

The Grapevine

December 2019 &
January 2020

Issue 13

£1



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The
Star

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“Celebrating God’s presence in all people.”

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The Rector writes...

Returning to Saddleworth after five months of being unwell, I look forward to Advent and the Christmas season. There is something powerful about discovering that in times of darkness and the icy winter of the soul the whisper of God's breath is not absent. The presence of God is more a spark or the subtle flicker of a tiny flame than the glare of fairy lights and Christmas decorations.

Through Advent we watch with those who live with darkness; with fear; with anxiety. We watch for the glimpses of God at work and we wait for dawn to break. And as we wait for the shadows to pass and the sun to rise we begin to see that the birth of Jesus is but one of many manifestations of God. In the gloom we see what God has always been revealing through beauty, colour, music, birdsong; that God delights in giving himself to us; pouring out his life for us; touching us with his grace.

I have discovered fragility, vulnerability, betrayal and unfathomable sadness, yet I have known also the beautiful, mysterious power of love and prayer and friendship. Jesus himself knew all these things and at Christmas he comes again, searching for us and inviting us to come to the manger. God asks simply for open hearts and eyes, and invites us to draw near so we may know his presence for ourselves.

May the dawn break clear and still in your life and in the life of the world. And may the Christ Child be always your hope and your healing.

Every blessing for Advent and Christmas.

Sharon

"Have you not known? Have you not heard?

*The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.*

*"He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."
(Isaiah 40 v.28-31)*



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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 the next issue (Issue 14) is Thursday 2nd January 2020.

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

Portraying the Nativity

Victorian Christmas Card portraying the Wise Men



Works of art from copies of famous Nativity paintings to modern artistic representations tumble through our letterboxes as Christmas approaches.

Pictures of Mary, the infant Jesus, Joseph, kings from the east laden with gifts, shepherds from their pastures together with an ox and an ass gather at the stable in portraying the event.

Other mediums such as statues, carved ivory, wood carvings, paintings, porcelain figurines, shaped clay, paper cut-outs and puppets are used to portray the birth of Christ with Nativity scenes.

Portrayal of the Nativity is not just confined to carvings, paintings or puppets. In 1223 St Francis of Assisi recreated the first live nativity scene with humans and animals cast in the Biblical roles.

Live humans and animals are also still used to retell the nativity story while children in churches and schools throughout the Christian world take part in the annual Nativity Play.

A more comprehensive account of the Portrayal of the Nativity can be viewed on our website at

www.cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk/portraying-the-nativity.



SCAN ME

Rob Knotts

OATIN - 'Making a Difference' - Part 1

The 'August 2019' visit, to the Church and Community of Oshandi and the Oshandi AIDS Trust in Namibia (OATIN), was made by Ruth Broadhurst, Jude Smith and Ann Hibbert.

Supporting a charity from a distance is not easy, so the focus for this visit was to explore relationships between our link parish, 'The Church of the Holy Spirit' in the Diocese of Namibia, and the work of 'Ombome Oto', which is the volunteer organisation funded by OATIN. 'Ombome Oto' currently support over two hundred families affected by HIV/AIDS, identifying and addressing needs whilst keeping within the objectives of the Trust.

OATIN raises £10K annually in support of 'Ombome Oto', which provides three-monthly food parcels delivered by the 65 community volunteers. These volunteers support, advise and encourage drug compliance and regular health checks for HIV positive clients which includes 168 orphans.

We felt it important to meet the volunteers, acknowledge their work, and identify their needs! These discussions identified that they need further training to improve nursing skills which will help them to support the more vulnerable orphans. Also needed was 'something' in which to carry basic equipment, papers and medicines! A quick response was for us to buy 65 'rucksacks' and engage the resident clinic nurse (and former volunteer), Sr Hambiya, to organise skills training on a regular basis.



The next issue of *The Grapevine* will include Part 2 of the 'Making a Difference' article. If you would like to support OATIN please contact Liz - 01457 810666, Sarah - 01457 875126, or Ann - 01457 874423.

Oshandi AIDS Trust in Namibia is a Registered Charity (No. 1098669)

#FollowTheStar

Based on the success of #FollowTheStar in 2018, the Church of England is excited to announce that the national Advent and Christmas campaign will continue with #FollowTheStar in 2019 and our churches are invited to take part.

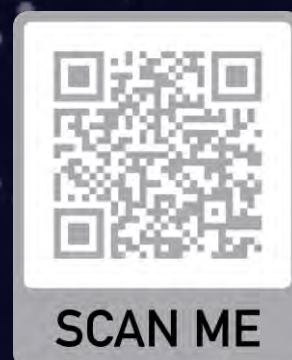
Below is an introduction from Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu.

“Christmas is a time for generosity. The gifts we give do not have to be expensive or extravagant - sometimes the gift of time spent with a neighbour or a smile at someone we see on the street can be just as meaningful. Like the shepherds, who have only their awe and devotion to bring to witness to the birth of Christ, the best gift we can give is the gift of our hearts.

“Just as we give, we must also be open to accepting the gifts of others. In Jesus, God gives us the most precious gift of all and invites us to know and follow his only Son. Whatever your Christmas looks like, everyone is invited to the birth of Jesus. From the lowliest shepherds to the wealthy Magi, all are welcome to gather together and delight in God’s grace!

“You too are welcome to follow the star this Christmas and find yourself in that humble stable, in a place where you are known and loved in the presence of God.

“We hope that you have a blessed Christmas and pray that your journey following the star leads you ever closer to the joy and peace of knowing Jesus Christ.”



Ways to join the journey

- # There is a booklet ‘#FollowTheStar: 12 days of Christmas Wonder’, which invites everyone to travel in the footsteps of “We Three Kings” to meet Jesus. It offers twelve daily reflections – beginning on Christmas Day and finishing on the eve of Epiphany (5th January).
- # The free Follow The Star app - available for Android and iOS devices - allows anyone to join the journey. As well as the complete text of the booklet, the app also includes full audio for each day, including the Bible reading, the daily craft activities and a guide to Christmas and Epiphany services near you.
- # Alternatively, anyone can sign up for free email versions of the reflections via www.churchofengland.org/followthestar where you will also find links to the family craft activities, videos and much more.
- # Social media is also a great way to join and share the journey. Make sure you’re following The Church of England and look out for daily #FollowTheStar posts from Advent right through to Epiphany

Snippets from the ‘Christmas to Epiphany’ resources are dotted around this issue of The Grapevine. The first one for Christmas Day entitled ‘Star’ is shown below.

As you #FollowTheStar may the Christ child meet you on your journey.

Revd Canon Sharon Jones



Day 1 - Christmas Day - ‘Star’: We all have questions: big ones and small ones. Some questions, though, might change the course of our lives when we search for the answers.

Read: Matthew 2, v1-8

Church of England in Saddleworth Who's Who

Saddleworth Ministerial Team

Team Rector	Revd Canon Sharon Jones sharonjones@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07738 966271
Team Vicar	Revd John Rosedale jrrosedale@gmail.com	01457 874209
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Missioner for Discipleship	Revd Hilary Edgerton hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 871704
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Reader	Mr Graham McGuffie grahammcguffie@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 872239
Administrator	Mrs Susan Brierley office@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 879977

St Thomas Delph - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Bill Maxwell	wardens@stthomasdelph.co.uk	01457 878512
Churchwarden	Vacant		
Secretary	Julie Lait	familylait@outlook.com	01457 829799
Treasurer	Janet Powell		01457 878828

Christ Church Denshaw - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Ros Martin	rosmartin05@hotmail.co.uk	07884 940608
Churchwarden	Vacant		
Secretary	Mary Rodgers	rodgers@delphman.myzen.co.uk	01457 874354
Treasurer	Carole Clarke	minihelenclarke@yahoo.co.uk	

Holy Trinity Dobcross - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Paul Wooding	churchwarden@holytrinitydobcross.org.uk	01457 878116
Churchwarden	Denis Cavanagh		01457 874343
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Christ Church Friezland - PCC Officers

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Churchwarden	Vacant		
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Treasurer	Deborah Thompson	debxrah@gmail.com	01457 875038

St Mary Greenfield - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Brian Greenwood	bgreenwood1938@gmail.com	01457 872913
Churchwarden	Vacant		
Secretary	Kath Jump	Kathryn.Jump@shoosmiths.co.uk	01457 875231
Treasurer	Al Gillian	patandalgillian@btinternet.com	01457 870162

St Anne Lydgate - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	David Marshall	davemarshall@outlook.com	07590 074436
Churchwarden	Vacant		
Secretary	Sue Willett	sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk	07808 474743
Treasurer	Al Gillian	patandalgillian@btinternet.com	01457 870162

St Chad Saddleworth - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Ian Brett	ian.brett@btinternet.com	01457 875014
Churchwarden	Alison Coates	alison99@talktalk.net	01457 876760
Secretary	Liz Rooke	lizzierooke@gmail.com	01457 810666
Treasurer	Chris Chard	chard.chris@gmail.com	01457 874165

Christmas Quiz (No prizes – just for fun!)

