

The Grapevine

December 2018 &
January 2019

Issue 7

£1

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The
Star



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The Rector writes...

We ask God for a good Christmas; a Christmas that echoes through the birth of Jesus:

- † that no powerful nation should tax the poor or uproot them, or fail to cancel their debts;
- † that no unmarried mother should be put away in disgrace or die in lonely childbirth;
- † that no door will be shut on those seek refuge and safety;
- † that shepherds and sheep, keepers of the earth and all creation need not be afraid;
- † that barbed wire and angry soldiers may not be found in Bethlehem;
- † that wise men and wise women may be found among the mess that is Brexit, the fragmentation of Europe, the rise of the far right, and in the war zones of the world;
- † that children may be loved and protected from those who would abuse them;
- † that this Christmas, worship may become a manger and the Church a stable;
and the rumour become a reality that Christ has indeed come among us.

With thanks to Wild Goose worship group

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the love of Mary and Joseph and the peace of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas.

Sharon



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The cover for this issue shows the artwork and logo from the Church of England's Christmas campaign called:

#FollowTheStar

See details on Page 5.

Saint Oscar Romero (1917 - 1980)

On 23rd February 1977 Oscar Romero was appointed Archbishop of El Salvador. His appointment was met with surprise, dismay, and even incredulity. Whilst welcomed by the government, many priests were disappointed that his conservative reputation would negatively affect liberation theology's commitment to the poor.

On 12th March 1977 a progressive Jesuit priest and personal friend of Romero called Rutilio Grande was assassinated. His death had a profound impact on Romero. He urged the government to investigate but they ignored his request, and the censored press remained silent. From this time onwards, Archbishop Oscar Romero revealed a radicalism that had not been evident earlier. Traditionally the Church had been seen as complicit in the aims of the state and military to privilege the wealthy and powerful, while the majority of the population lived in abject poverty. He spoke out against poverty, social injustice, assassinations and torture. Oscar Romero's love for his people who were suffering violence and oppression led him to take their side and to denounce their oppressors. He was killed, whilst saying Mass, on 24th March 1980.



Romero's lifelong quest for God gained a new depth when he discovered God in the reality of the poor. Struggling against sin was not just a personal endeavour but a call to fight against the ways that other people were being deprived of their God-given dignity. Romero recognised that ignorance and privilege can blind people to the ways that sin dominates our world. He calls people to the reality of the poor and marginalised and confronts us with the daily demand for conversion – a conversion that 'turns away' from that sin and 'turns towards' full communion with our neighbours and God.

Followers of Christ must live and proclaim an authentic good news to those who are poor and marginalised. Their spirituality must be one that unites the love of God and neighbour, and sees the face of Christ in the many who are crucified. Oscar Romero, murdered for his courageous defence of human rights, offers inspiration for this great challenge by giving new meaning to conversion, discipleship and martyrdom.

Adapted from 'Revolutionary Saint - The Theological Legacy of Oscar Romero' by Michael Lee

Oscar Romero became a saint when he was canonized on 14th October 2018

A future not our own

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No programme accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

That is what we are about.

We plant a seed that will one day grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

This prayer was composed by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw. It was drafted for a homily by Cardinal John Dearden in November 1979 for a celebration of departed priests. As a reflection on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Romero, Bishop Untener included in a reflection book a passage titled "The mystery of the Romero Prayer". The mystery is that the words of the prayer are attributed to Oscar Romero, but they were never spoken by him.

#FollowTheStar

Our group of churches will be following the Church of England's 2018 Christmas campaign #FollowTheStar. Below is an introduction from Archbishops Justin Welby & John Sentamu.

"For many of us, Christmas brings up so many emotions, memories and expectations. We have one nativity story, but it can seem like we all have very different Christmases.

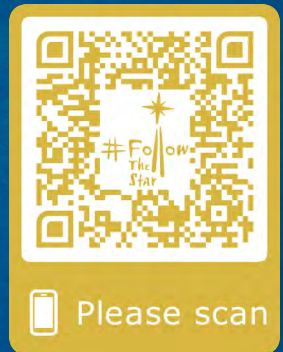
"For you it might be a time of joy and togetherness. Or perhaps it's all about planning and to-do lists. Many others can find it a sad and lonely time – nagged by the feeling that your Christmas is not like those 'perfect' ones we see in the media.

"But just like the unexpected assortment of people who were invited to meet the baby Jesus, #FollowTheStar doesn't ask you to be perfect.

