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The Grapevine



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June &
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Issue 4

The Church of England in Saddleworth

“Celebrating God’s presence in all people.”

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The Rector writes...

The disciples of Jesus said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray'. These were people who were familiar with Jewish customs and familiar with ritual prayer, structured prayer, formulaic prayer. Yet they asked Jesus to teach them something deeper, something that would sustain them. They recognised in Jesus that his relationship with God went beyond the familiar strict boundaries of known prayer.

Frequently recently I have been approached with the same request, 'Teach us to pray'. It is a cry from the heart. It expresses a desire to be drawn into a deeper life with God; into something that is more than that with which we are familiar. It is a yearning to inhabit a way of living that embraces mystery and silence. It is a desire to live more deeply and more meaningfully in a world where human value is primarily seen through the eyes of productivity, usefulness and success. Silence, which lies at the very heart of prayer, is counter-intuitive in a world of competing, justifying, comparing and winning.

Learning to pray as Jesus taught is more than the reciting of The Lord's Prayer; it is an entering into the depth of the silence which is God. It is discovering God in emptiness and stillness. It is recognising him in all things and at every moment. It is a way of 'being' and is beyond words and thinking, and leads you to fall in love with God.

Throughout the Benefice of Saddleworth over the coming months there will be prayer groups responding to the request 'Teach us to pray'. They will encourage silence and contemplation. They will be advertised in The Grapevine. All are welcome.

Sharon



Index

	Page
The Rector writes	3
Benefice Who's Who	4
Regular Services	6
Roughshod LIVE	7
CTiS Street Pastors	8
Lampedusa Cross	9
Exploring Faith Matters	10
Vulnerable People	10
'Thy Kingdom Come'	11
Parish Registers	12
'Teach us to Pray'	13
Church Volunteers	13
St Thomas Delph	14
Christ Church Denshaw	16
Holy Trinity Dobcross	18
Christ Church Friezland	20
Oldham Pride - 28th July	21
St Mary Greenfield	22
St Anne Lydgate	24
St Chad - Parish Church	26
St Chad - Parish Centre	28
OATIN	29
St Chad - Kilngreen	30
Thinking about adoption	32
A-Z of Discipleship - 'Q'	34




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The Lampedusa Cross

For more information on our cover article please see page 9.

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Church of England in Saddleworth Who's Who

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St Chad Saddleworth - PCC Officers

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Angela Bryan

Hello Saddleworth! I'm Ang, joining the clergy team part-time from May onwards as Children & Young People's Missioner. I'll be living in Grotton with my partner Ali and our cat Pickle. Until Christmas Day 2017 I was Priest-in-Charge of St Thomas' Church, Kirkholt, and Estates Missioner for the Rochdale Deanery (even more of a mouthful than my new post), and Ali has been the Chaplain at Springhill Hospice since 2015. Before that I served my curacy in Tipton, near Dudley in the Black Country, from 2010 to 2014.

In former lives I trained as a primary school teacher, interviewed fishwives as a research assistant, coordinated 80 midweek church groups for a city-centre York church, and was a civil servant managing a large payroll, among other things.

Having been a lone parish vicar in Kirkholt, I am really looking forward to being part of the team of ministers and churches. I love to work creatively but I'm also part of a rare breed of well-organised clergy! To this new role I bring both of these gifts, and a big heart for seeing young people encounter Jesus and live for him.

Since I finished at St Thomas' I have been doing a three-month intensive graphic design course at Shillington College in Manchester. The intention is to explore where this might take me, alongside this new role amongst you. So if you need any wedding invitations, brochures or logos designing...get in touch!

We love to walk on our days off, and are both looking forward to walks straight from the door in Grotton. I also love the theatre, sport, music and board games. Being blessed with vicarages bigger than we need gives us a good excuse to share our home through hospitality whenever we can – there's always a warm welcome and a good brew on offer, so please call in and say hello.



Regular Sunday Services

St Thomas Delph

1st Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion (said)
10:30am Service of the Word

2nd Sunday 9:30am Informal Service
10:30am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion (said)
10:30am Service of the Word
6:30pm Prayer for Healing
with Holy Communion

4th Sunday 9:30am Informal Service
10:30am Holy Communion

5th Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion (said)
10:30am All Age Holy Communion

Christ Church Denshaw

1st Sunday 10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

2nd Sunday 10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)
6:00pm Evensong (BCP)

3rd Sunday 10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

4th Sunday 10:30am Morning Prayer
6:00pm Evensong (BCP)

5th Sunday 10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Holy Trinity Dobcross

1st Sunday 9:30am All Age Eucharist (CW)
10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

2nd Sunday 10:30am Morning Praise
and Sunday School

3rd Sunday 9:30am Little Fishes
10:30am Eucharist (CW)

4th Sunday 10:30am Family Eucharist (CW)

5th Sunday 10:30am Morning Prayer (BCP)

Christ Church Friezland

1st Sunday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

2nd Sunday 9:30am Children's Eucharist (CW)

3rd Sunday 9:30am Morning Prayer

4th Sunday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

5th Sunday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

St Mary Greenfield

1st Sunday 9:00am Early Church ¥
10:30am Eucharist (CW)

2nd Sunday 9:00am Early Church ¥
10:30am Morning Prayer (CW)

3rd Sunday 9:00am Early Church ¥
10:30am Eucharist (CW)

4th Sunday 9:00am Early Church ¥
10:30am Eucharist (CW)

5th Sunday 9:00am Early Church ¥
10:30am Eucharist (CW)
6:30pm Eucharist

¥ 'Early Church' for children and young families.
On special occasions (e.g. Mothering Sunday,
Easter Day, Harvest, Christingle, Nativity, etc.)
we have just one service at 10:30am.

St Anne Lydgate

1st Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Children's Eucharist (CW)
(including Church Parade)

2nd Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Eucharist (CW)

3rd Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Morning Prayer

4th Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Eucharist (CW)

5th Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Eucharist (CW)



The Gospel is a very dangerous idea. We have to see how much of that dangerous idea we can perform in our own lives.

There is nothing innocuous or safe about the Gospel. Jesus did not get crucified because he was a nice man.

Walter Brueggemann

St Chad Saddleworth

On the 5th Sunday all three of the worship centres worship together. The venue is rotated.

29th July 9:30am Eucharist at
Kilngreen Church

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

1st Sunday 9:30am Children's Eucharist

2nd Sunday 9:30am Family Worship

3rd Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and
Sunday School

4th Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and
Sunday School

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church

1st Sunday 11:00am Sung Eucharist

2nd Sunday 11:00am Sung Eucharist

3rd Sunday 11:00am Sung Eucharist

4th Sunday 11:00am Morning Prayer

St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

1st Sunday 9:30am Family Worship

2nd Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and
Sunday School

3rd Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and
Sunday School

4th Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and
Sunday School

Regular Weekday Services

Christ Church Friezland

Tuesday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

Thursday 7:00pm Eucharist (CW)
non-alcoholic wine

St Mary Greenfield

Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist (BCP)

St Anne Lydgate

Wednesday 6:00pm Family Worship

Friday 10:00am Eucharist (CW)

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

Tuesday 9:30am Eucharist

The **Roughshod Theatre Company** is a Christian theatre group, sent out from the Riding Lights Theatre Company each year to work in local communities.

Roughshod will be with us in Saddleworth from 1st to 8th July. Five young people have a show full of sketches and stories which will take up the theme of 'Hope' in sometimes hilarious and sometimes deeply moving ways. There will be drama based on personal stories of the actors, Bible stories, history and legend. They are hugely creative and great to watch.

The main aim is to 'Get Theatre Everywhere' and so during the week they will be leading theatre workshops and giving performances in our local schools and in prison amongst other places. There is great scope for discussion and for opening doors into thinking about faith as well as drama.



A full-length performance on one or two nights of the week (probably including Saturday 7th July) will be included. We would love you to be involved and to help if you can:

- ◆ By keeping the show on the road with financial contributions.
- ◆ By hosting one or more of the five young actors.
- ◆ By providing meals for one or more of the five young actors.
- ◆ By attending a performance!

Please contact Revd Canon Sharon Jones or Revd. Hilary Edgerton if you would like to help.

Book the dates now and look out for more details.

Churches Together in Saddleworth (CTiS)



Churches Together in Saddleworth has made some significant progress in recent weeks concerning the possibility of setting up a Street Pastors Scheme in Uppermill. It would be in collaboration with the Police and Local Authority and would provide a supportive presence on the High Street on Friday and/or Saturday nights.

The first Street Pastors Scheme was started by Revd Les Isaac in London in 2003 and has rapidly spread to other cities and communities. There are now around 300 teams in the UK, including fifteen in Greater Manchester. They are managed by an overarching organisation called The Ascension Trust, which licenses local teams, and provides training, guidance and support. Each team has a coordinator, but all Street Pastors are volunteers, and all must be Christians and worshipping members of their church.

Street Pastors always work in threes, and do one shift a month, so a team of at least sixteen is recommended to cover a monthly rota, also allowing for holidays and sickness. The Street Pastors are also backed up by Prayer Partners who pray with them before each shift and are 'on call' for prayer throughout the evening.



The role of Street Pastors is to care, listen and help by being physically present on the street, being willing to talk and ask questions. It's strongly emphasized that Street Pastors do not go out to preach, just to be alongside people. Although it sounds like a joke, it is nonetheless quite serious that 'the granny effect' can have an incredible impact, meaning that Street Pastors can change the atmosphere just by being there.