1. *“Hither, page, and stand by me”* is the first line of the second verse of which carol?
2. Which pantomime is based on a story by J.M. Barrie?
3. In which country was the Advent calendar invented?
4. Which nut is used in the French confection Marron glacé?
5. What would you stick in an onion, when following a traditional bread sauce recipe?
6. In the song “The Little Drummer Boy”, who ‘kept time’?
7. Which star sign would you be, if you were born on Christmas Day?
8. After leaving Bethlehem, to which country did Joseph, Mary and Jesus travel?
9. When does the Russian Orthodox Church celebrate Christmas?
10. Which popular Christmas item gets its name from the old French word for “spark”?
11. Who discovered Christmas Island in the Pacific Ocean on Christmas Eve 1777?
12. Name the composer (1685 – 1750) of the “Christmas Oratorio”?
13. When King George V gave the first King’s Speech on radio in 1932, who actually wrote it?
14. In the film “A Charlie Brown Christmas”, what song does Lucy ask Schroeder to play on his piano?
15. In the 1996 Christmas special, Del Boy and Rodney went to a party as which two characters?

Answers can be found on Page 34.
Many thanks to Dorothy Townend for producing the quiz.

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)



Church of England in Saddleworth Advent Carol Service
on Sunday 1st December at 4:00pm
at St Mary's Church, Greenfield



St Chad Saddleworth

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

29th Dec 11:00am Eucharist at Parish Church

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

1st Sunday 9:30am Children's Eucharist

2nd Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and Sunday School

3rd Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and Sunday School

4th Sunday 9:30am Morning Prayer 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 Anne Lydgate

Wednesday 6:00pm Family Worship

Friday 10:00am Eucharist (CW)

St Mary Greenfield

Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist (BCP)

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

Tuesday 9:30am Eucharist

ADVENT COMPANIONS FOR THE JOURNEY

Do Come and Join us at John the Baptist Church, Hey Lees, Oldham, OL4 3LH

A Morning with Bishop Mark as We Begin Our Journeys through Advent

Saturday 30th November 2019 9.30 am to 1.00 pm [Refreshments from 9.00 am]

Will John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary be our companions this Advent?



Big Picture Discussion Group
Ten Commandments
for today's world

8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th January,
7:45pm for 8:00pm

at
St Anne's Church Lydgate

A series of discussions about what the commandments of God mean in 2020 (completing the series begun in 2019).

Contact Hilary Edgerton 01457 871704
hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk
or Val Stocker valstocker61@gmail.com

 **Church of England in Saddleworth**
"Celebrating God's presence in all people."

GREENBELT WILD AT HEART

What?

For anyone and everyone, Greenbelt is an inclusive and progressive Christian multi-arts festival featuring music, visual and performing arts, spirituality, comedy, talks and discussion. Established in 1974, it is a place where art, faith and justice collide in an atmosphere of tolerance, dialogue and hope.

When?

28th - 31st August 2020 - Bank Holiday Weekend

Where?

The beautiful, landscaped grounds of Boughton Estate (3 miles from Kettering town centre).

Why?

For a long weekend of fun, faith, and friendship with each other and much more besides!



I'd known of Greenbelt's existence since University, from my friends of various denominations in Christian Union. However, it took me until my thirties to actually get there and even then, as a contributor, rather than as a 'punter'! That first year, my husband and I borrowed a tent - we just weren't sure about this camping lark. By the following summer, we'd purchased our own tent because we were fully on board with camping, if only for the sake of going to Greenbelt!



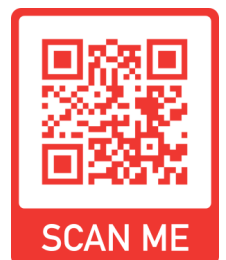
Since that first experience, we've contributed to at least eight Greenbelts and each time:

- † we've met up with old friends;
- † made some new ones;
- † got to know people in our (then) church so much better;
- † participated in new (for us) styles of worship;
- † found inspiring writers and amazing musicians;
- † laughed, talked, cried and laughed until we've cried.

Along the way we've had a child and bought a bigger tent! As probably the most family-friendly event there is, we've still fully experienced the festival and so has our offspring!

The festival is really well-organised, accessible, welcoming, environmentally friendly, challenging and entertaining. You can take part as much or as little as you like. Sometimes the best thing is just hanging with the people you came with by the 'campfire' (so to speak – no fires, thanks – health and safety!)

Whatever your taste in worship and music; whatever your sense of humour; whatever your passion; whatever your age and (dis)ability, I am sure you will discover something that will entertain and educate; something that you will engage with and enjoy. See you there!



SCAN ME

Yvonne Carson

For more info visit: <https://www.greenbelt.org.uk>



Day 2 - Boxing Day - 'Wonder': There are so many things in the world we can't quite explain or which take our breath away. And when we find something amazing it can be hard to stop ourselves trying to find out more.
Read: Psalm 65, v6-13



Day 3 - 27th December - 'Night': Night time can be scary. It's hard to see, and there is always the fear of what might be hiding in the dark. Eventually, though, dawn will come and a new day will begin.
Read: Luke 1, v68-79

Discipleship Groups

“The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want”

‘What does it say to you?’ We could ask that question about any passage in the Bible. Each person will have a different answer. In your own situation, perhaps the familiar verse from Psalm 23 quoted above will speak to you about being led by a shepherd. It may remind you of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and make you think of his character. Perhaps you feel as if you are in want at the moment and need some hope that God will supply your needs. For another person this will encourage them to keep on going through dark valleys.

Discipleship is about relating:

- † what we see in the Bible;
- † hear from Christian friends;
- † follow in our church traditions

to the every day business of living where we are. We are ‘learners’.

At the heart of many Mission Action Plan (MAP) statements is the desire to ‘*grow numerically and in faith and discipleship*’.



Many of us don’t, in reality, quite know how to do that. Existing study and discussion groups around the benefice, may seem a bit daunting so we hope that you will consider a new approach and join a ‘Discipleship Group’ in the early part of 2020.

The plan is to meet regularly with maybe three or four other people. It may be weekly or fortnightly and wherever you choose: home, pub, café at whatever time suits you all.



You could expect to discuss the Bible; it could be:

- † the Gospel reading from the previous Sunday;
- † a chapter from one book of the Bible;
- † a series of Bible passages, provided by one of the clergy.

Five basic questions are asked each time you meet to stop you going off-track too much!

- † What does this passage say to you about God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- † What does this passage say to you about people?
- † What does the passage say to me in my own situation?
- † Is there something here we need to do?
- † Is there someone else I could tell about what I’ve learnt?

That’s about it! So, there will be:

- † a clear set of questions which you know are coming;
- † a clear passage which you know about in advance;
- † and no need for someone to spend hours in preparation as a leader.

Just a group of people chatting about God, the Bible and everyday life, encouraging each other as they chat.

It will be an opportunity to help one another feel more confident about our own faith, learn to articulate our beliefs, help in puzzling out things that we never dared to ask and in building up our life together.

Watch out for more information and please feel free to contact Hilary Edgerton, who will be helping to set things up, or another member of the clergy team.

Hilary Edgerton



Day 4 - 28th December - ‘Royal’: Sometimes it feels as if pain and hardship are the way of the world and there is nothing we can do to change the situation. Systems, though, can be overturned by unexpected people.

Read: Revelation 21, v1-7

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

Christ Church Friezland

29th September Henry Eric Coyne

27th October Matilda Schuyler Harold

St Mary Greenfield

8th September Harriet Alice and
Philippa Eleanor Cotterill-Waring

6th October Amelia Abigail and
Chloe Elizabeth Marilyn Jones

13th October Charlie Jack Doodson

St Anne Lydgate

15th September Connie Lena Booth

21st September Phoenix Broadhurst

22nd September Isabella Kate McKee

29th September Maximus Brett Worrall

13th October Freya Eleanor Peddle

20th October Evie Amelia Unsworth

27th October Harry Fredrick Thompson

St Chad Saddleworth

15th September Rosie Elizabeth Cogger

13th October Ava Jane Bradshaw

27th October Walter John Francis Kane

Journeying into the fullness of God's love

Marriages

Holy Trinity Dobcross

15th October Mark James Brierley and
Sarah Joan Walker

St Anne Lydgate

7th September Samuel Lunt and Lauren Lewis

14th September Graham Pilcher and
Angela McCormick

To love and to cherish

Funerals

St Mary Greenfield

30th October George Barnes

St Anne Lydgate

23rd September Sybil Margaret Curley

St Chad Saddleworth

16th September Terence Duffy

2nd October Duncan Rhodes

7th October Maurice Farrand

14th October Marie Martin

23rd October Sally Greenhalgh

Entrusted to God's compassion and mercy

Interment of Ashes

Holy Trinity Dobcross

17th October Joyce Arrandale

25th October Gerald Eyre Harrison

9th November Kenneth Waring Redfearn

May God give them his comfort and peace

Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Life

St Chad Saddleworth

21st October Peter Bannister

May they know God's love and peace



A view behind bars - 'Gift'



The Christmas card was full of spelling mistakes but it was heartfelt and came with a chocolate bar in thanks for what the chaplains had done throughout the year.