"It says: come just as you are to take the life-changing Christmas journey."

There is a booklet *'#FollowTheStar: A journey through the 12 days of Christmas'*, which invites everyone to travel in the footsteps of the Wise Men to meet Jesus. It offers fourteen daily reflections – beginning on Christmas Eve and finishing on the Epiphany (6 January).

Alternatively, you can sign up for daily emails to take the life-changing Christmas journey. Each email includes a picture, a short Bible passage, a simple prayer and an action to reflect on. Register at www.churchofengland.org/followthestar



In addition, there are family resources for 'Advent' and for 'Christmas to Epiphany' for all to enjoy. In late November, these family resources will be turned into interactive calendars on the Church of England's website.

Alternatively, Adobe Acrobat Reader files can be downloaded using the QR codes or by visiting www.churchofengland.org/christmas. The 'Family Resources' section is near the bottom of the page.

The 'Christmas to Epiphany' resources are dotted around this issue of The Grapevine. The first one, 'Star followers' is shown below.

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

Revd Canon Sharon Jones



1. Star followers: rather than adding the Magi (kings/wise men) to your crib set in Advent, start them on a journey round the house on Christmas Day, until they arrive at the crib on Epiphany. Find different places for them each day

Church of England in Saddleworth Who's Who

Saddleworth Ministerial Team

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St Thomas Delph - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Bill Maxwell	wardens@stthomasdelph.co.uk	01457 878512
Churchwarden	Fiona Thompson	wardens@stthomasdelph.co.uk	01457 820816
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Christ Church Denshaw - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Ros Martin	rosmartin05@hotmail.co.uk	07884 940608
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St Mary Greenfield - PCC Officers

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St Anne Lydgate - PCC Officers

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St Chad Saddleworth - PCC Officers

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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



2. Star search: each day, someone in the family places a star in a different place around the house. Younger children can search for it and then move the Magi to that place.



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 the next issue (Issue 8) is Thursday 3rd January 2019.

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



3. Star countdown: stick 14 stars on a chart dated from 24th December to 6th January. Take one down each day as a reminder to do something to bless a family member/friend.

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)



4. Star journey: make your own Epiphany Posada by creating some wise men figures and a star to follow. Invite families to welcome the wise men each night between Christmas and 6th January. See churchofenglandchristenings.org/posada for more information.

St Chad Saddleworth

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

30th Dec 9:30am Eucharist at
The Parish Centre

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 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



5. Star name: on Christmas Eve, look out and choose one star to follow. Step outside each clear night that follows and try to spot that star. Remember those who followed the stars to find Jesus.

Churches Together in Saddleworth (CTiS)



Sunday 9th December
2:15pm
Churches Together in Saddleworth
Carols (outside the Conservative Club, Uppermill)
Everyone welcome



6. Star tour: make a string of stars, each labelled with a word: homeless, fighting, hungry, lonely, frightened, hurting, laughing, crying, hiding, running, working, singing, loving, searching. Choose one each day and pray that God's star light would be close to those in that situation.

OATIN - Oshandi AIDS Trust in Namibia

At Christmas we shall be thinking of our brothers and sisters in Christ in Oshandi as they celebrate in their new church of The Holy Spirit. What a wonderful time it will be for them with Father Samuel, their new priest, leading their worship as they share the good news of the birth of Christ thought their community.

If you would like to support the orphans and vulnerable young people in the community, please support our Alternative Christmas Presents Project. This year, with advice for their needs from Headmaster John, we are supporting them with

- † £5 School books
- † £10 An extra food parcel for their residential time in school during exams
- † £15 A Solar torch and
- † £20 A School Uniform

In 2019, we hope to bring you news of a new venture in response to requests from some of the older orphans as they leave school and move on into vocational and higher education. Watch this space in the Grapevine!



In the meantime please contact, Ann Hibbert annhibbert@aol.com 01457 874423 or Liz Rooke lizierooke@gmail.com 01457 810666 or The Team Office for the Alternative Christmas presents.

We also have Christmas cards and Christmas labels on sale for just £1 a packet - 6 cards or 10 labels.

Thank You

Community AND CHANGE

saddleworth benefice churches weekend away 2019

8-10 March 2019 | Everyone Welcome!

sessions for adults & children,
and free time & optional activities

plus: **YOUTH STREAM** for ages 11+



book via the benefice website: www.cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk



7. Star lead: give each person a star to hold and talk together about what your family would like to do next year. Ask God to bless your family as you move into 2019 and to guide anyone who feels a bit lost, especially at this time of the year.