A good relationship would need to be established between Street Pastors, shopkeepers and

publicans. Pubs and bars are generally supportive of Street Pastors because they value peaceful and orderly neighbourhoods, and they want people to have a good night out and feel safe and happy to come back again. On-going contact with the Police helps to ensure that Street Pastors are deployed where needed, and a report is produced every week and shared with them to help improve coverage and effectiveness.



PC Lee Cullen is passionate about Street Pastors, and has worked with them in other parts of the Oldham Borough. Now that he is regularly on duty in Uppermill during weekend evenings, he is convinced that Street Pastors would be a real asset. A Saddleworth Management Team is currently being set up to carry the project forward. Church leaders need to sign up to it, but it can then be led by lay people as well as clergy.

Look out for notices in your churches and on our website. You can also find out more about Street Pastors locally and nationally on the internet.

As Christians, we are all called to follow Jesus' new commandment:

*"Just as I have loved you,
you also should love one another"*

(John 13, v34b)

What better time could there be than this, following Easter and Pentecost, and inspired by the love of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to step out from the confines of our church buildings and put our faith into action.

Jesus went on to say:

*"By this, everyone will know that you are my
disciples, if you have love for one another"*

(John 13, v35).

Revd Barbara Christopher

Lampedusa Cross (Cover Article)



The Lampedusa Cross (shown on the front cover) is made from pieces of a boat that was wrecked on 11 October 2013 off the coast of Lampedusa. Lampedusa is an Italian island in the Mediterranean Sea close to the coast of North Africa.

311 Eritrean and Somali refugees were drowned en route from Libya to Europe. Inhabitants of Lampedusa helped to save the lives of 155 others. After meeting some of the survivors who are Eritrean Christians in the church on Lampedusa, Francesco Tuccio, the island's carpenter, was moved by their plight but felt frustrated that he could not make a difference to their situation.

The best he could do was to use his skills as a carpenter to fashion each of them a cross from the wreckage of the boat as a reflection on their salvation from the sea and hope for the future.

Mr Tuccio kindly made the piece for the British Museum (shown on the front cover) to mark an extraordinary moment in European history and the fate of Eritrean Christians. It also stands witness to the kindness of the people of the small island of Lampedusa who have done what they can for the refugees and migrants who arrive on their shores.



Since then Mr Tuccio has made larger crosses that he has sent worldwide to engage people with the tragedy.

The Syrian artist, Issam Kourbaj, incorporated a Lampedusa Cross into the installation of his two works about the humanitarian crisis faced by refugees from the Middle East.



In 'Dark Water, Burning World' little boats made from recycled bicycle mudguards filled with huddled groups of people represented by burnt matchsticks reflect how the rich, beautiful, abundant sea has become a terrifying expanse on which the lives or deaths of thousands are decided.

This is installed with 'Lost'; two children's t-shirts, hanging like rags, each have an identification scribbled on them:

- † Unknown Boy No. 741 - 15-11-15
- † Unknown Girl No. 872 - 19-12-15.



These unidentified children were found on the island of Lesbos. They have no grave, no memorial. What happened to their parents, family? Who knows? Soon they will be forgotten.

But God does not forget.

Exploring Faith Matters



“The best thing since sliced bread”

When I came as Team Rector to Saddleworth in 2008 I had already been an Efm mentor in the USA for many years.

The programme, which is American, seeks to enable a theologically literate laity to take back control of the Church. Over 40 people from within Saddleworth and further afield have passed through Efm since 2008. Some of them you might know well: Revd Jackie Calow, Revd Pat Gillian, Revd Ian Brocklehurst, Janet Iles, Val Stocker, Rachel Damianou, to name but a few.

The programme does not expect that people will go onto train for ordained ministry but throughout the question is always being asked of individuals:

“What is God calling you to do now?”

and occasionally someone will say that they believe that they are called to ordination. Others have found their ministries working with asylum seekers, others with Citizens Advice Bureau, others have taken on Accredited Lay Ministries and all have taken a more active role in the life of their parish community.

Efm does not require you to have anything but an enquiring mind and a willingness to open yourself to new learning about your faith. There are no written papers or examinations; no one forces you to do more than you can cope with week to week.



Bishop David Walker, when he came to visit us some weeks ago, commented on the dedication and perseverance that people showed and their willingness to grapple with complex Biblical and theological issues.

The programme runs for four years but no one commits to doing more than a year at a time. Some people have taken several more years because they have had to take a break in the middle for work or family commitments. At the end of each person's second year I tell them that they have probably read more of the Bible with clear explanations than many clergy did in their training. That is one of the strengths of Efm.

If you would like to know more then please contact me frchristopher@icloud.com and we will invite you to join us for a coffee morning taster session in the summer. We will not ask you to commit there and then but simply to give it your consideration.

Revd Dr Christopher Halliday

Vulnerable People (everybody's responsibility)

Regardless of who we are, we are all made in the image of God and our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. As you read this, how do you think of your body? Is it just something you have or do you honour it because God created you?

*“For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you,
for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;...”
(Psalm 139 v13-14)*

These words from Psalm 139 tell us we can not only honour our own bodies and our whole being but also that of others. Within our churches we

have such a vast spectrum of people. We have not just the young and old but also the fit and infirm both in body and mind. We have people who come from all kinds of backgrounds and social environments. For each of us, from the super confident to the most timid, our churches are to be places of safety and we have a responsibility to ensure that they stay that way.

Over recent years the Church of England has been challenged with safeguarding issues. During that time the Diocese of Manchester has put into place safeguarding training and policies. However, the policies are pieces of paper and the training serves no purpose if not put into practice.

As the people of God we all need to embrace that it is our duty to do all that is in our power to provide a safe church environment. This requires that we 'keep our ear to the ground' and that we are ever watchful for those who may be or are vulnerable. It may surprise you to know that even the most confident person in the congregation may be vulnerable! Their vulnerability may just be hidden.

Each of our places of worship have details of contacts on Safeguarding notice boards should you need to speak to someone if you see or suspect a safeguarding issue. Do not hesitate in reporting anything that causes you concern, it is better to be

safe than sorry. It is your responsibility to report anything that worries or concerns you, please do not dismiss anything.

To support you, regardless of your position in your church or the role you play in the congregation, you are invited to the Safeguarding Training organised by the diocese on 5th June from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Holy Trinity Dobcross.

For further details contact or speak to your local Safeguarding Officer; their contact details are on your church notice board.

Revd John Rosedale

'Thy Kingdom Come'

"Thy Kingdom Come" invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.

In 2016 the Archbishops of Canterbury and York invited the whole of the Church of England to pray for the nation. From those early beginnings it has grown and has become a global and ecumenical prayer movement.

The hope is that:

- † people will commit to pray with God's world-wide family - as a church, individually, or as a family;
- † churches will hold prayer events, such as 24/7 prayer, prayer stations and prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world;
- † people will be empowered by the Holy Spirit through prayer finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

Seeking to encourage people to not only pray but to also engage with the art of Sieger Köder, St Thomas Delph was open daily for six days between Ascension and Pentecost.

There were quiet spaces to look at one or more of Köder's pictures to ask what it meant and there were opportunities to pray for friends, neighbours, ourselves and the world.

An activity suggested by "Thy Kingdom Come" is to pray for five friends. This can be done at home, taking the bus, on a walk (with or without a dog) or in a place of worship!

Choose five people to pray for and write their names down onto a list. If you're not sure who to



pray for, ask God to guide you as you choose. Once you have settled on five names, commit to praying for them regularly by praying the following:

*Loving Father,
in the face of Jesus Christ
your light and glory have blazed forth.
Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with my
friends [here, name your friends]
the life of your Son and your love for all.
Strengthen me as a witness to that love
as I pledge to pray for them,
for your name's sake. Amen.*

Other ideas can be found on the website:

www.thykingdomcome.global

Revd John Rosedale

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

Christ Church Denshaw

15th April Marnie Rose Edwards

Holy Trinity Dobcross

22nd April Archie Edward Jackson

Christ Church Friezland

25th March Isla Alice

St Mary Greenfield

22nd April Ava Megan Lea-Davies

22nd April Arlo John Lea-Davies

22nd April Matilda Amelia Simpson

St Anne Lydgate

8th April Eira Grace Collins

15th April Isabella Darcie Moses

5th May Penelope Anne Walters

6th May Melissa Humphreys

St Chad Saddleworth

15th April Gracie May Platt

Welcomed into the fellowship of faith.

Marriages

St Anne Lydgate

21st April Clare Lianne Turner and
Edward Aldrich Richard Luby

5th May Rachel Kate Wilson and
Ian Rowland

St Chad Saddleworth

7th April Abbie Bywater and
Thomas Frost

Joined in mutual love and companionship.



Funerals

Christ Church Denshaw

30th April Jill Wills

Christ Church Friezland

24th April Terence Worrall

St Mary Greenfield

29th March Herbert Heys

St Chad Saddleworth

8th March Vera Say

14th March Steven Hughes

23rd March Anthony Nelson

26th March Zoran Milovanovic

28th March Christine Johnson

11th April Trevor Garlick

17th April Brian Gartside

19th April George Bamforth

May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

You are invited to ...
A QUIET DAY
'Food for the Journey'



Saturday 2nd June - 11:00am to 4:00pm
Christ Church Friezland

In the Bible we find many characters who discover strength for their souls and their faith as well as for their bodies over a meal. Come and meet them again.

There will be three short times of input from the speaker on themes in the Bible, each followed by quiet time to think about what these things mean for us. We share lunch together and end the day with informal worship and prayer.



Church of England in Saddleworth

"Celebrating God's presence in all people."

'Teach us to Pray'

These one hour sessions will be held on Monday evenings at 8:00pm at the Saddleworth Rectory on Station Road, Uppermill on 11th June, 18th June, 25th June and 2nd July.