It's not easy to give gifts in prison. Some prisoners will have had their personal assets frozen whilst in jail whilst others will have had monies taken as 'proceeds of crime'. Prison jobs provide limited income, which is easily eaten away buying a few items (e.g. toothpaste, tasty supplements to prison food, or a weekly TV magazine). After phone credit there's not a lot left for many of the inmates.

Giving a gift **to** a prisoner is no easier. There's a limited amount of money that can be received each month and certainly no cash-in-hand is allowed. To avoid illicit items being passed in, presents are not permitted unless they are listed and stored in personal 'prop' and moved on when the prisoner leaves. Even the baptism candle, given to a prisoner during his baptism service, had to be blown out and taken away immediately to avoid the risk of him setting fire to anything or melting down the wax for other cunning purposes.

Yet I've been the recipient and the observer of appreciation when gifts have found their way through!

Chatting to the horticulture team who were planting out some sunflowers, I mentioned that I love the big, vibrant heads but have never had one in my own garden.



One of the lads shouted to the supervisor, "*Have we got some spare sunflowers so Miss can have one?*" I found a pot sitting on the wall by the chaplaincy window a little later in the day. Colin has asked me every time he's seen me how my sunflower is doing. I think it was as much a blessing to him to be able to give something as it was to me to receive it.

To turn the outlook of prisoners towards others and away from themselves can be an uphill effort. If they manage it, the glow stays for a long time.



When I turned things the other way by taking a pile of good-quality Christmas cards, bought from one of our village groups, for the men to write and send to family and friends, there was deep appreciation. The sense of there being a connection between people they'd never met, who bothered enough to think of them, was touching.

Our chapel has modern, movable chairs and so fixed pews with lines of hard-stuffed kneelers are not part of the set up. Yet recently we received the gift of a hand-sewn kneeler, started years before and offered when it was finally completed. I was unsure of whether it would ever be used but presented it to the men one Sunday. Several of them picked it up to have a closer look. "*Beautiful*", "*Great workmanship*", "*She did it herself for us?*"

It was on the following Sunday that Owen asked, "*Could you pray with me please because I'm trying to get off all this **** that I've been taking and last time somebody prayed it really helped me*". I asked if he'd like to stand, or sit, or kneel. He chose to kneel down on the newly-finished handiwork, humbly, looking small. I prayed with a hand on his shoulder; there was a deep sense of calm. Owen stayed for a few moments, then stood, wiping tears from his eyes. "*I feel quite...*" I filled in the word he couldn't find "*emotional?*" and there was a look of calmness and relief on his face which broke into a smile.

I don't know which is more valuable: the packet of bourbon biscuits offered for the coffee after the service, the hand-drawn birthday card on a piece of lined paper (nothing else was available at the time) or the share of a Muslim prisoner's special 'Eid' sweets (strange textures and tastes to a palate like mine).

Gifts and giving. The options are limited – but that means it's even more special when it happens.

Hilary Edgerton
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale

St Thomas Delph

Reordering Update

Our last update to The Grapevine was exactly 12 months ago; so much has and hasn't happened in a year. 12 months ago we told you that the carpets had come up and that the organ had been sold. Early in 2019, stepping out in faith, we removed the floor of the actuary and the floor of the chancel, leaving what can only be described as the possibility of a full-emersion baptistery.



Chancel and sanctuary before the work started and after they had gone



We then started to receive updated quotes and realised we didn't have the money for the project! With the statement that we wouldn't spend more than we had, another call went out to the congregation. Further donations and pledges came in which gave the PCC the ability to ask the architect to go ahead with the work on the existing premises but to not include the planned extension which would replace the current porch and give fully-accessible toilet facilities with a small meeting room which would double up as a vestry.

In August a preferred builder was appointed and continuing in faith the question was asked, "If the money came in what would be the latest we could include the extension?" The response was "two weeks into the build".

The pews and pulpit were sold and at the beginning of October the church cleared in anticipation of the builders arriving.

On 14th October, the builders entered the building and, at long last after years of planning work, commenced with the plan that worship would continue in the church hall and then the congregation would move into the church whilst the hall was reordered. On 21st October, Bill Maxwell received a phone call asking him if the church would accept an anonymous donation for £100,000 on the condition that it was used for the extension. The donation has been accepted, the architect and builder informed.

Accepting this kind and generous donation is not without its difficulties. The building project will now be extended, timescales not yet known, and both the activities during the week and the Sunday worship will be disrupted.

With two major Christmas activities planned, which are considered 'outreach events', some thinking outside of the box is being asked of organisers. The congregation have already been asked to pray for fine weather on the night of the annual Carol Service, as it is intended to be in the carpark with the Dobcross Brass Monkeys band, followed by a festive supper inside!

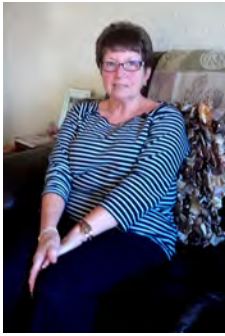


We thank God for answered prayer and thank God for trusting us with the building that we have in Delph.

What's your ministry?

On Sunday 27th October, Darren Quinlan, who is in ordination training, preached on the texts of Isaiah 45, v.22-25 and Luke 4, v.16-24. He asked the question "When did you receive the call to a particular ministry?" and gave the congregation time to talk with their neighbour about their call to ministry and their ministries.

As a result Beryl Woods who has been a member of St Thomas' was interviewed.



Beryl's childhood was spent in Openshaw where she attended St Barnabas' Sunday School, The Brigade and Church Mission Society (CMS) meetings. Beryl remembers knitting squares that were made up into blankets which she assumes were sent off to Africa.

In her early teens Beryl stopped going to Sunday School and attended church, less regularly than weekly, but still regularly and remembers the church being closed and money being raised for a new church to be built.

Beryl met Gordon and they were married and moved to Delph. With the change in life her church attendance changed and when her first daughter was born her mother-in-law, who attended church in Delph, asked for the baby to be baptised in St Thomas'. At the time the then vicar said "No" and so the baby was baptised in St Chad's parish and Beryl's mother-in-law began attendance in St Chad's parish. (Even today this is an 'all too common' story).

Beryl's own attendance at church may have something to thank Joan Senior for. Joan was her next door neighbour and she took Beryl's first daughter to Sunday School in Delph. When Beryl's second daughter was born, Beryl went along with them with the new baby, she was to be baptised at St Thomas's.

As the children grew older and as her parents, uncles and aunts grew older, Beryl took on the role of carer, travelling into Manchester to care for them, resulting in less church attendance, not through lack of faith but through her busy life.

Ten years ago Beryl had stopped going to church but wanted to return and then one day the vicar knocked on the door to say "Hello" and was invited in for a chat. Beryl then took up the opportunity of returning to church on an invitation Sunday that was advertised around the village.

Beryl has become an active member of the church; she has continued with her ministry of looking after family members, both young and old, but has also joined the church cleaning rota and delivers 60 parish news sheets to the Bakestones estate behind the Old Bell.

Sometimes we have long term ministries and sometimes our ministries change or are added to. Thank you to Beryl for her ministries both within and without the church building.

Christmas Services

With no church to use we'll be using the Church Hall. We are as excited about Christmas as you are! As a result, we are thinking about how we can do what we've achieved before, but make sure it happens in the new environment!

Sunday 8th December, 10:30am
Communion Service and Junior Church party.

Sunday 15th December, 10:30am
All Age Nativity and Holy Communion.



Sunday 22nd December, 6:30pm
Carol Service in the carpark followed by a festive supper in the Church Hall.



Tuesday 24th December, 5:00pm
Crib Service.



Tuesday 24th December, 11:30pm
Holy Communion.



Wednesday 25th December, 10:30am
Christmas Day Service.



Parish Contacts

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



Day 5 - 29th December - 'Beauty': Whatever our definition of beauty, we can probably agree that if something is beautiful it 'sticks out' from what is around it. We see it or sense it, and we find it hard to resist.

Read: Psalm 19, v1-6

Christ Church Denshaw

'Stir-up Sunday' Sponsored Walk

As a change from the traditional Autumn Fayre, this year it has been decided to hold a sponsored walk. It was the idea of Revd John Rosedale that holding the walk on 'Stir-up Sunday' would, as well as 'stirring up the wills of the people', refresh them in mind and body on a hopefully, sunny winter's day in the glorious countryside that is Saddleworth.

At the time of writing, this has now been arranged for Sunday 24th November after the Morning Prayer service. It will be an interesting, but not too vigorous, walk that takes in the surrounds of Denshaw, whilst answering questions through an interesting family quiz.