A view behind bars – Healing Touch



On Sunday afternoon I shook the clammy hand of someone who is far from handsome; another hand of a man who, to be honest, nearly always smells because his personal hygiene is poor. I shook the hand of a murderer and another hand that had probably held a handmade cigarette laced with drugs at some point last week. We shared *“The Peace of Christ”* during our Communion service and I thought about the simple yet profound business of touch.

It’s true that had I been in a social setting with some of these men I may have avoided the handshakes, but I found myself drawn back to the story of Jesus and a man with leprosy who’s disease meant a life of isolation. He was considered fit to be near nobody except for others who shared the same kinds of deformities. As far as polite society was concerned, especially within the religious settings, such people were considered dirty. If they did venture outside their own commune, they should announce their presence from a long way off so that others could avoid them.

Yet the man who came to Jesus dared to come nearer:

*“Master, if you are willing, you can make me clean”
he says, kneeling at Jesus’ feet.
(Mark 1, v.40)*

Not only does Jesus miraculously reward such courageous trust with healing, he reaches out his hand to touch the man. As well as cleansing, Jesus

gave a loving touch to the man despite his outward appearance. And perhaps that counted as much as being made well, for in that touch someone showed that he was worth loving.

Touch is challenging! Some of us would rather preserve our own ‘personal space’ for any number of reasons. Some of us are repelled by others by the way they look or the way they live. It is a challenge to our church congregations when, so often populated by carefully dressed and well-behaved individuals, we find visitors who may not observe the same codes as us.

I wonder what kind of touch those men in prison have received or given in their lives? I know that some have known or dispensed aggression, violence and abuse. Perhaps a handshake represents a step in the right direction that offers renewal and a better way to be.

Two days after our Communion service, I sat by the bedside of a man curled up in pain and emotion in a hospice. As his eyes closed, a single tear slipped down his cheek. He made no effort to wipe it away, so I dared to do it for him. Our conversation had been difficult for him, both for his physical symptoms and its content, driven by news he had earlier received. His fight and hope were gone.

A few minutes later he tottered off the bed and across the room on his skin-and-bone frame hidden by a jumper and a baggy pair of trousers. As he wept, to my surprise, he stretched his arms out and fell on me with a hug.

I can say little more about his situation. I only know that he needed, at that moment, to know he could touch me and I would not push him away.

*Hilary Edgerton
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale*

Praying for the children and young people

There will be a monthly gathering at the St Chad Parish Centre to pray for the children and young people of our benefice. It will be informal and interactive and is open to anyone.

There are many brilliant groups meeting throughout the benefice. This is an opportunity to spend an hour once a month in prayer for the children and young people of our churches and schools.

Please call Revd Angela Bryan on 0161 626 0380 if you would like more information; alternatively please feel free to join us!

**Thursday 13th December, 7:00pm to 8:00pm
St Chad Parish Centre, Uppermill**

**Thursday 17th January, 7:00pm to 8:00pm
St Chad Parish Centre, Uppermill**

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

Christ Church Denshaw

30th September Isaac Joseph Jobey and
Evie Antonette Jobey

Christ Church Friezland

2nd September Joseph Peter and
Charlotte Katherine Baguley

30th September Oscar Michael Read

7th October Isabella Pearl and
Olivia Elizabeth Maynard

20th October Alice Evelyn Roe

28th October Alice Penelope Ibbotsen

St Mary Greenfield

9th September Oscar Nathaniel Jones

9th September Joshua Buckley

30th September Mabel Deane Hotchin

St Anne Lydgate

9th September Libby Southwood

16th September Niamh Iris O'Brien

30th September Rosie Hurst Hall

20th October Tallulah Wren Pritchard

21st October Matilda Anderson and
Amelie Dickens

St Chad Saddleworth

30th September Lydia Hazel France

May they walk in the light of Christ.