Contact the Team Rector if you are interested in attending.

Church Volunteers

This article has been prompted by the reflections of Joan Whalley from Friezland.

Church Volunteers



Although being a volunteer has been part of our culture for a long time, this is not always the case in other parts of the world. Here in the UK we are encouraged to volunteer for roles when finances do not stretch to employing people. Young people particularly participate in projects nationally and internationally to broaden their life-experience and to offer something back to their community. The country functions mainly due to the armies of volunteers particularly the recently or early retired, who help run charitable enterprises, assist in public service and take a lead in schools and churches. The word 'volunteer' has replaced the now unfashionable language of 'duty' and 'obligation'.

However, this concept of being a volunteer in the Church is relatively new and would be alien to the early Church. Today, churches that have a deep understanding of what it means to be the Body of Christ have no difficulty in recruiting people for a diverse set of responsibilities. They understand that being part of the church means every single person recognising that the individual abilities and gifts they have are given by God, and together make up the whole. They are for service in his church and community; given to be shared and given away.

Saint Paul teaches us a lot about the way we are called by God to model our life together in Romans 12, v3 - 13 and 1 Corinthians 12, v4 - 31. These passages are powerful and worthy of reading.

A big thank you to:

- † The priests who serve this Benefice whilst holding down full-time and part-time careers;
- † The churchwardens who during the week continue to work hard as the eyes and ears of the congregation and as the Bishop's legal representatives;
- † The sidespeople who welcome our congregations into church;
- † Those on refreshment duty setting up ready for tea and coffee after the service;
- † The Sacristan setting out the bread and wine ready for communion;
- † The choir members for leading our worship in the singing of hymns, anthems, etc;
- † The Junior Church leaders spending hours preparing activities;
- † Those who wash up, clear up and lock up;
- † The Lay Assistants, readers, intercessors and the pew-sheet editors;
- † PCC members and Accredited Lay Ministers;
- † 'Little Lights' staff and the volunteers who run the coffee shop on Thursday afternoons which includes baking cakes to sell along with the tea and coffee;
- † Church cleaners;
- † Committee members who dedicate time and energy fund-raising and organising events;
- † Anyone we may have inadvertently missed.

Thank you to all who play their full part in the on-going life and mission of the church in this community. As Jesus himself says:

'When you have done all that you have been told to do, say, "we have done no more than our duty"'

(Luke 17, v10)

St Thomas Delph

Heights Church 250th Anniversary

On the weekend of Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th June 2018 the St Thomas Friarmere parish will celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the opening of a chapel at Heights.

The planned programme of events is as follows:

Saturday 23rd June

2:00pm Open Afternoon

4:00pm Evensong

Sunday 24th June

10:30am Eucharist led by Bishop of Middleton
The Right Revd Mark Davies.

1:00pm Open Afternoon

4:00pm Songs of Praise



Refreshments and commemorative pens will be on sale. On both afternoons when the Church is open there will be various displays:

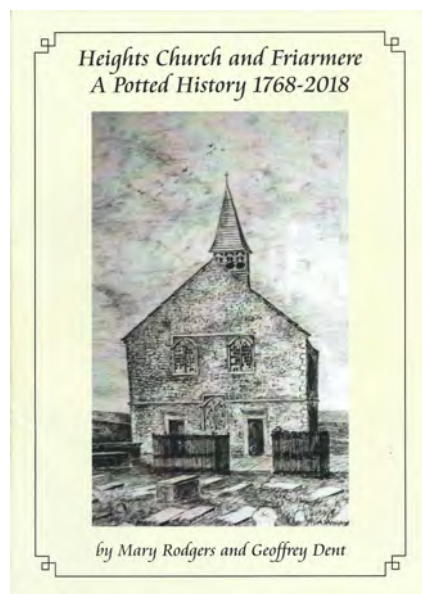
- † The Piecemakers are making a special Tapestry to celebrate the Anniversary;
- † local artists have been approached to display their work;
- † historical information boards will be on show.

We are hoping to mount the original patterns used for the wall decorations. Weather permitting short tours will take place based on graveyard plans and notable memorials in the commemorative book.

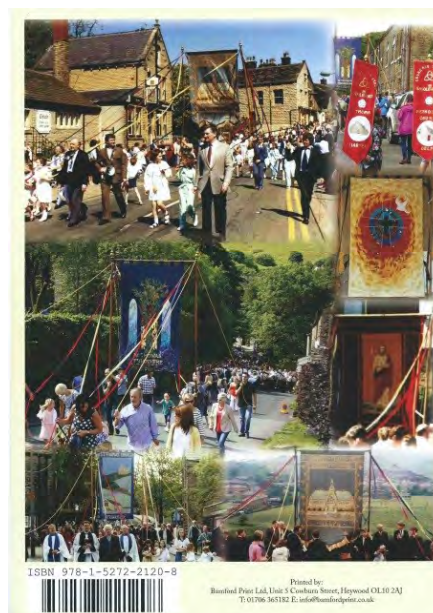
Can you find Horatio Nelson ?

The book, "Heights Church and Friarmere - A Potted History 1758 - 2018", will be available (£15) with the authors, Mary Rodgers and Geoffrey Dent, present for discussion of the contents. These include a History of Heights until the closure, St Hilda's conversion to St Thomas' to the present, a history of Whit Friday and other notable events.

There are pictures of all the stained glass windows in both Heights and the former St Hilda's. The front cover contains an original drawing of Heights by Ammon Wrigley, given to a former churchwarden.



Inside is a previously unpublished dialect poem, by Ammon Wrigley, sent to Mary's grandfather. An attempt at a translation in the modern idiom is published. Can you achieve a better version ?



Both authors have a lifetime association with the parish. As well as the historical facts they have collected contributions and recollections from a wide range of, past and present, inhabitants and congregation members. John Battye has amusing memories of church and village life in the 1950s and 1960s. The late Joan Senior's significant work on the Whit Friday Banners and the graveyard is also recorded.

If anyone wishes to order a copy of the book please contact Geoffrey Dent on 01457 874027.

Alternatively, send cheques for £17 (including postage) made out to "St Thomas Friarmere PCC" to "Heights Book, c/o John Battye, 23 Hillside Ave, Grotton, Oldham, OL4 5 SG". Please include your contact information.

The Late Joan Senior

3rd July 1934 – 5th April 2018

Joan Senior, and her family, have a lifelong association with St Thomas' Friarmere both at Heights and the former St Hilda's in the village. She was a stalwart of the church, ever present, carrying out many of those 'behind the scenes' but necessary jobs. For many years she was sidesman at the 8:00am Eucharist on a Sunday. She organised the parish magazine distribution, looked after the church linen and as soon as Whit Friday was over she would wash and iron the banner ribbons ready for next year.



Joan was an original contributor to a 200th Anniversary History booklet. She was a very keen and strong supporter of the current book being written. It is very sad that she did not see the final print. Her efforts in producing both the current and intermediate banners are recorded as well as her work in Heights graveyard. She became a custodian of the redundant church and the 'keeper'

of its graveyard for many years together with her husband, Alan. They were rewarded for the latter by attendance at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in 2008.

Joan sadly died as a result of an accident at her home. Her funeral, fittingly, was held at Heights Chapel on Tuesday, 17th April to a packed congregation. The service was conducted by Revd John Rosedale, who had collated a great deal of information about Joan's life.

A good friend of Joan's read the poem, "The Dash", by Linda Ellis. The first lesson was from Hebrews Chapter 11 and the second, from the Gospel of John, Chapter 14: "Let not your heart be troubled." A lively rendering of "All things bright and beautiful", Joan's favourite hymn, was given.

Joan's body was interred in the graveyard at Heights, where she was laid beside her dearly-loved husband, Alan. The weather was doing what it invariably does at Heights, pouring down.

A Personal Journey

Heather Swiatyj started her placement in Delph at the end of February. She was advised by her Associate Director of Ordinands that it would be beneficial for her to sample a different experience of Anglicanism from her home church Holy Trinity Coldhurst.

Heather's strong sense of vocation/calling came to her when she was nursing her dying mother from alcoholism. Whilst ministering to her mother she felt a moment of surrender to the Lord Jesus. Some years previously she had felt the same on seeing a painting of "The Light of the World" by Holman Hunt.

Shortly after her mother died, Heather attended a memorial service at Holy Trinity Coldhurst. There she realised that this was both the church and the denomination for her. Seven months later the parish priest offered her the Authorised Lay Ministry forms, encouraging her to do the Pastoral care elective.

There are still many stages to be undertaken before Heather knows whether she will be accepted for training, for which we must all pray.

Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Geoff Dent	geoffreydent@btinternet.com	01457 874027
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Church Hall Bookings	Alison Lambert		01457 875141
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Christ Church Denshaw

Eco Church

The main topic of conversation in Denshaw in April has been the first really noticeable move for the parish as an Eco-Church. As mentioned previously, a great deal of work has been done already in planning, learning and deciding on ways forward.

However, on the hottest recorded April day since 1949, Revd Philip Williamson, PCC member Mike Billing and a couple of workers from Groundwork Trust, set about the outdoor work in earnest. They were continuing and expanding on the work that our treasurer Carole and her husband had started some time ago. After several hours work, two individuals, now with healthy looking tans, emerged from the undergrowth at the end of a hard but seemingly enjoyable day. We think the home-made cake provided by PCC member Elizabeth Feber was an additional incentive!



Philip has kindly sent the article below which helps outline the work being done at the moment and what the PCC hope to eventually achieve.