We will visit the place of worship for the Denshaw congregation for almost a century before the building of our present church. By this, of course, we mean Heights, the

former parish church of St Thomas, which was sadly closed in 1964. Since then, however, it has been used for the filming of several television dramas and a movie.

If the walkers manage to reach 'Four Lane Ends' they will enjoy one of the best views in Saddleworth. What better way to enjoy a Sunday morning while helping church finances?

It will certainly be a walk with a difference, as it is our intention to hold the monthly Morning Prayer service before braving the elements and setting out on the walk. Naturally there will be hot drinks and refreshments for all on their return to Denshaw. It will be even greater fun if we happen to see some early snow, but there will no doubt be one or two trusty 4x4s on hand to cover all eventualities. Unfortunately it looks as if pudding-making will be put on hold for members of Christ Church congregation.

Collect for the Sunday next before Advent

*"Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord,
the wills of thy faithful people; that they,
plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may of thee be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."*

We have a 'twinned' toilet

There's nothing bog-standard about our loo!

Yes, our toilet now has a twin in the Bangui District of the Central African Republic.



SCAN ME

The twin can be found on Google Maps using the QR code or by using the co-ordinates:

Latitude: 3.8962,

Longitude: 17.9191

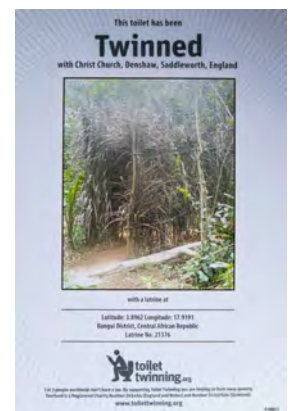
Why twin our toilet? We need to look at some facts:

- † 1 in 3 people across the world do not have a safe and hygienic toilet – that's an incredible 2.3 billion people;
- † Every two minutes a child under the age of five dies because of dirty water or poor sanitation;
- † In poor countries, many teenage girls drop out of school because of lack of proper toilets;
- † Women and girls are vulnerable to being bitten by snakes, or being attacked, when they go to the toilet in the bush;
- † Every £1 spent on sanitation yields a return of £5.50 due to increased productivity and lower health costs.

We pray that our 'toilet twinning' will be a blessing to our brothers and sisters in one of the poorest parts of God's world.

In exchange for a donation, any individual or group who donate to Toilet Twinning receive a good quality, well-framed photograph of their 'twinned toilet' to hang in their toilet or washroom.

This photograph illustrates the awful conditions some people in Africa are forced to put up with.



SCAN ME

If you, or your church, school, or place of work are interested in Toilet Twinning, please go to:

www.toilettwinning.org

or call 0300 321 3217.

Revd Philip Williamson

Eco Update and Advice

We welcomed our newly commissioned 'Vaillant A-rated' boiler by including, that favourite hymn, "He who would valiant be" in our Morning Prayer service on the first Sunday after its installation. The increased efficiency will reduce our bills and reduce our Carbon Footprint.

Winter is coming

The falling leaves and temperatures herald the start of the hedge-laying season and lean times for the birds and other wildlife that we have welcomed to us over the summer. The Eco-Team has provided suitable shelter in the form of bug houses and log piles for those creatures that hibernate together with additional feeders and shelter for our birds.



The hedge laying work is planned for the end of January.



The three 'Rs' maxim, 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle', can have a fourth 'R' added for 'Repair'. Often a quite simple repair can extend the life of many items.

Plastic tubs and boxes used in our gardens can be repaired by stitching holes and splits with cable ties and cracks in porcelain stitched with wire to prolong use. Plenty of useful jobs for the winter months.

Michael Billing

Helping the Homeless

The theme of our October Morning Prayer service was 'Helping the Homeless' following the receipt of the appeal from CTiS to help with the setting up of a shelter in Hollinwood from October to June.

We appealed for donations of much needed items for keeping the shelter running, not really expecting any of our congregation to be free to commit to regular journeys to Hollinwood. However, we are delighted to say that before the end of the day we had a volunteer. We are also hoping to receive the requested warm hats, gloves, boxer shorts and hand wipes in the near future as well as extra food items such as long-life milk, biscuits, tea, coffee and sugar.

In our efforts to help the Salvation Army Foodbank, we are collecting unwanted plastic bags for the staff at the centre to pack the many food parcels they hand out on a regular basis. When Mike and Hazel took the Harvest donations down to Shaw, Major Nigel said there was one downside to the supermarkets being eco-friendly and that was the lack of bags they were getting. We have had a brilliant response to our appeal for spare bags. We have helped the centre and also helped people rid their homes of unwanted plastic by re-cycling them for a good cause.



Christmas Services

Friday 20th December, 9:15am
School Carol Service.



Sunday 22nd December, 3:00pm
Carol Service.



Tuesday 24th December, 11:30pm
Midnight Eucharist.



Wednesday 25th December, 10:30am
Christmas Day Communion.



Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator

Mary Rodgers

rodgers@delphman.myzen.co.uk

01457 874354



Day 6 - 30th December - 'Bright': It's sometimes hard to name our own best qualities. Often, it's easier for those around us to see what brightness we bring to the world.

Read: Psalm 139, v13-16

Holy Trinity Dobcross

Archdeacon Cherry to be Bishop

We were delighted to hear that the Venerable Cherry Vann, Archdeacon of Rochdale, is the Bishop Elect of Monmouth in the Church in Wales.

Many times during the last ten years, Archdeacon Cherry has joined us to celebrate Eucharist or to lead our Walk of Witness on Whit Friday.



Archdeacon Cherry 'leading' our Walk of Witness in 2014

There are two other occasions which we remember with thanks and joy. In 2010 she presided at our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and conducted Dobcross Silver Band as we sang *"Ding Dong Merrily on High"*. More recently, we appreciated Archdeacon Cherry's guidance and advice as the PCC planned and completed a range of new textiles in the sanctuary.



Archdeacon Cherry with Polly Meynell, Roy Hopkinson and Paul Wooding

Last year at a Eucharist service on 13th May, we welcomed the designer, Polly Meynell, congregation and Friends of Holy Trinity as Archdeacon Cherry blessed the beautiful range of designs and quoted: *"The world is charged with the grandeur of God"*.

Congratulations and Best Wishes from everyone at Holy Trinity Church.

Why do we open the church daily?

"I've been in church this morning getting the new dehumidifier operational and changing dud lamps. I met three casual visitors to our village church."

"A lady from Shaw was out walking her grandchild (her daughter lives in The Square). I was upstairs and when I came down she was kneeling praying in the front pew. We chatted; her son died last year and she often pops into the church to spend a few minutes in the peace and quiet. As she was leaving, I explained about the All Souls' Day Service and the 'bucket' for people to leave names. She has another engagement Friday but she has left her son's name in the 'bucket'."

"The next visitor was a gentleman from Devon. He retired early from being a primary school headteacher and set up his own art studio/exhibition space in Cornwall many years ago. His wife is a retired vicar. She has family near Mottram and once a year they visit for a week or so. He often has paintings of Devon/Cornwall on sale in a shop in Mottram. Having chatted with the owners, they indicated that local paintings were more likely to sell. They gave him a collection of villages to visit (which didn't include Dobcross), so he was on a bus tour of the area. He identified Dobcross as one to stop at and was very taken by the church (both inside and out)."

"The third person came in and left before I could descend my ladder."

"You may have gathered from this that the changing of lamps took longer than it should have done."

"Both people I chatted with took home a copy of The Grapevine and both put some loose change in the wallsafe."



Anonymous

Lest we forget...

This year there was a special ceremony to dedicate the silent soldier in the memorial garden opposite the church. The silhouette has been funded by the Dobcross Village Community.

The occasion included a Prayer of Dedication and Dobcross Youth Band played *"O Valiant Hearts"*.



Welcome to Advent and Christmas

Every year at school, work or home, Christmas can be a time of making lists, shopping, partying and visiting family and friends. However, Advent reminds us that Christmas is about the birth of a very special infant.

We invite parishioners and friends to join us for the Christmas services and events in our beautiful church.

Sunday 1st December, 6:00pm Christingle Service

Church, School, Dobcross Youth Band and the community join together to celebrate the Christingle tradition. All proceeds from this service will go to The Children's Society.



Sunday 8th December, 10:30am Nativity Service

Come and hear the wondrous story of the Nativity with Little Fishes and Sunday Club.



Wednesday 11th December, 7:00pm Christmas Concert

Musical Director, Deborah Williams brings her "Sing for Pleasure Choir" and Holy Trinity School Choir, accompanied by pianist Gordon Jackson to church for a Christmas celebration in words and music with an opportunity for everyone to sing a few carols.



Sunday 22nd December, 6:00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Come and enjoy the well-known readings and popular Christmas carols.



Tuesday 24th December, 11:45pm Midnight Eucharist

Come and welcome the birth of Jesus at this beautiful candlelit service.