Thanksgiving and Renewal of Vows

St Mary Greenfield

27th October Ashley Jane Rose and
James Nicholas Bailey

United together in heart, body and mind

Marriages



Holy Trinity Dobcross

20th October Susan Jane Mayall and
Michael Hopkinson

3rd November Rachel Katharine May and
Thomas James Sullivan

10th November Christine Gordon and
Jeffrey Robertson

Christ Church Friezland

5th September Sarah Platt and
Owain Williams

St Mary Greenfield

29th September Suzanne Connolly and
David James

6th October Lindsey Ann Howard and
Mark Joseph Jones

St Anne Lydgate

27th October Emily Caroline Linney and
Nathan Andrew Moss

Joined in mutual love and companionship.

Funerals

Christ Church Denshaw

1st October Annie Smith

St Mary Greenfield

27th September Susan Birch

17th October Alec Brennand

St Anne Lydgate

11th October Jennifer Healey

St Chad Saddleworth

5th October Terence Anthony Holden

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

Teach us to pray



Four Monday afternoons

(weather permitting)

7th, 14th, 21st and 28th January

2:00pm to 3:00pm

12 places available please book in advance through John Rosedale

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Tel: 01457 874209

or email: jrosedale@gmail.com



Church of England in Saddleworth

"Celebrating God's presence in all people."

Big Picture Discussion Group Advent reflections and prayer



28th November,
5th, 12th and 19th December
7:45pm for 8:00pm

at

St Anne's Church Lydgate

Take time to think about the deeper message of Jesus sharing life as a human being.



Church of England in Saddleworth

"Celebrating God's presence in all people."

MEN UNITE

FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER 8PM

THE ROYAL GEORGE, GREENFIELD
2 COURSE MEAL - £12

AN EVENING WITH
EX-GLADIATOR ACE
WARREN FURMAN

INFO TIM 07878190604
BOOK AT MENUNITE.UK



Big Picture Discussion Group Ten Commandments for today's world



16th, 23rd and 30th January,
6th, 13th and 20th February
7:45pm for 8:00pm

at

St Anne's Church Lydgate

A series of discussion about what the commandments of God mean in 2019.



Church of England in Saddleworth

"Celebrating God's presence in all people."

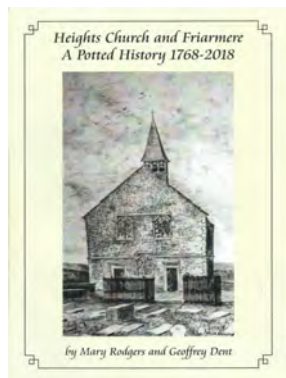
St Thomas Delph

Where did you read yours ?

In 1968 a booklet was compiled to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the opening of Heights Chapel. The booklet had twenty pages and cost 3 shillings (15p!). In 2016 a small group gathered to discuss how to celebrate the 250th Anniversary and from that the idea of a revised booklet emerged.

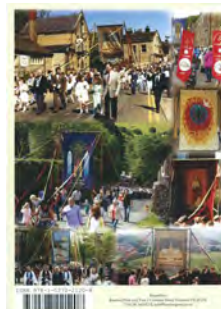
Fortunately, John Battye, Mary Broadbent and the late Joan Senior who had all contributed to the original were still around and interested in an updated publication. All three had extensive knowledge and access to information about the church and village. Geoffrey Dent offered to help Mary draw the material together to expand and add to the original booklet. Very quickly they realised that it was becoming a case of what couldn't be fitted in rather than would there be enough to be interesting. Over twenty people made significant contributions with several others supplying vital information. Many people came forward with recollections from family and personal experience. The booklet became a book of seven chapters.

Many changes happened to St Thomas' church over the years and are still ongoing. The book tried to record these in the context of life in the surrounding communities which caused some of those changes. There were dramatic events such as the church walk-out recorded in the national press and more humorous ones as described by John Battye in his early life in Delph. Mary has several family items of correspondence from Ammon Wrigley. These provided the Cover picture and the previously unpublished dialect poem.



We expected that people currently attending church and longer established in the village would be the main customers. However we have been amazed at the depth of interest from families with connections at Heights, widespread throughout the country and now internationally. A number of people, including a former vicar's daughter, have commented on how the book has brought back happy childhood memories of life in Delph and the Whit Friday miracle in particular. We expected sales in the wider Oldham area but have sent

copies to a book shop in Suffolk, a lady in Penzance and recently to a lady in Australia. We are also aware of a book being passed through a family to a relative in New Zealand, hence the question "Where did you read yours?" Revd John Rosedale took his to Wales as holiday reading.