Christ Church Denshaw - Nature Garden

We all remember the song:

*If you go down to the woods today,
you're sure of a big surprise.
If you go down to the woods today,
You'd better go in disguise.
For every bear that ever there was
will gather there for certain because
today's the day the teddy bears have their picnic.*

If you step into the wooded area which leads from Huddersfield Road to the west of the church, adjacent to the graveyard you will get a surprise. You won't, in all likelihood, find teddy bears picnicking, but you will, hopefully, notice a difference.



Large areas of the dense vegetation have been cleared as we begin work on our Nature Garden. This is the latest project in our work as an Eco Church.

Supported by Groundwork Oldham, we have had plans drawn up to make this God-given space an eco-friendly resource for the use of the church, our church school and the wider village community.

The tract of land was bequeathed to the church to become an extension to the graveyard. It remains so and, in the future it may well be needed for the burial of human remains. However, until that time comes we want to use it for the benefit of the living - both human and our fellow creatures.



The plan for the “garden” is to have a mulch-based footpath running through it and an “outside classroom” for use by Sunday School, our church



school and other groups. We also intend to fix bird boxes and situate “bug hotels” in various places. We have already built our first log-pile to encourage hedgehogs.

Like Rome, this project won't be built in a day. There's a lot of work to be done and several thousand pounds to be raised before we can complete the project. However, we've made an exciting start.

We will value enormously your prayerful support for this scheme and we look forward to a resource that can be enjoyed by the whole village community.

Revd Philip Williamson

School News

As always the Summer term at Christ Church school looks set to be a busy one. Once SATs are over everyone can breathe a sigh of relief. There is much to look forward to, not least the end of summer term. On 15th June the year six leavers will go to Manchester Cathedral for the annual Leavers service. This is an exciting and moving event. The children will take with them a banner indicating Christ Church as their school, teachers are asked to ensure this happens so that all the schools are easily identified. The annual Leavers/Awards service will take place in church as usual at the end of the 2018 academic year.

Whit Friday

Preparations are well in hand for Denshaw's Whit Friday and like all the Saddleworth villages, praying for fine weather. Unlike most of the other schools in the Saddleworth area, Christ Church does not close for Whit Friday but walks as a whole school behind the Christ Church banner. Many parents also join the procession. This became the custom when the Friday walk was re-introduced following the success of the Denshaw band contest and pressure from some of the parents to make the day a whole day event like the rest of Saddleworth, with church and school working together.

The village had walked on Whit Sunday for very many years, but the Friday walk was an immediate success, the only problem being finding a band. Various bands helped out over the years but for one reason or another could not commit to doing the job each year. However, when brass band entrepreneur Phil Beckwith heard about the plight of the village walk and that it may be unable to continue, he found a band from Switzerland willing to take on the job. The band were excellent, they loved the village and the atmosphere, even learning to play 'Hail Smiling Morn'. Each year since, a band from Switzerland has played in Denshaw and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. This year will be no different and Brass Band Dagmersellen will ensure the strains of Hail Smiling Morn are heard in Denshaw along with the other Saddleworth villages. The village has a lot to thank Philip for and are always grateful for his great organisation and enthusiasm.



Parish Contacts

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Advertise in The Grapevine

Bi-monthly production of 900+ copies, full colour A4 pages, distributed throughout Saddleworth.

The bi-monthly fees per issue are: A4 full page £110, ½ page £55, ⅓ page £40, ¼ page £30, ⅙ page £25, ⅛ page £20.

Closing date for next issue (Issue 5) is Thursday 21st June 2018.

For further information contact Sue Willett on grapevineadvertising@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk

Holy Trinity Dobcross

School Links – An appeal to the Dobcross Community

Since 2013 Holy Trinity Primary School has had almost £100,000 cut from its annual budget, during which time costs of running the school have been steadily rising. Unfortunately, it is struggling from further cuts to its funding this year. As a result, the school is finding it difficult to support the individual needs of children that it would hope to be able to provide.

The governors decided that the time had come to call a meeting for the Dobcross community to discuss the threats that continuing funding cuts



were having on the education for children in the school. The meeting on Wednesday 14th March attracted a large enthusiastic group across a wide age

range. The Chair of Governors, Robin Lord, and two members of the Finance Committee explained that, despite two redundancy processes in recent years, the school is now facing a financial crisis. The appeal went out for help in many areas – time, skills or experience e.g. lunch-time supervision, listening to children read, tidying classrooms or even direct financial support. It was heartening to know that many offerings of help were received on the night to support this excellent school.

The Community comes Together for Christian Aid Week - 13th to 19th May

“Together We’re Stronger than the Storms”



Once again, the people of Dobcross have been supporting this appeal to raise money for communities in

many parts of the world who face natural disasters, civil wars or humanitarian crises.

David Pain, the Director of Supporter Partnerships, explains that Christian Aid operates through partner organisations rather than sending large numbers of

international aid workers into poor countries where they are far from home and hold important positions. Working through partners at least ensures that people have a deeper relationship with staff who are from – and accountable to – the very communities they are serving. Christian Aid has a clear code of conduct to do everything it can to prevent cases of unacceptable behaviour happening. As a faith-based organisation, the dignity of all people is at the heart of our purpose.

There is still a great need to help the people of Haiti recover from the terrifying night in October 2016 when Hurricane Matthew hit, leaving more than eight hundred dead and thousands more homeless. At the same time, Christian Aid has been supporting the thousands of Rohingya refugees crossing the border into Bangladesh. Long term programmes in health care, education and agriculture continue in Nigeria, Sudan, Kenya and in war-torn Syria.

Our help is needed for work to continue and Christian Aid week is the time to show this help. Dobcross has been committed to this appeal for over forty years and each year responds by raising approximately £1,000 from the house-to-house collection. Thank you to everyone who delivered and collected red envelopes and who donated to this worthy cause. We will let you know how we got on this year in the next Grapevine.

Dorothy and Bob Townend
(Christian Aid co-coordinators)

Our Mission Action Plan (MAP)

The Future

“Where are we going? - How do we get there?”

At a recent Morning Praise service, Graham McGuffie outlined our plans for the future. Through consultation our congregation emphasised the need to make room for all, welcome new folk and help them to belong. A future goal is for lay and ordained to work as a team and provide the necessary leadership. Our children and explorers in faith will be welcomed and nurtured to know Jesus for themselves.

In five years time we want to be seen as responding to human need in loving service, understanding the needs of our neighbours and

channelling the enthusiasm of our congregation, particularly our children so it will be more widely known.

At Holy Trinity there is both evidence of decline and some areas of growth. The building itself has some iconic status within the village and the community acted positively to support when funds were raised to restore the listed building. We are not adding to our numbers but thankful we were able to pay our Parish Share in full last year. Little Fishes and Sunday Club are a lively side of church activities and we have positive relationships with our primary school. In the MAP process so far, we have celebrated our togetherness with Parish Meals e.g. on Mothering Sunday and an Easter Breakfast which have been well received and attended. We are looking forward to continuing the togetherness with a picnic after the Dedication of Textiles service on 13th May.



Graham McGuffie

St Swithin's Day - 15th July



St Swithin (or Swithun, as his name is sometimes spelt) died in 862. He was the spiritual adviser of Egbert, King of Wessex and the teacher of his son. In 1852 Swithin became the Bishop of Winchester when the city was the principal

town of Wessex. Little is known of Swithin's life, except he requested that when he died, he was to be buried outside the church "under the feet of passers-by". He would have sunk into obscurity, had it not been for the vision of a later Bishop of Winchester who gave instructions that St Swithin's body should be moved into an honoured place in the cathedral.



On the day that the body was to be moved (15th July), it poured with rain and the coffin could not be moved. The rain continued for forty days and people said that this was a sign of

St Swithin's annoyance at being moved from the humble resting place he had chosen himself.

This legend may be the origin of the saying that, if it rains on St Swithin's Day (15th July), then it will rain for forty days afterwards.

However, the story does not end there, as new material has recently emerged about one of Britain's best-known saints. Almost five hundred years after his skeletal relics disappeared at the Reformation, his skull was found on the other side of the Channel, in Evreux Cathedral in Normandy. Now some historians hope that Winchester might rebuild the lost shrine where his relics were once kept. Analysis of a series of carved Purbeck marble, found in the Cathedral Close, has allowed medieval art experts to complete a computer re-creation of the 15th century shrine. At some time in the future, St Swithin may return to his home and have a place in the social history of the time and not just be part of weather-lore fame.

Saddleworth 'Sing for Pleasure' Choir Summer Concert

with special guests

**Oldham Music Service
Youth Wind Ensemble**



at
7:30pm
on
Saturday
23rd June



Tickets £5:00 available on the door.

The choir's programme will be varied and include traditional folksongs, sacred music, popular light classical pieces as well as a set of Everly Brothers' songs!



Parish Contacts

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Christ Church Friezland

Good Friday Children's Workshop

On Friday 30th March I went to the Good Friday Workshop at the Parish Centre in Uppermill.

On arrival we made some slime and I coloured mine blue! A lot of people from different churches wanted to make slime, so we all came together as a community!

Next, we made bread like at The Last Supper. This involved taking the pre-made dough and everyone shaping it into their own design, before it was baked in the oven. It was very tasty! After that, I decorated a gingerbread disciple. It was very tasty too!



Later on, I made a miniature Garden of Gethsemane: putting soil into a plastic bowl; adding little stones for rocks and a moss-like material to stop the soil from hardening. We then

made a cross from twigs and attached a poem to it using a cocktail stick. At home we used this as our table decoration over the Easter weekend.