Wednesday 25th December, 10:30am Christmas Day Eucharist

We rejoice with the whole world that Jesus Christ was born today in Bethlehem



Sunday 5th January, 9:30am & 10:30am Celebration of the Epiphany

The Magi will end their long journey to the stable in Bethlehem to bring gifts to the infant Jesus.



"Pledges on Justice and a Fairer World"

We continue the theme of justice:-

My Pledge for December – I will pray regularly for the homeless, for asylum seekers and refugees.

My Pledge for January – I will commit to grow in Christian character.

Experience Christmas

It is also good to share our joy with the children, staff and parents from Holy Trinity Primary School. "Experience Christmas", led by Revd John Rosedale on 10th December, will be an opportunity for a year group to spend time taking part in activities at a series of stations, each one focusing on an aspect of the birth of Jesus.

Finally the whole group will gather round the manger for prayers.

Holy Trinity Dobcross **HTD**
The Parish Church of Holy Trinity, Dobcross in the Benefice of Saddleworth, in the Diocese of Manchester, in the Province of York

Christmas Craft Fair
at
Holy Trinity Church
on
Saturday 30th November
from 10:00am to 2:00pm

Crafts include:
Pottery, Textiles, Jewellery,
Artisan Stationery, Woodturning,
Photography, Rug-making, Antiques
also featuring musical entertainment

Admission including Entry to Raffle: 50p
(accompanied children free)

Refreshments: Tea, Coffee, Mulled wine, Mince pies

The Church of England in Saddleworth
"Celebrating God's presence in all people."

The parishes of St Thomas Deep, Christ Church Dewalke, Holy Trinity Dobcross, Christ Church Farnfield, St Mary Greenfield, St Anne Lyggett, St Chad Saddleworth

Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Dorothy Townend	r.townend@btinternet.com	01457 873861
Baptisms and Weddings	Dorothy Townend	r.townend@btinternet.com	01457 873861

Christ Church Friezland

Bah humbug!

Christmas is a tricky time for many of us for all kinds of reasons. However, we can each take some inspiration from a Christmas classic to support our well-being:

12 Drummers Drumming

revel in your favourite music;
go to a concert for that 'live' experience or join a choir and enjoy the proven benefits of communal singing;

11 Pipers Piping

thinking of other pipes: learn a practical skill such as plumbing or joinery. It's never too late and you may even save or earn yourself some money;

10 Lords a Leaping

keep active by walking or even doing chores; develop an existing sporting skill; take up as new exercise hobby. Release those endorphins!

9 Ladies Dancing

and not just ladies! Learn a style of dance that takes our fancy and suits your age and fitness. Join a dance exercise class or a social dance group;



8 Maids a Milking

healthy eating matters, and not just to us! Could you make adjustments to include more animal friendly products or eat less meat and/or dairy?

7 Swans a Swimming

swimming is great weight-bearing exercise, so it's gentle on joints and it's mentally-calming too. It's also cheap with accessible local facilities;

6 Geese a Laying

thought about caring for animals? Volunteer at a shelter, borrow a dog or adopt your own pet (from a reputable rescue). But not just for Christmas!

5 Golden Rings

you DO make a difference in your circles of influence: to God, Family, Friends, Neighbours and others in your Community or with whom you work;

4 Calling Birds

get in touch with someone you've not seen or heard from or been meaning to catch up with for a while, just for a coffee/tea or a short walk out;

3 French Hens

travel to somewhere new (maybe not France!), by bus, tram or train and change the landscape around you for an afternoon, a weekend or even longer;

2 Turtle Doves

doves symbolise peace. Regular peace and quiet are essential; take time to read the Bible and pray; switch off the devices, go for a walk, take a nap!



and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

this can symbolise Jesus, who

*“died for sins once for all,
the Just and Righteous
for the unjust and unrighteous
(the innocent for the guilty)
so that He might bring us to God...”*
(1 Peter 3, v.18 - Amplified).

We each have good and bad days, but His forgiveness and love abound whatever kind of day it is.

The 12 Tips of Eco Christmas (Giving)

1. **Meet needs**
create a reverse advent calendar; §
2. **Make memories**
give event tickets, experiences or memberships;
3. **Support reading and learning**
give subscriptions to print or on-line publications;
4. **Give your time**
share your skills helping out: decorating, fixing or gardening;
5. **Upcycle**
reinvent old items with a makeover for a new owner;
6. **Give something to wear (without the 'novelty')**
from snuggly scarves to 'cosy toes' socks;
7. **Source Second hand**
check charity shops and antique fairs;
8. **Make or Bake**
craft it and give it;
9. **Buy Ethical**
from Fairtrade or Eco sources;
10. **Buy Local**
from small business;
11. **Donate to charities and causes that**
make a difference to the would-be recipient;
12. **Give something they specifically want or put some funds towards it.**

§ A Reverse Advent Calendar is where you take a box or crate and each day of Advent you put something (non-perishable) into it.

By Christmas you have a veritable hamper of goods to give to someone in need or to donate to a local Foodbank.

Christmas Dates

Saturday 14th December, 11:00am
Equestrian Service - see poster

Sunday 15th December, 6:00pm
Nine Lessons & Carols.

Tuesday 24th December, 3:30pm
Crib & Christingle Service
proceeds to The Children's Society.

Tuesday 24th December, 11:30pm
Midnight Eucharist.

Wednesday 25th December, 10:00am
Christmas Day Eucharist.

Sunday 19th January
Churches Together in Saddleworth Service
at Greenfield Methodist Church.



West Pennine Bridleways Association
on behalf of Friezland User Group
are hosting the

Horserider's Carol Service

on
Saturday 14th December at 11:00am

at Friezland Arena, Greenfield

followed by mulled wine/orange juice & mince pies
with carrots & rosettes for the horses
and a biscuit for the dogs!

All Creatures Great & Small welcome!

Tickets £2 on the gate or from: Beal Hay Feeds, Shaw;
BW Farm Supplies, Delph; Jolly Jods, Diggle; K9 Design, Lees;
Horse to Hole, Ashton; The Horse Hole, Hyde, and from FUG Reps

Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Yvonne Carson	grapevine.ccf@outlook.com	
ALM Worship	Duncan Ross	ross328@btinternet.com	01457 835261
ALM Prayer and Spirituality	Megan Harrison	megharrison64.aol.com	07817 771663



Day 7 - New Year's Eve - 'Leading': New Year's resolutions give us hope and direction, but keeping them is not always easy. If we're not careful, we can find ourselves quickly getting off track.
Read: Isaiah 43, v18-21



Day 8 - New Year's Day - 'Proceeding': Some journeys can be difficult, or even dangerous. Knowing that there is someone along for the ride with you, to help you and to be beside you can really make a difference.
Read: Psalm 23

St Mary Greenfield

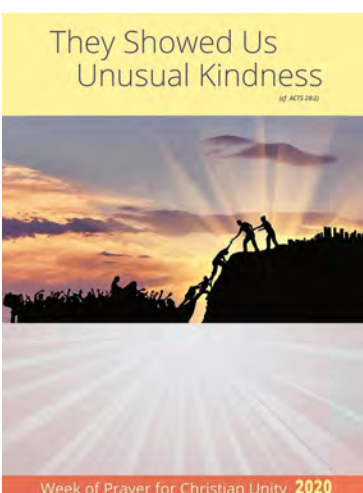
Advent Preparations

As in all churches, we are looking forward to our Christmas celebrations and services and also to the preparations that will take place both spiritually and practically during Advent. This year, we are pleased to be hosting the Advent Service at 4:00pm on Advent Sunday 1st December, when we will enjoy worshipping, reflecting and sharing fellowship with friends from across the Benefice.

We extend a warm welcome to everyone who would like to join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the Good News that he brings.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

In all our activities and relationships, it's always good to work together and support each other. On 19th January, we will be holding our 'village services' in three locations across Saddleworth to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The ethos of the week and the services are promoted by Churches Together in Saddleworth. In our part of the area, as in previous years, we are joining with Greenfield Methodist Church, St Anne Lydgate and Christ Church Friezland and the service will be held at Greenfield Methodist Church at 10.45am on 19th January.



The suggested theme for the services is 'Unusual Kindness' which is the term used in Acts Chapter 28 to describe the hospitality shown to Paul and his companions by the people of Malta when they were shipwrecked close to the island.

A group of us from the four churches have planned our service together and it is to be based on the Methodist Covenant service, in which we will all pledge ourselves afresh to the service of God which in effect, includes, showing 'unusual kindness' to others. Several members from each church will be taking part in the service and from start to finish, it will truly be an act of unity, and also one which is inspiring and uplifting and reaffirms our faith and our joint mission as people of God.

Remembering...

At Christmas time, and as we approach the end of another year, our thoughts often turn to those we love who have died. In particular during December and January we will be holding close in our prayers all those whose names are recorded in our Book of Remembrance who died in these months in past years. They are: Ernest Clifford Cuff, Brian Shelbourne, Florence Shaw, Doreen Lee, Angela Dawn Karen Connolly, Martha Green, The Reverend Frederick John Jones, Sheila Anne Partington, Norah Holden, Jeffrey George Booth and Doreen Evans.