Several people have now given us more information on the church and their family history including those who went to the US and made their fortune. We need to decide how to present this. A second book.... ? We have also had a number of questions from people about family members in the graveyard. Fortunately Derek Seddon, the current grave digger, has compiled a complete list of burials and grave numbers. His map is printed in the book. A number of people have told us that having read the book they bought another for family members and friends as a present.

If you are still looking for that vital Christmas present the book is available from Delph Post Office, Delph Library, Uppermill Museum, the Team office and the authors for £15. The book can also be sent by post for £17 by contacting: Heights Book, c/o John Battye. 23 Hillside Avenue, Grotton, Oldham, OL4 5SG

Re-ordering Update

We have had teams getting together midweek and at weekends to undertake some of the work ahead of the tendering process. The teams are now awaiting the go ahead to remove the raised chancel. The organ has been removed by a team of enthusiastic helpers under the guidance of a professional organ builder. In doing so, an unknown window was discovered. The tendering process has been delayed by



at least two months. The problems with the sycamore tree and providing disabled access have now have been resolved. The main entrance with disabled access will be in the middle of the South side of the building, similar to many cathedrals.

St Thomas' church is now looking for grants; one has already been approved. Those with a gift for fund raising have been asked to put their skills to good use. Watch this space to see the progress.

An update to "What's in a name?"

After St Thomas' congregation offered their thoughts on changing the name of the church there was no clear conclusion for the PCC to work with. The PCC decided to discuss the matter further. As the planning permission for alterations and improvements to the building has taken longer than expected, no immediate decision is required. However, the responses indicated that for a significant number of the congregation the reinstatement of Hilda is important and discussions are taking place as to how that can be managed through means other than renaming the church.

Messy Church

Messy Church is held regularly in the church and school room. The last Messy Church was held in September. We have an average attendance of eighty to one hundred people together with around twenty five helpers.



Families come from all over Saddleworth as it is advertised through local schools. This time, we think that some may have been families from other villages who came because they had missed their usual church because of the Saddleworth Olympics

Abby Brunton is the main organiser of Messy Church, but there are a many other helpers.

What is Messy Church?

- † Messy Church is a way of being a church for families;
- † It is found across the world, therefore international;
- † It involves having fun and fellowship;
- † Its values are about being Christ-centred for all ages based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.

How do we do Messy Church?

- † It happens about five times a year;
- † Once the Bible theme is decided various activities are planned with the theme in mind.
- † At 4:00pm people begin to arrive and are provided with identity "stickers", a programme of the day's events, and a carrier-bag in which to take home all the "goodies".
- † It is a joy to meet our regular "clientele" and see the pleasure with which the children are quickly involved in the various activities.
- † Messy Church always concludes with a meal, an occasion which allows for everyone to chat and get to know each other better.
- † Messy Church is a thrilling part of our outreach.



The next Messy Church is planned for 25th November 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

Christmas Services

**Sunday 16th December, 10:30am
Service and DJC party.**

**Sunday 23rd December, 10:30am
All Age Nativity and Holy Communion**

**Sunday 23rd December, 6:30pm
Carol Service**

**Monday 24th December, 5:00pm
Crib Service**

**Monday 24th December, 11:30pm
Holy Communion**

**Tuesday 25th December, 10:30am
Christmas Day Service**



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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8. Star gift: make a small gift box and decorate it with stars. Place a simple gift inside or a promise of something such as tidying up or walking the dog. Offer it as a gift to someone on one of the twelve days of Christmas.

Christ Church Denshaw

Heritage Day

On Saturday 8th September, we held an open morning, linking with various other heritage events around Saddleworth. Maybe ours was a little different as it included dry stone walling in the most horrendous rain and wind.

At 9:00am prompt a team of members of the Lancashire Association of Stone Wallers arrived at church, equipped with specialised hammers, some string, a few buckets and other bits and pieces and proceeded, despite the weather, to repair the damaged parts of our boundary walls to the most incredible standard. There was nothing 'dry' about it! Not only did they repair our walls, they gave demonstrations of their craft to those brave folk who showed up and gave instruction to those from the church who got stuck in and assisted in the



re-building of the historic walls. Our heart-felt thanks go to Paul Clayton and his fellow artisans for their work and generosity.

Those coming in from the cold found the church warm and welcoming with home-made cake and hot drinks, while those interested in church history looked round at the memorabilia specially set out for Heritage weekend.