Next, I did some Hama beads. This is where small, coloured plastic beads are attached to a template in your chosen design. Then they are ironed using a heat-proof paper to melt the plastic and secure the shape before it cools and is removed from the template. Mine was in the shape of a love heart to remind us that Easter is all about God showing love for us.

However, I needed a bag to put all my goodies in, so I decorated a paper bag with stickers. After that, I went upstairs and there was a large paper cross laid out on the floor. You could draw a picture on it or remember someone who has passed away or pray for someone in need (by putting a rose on the cross). Sharon was there too!

Downstairs again, we went outside and did an Easter Chick Hunt in the garden.

Aaron was there and he taught us all a song that he had been doing in schools around Saddleworth. It had actions and everyone joined in. Even the adults!

By Niamh Carson, Age 10

Christ Church Friezland presents: The Monday Mondays

An award winning mixed voice contemporary choir, formed in 2010, singing pop and jazz songs in unaccompanied "a cappella" style.

Songs are performed in entertaining 5-part arrangements. You won't hear anything like them anywhere else!

Their musical repertoire is designed to please every kind of audience. Examples include popular hits by Queen, The Who, Erasure, James Bay, Elvis, Sting, The Stones, ELO, Coldplay, Keane and the Beach Boys.

Saturday 9th June at 7:30pm in the church.

Tickets just £6 with refreshments available to purchase on the night.

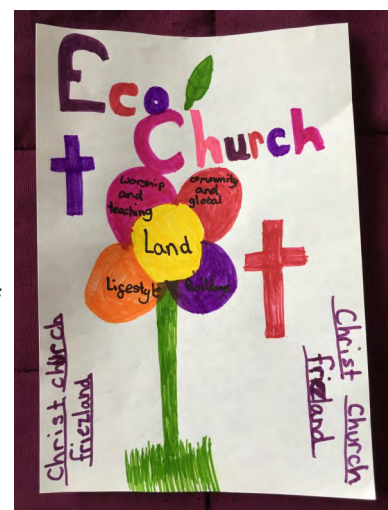
Contact Elaine on 07764 658349 to book your ticket now!

Eco Church

This is a project run by the charity A Rocha UK in which churches complete an online survey about how they are caring for God's earth in different areas of their life and work. Responses about Worship & Teaching; Buildings; Land; Community & Global and Lifestyle are all awarded points that total up towards (hopefully) an Eco Church Award.

It is a great way to find out what we already do well in caring for creation, our community and ourselves! However, ultimately it is about improving what we do by motivating and enabling us all to better look after God's creation.

The Benefice of Saddleworth is encouraging all of its churches to become Eco Churches, so Christ Church Friezland has assigned 'Eco Church Champions' to (first of all) establish a baseline rating, which is on target for...A Bronze Award!



But as we are still going for Gold, watch this space for more information and handy tips on what YOU can easily do to make the world a better place!

Eco-Tips:

Use a super strong butterfly binder clip to wrap and squeeze a half-empty toothpaste tube – saving mess and money!

A Load of Old Rubbish! (An alternative service)

Sunday 1st July at 3:00pm, Christ Church Friezland (in church).

All are welcome to join us as we do things a bit differently in this service on the theme of The Environment, with refreshments provided at the start.

Men at Lunch

Friday 1st June from 1:00pm at (probably) Dysarts Arms, Mossley.

Usually we meet up on the last



Friday of the month from 1:00pm at The Wellington ('Welly'), Greenfield. Food is available for those who want to eat or just call in for a drink and a chat. Everyone is welcome!

Normal service will be resumed on Friday 29th June at The Wellington ('Welly'), Greenfield.

“When two or three are gathered together”

or four or five, or even six or seven...

Christ Church, Friezland hosts two mid-week Eucharists: 9:30am Tuesdays; 7:00pm Thursday - lasting approx. 30 minutes...Candles are lit, priest robed, readings prepared and... “The Peace of God which passes all understanding” is delivered. We are truly blessed.

Those of us who attend really value the sacred space in the middle of the week and welcome any and all who would like to take a moment out of their busy (or perhaps not-so busy) schedule to meet with God and with each other.

Parish Contacts

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ALM Community Outreach	Peter Whalley	loch2lock@btinternet.com	07746 665404
ALM Prayer and Spirituality	Megan Harrison	megharrison64.aol.com	07817 771663

Oldham Pride on 28th July

It is Oldham Pride on Saturday 28th July. Pride events usually involve parades and sometimes music, stalls, feather boas and lots of fun. Oldham Pride is our nearest Pride.

Pride is held in many towns and cities every year to celebrate and support Lesbians, Gay men, Bisexuals and Transgender people and those who are Questioning (LGBTQ people). This is needed because too many of God's children still live with discrimination, misunderstanding and prejudice. Pride

This is important for the Church of England in Saddleworth because the LGBTQ community are part of our lives; not always visible but very much here and accepted in our churches.

There will be a Church of England in Saddleworth presence at Oldham Pride this year. We want to represent ourselves as LGBTQ siblings in Christ who worship together across the churches.

If you are 'LGBTQ' or wish to show that you too believe that Christ's love is inclusive and for everyone equally regardless of sexual orientation we would love you to walk in the parade with us.

Contact Revd Canon Sharon Jones for further information. We look forward to seeing you.

St Mary Greenfield

St Mary's Primary School News

Hello from St Mary's, I trust this extract finds you all well and in good health.

'When the winds are soft, and the days are warm and clear - just like a gentle lamb, then spring is here'



As we move through the seasons once again, it is a great pleasure to be here at St Mary's. During our daily act of collective worship, we continue to develop an understanding of our Christian values, with a particular focus this term on **thankfulness and hope**. Our children are also encouraged to reflect upon why it is 'Good to be me' and the benefit of 'good relationships'. Great importance is given to children identifying their strengths and how it is important to highlight the good qualities and strengths of others.

We are pleased to welcome Miss Gemma Robinson who is our newly appointed Midday Supervisor and welcome Mrs Barker back from maternity leave, who is currently job sharing with Mrs Tracey Meadham in year 1. We are sad to hear that Miss Kelly Wike will be leaving St Mary's at the end of July and are busy recruiting a new teacher for September.

Our talented dancers took part in 'The Great Big Dance Off'. This competition was held in Warrington and the team pulled off an amazing performance with every single member giving it their all. They all looked the part in their amazing costumes and performed a spectacular routine, finishing a very respectful fifth place.



Spring announced itself with daffodils popping their heads up out of the ground and the better weather has started to show itself. This is a time of thoughtful reflection on the past, followed by the promise of a renewed faith and hope in

the future. I wish you God's richest blessings for the season and hope that the Spring brings you lots of renewed joy and happiness.

Mrs Suzanne M Hall

Road End Fair

Our stall and raffle made £400.20 on Maundy Thursday morning. All raffle prizes have been claimed.



Thanks go to Ann King and her team for running the stall, and to all who brought and bought.

Special thanks to young Ellie-May, grand-daughter of the landlord of The King Bill, who kept us supplied (free of charge) with coffee and toast on what was a very cold day.

Saddleworth Above & Beyond Award



Congratulations to our Church Charity Shop workers who have won the 2018 award. Our shop manager, Lynda McGowan, gathered with shop workers to accept the trophy and framed certificate from Ken Bennett when he visited the shop. They are now on show in the shop.

St Mary's Church Summer Afternoon Tea

at Boarshurst Band Club,
Greenbridge Lane, Greenfield

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Saturday 23rd June

Entrance fee including Afternoon Tea:
Adults £10.00 and Children £2.00

All are welcome!



Reflection and looking forward

As you read this, Easter will see a long time ago, but I pray that its message is never old or forgotten, but always feels fresh and new as we live our lives in response to the extent of God's love for us all. This year, for the first time, St Mary's was pleased to host the Easter Eve Vigil service on behalf of the benefice, which took us from the pain and agony of Jesus' death and the darkness of the tomb, as his disciples mourned the loss of their friend, right through to the joy of resurrection and new life.



St Mary's held its Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 29th April, when the usual appointments were made. I would like to thank everyone who has served and continues to serve St Mary's Church in any and every way. There are too many people to mention individually, but I must name Pat Bottom, who has been the sole churchwarden for the last seven years. She has been absolutely dedicated and committed, and has managed a huge workload, over and above the duties of a churchwarden. Everything she has done has been for the good of St Mary's, and she could always be relied upon to be there, and to be busy.

As Pat's term of office had to come to an end because of the Church Representation Rules, we are grateful that Brian Greenwood has stepped forward, and was elected as churchwarden. Brian has served in this role for very many years in the past, so he is well experienced, and we know that the church has passed from one pair of safe hands to another. But we still need a second churchwarden, and are taking every opportunity to appeal and to pray for help to come forward.

Around the time of the APCM, the work to drain and resurface the car park at church was also completed. This is the final stage of the work that began with the building of the toilets and kitchen extension in 2016, and it has made the whole building look tidier, more welcoming and even more well-loved. It also saves having to clean muddy shoes several times a week after trekking across the car park to the vestry door! We are grateful that this additional work was made possible because of the success of our charity shop, so once again a big thank you to all who bring, buy, and work there.

At the time of writing, we are still looking forward to



Ascension Day, Pentecost and Whit Friday, and to various other events that are advertised elsewhere in The Grapevine. However, amidst praise and celebration, it is always worthwhile, as we do each week in church, to pause and give thanks for those whose names appear in our Book of Remembrance. In June and July, we particularly remember Nancy Warren, Shirley Barbara Taylor, Barbara Partington and Eric Thomas Hill. As we pray for them, we also pray for their families and friends who love and miss them.