At Christmas, the Incarnation of Jesus, '*The Word made flesh*', reminds us that:

*"The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it."
(John 1, v.5)*

Good wishes and God's blessings for a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Barbara

**St. Mary's
Christmas
Fair
& Santa's Grotto**

Tomboles & Raffle
Face Painting & Kids Crafts
Mulled Wine, Mince Pies & Cake

Hot Lunches & Tuck Shop
Christmas Shopping Gift Stalls
School Music Group Performances

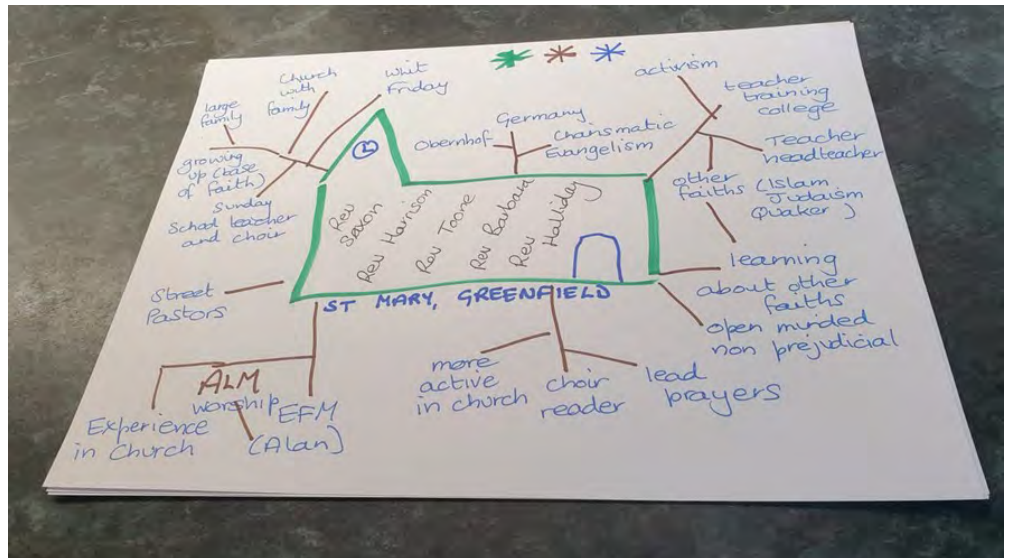
Saturday 7th December
from 11am at St. Mary's Primary School,
Manchester Road, Greenfield.

Spiritual Autobiography

I'm now in my fourth and final year of Exploring Faith Matters (EFM); the course has been challenging, enlightening and really enjoyable, and I totally recommend it to you.

At the beginning of each year we look at our individual spiritual autobiographies with a different theme each year; this year being 'Colours'.

I chose my colours as green, brown, and blue to represent Greenfield and St Mary's Church.



The church is in the middle with the names of the various ministers who have both inspired and helped me along different parts of my spiritual journey. You may remember most of them.

Around the church are the branches leading to different parts of my life - although these branches have taken me to very different places for many different reasons, in the end they have all returned me to the place I love - St Mary Greenfield.

Completing and sharing my spiritual autobiography, with other EFM members is truly a privilege. It enables me to learn more about myself, about my relationship with God, and about how the direction of my life has changed / is changing. It deepens my understanding of both my Christian life and my ministry.

If you'd like to know more about EFM, please ask.

Alison O'Brien, ALM.

Christmas Services

Sunday 1st December, 10.30am
Advent Sunday -
Christingle



Sunday 1st December, 4:00pm
Benefice Advent Carol Service



Sunday 22nd December, 10:30am
Nativity Service.



Sunday 22nd December, 6:30pm
Carol Service



Tuesday 24th December, 6:00pm
Carols around the tree - in the village

Tuesday 24th December, 11:30pm
Holy Communion



Wednesday 25th December, 10:30am
Holy Communion - for all the Family

Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Barbara Christopher barbarachristopher@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 876802
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Organist	Graham Sheldon Graham.Sheldon@oldham.gov.uk	01457 513236
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



Day 9 - 2nd January - 'Guide': In an age of satnav and internet maps, it's rare that we need to stop and ask someone for directions. Sometimes, though, a person is exactly what we need to guide the way.

Read: John 14, v1-7

St Anne Lydgate

My First Street Pastor Patrol

There are now sufficiently trained Street Pastors to run a regular one evening a week patrol. I did my first stint on the second regular patrol.

One very wet Friday evening in October five of us set off from Ebenezer Church at 9:00pm. (Ebenezer kindly provides the base for our patrolling, so we can change into our uniforms.)



There were not many people out in Uppermill as it was raining steadily but there were plenty of people in the various eating and drinking establishments. That was an education for me in the first place. I had never noticed some of them before. We split into two teams and visited each establishment in turn. The staff mostly knew of our existence and generally welcomed us. One or two enthusiastically but others with just a courteous thanks.

Two of us had an encouraging conversation under our umbrellas with a couple from Mossley who stopped to ask what Street Pastors are and were we volunteers. Other members of the team had other interesting conversations and met people they knew enjoying meals or a drink. Gradually, our role will become known.

Friends of mine have expressed concern about my

being out late in an area where people drink and can misbehave. My first venture was not typical in that the rain kept people indoors but even so I felt perfectly comfortable and got to know fellow Saddleworth Christians better. I didn't even get wet thanks to my large umbrella.

What we need is more volunteers to increase our numbers so we are only called on once a month. If you are interested please contact me (Richard Darlington) on 0161 633 3132.

Alternatively, please contact Frank Boocock, who is one of the Prayer Pastors, or our co-ordinator Susan Titmuss by email on

susan.titmuss@hotmail.co.uk
or by phone on 01457 878163.

Richard Darlington

My first six months as May Queen

I cannot believe that I have been May Queen for St Anne's Church for six months; time has flown by because we have been having so much fun. Our close family friend, Helen Hulme, crowned me on 12th May 2019 and my friends from my school choir performed during the service. It was a beautiful sunny day. My retinue and I took part in the Whit Friday walks and I remember everyone saying how beautiful we all looked. It was a long walk and when we arrived at the service we ate ice-creams.



So far I have been to four events:

- † the 'At Home' events for Harvest Queen Lily of East Crompton St James, and Harvest Queen Evie of St Thomas Leesfield;
- † and the crownings of Rose Queen Emma of St Anne's Royton and Rose Queen Louise of St Paul's Stalybridge.

My charities this year are the RSPCA and St Anne's Church Funds.

I have chosen the RSPCA because I love animals so much even though my parents won't let me have a family pet! I believe all animals should be cared for and treated with respect and those who treat animals inhumanely should be stopped. I also want to support my own Church as I know they are struggling to pay the bills.



So far, to raise money, we have held a raffle at my crowning and a small Tropic Party at my home. More recently we held a Family Race Night which was a great success raising over £630. Everyone had a fabulous night shouting for their horse with our biggest pay out being £9!

At the time of writing my family and I are preparing for our next event – a Tropic Party in our Church Hall. After that I cannot wait to decorate the Church Christmas tree followed by selling mince pies and mulled wine at the Carol Service. It's going to be another busy 6 months and I can't wait to plan our next fund raising events and my own 'At Home'.

Katie Lowe

Lydgate Band

Lydgate Band is holding their Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday 1st December in the Parish Hall at Lydgate from 2:00pm until 4:00pm.

Once again the Band will be playing a selection of Christmas Music and Carols for your entertainment.

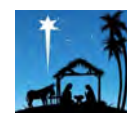
Refreshments will be served and a raffle will take place. Admission (payable on the door) is £4 for adults (including refreshments); accompanied children free.

Christmas Services

Sunday 15th December, 6:00pm
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.



Tuesday 24th December, 6:00pm
Crib Service.



Tuesday 24th December, 11:30pm
Midnight Eucharist.



Wednesday 25th December, 10:00am
Christmas Eucharist.

Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Sue Willett	sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk	07808 474743
Parish Hall Bookings	Frank Boocock	fandmboo@btinternet.com	01457 873985
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
Verger	Anne Smith		07507 339983

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

CTiS services will be held on 19th January to mark 'The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'. The theme for 2020 is 'Unusual Kindness', based on the hospitality received by St Paul and his companion from the people of Malta, when they were shipwrecked there (as recorded in Acts 28).



Greenfield Methodist Church service, 10:45am

involving St Mary Greenfield, St Anne Lydgate, Christ Church Friezland, and Greenfield Methodist Church.

Uppermill Methodist Church service, 10:45am

involving Uppermill Methodist Church, Ebenezer Congregational Church, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Family Church Uppermill, and St Chad Saddleworth: Parish Church, Parish Centre, and Kilngreen.

