welcome

Church Activities & Services

Sunday Services

8:30 am
Monthly Communion Service

10:45 am
Morning Service
Junior Church
This service will either be a Family Service or Junior Church will run at the same time.

6:00pm
Evening Service

Please see the plan (opposite) for details of services.

Please see the weekly notice sheet for details of the week's events. These are available in church or on the website at www.altoftsmethodist.org.uk

Weekday Activities

Mondays

Mums and Toddlers: 9:15am
Prayer Meeting: 11:30am
Shell Group (Children's group): 6:30pm

Tuesdays

Tuesday Fellowship: 6:00pm (closes in winter)
Indoor Bowls: 7:00pm
Women's Friendship Group (Monthly): 7:30pm

Wednesdays

Midweek Break (Fortnightly): 10:30am
Table Tennis: 7:30pm

Thursdays

Indoor Bowls: 10:00am
Mums and Toddlers: 1:15pm
Cubs: 6:00pm
Scouts: 7:30pm

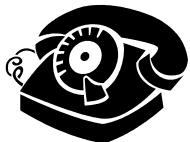
Fridays

Pilates Classes: from 5.45pm

Saturdays

Hailey Black School of Dance: from 10:00am

Contact Details



Minister Rev. Barry Lotz 01924 311726
barry.lotz@gmail.com

Senior Steward Mrs. Hazel Millington 01924 892213

Property Steward (room bookings) Mr. David Whittingham 01924 891761



Notices/GTS Mr. Tom Ferguson 01924 893004
tomferg80@gmail.com

The Plan

The details of Sunday services for March to May 2011 are detailed below.

	6 Mar	13 Mar	20 Mar	27 Mar	
	Transfiguration	Lent 1	Lent 2	Lent 3	
8:30	Lotz HC				
10:45	P Aitchison	Lotz FC*	WL F	Sweeting	
6:00	Mumford	Bradley	Cookson	Lotz HC	
	3 Apr	10 Apr	17 Apr	24 Apr	
	Mothering	Lent 5	Palm Sunday	Easter Day	
8:30	P Aitchison HC				
10:45	Dobson F	Lotz FC	S Oldroyd F CA*	Lotz HC	
6:00	Lotz	Knapper	R Oldroyd CA	Lotz HC	
	1 May	8 May	15 May	22 May	29 May
	Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4	Easter 5	Easter 6
8:30	Lotz HC				
10:45	Lawson	Wilkinson T	P Aitchison HC FW	Lotz F*	WL F
6:00	Brook	WL	Sweeting SOP FW	Lotz HC	U @ venue to be confirmed

A	Junior Church Anniversary	M	Memorial Service
C	Covenant Service	SOP	Songs of Praise
CA	Chapel Anniversary	U	United Service/Churches Together
CT	Christingle Service	WL	Worship leaders to take the service
F	Family Service/All age worship	*	Coffee served and fair-trade stall after the service.
FC	Family Service with Holy Communion	^	Coffee served after the service
FW	Fellowship Weekend		
H	Harvest Festival		
HC	Holy Communion		