Remembering those we love who have died reminds us that our God is the God of Life, and even more importantly of Eternal Life, which brings me to a quotation attributed to Mark Twain: 'The two most important days in your life are the day you were born, and the day you find out why'. May we all live our lives in the knowledge of God's purpose for us, and with his constant guidance and blessing.

With my love to you all,

Barbara



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Flower Secretary	Pam Butler pambutler2@tiscali.co.uk	01457 876982
Gift Aid Secretary	Elizabeth Pilkington lizhp2170@lizhp2170.plus.com	01457 837268
Charity Shop Manager	Lynda McGowan shel48@live.co.uk	07708 996919
St Mary's School, Headteacher	Mrs S M Hall info@greenfieldstmary.oldham.sch.uk	01457 872264

St Anne Lydgate

St Anne's Little Lambs



We would like to welcome you to a new service we are starting in St Anne's Church, Lydgate on



Tuesday 5th June from 9:15 am to 10:00 am aimed at pre-school children from babies to those near to starting school. We plan to run this in term times beginning with the second half of summer term.

Start your children on their faith journey to become little disciples. During the service there will be a dramatic story as we "open the box to see what story we have this week". The service will also contain a short prayer and a little song (maybe with instruments).

At the end of the service we will introduce a craft or other activity aimed at this age group and there will be refreshments for everyone. We want activity and refreshment time to be an opportunity when Mums, Dads, Grandparents and carers can have a chat, make new friends and build up community. The timing will also work with those that drop off youngsters at school and allow enough time to walk from school to church on Stockport Road.

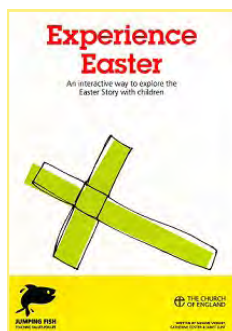
Everyone is welcome, just turn up on the day or when you can. If you have any questions or want further details, please contact me by telephone: 01457 870162 or 07969 852149 or by email at patgillian@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk

Revd Pat Gillian

Easter Reflections

I hope you are sat reading this on a splendid sunny day and those cold, wintery days of March are just a distant memory. I'd like to share with you a couple of experiences from back in those 'beastly March days', both relating to Easter.

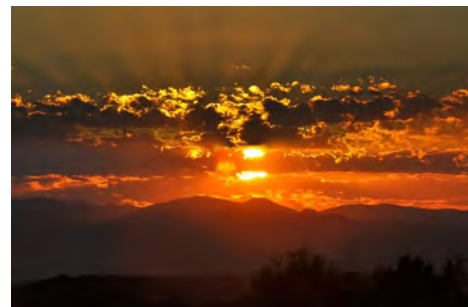
The first was our Easter experience that we hold in church for a class of children from St Anne's school. We hold 4 experiences throughout the year, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest. I think the Easter experience is a time when the children get a much better understanding of what happened at Easter time over 2000 years ago and it is quite thought provoking for them.



The stations they experience are:

- † The Garden of Gethsemane: how Jesus went to pray there before he was arrested.
- † Palm Sunday: when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey at the start of Holy Week.
- † The washing of the disciples feet by Jesus before the Last Supper, and the fact that Jesus asked the disciples to go out and do for others as he had done for them.
- † The Last Supper: the children learn how this is repeated every week in the Eucharist services, using the same words that Jesus used.
- † The crucifixion: how Jesus was nailed to the cross and died.
- † The resurrection: this is set out in the altar table, a lovely setting with the empty tomb it always brings a lot of questions as they see what Mary Magdalene saw that morning .

The second Easter Event that I was personally involved in was the Dawn Eucharist on Easter Sunday Morning.



This is the second year that we celebrated this very special Eucharist at The Roebuck. The weather was very cold but dry as the service started at 6:00am, but as Aaron read the scripture telling of Mary Magdalene getting to the tomb at dawn and the stone already being rolled away, daylight began to dawn over The Roebuck and as we celebrated communion it started to get lighter. When Sharon brought the service to an end shortly before 6:30am it was daylight. I really felt that this was so similar to how the Bible describes that Easter morning.

We were soon warmed up with orange juice, sausage butties & coffee, with a lovely opportunity to catch up with other people from our Saddleworth churches and reflect on 'Was it worth getting up at such an unearthly hour?' I think the answer was a unanimous YES.

Sue Howarth

Church Working Party

Why not come along and get some gentle exercise and catch up with people? We will be tackling jobs inside and outside of church. 10:00am and 12:00pm on the 2nd Saturday of the month. For more information contact David Lloyd on 07525 029383.



Fundraising events

Many thanks to all who attended our second Lucy Cobb Fashion Night in April. It was a great night and will have raised over £800.

In March we held a brilliant St Patrick's themed race night. Even the heavy snow could not keep people away and much fun was had by all. The Parish Hall was packed and it was an extremely lively night as everybody cheered on their horse. The event even raised over £1,000 for church funds – a lovely bonus!

Watch out for details of more fundraising events on the website, our weekly sheet and posters in Church and the Church Hall or call Sam Lowe on 07725 535622.

Family Quiz Night, (hopefully in June)
Mad Hatters Tea Party 1st July.

Junior Church

An Easter Egg Hunt was organised by our Junior Church Leaders. The children were given a letter and were tasked with finding a further eight letters within the church grounds and then around the Parish Hall. The children (and adults) loved it and were quick to arrange the letters they had found to form the message "He is Risen". At the end of their hunt, every child received a chocolate egg.

May Queen

On 13th May we celebrated the crowning of our new May Queen, Francesca Lloyd, in a special service led by Revd Canon Sharon Jones. Francesca is taking over from Hannah Manifold, our retiring Queen, and will be the latest in a long line of May Queens at St Anne's, which was started in 1950 by Kathleen Wildman. Hannah has had a very successful year organising events within the community and fundraising for church funds and Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Hannah and her retinue have attended many other churches throughout Oldham, Saddleworth and Tameside for crownings and at home events.

During the service both Hannah and Francesca addressed the congregation followed by a performance from the St Anne's junior singers. Francesca was crowned by Naomi Coulter, one of the junior church leaders at St Anne's, and the service culminated with refreshments in the Parish Hall. A great day was had by all.

Francesca's first experience of May Queen life was in Naomi's daughter's retinue at the age of 5. Francesca has enjoyed being part of three other retinues since then, so is very excited and proud to have been asked to be the next May Queen with her own retinue, who are George Lyons, Florence Greenough, Libby Southwood, Holly Marshall, Sarah Rexstraw and Imogen Hulme. They are all looking forward to the Whit walks, organising community events and fundraising. Money raised by Francesca and her retinue this coming year will be donated to church funds and Age UK, which was chosen specifically by Francesca.



@stanneslydgate



stanneslydgate@gmail.com

Parish Contacts

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Junior Church	Lianne Marshall	lvmarshall@outlook.com	07725 650233
Baptism & Wedding Coordinator	Anne Smith		07507 339983
Sexton & Grave Enquiries	Al Gillian	patandalgillian@btinternet.com	01457 870162
Weekly Sheet Manager	Sue Willett	sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk	0161 425 7909

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church

Concerts and Events

Sunday 3rd June: Play at Delph Theatre “*We Are Three Sisters*”, Charity performance for Seeing is Believing at 7:30pm.

Saturday 9th June: The Parish Church Rambling Group will be walking. All welcome. For more information on the route call Tracy 07979 092287.

Wednesday 27th June: The Miraculum Girls Choir from the Kodaly Academy, Hungary, concert in the Parish Church at 7:00pm.

Monday 2nd July: Saddleworth School Concert in the Parish Church at 7:00pm.

Friday 6th July: Duncan Glenday Concert in the Parish Church at 8:00pm.

Sunday 8th July: Friends of Saddleworth Church AGM at St Chad's Parish Church at 12:45pm.

Date for your diary

Sunday 26th August - Rushcart

The Parish Church will welcome the Morris Men for the Rush Cart Service. After the service there will be the usual dancing and gurning. The Hearse House Cafe will be selling refreshments and we will run a tombola stall.



Spring forward

Holy Week and Easter was a special time for us.

The Last Supper and foot washing at Kilngreen and The Watch until Midnight at the Parish Church led us on to Aaron's very thoughtful and beautiful reflection



on Good Friday. The Church was beautifully decorated and Janet Iles created a wonderful large tomb in the porch with the stone rolled back on Easter Day.

The magnificent hanging that Janet produced for Cafe Church on The Annunciation of our Lord to Mary, is now hanging in church. She used it as part of her reflection at Morning Prayer.

Meetings with the architect about the repair and reordering of St Chad's Parish Church have continued. The faculty has been agreed for the entrance rails which are now being made. They will greatly help with access into church.

The first of the parish rambles took place. It was meant to be a gentle stroll along the tow path from Huddersfield to Marsden but was very hard work. The tow path was full of mud and puddles and was somewhat treacherous. Fortunately no one fell but it was hard going. The sun shone, the views were wonderful and the company great. We will look forward to the next one.

Alison Coates

Seeing is Believing Project



Please join us at the Millgate Centre Delph on Sunday 3rd June at 7:30pm
For a charity performance by Blake Morrison of
We are Three Sisters

“In Haworth in the 1840s, in a gloomy parsonage where there are neither curtains nor comforts, Charlotte, Anne and Emily Brontë light up their world with outspoken wit, aspirations, dreams and ideas. And throughout their confined lives intensely lived - they write. Against the backdrop of a dark, remote northern town, these three remarkable young women live their lives brightly.”

So reads Saddleworth Players' publicity for their next production and who, living as we do in the near vicinity to Haworth, would not be eager to enjoy this production? Although an amateur drama group, Saddleworth Players, are anything but amateur in all aspects of their productions.