Delph Methodist Church service, 10:30am

involving Delph Methodist Church, Christ Church Denshaw, St Thomas Delph and Holy Trinity Dobcross.

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church

Some Nostalgia!

From a 1953 newspaper...

Men's fellowship for the First Time

For the first time in its history Saddleworth Church has got a Men's Fellowship. This was formed at a meeting in the Parochial Hall, Uppermill when the vicar, Revd E S Barnett presided over an attendance of about 30 men.

The vicar was elected president, Mr W Pownall, chairman; Mr G Williams secretary (with Mr L Whitehead as assistant); Mr K Hinchliffe treasurer; and Messrs J Partington, S Fallas, R D S Ward, A Thornton, E Leigh and V Wood as the committee.

The new organisation will be known as Saddleworth Church Men's Fellowship and will meet monthly starting on 3rd Jan. New members will be welcomed.

Look what the men were getting up to...
(an interesting look back in time at social history)

Mannequin Parade by Men

Men of all professions and trades connected with Saddleworth Church put on a mannequin parade at The Parochial Hall, Uppermill on Saturday evening which made the many women in the packed audience at first envious and then sent them into uncontrollable laughter.

It was "a mannequin parade to end mannequin parades" but what it did succeed in doing was to make everybody wish it could be repeated more often. The whole evening's programme was carried out by the men. No woman was allowed to have a hand in it at all.

The Vicar, Revd E S Barnett, appeared in a bright evening frock with low neck and shoulder straps and showed the women how a frock should be worn.

Six foot Mr J Partington (Chief Rating Officer) walked on the stage in a mauve crinoline dress with a richly flowered hat and pantaloons and looked down on the audience with such hauteur and self possession that they almost for a moment forgot to laugh.

Victorian swimsuit

There were old fashioned dresses to suit all occasions – evening frocks, sportswear and swimsuits. Mr Maurice Gartside in a Victorian bathing dress brought the house down and Mr J H Parker (headmaster) wore his evening dress like a debutante just out.



Mr H Pilling was a blushing bride in full dress with Mr J D Peet as the bridegroom and some bridesmaids who made the girls in the audience sigh with envy.

And so it went on with one old fashioned dress following another and the more solemn and dignified the mannequins tried to be the more the audience laughed.

Mr Peet introduced the show and was assisted by Mr A Thornton and Mr V Wood. Mr Leslie Whitehead as Madame Rayon described the dresses in entertaining manner.

During the first part of the evening Mr S Marshall compared a programme of individual turns. They were songs and duets by Mr F Sykes and Mr G Bradshaw, dialect recitations by M B B Whitehead and conjuring tricks by Mr B Buckley and Mr A Thornton.

The men's effort made a profit of £45

Could this be an interesting fundraiser today? Ed!

Harvest Gifts

The Food Bank at Oldham and the Booth Centre for the Homeless in Manchester have sent letters of 'Thanks', saying how grateful they are for all the Harvest Gifts.



Friends of Saddleworth Church

- new members required

- become the chairperson

(Charity Reg. No 1042302)

This is a charity of locals and congregation who raise money for the three worship centres in the Parish of St Chad Saddleworth: the Parish Church, the Parish Centre, and Kilngreen Mission Church, with approximately 1.8 hectares (4.5 acres) of churchyards.

Over the years, we have raised money to convert the Hearse House to provide a kitchen and toilets for the Parish Church; helped to renovate and improve the Old School to create the Parish Centre; helped to put new lights and a sound system in the Parish Church, and paid for many other repairs within the parish.

We run our own 200 Club each year and other events to raise money. The next planned event is an Afternoon Tea in Kilngreen on Saturday 29th February 2020 to celebrate St Chad's Day.

We would be very grateful if anyone would join us, especially as chairperson, to help raise money for these very important and useful village buildings.

Please contact Alison Coates, Churchwarden and present Chairperson by email on
alison99@talktalk.net
or phone 01457 876760.

Christmas Dates

Wednesday 11th December, 7:00pm
Saddleworth School Carol Service.



Friday 13th December
Experience Christmas for school.



Sunday 15th December, 11:00am
Eucharist

The Right Revd Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton, will preach and celebrate the Eucharist.

“...kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face...”



Thursday 19th December, 10:00 am
St Chad's School Carol Service.



Sunday 22nd December, 11:00am
Nativity Play

Sunday School present their story.



Sunday 22nd December, 3:00pm
Carol Service.



Tuesday 24th December, 5:00pm
Crib Service.



Tuesday 24th December, 11:00pm
Midnight Eucharist.



Wednesday 25th December, 11:00am
Christmas Day Eucharist.



Sunday 29th December, 11:00am
All at Parish Church for Fifth Sunday Service.

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

Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Sarah Barlow	sarah.barlow@talk21.com	07775 613787
Assistant Wardens	Tim Edge		01457 872429
	Debbie McCabe		07779 120346

Advent Calendar by Rowan Williams

He will come like last leaf's fall.

One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.

One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword - set beauty.

He will come like dark.

One evening when the bursting red
December sub draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
and will come crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like a child.

The poem, Advent Calendar, was first published in 1994. It was set to music by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies in the 'Choirbook for the Queen'.

Rowan Williams is now The Right Reverend and Right Honourable The Lord Williams of Oystermouth and was Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002 - 2012. He was previously the Bishop of Monmouth and Archbishop of Wales.

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

The Bishop of Middleton gives his blessings to Sola Fide CE Trust offices.

Sola Fide Trust moved into its office premises at the Parish Centre, Uppermill in September 2019.

On Tuesday 15th October, The Right Reverend Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton, visited the Parish Centre to perform an official opening ceremony for the new offices.



Members of the Board of the Trust along with the CEO, Peter Burnley, welcomed the Bishop and the event was well-attended by educational partners, associates, and friends of the Sola Fide Trust.



From a single stand-alone academy, the Trust has evolved into a multi-academy trust that currently consists of three schools:

- † St. Chad's C E Primary, Uppermill;
- † St. Anne's C E Primary, Lydgate;
- † and St. John's C E Primary, Failsworth.

Sola Fide is a mixed multi-academy trust (not exclusive to church schools) that welcomes the challenge of life-long education in an ever-changing world.

Children's futures are entrusted into our hands and, as a Trust, we ensure that children are placed at the centre; they always come first. Love and service underpin all we do and these Christian values are embraced by all personnel and firmly embedded in all of our academies.

The core purpose of Sola Fide is to establish effective collaboration and embrace interdependency; an acknowledgement that there are some things that can only be resolved by groups of people working together.

Finally, there is a genuine willingness to share what we have with others because we believe that when we freely give everyone gains and grows.

The Trust wishes to thank the staff from the Reclamation Room Café, Uppermill for providing a beautiful array of tasty refreshments especially for the event.

Many thanks to Ken Bennett for the article and photographs

The Travelling Crib / Posada

During Advent in the Parish of St Chad, Mary and Joseph become a travelling crib, visiting homes around Saddleworth and being a focus for prayer and preparation for Christmas.



The idea of the 'Travelling Crib' originates in Mexico. It is known as a 'Posada' and is an important Mexican Christmas tradition and features prominently in holiday festivities.

The word posada means 'inn' or 'shelter' in Spanish. In this tradition, the Bible story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their search for a place to stay is re-enacted. The tradition also involves a special song, as well as a variety of Mexican Christmas carols, breaking piñatas, and celebration.

Posadas are held in neighbourhoods across Mexico. The celebration begins with a procession in which the participants hold candles and sing Christmas carols. Sometimes there will be individuals who play the parts of Mary and Joseph who lead the way. The procession will make its way to a different home each night.



There are two parts to the traditional posada song. Those outside the house sing the role of Joseph asking for shelter and the family inside responds, singing the part of the innkeeper saying that there is no room. The song switches back and forth a few times until finally, the innkeeper agrees to let them in.

The hosts open the door and everyone goes inside. Once inside the house, there is a celebration where the festivities begin with a Bible reading and prayer.

The nine nights of posadas leading up to Christmas are said to represent the nine months that Jesus spent in Mary's womb, or alternatively, to represent nine days journey that it took Mary and Joseph to get from Nazareth (where they lived) to Bethlehem (where Jesus was born).

In St Chad's Parish we have three small travelling cribs which set off from the Parish Centre, the Parish Church and Kilngreen on Advent Sunday. They stay a few nights with a family before moving on. A prayer is said, a reading from the Bible is heard and photographs are taken and posted on the WhatsApp groups.

Everyone is invited to host the holy family and to ask God's blessing on their home and family.

Coffee Mornings



Every other Saturday
between 10:00am and 11:30am.
Admission £1.

Saturday 7th December
in aid of Bethlehem Children's Hospital.

Saturday 21st December
Save Saddleworth Church.

Saturday 4th January
in aid of a charity.

Saturday 18th January
Save Saddleworth Church.