In an Author's Note included in the published text, Morrison writes: “Though much of the play is based on real events in the Brontës' lives, and some of the words spoken are ones they used, many alterations have been made, not least to chronology....*We are Three Sisters* uses the

template of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* but in places departs radically from it."

St Chad's have once again taken advantage of Saddleworth Players' generous charity offer of putting on a Sunday evening performance. The proceeds will be in aid of our Seeing is Believing project. Following a recent survey of the whole Church by our Architect and Construction Engineer, it has become apparent that extensive, urgent work is required to repair the roof, ceiling and tower and to restore the stained glass windows of this iconic Church.

A light supper will be available prior to the performance, as will a raffle and the bar will be open. Tickets, including supper are £15.00; performance only £9.00; please contact Lily Hopkinson, 01457 873745 or email hopkinsonlees@gmail.com.

We look forward to enjoying your company once again.

Lily Hopkinson

Whit Friday 2018

By the time you are reading this, the annual Whit Friday Procession of Witness will have taken place. Such a wonderful day of brass bands, banners, fellowship and community. The weather is always a talking point – Will it be fine? Will it be too windy for the banners carriers? Will walkers and onlookers need an umbrella or a sun hat? Whatever the weather, the traditional flower baskets and flower decorated crooks are an essential part of the St Chad's procession.

The three flower- filled baskets, with long satin ribbons attached, have special significance for St Chad's. Each basket is dedicated in loving memory of three members of our



congregation, namely Bill Bradshaw, Dorothy Bradshaw and Gordon Kay.

The flower – decorated crooks have been part of our procession for at least 70 years!

After the Whit Walk, the flowers from the baskets and crooks are made into bouquets which are distributed to elderly members of the parish.



As our Sunday school and congregation walk along with the baskets and crooks on Whit Friday, they are part of a church tradition we hope continues for many years to come.

Yanks Weekend NAAFI Café 2018

Saturday 11th August and Sunday 12th August
10:00am to 4:00pm

Sacred Heart Church Hall, High Street Uppermill

Tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes, served in an authentic 1940s atmosphere with wartime music, costumes and decorations.



Please support our café as all the proceeds go to fund the St Chad's Church and Sacred Heart Church Whit Friday Procession of Witness.

Aaron Cooper

I would like to give my sincere thanks to all our friends from all three churches of the parish for the prayers, cards, donations and attendance at church for Aaron's funeral. I was overwhelmed by the number of people who attended.

I am most grateful to Godfrey for his ministrations and visits. Also to Eileen, the choir and especially Sue for making Aaron's farewell so special.

My thanks also go to the pastoral care team and all those who gave me lifts to Fairfield Hospital when I was unable to drive.

Thank you all

Phyllis Cooper

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church, Church Lane, Uppermill, OL3 6LW

Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Sarah Barlow	sarah.barlow@talk21.com	07775 613787
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Assistant Wardens	Tim Edge		01457 872429
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Debbie McCabe			
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St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

St Chad's Seeds Group

Seeds group meets for play and singing each Wednesday morning in term time at the Parish Centre between 10:00am and 11:30am. A wide range of toys and activities is provided. All pre-school children, parents and carers are welcome.



Healthy snacks and water are available for children, whilst parents and carers can enjoy something a little more indulgent including freshly-filtered coffee, a range of teas, cakes, many of which are homemade, and fruit.

Seeds helpers are volunteers who are Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certified and have received training in food hygiene.

Seeds celebrates the major Christian festivals with associated craft activities, Easter bonnets, participation in Whit walks, Advent with distribution of Advent candles and Christmas with the Travelling Crib and a party which includes a visit from Father Christmas.

Each term, we hold a charity morning, when the morning's donations (minus £20 contribution towards rent) are passed to the chosen charity. Charities supported vary each year and include Francis House Children's Hospice, Christian Aid, Kingfisher School and Macmillan Nurses. The chosen charity for the summer term 2018 is Action Duchene which will coincide with the annual 'Teddy Bears Picnic' morning. There will be bear-themed activities and snacks and a raffle of teddy bears.



We are grateful to the wardens and PCC for the work they have done throughout the year to maintain facilities at the Parish Centre. In addition to our rent of £1,196.00 for 2017, Seeds supported the PCC with a donation of £181.39 at the end of the year.

If you fancy a coffee and homemade cake on a term time Wednesday morning, do come in and see us. Details of all Seeds activities can be found on the Seeds news sheet which is available from the Parish Centre. Please spread the word about Seeds to any new families you may encounter. We would love to see you all.

Our last session before the summer break will be on Wednesday 18th July. We restart in September.

Good Friday Workshop 30th March

The annual Good Friday Workshop for the children is going from strength to strength! This year members of Friezland church joined Kilngreen and St Chad's for a morning of Easter craft, baking and other fun activities at the Parish Centre.

There were so many activities to choose from :

- † paper flowers for Easter Sunday,
- † bread making,
- † planting an Easter garden,
- † decorating Easter biscuits,
- † Easter baskets and cotton wool chicks,
- † donkey puppets and mosaic designing.



The favourite activity was mixing ingredients to make "Slime"!

Away from the bustle, Canon Sharon had prepared a tranquil area for quiet prayer and reflection. Lots of children and parents wrote their thoughts and prayers on the large paper cross on the floor.

Half way through the morning we had a break for refreshments and afterwards the children poured out into the playground to search for Easter chicks.

The morning ended with a short service led by Revd Aaron, where he explained the Easter story and the message of hope it gave. A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the morning such a success.

Coffee Mornings

Every other Saturday between 10:00am and 11:30am.



Saturday 2nd June

In aid of Action Duchenne.

Saturday 16th June

'Seeing is Believing' coffee morning.

Saturday 7th July

In aid of North West Down Syndrome.

Saturday 21st July

'Seeing is Believing' coffee morning.

Saturday 4th August

In aid of Dr Kershaw's Hospice.

Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Sarah Barlow	sarah.barlow@talk21.com	07775 613787
Assistant Wardens	Margaret Fletcher		01457 874941
	Sarah Adams		01457 875126
Parish Centre Lettings	Joe Hughes		01457 873165

Oshandi AIDS Trust in Namibia - OATIN



To all of you who bought bedding plants from the Oshandi AIDS Trust In Namibia – plant sale, thank you! To those of you who didn't - look now with envy on your neighbour's gardens.

By now those of you lucky ones should be gazing out on blooming borders, patios and hanging baskets, and maybe giving a thought as to how your order helps the work in Oshandi.

OATIN, St Chad's Parish, and indeed the Benefice are members of the Manchester Diocesan Mission partnership with Namibia, committed to the principles of **'tending'**, **'transforming'** and **'treasuring'** our brothers and sisters in Oshandi.

The link sustained for over twenty years has offered opportunities for us to exchange visits, share our faith with one another, make friends, and work together on issues of poverty and social justice.

Since 1995, the Diocesan link, the Trust, and 'Churches Together in Saddleworth' have together raised more the £150,000 towards support for families, orphans and young adults suffering the effects of HIV/AIDS and economic hardship. This support has included:

- † provision of home nursing care;
- † health education;
- † the 'Food for Orphans' project;
- † environmental projects designed to relieve poverty;
- † educational links with local schools.

Currently, we are looking at ways of offering financial and practical support to young adults as they move to higher education. This is in the hope that they may return to the villages to continue the economic development of the community. At the moment the villages rely on periodic subsistence farming for their existence and with an ageing population some families are finding life difficult.

So, as you **'tend'** and **'treasure'** your plants, we and the beneficiaries of your generosity, the **people of Oshandi**, say a big **'Thank you'** hoping that your gardens will truly be **'transformed'**.

For more information on the work of the Trust or to become a member, please contact :

- † Ruth Broadhurst, 01457 873046,
- † Ann Hibbert, 01457 874423
- † or Liz Rooke, 01457 810666

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Monday 25th June 2018
2:00pm to 3:00pm

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

Station Road, Uppermill, OL3 6HQ

Music provided by Mike Hindson.

Prayers, reflection and activity

by Revds Barbara Christopher and Hilary Edgerton.



Church of England in Saddleworth

"Celebrating God's presence in all people."

St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

Diggle Blues Festival

The super popular Diggle Blues Festival is back this year at various venues throughout Diggle between 7th to 10th June.

Kilngreen Church is once again pleased to be hosting two acts:

- Saturday 9th June 6:30pm to 8:00pm
Xander and The Peace Pirates
- Sunday 10th June 3:30pm to 5:30pm
Chris King Robinson Band.

These gigs are free to enter and refreshments served by a hard working band of volunteers raising money for Kilngreen Supporters. Come down if you can.

Kilngreen Notes



It has been a chilly Spring at Kilngreen! Lets hope that the weather improves for the summer. Kilngreen is a busy place every week, as besides Church on Sunday there are Tai Chi classes, an art class, Diggle Ducklings, the All Stars, Brownies, Guides and Cubs, not to mention numerous bookings for parties both children and adults.

Kilngreen is also licensed for weddings, an excellent venue where you can celebrate both the marriage and the reception. If this is of interest to you, why not contact Lynda Barlow on 01457 878338 who will be happy to show you around and answer any questions you might have.

In May Friends of St Chad's held an afternoon tea at Kilngreen, which will be followed two weeks later by a busy evening when the ladies from Kilngreen congregation led by **Doreen Hall** created the corsages, flower posies and buttonholes for our **Whit Friday Walk of Witness**, which this year was led by Revd Hilary Edgerton and Diggle Band.

Easter Service and a Visit from Duncan and Nancy Rhodes

We were all delighted to see Duncan and Nancy at our Easter Sunday service! Duncan was presented with a book entitled "Good Morning Good People" which was a compilation of photographs and stories about his Ministry to the people of Diggle.



Many people wrote messages and memories in the book, alongside photographs which covered everything from baptisms to funerals, Allotment Services, Weddings and memories of Duncan's time in the St. Chads All Stars. At the end of the book the Sunday School children wrote their own messages and memories of Duncan.

Gill Brett took some wonderful pictures of the congregation which we hope to enlarge and put up in Kilngreen. Copies of the book are available or if anyone wishes to look at a copy please contact Janet Iles on 01457 877875 for more details.

Easter Flowers

Once again we had a beautiful display of Easter flowers thanks to the expertise of our wonderful flower arranger, **Doreen Hall**. A big thank you also goes to the children who made our lovely Easter Garden at the Good Friday workshop at the Parish Centre.



Family Services at Kilngreen

Family Services take place at Kilngreen on the Third Sunday of the Month at 9:30pm. These are All Age Services; why not come along to Kilngreen and see what we do? We are the only Christian Church in Diggle and a warm welcome awaits anyone who comes to our services. We have a growing Sunday School which meets in the smaller room next to the kitchen for part of the service and joins us for Communion and the final hymn. If you are not sure where to find us, the church is in Lee Side, down the road from the Diggle Hotel and you can see the building from the car park.

March's Family Service was led by Maggie and Sarah with help from the Sunday School. The reading was from St John's Gospel telling how Jesus threw the money lenders and market traders out of The Temple. The theme was "Clearing the Way for Jesus".

St Chad's All Stars

The **Christmas Pantomime** this year will be Sleeping Beauty, and rehearsals will begin early in September. If you would like to join the All Stars, new members are always welcome; age is no barrier at the older end.

If you have ever fancied "treading the boards" or even helping backstage with painting scenery,

props, costumes, or could help front of house with programmes and refreshments, then we are always happy to hear from you.

The Christmas Pantomime will be from Wednesday 21st November to Saturday 24th November. Performances generally start at 7:30pm, with a matinee on Saturday afternoon. For more details contact Kate Millett on 01457 239136.

You can find more details nearer the time on the All Stars **Facebook page**.



Diggle Diamonds

The coffee mornings are held each month at The Gate in Diggle on a Saturday morning at 10:30am. Admission: £1.

All older residents of Diggle are invited to join us for coffee and friendship.

Dates for this year are:

9th June, 14th July,

11th August, 8th September,

13th October and 17th November.

Diggle Diamonds Christmas Party

will be on Saturday 1st December at Kilngreen.

Any questions ring Mike Hall on 01457 870480

St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen Church, Lee Side, Diggle, OL3 5JY

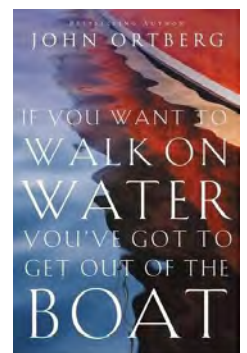
Contacts

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Kilngreen Lettings	Lynda Barlow		01457 878338

Book review - Revd Hilary Edgerton

It's a difficult journey for the disciples, straining to get their boat to the other side of the lake in wind and buffeting waves. They rely on their strength and experience as hardened fishermen, used to these conditions but even they are finding it tough. When Jesus appears in front of them, walking on water, and suggests to Peter that he might like to come and join him, it's a ridiculous prospect. The boat may be leaking, tossed about and uncomfortable right now but surely getting out onto the water means suicide?

This is the book and the story that I lived with for over a year as I tried to follow the decision to move on from a place and setting that was familiar and loved but from which I felt God wanted me to shift. I ended up in Saddleworth. John Ortberg's books have a very American style but his imaginative digging into the depths of Bible stories and his heartfelt, humorous and honest connections with real life, speak to. This book talks about the 'boats' that we create for ourselves, how we often prefer safety and familiarity over risk, even when our situation seems uncomfortable and difficult. It helped me step over the edge!



Thinking about adoption?

Talk to us

Adoption Now is currently looking for families for 80 children living in the North West.

Each child is different but they have all had a difficult start in life and all need a loving environment so they can thrive. These children are from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, they are different ages, they could have additional needs and they may need to be adopted with their brothers and sisters too.

Here at Adoption Now we're focussed on achieving the best we can for our children so we're actively looking for adopters who can open their hearts and homes to make a positive difference to a child's life.

Whether you're single or in a relationship, renting or home-owning... even if you're a

little bit older or already have children, we need you!

Adoption Now is a new regional adoption agency which combines expert local authority adoption teams from Blackburn with Darwen, Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Rochdale & Tameside councils to deliver outstanding adoption services across the North West.

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We are here for everyone involved in adoption; providing highly-skilled and professional support services such as training, therapeutic support and advice for adopters, adopted children, adopted adults and birth parents, whatever the situation.

To find out more about adopting with Adoption Now visit:

www.adoptionnow.org.uk

or call us on:

01204 336096.



our FAITH our PLANET
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Date: Thursday 7 June 2018
Venue: Manchester Cathedral
Time: 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Bringing people together to learn about climate change and to identify ways of taking practical action to reduce their carbon footprint, with information, workshops, food, entertainment and networking.

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A Diocesan Prayer

Faithful God,
In you hope is founded and
Through you love is known.

Fill your church with joy and peace;
Overwhelm us with the love of Christ and
Renew us through your Holy Spirit.

May your Church grow, as we welcome all.
Inspire us to share the good news of Jesus;
Send us out to be
Signs of your Kingdom
In our communities and for your world.

Open hearts and minds to your generous love;
Nourish us with faith and fill us with hope. Amen.

(A prayer by the Right Revd Mark Ashcroft, Bishop of Bolton)

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Consultations by Appointment

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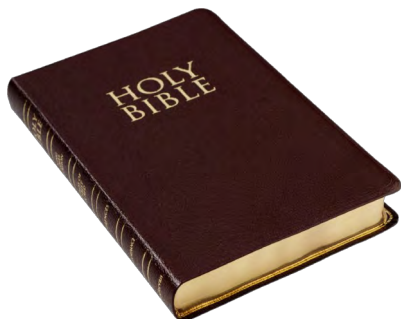
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An A-Z of Discipleship - 'Q' is for Quietness



We're working our way through the alphabet looking at what it means to be an active follower of Jesus Christ.

"Anything for a quiet life" we say, meaning we will give in to what someone else wants as long as they stop pestering us! We often live life as if we **don't** want it to be quiet but the Bible has quite a bit to say on the subject.

Being Quieted

It is usually a human instinct to want to be in control of a situation. Sometimes, though, it isn't possible and the struggle to be in control can lead to extra anxiety and strain.

The prophet Isaiah showed up the problem clearly. In the midst of trauma and turmoil (which was partly self-inflicted), Israel was turning to other nations for help against their enemies, but these weren't the people or the methods God wanted them to trust. Now

*"In repentance and rest is your salvation;
in quietness and trust is your strength
but you would have none of it"*
(Isaiah 30, v.15)

There are times when really the best thing we can do is be quiet:

*"He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul..."*
(Psalm 23, v.2)

is a picture of trust in God who can take us through the best of life as well as the worst.

Likewise, there are times when all we can do is stop. King David wrote one day about having:

*"... stilled and quieted my soul
like a weaned child ..."*
(Psalm 131, v.2)

because things were just too much to understand and work out, so he rested with God.

Quiet words

What are you like when it comes to speaking your mind?

*"... everyone should be quick to listen,
slow to speak and slow to become angry ..."*
(James 1, v.19)

and

"The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools."
(Ecclesiastes 9, v.17).

So often you know you have heard wise words when they have been spoken gently but firmly rather than shouted out in an attempt to be louder than everyone else. In a world where we are told it is good to be assertive, there is a certain trust and humility needed to believe that if our voice is not heard, it may not matter and if it is heard, it might be listened to more keenly if our words are carefully chosen and quietly put.

Quiet actions

We talk about people sometimes as being 'very quiet'. We may have an impression that they do not do much, or are a bit lacking in personality. The Bible would not agree. It would, I think, count quietness as a virtue.

"Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife."
(Proverbs 17, v.1)

This is definitely one of the brilliant, pithy proverbs! Quietness is not just about an absence of noise but an absence of the kind of noise that is argumentative or vying for attention. So, the apostle Paul talks about having an ambition to

*"...lead a quiet life, mind your own business
and work with your hands..."*
(1 Thessalonians 4, v.11)

and Peter writes about the

"...unfading beauty of a quiet spirit..."
(1 Peter 3, v.4)

in contrast to the desire to merely look beautiful on the outside.

A confidence and trust in God which leads to a life that has no need to push oneself forwards is truly and quiet, wise and attractive one worth imitating.

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Sue Willett

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The first in 2007/08 was 'Recollections of War Service' by the lovely late Geoffrey Woodhead. As I started to type Geoffrey's handwritten copy I was intrigued as his story started at the crossroads at Lydgate; he proceeded along Platting Road to Scouthead. It was so gripping. As we chatted it turned out that his nephew's daughter used to look after my daughters when I went to work!! It's a small world.

More recently, a particular favourite was another local chap, A B Aaronson (his pseudonym), who wrote 'No Contrition'. We worked on this book for a year. It was an absolute pleasure and we had such laughs.

The book is on Amazon and I have a signed copy. I have a lovely acknowledgement and my name is on Amazon along with A B's - wonderful, fame at last!

An ongoing book is for a Doctor of Philosophy. My assistant Cathy has been working with the Doctor for 2 years, and each time we think it is finished and we get it printed, he makes more changes.

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