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre, Station Road, Uppermill, OL3 6HQ

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



Day 10 - 3rd January - 'Light': Darkness has many overwhelming forms: despair, fear, violence, danger, grief, ignorance, worry. Yet some believe that there is one source of light to combat them all.
Read: John 8, v12-16



Day 11 - 4th January - 'Gifts': Often, the best gifts that we have ever received are the small and personal ones, handmade with love and effort, but costing very little money.
Read: Matthew 2, v7-12

St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

Growing & Harvesting our Community

On Sunday 6th October members of the Diggle community gathered together for the annual Harvest Service at the allotments, which was led by Revd Godfrey Adams. We were joined by Diggle Band who supported us with the chosen hymns.

This year saw the use of the new PA system which has been kindly bought by the Diggle Whit Friday Committee for use at community events. We listened to the reading 'The Feeding of the Five Thousand' and the prayers were led by two members of the Sunday School: Cara Hamilton and Evelyn Tamworth.



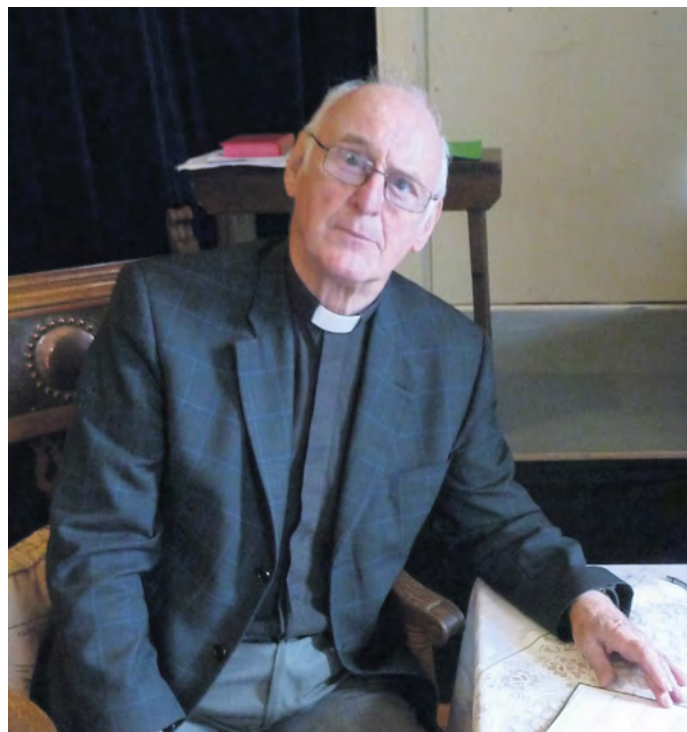
The theme of the service this year was 'Growing and Harvesting our Community'. As part of the preparations, during the weeks leading up to the event, an open invitation was sent out to the various groups, organisations and businesses of the village welcoming them to prepare a display board or smaller piece of card showcasing what they do.

These were then displayed at the service around a beautifully painted display by Janet Iles. We had lots of wonderful contributions from Diggle Diamonds, St Chad's All Stars, Kilngreen Sunday School, the Diggle Diggers, Diggle Brownies and Guides, and the Cubs and Beavers to name but a few. We also had representations from local businesses. There were many more and unfortunately there is not space to list them all here, but the positive response highlighted what a diverse and thriving community we have in Diggle. Look out for the display boards which are now being put up around the village for everyone to enjoy.

A big thank you to all of the individuals who helped to make the service happen, the groups and organisations who helped to demonstrate the growth and harvesting of our community and in particular to Janet Iles who put a huge amount of time, effort and thought into the theme and programme for the event.

Revd Duncan Rhodes

On 2nd October a packed St Chad's Parish Church said goodbye to our very-much loved Revd Duncan Rhodes. The service was full of music by Dr Eileen Bentley, St Chad's Choir, Diggle Band and Saddleworth Musical Society. The service was led by Revd Hilary Egerton and Barrie Williams, one of Duncan's very long-standing friends, gave a eulogy.



Duncan will be very sadly missed by everyone within the Benefice of Saddleworth, but especially so at Kilngreen and in the Parish of St Chad Saddleworth.

Diggle Diamonds

All older residents of Diggle are welcome to the regular 'Diggle Diamonds' coffee mornings at The Gate Inn. There is a small entrance fee, followed by coffee, friendship, and a raffle.



We have a summer day trip each year and a Christmas dinner and party at Kilngreen in December.

The Christmas Party will be held on 7th December at Kilngreen.

Coffee morning dates: TBA

Diggle Brownies

Diggle Brownies, who meet weekly at Kilngreen Church, are working on an Adventure badge this term. One of the Girlguiding unit meeting activities involves making a hedgehog home and so the girls set to work with hammers and nails and have made three lovely wooden hedgehog homes to place within the Diggle community.



One of them will be installed this week in the garden of the Church, just in time for the hibernation season. You never know, come the spring, the garden may be welcoming some hoglets if we are lucky!

There are plans in the pipeline for more wildlife related activities in the garden at Kilngreen over the coming months so watch this space...

Christmas Dates

Sunday 15th December, 9:30am
Nativity Service



Sunday School present the Nativity story.

Tuesday 24th December, 11:00pm
Midnight Eucharist.



Wednesday 25th December, 9:30am
Christmas Day Eucharist.



Wednesday 1st January, 12 noon
Service in The Gate car park in Diggle.

The true meaning of Christmas

*We know the true meaning of Christmas,
the birth of Christ Jesus, God's Son,
The centre of all celebrations,
a crib with a Babe, the star shone.*

*But at Christmas we're all very busy,
there's shopping and cooking to do,
The gift wrap for everyone's presents,
we have to make room for that too.*

*The Christmas tree with all its baubles
and tinsel and fairy on top,
And Christmas clothes, glittery, sparkling,
there's no time to ponder or stop.*

Can we just move the crib back a bit?

*There's stockings to hang by the fireside
and presents for under the tree,
I mustn't forget anybody,
especially if they've bought for me.*

*The food for the parties, the turkey,
the trimmings that have to be there,
The pudding and mince pies and chocolate,
we eat 'til the table is bare.*

Can that crib just go back a bit more?

*We have to make room for those greetings,
all glitter and robins and snow,
Have I missed someone out who has sent us,
and this name, does anyone know?*

*So the tree and the presents, the dinner,
the cards and the bright candlelight,
Decorations and crackers, but hold on,
that small crib is nowhere in sight!*

Harvest Gifts

The donations of food were taken to the Booth Centre and Oldham Foodbank where we know they will have been much appreciated.



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

Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Sarah Barlow	sarah.barlow@talk21.com	07775 613787
Assistant Wardens	Lynda Barlow		01457 878338
Kilngreen Lettings	Suzanne Bradshaw		07733 335784



Day 12 - 5th January - 'Discovery': Searching for something takes energy and commitment. When you find what you are looking for, there is an understandable urge to celebrate and share your discovery.
Read: Luke 11, v9-13



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I attend meetings with clients at different venues when they need an independent note-taker to assist them. The meetings can be local or further afield. Including a doctors surgery near Blackpool.

More recently I have been pleased to assist Claire Hartwell from CLH HR whereby she is conducting interviews regarding grievances in the workplace; allegations of a sensitive nature. Although the company does have their own HR department Claire was asked to step in as an independent consultant,

which meant that she needed an independent note-taker. I was delighted to be asked to help her. Over several weeks we both travelled to Bolton for the meetings.

Armed with my laptop I was able to type what was said during the interviews which made things much easier for Claire. This was the first time we had worked together. I have to say it has been a pleasure working with her & she's been singing my praises too.

Why not give us a call on 0161 425 7909 or 07808 474743.

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Who we can help?

The Domestic Abuse Helpline is for anyone experiencing, or who has experienced domestic abuse in any form. The Helpline may also be accessed by professionals, friends, family or anyone seeking to support those who are experiencing domestic abuse. Anyone can experience domestic abuse regardless of race, ethnic or religious group, class, disability or lifestyle. It can also take place in lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender relationships and can involve other family members.

Who answers the Helpline calls?

The helpline is answered by fully-trained and experienced staff and volunteers who will listen to your needs and respond to what you are looking for in a sensitive and supportive manner.

Non-urgent email service

We provide an email service for people that would prefer to contact us in this way, although we can only offer limited information by email. If you require in-depth support please call the Helpline. When you email us it is very important that you specify if and when it is safe to respond and to which email address; your safety is our main concern. We will aim to respond to your email within three working days. If you are in danger and need urgent assistance then phone the police on 999. helpline@independentchoices.org.uk



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The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve.

It was an Apple with limited memory. Just one Byte and everything crashed!

Answers to the Christmas Quiz...

1. Good King Wenceslas 9. 7th January
2. Peter Pan 10. Tinsel
3. Germany 11. Captain James Cook
4. Chestnut 12. J. S. Bach
5. Cloves 13. Rudyard Kipling
6. The Ox and the Ass 14. Jingle Bells
7. Capricorn 15. Batman and Robin
8. Egypt

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