The day also provided an opportunity to celebrate our work as an award-winning *Eco-Church* - the certificate for our Bronze Award was waiting for us in the mail-box when we arrived and a plaque for display is to follow. We were able to talk to visitors about our endeavours to reduce our carbon footprint and to make the most of our beautiful grounds, in terms of sustaining an ecologically friendly environment and a space to be enjoyed by the wider community. During the day, many "bug hotels", made by our children in Sunday School, were placed within the church grounds in readiness for invertebrates to hibernate during the winter.

Thank you to everyone who made the day so special and to all who visited the church and its grounds. We hope to see you all again.



We now have both the plaque and certificate and join our namesake parish at Friezland in achieving Bronze Status. Needless to say members are now working hard towards the silver award – watch this space.

Revd Philip Williamson

Reflections

At the end of September we held our Harvest Festival. Christ Church School held their very successful Harvest assembly on the previous Friday and consequently church was laden with gifts sent in by parents. On Saturday and Sunday we received more gifts from Sunday School and members of the congregation. Most of the gifts were the imperishable items needed by the Foodbanks and other similar charities. However, church was still decorated in the traditional manner and looked beautiful and seasonal. As major building work on the interior was due to start the following day, everything needed to be quickly dismantled in the afternoon with the gifts taken to Shaw Salvation Army the following day.

In October our annual Autumn Fayre was held at the Village Hall and proved another successful venture which raised £1,250 for church funds. This year there were a good number of new stalls in addition to those run by members of the church; it appears quite a lot of Christmas shopping was done. As usual the home-made lunches and specialist coffees proved very popular; one lady arrived for lunch saying she had just popped out for an hour and ended up staying for three.

During the afternoon we were entertained by the 'Wild Things' - a theatre group that rehearse at the Village Hall, plus the popular Delph Youth Band who make regular appearances at Christ Church functions. All in all another great success both socially and financially. Thanks to all who supported us.

Recently, Hanna Simpson, a member of our congregation has pointed out that dry stone walling is now being advocated as a community initiative for those who are socially isolated. If anyone knows of anyone in this situation who might benefit from this healthy, outdoor activity, please contact our warden or secretary who will in turn contact Hanna.



Remembrance Sunday

Our Service of Songs of Praise which celebrated 100 years since the end of WW1, gave a special meaning to our Remembrance Day service as we were able to find out something about each soldier from the village who died. Their CVs were read out at the service and candles were lit in memory of each of those who gave their lives. As always, the names of the fallen of both wars were read out and at 11:00am the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by a member of our congregation, Claire Chalk. We hoped the names from WW1 carried a little more meaning now we know more about them. Next year WW2 soldiers perhaps? Following the service, the wreaths laid in church were taken to the Denshaw War Memorial in our churchyard.

During the week preceding Remembrance Sunday, we used the information gathered for the Songs of Praise service and posted details of the individual soldiers who died in WW1 and whose names appear on the War Memorial, at appropriate spots around the village along with a poppy for remembrance. Each tribute was placed as near to their known family home or near to those whose descendants we remember living in Denshaw. The remainder were placed on the green, where there is a metal profile of a WW1 soldier, produced and erected by the Oddfellows Club. In addition, these CVs and some photographs of the young soldiers were displayed inside the church lych-gate. Fittingly, the gate is adjacent to the memorial which was consecrated by Revd Thomas Storey-Bates (vicar of St. Thomas' Friarmere), and unveiled by Captain Joel Buckley MC 98 years ago. We are extremely grateful to Mike Buckley for allowing us to use information researched over the years for Christ Church Denshaw that enabled us to carry out this project.

Looking Forward

Black Dyke Concert

Everyone at Denshaw (and beyond) is looking forward to another wonderful evening with the world famous Black Dyke Band under the direction of Professor Nicholas Childs. When Nick and Alison made their home in the village about ten years ago they immediately became an integral part of the community. It was Nick's idea to 'give something back' by arranging for Black Dyke to give a concert

in Denshaw. He specified that this should be held in church and funds raised should go to church. With church as the venue it is a wonderful opportunity for those new to the village to step inside the building and feel the genuine warmth extended to all visitors.



This will be the fifth concert Nick and his family have organised for the church. Alison is a wonderful organiser and tells us that both she and Nick really enjoy organising a concert in their own village. They are certainly very much appreciated. The family are so efficient that it leaves our PCC with little to do apart from moving the choir stalls to accommodate the band and having them back in place ready for Sunday morning service. The concert takes place on **Saturday evening, 1st December.**

We wonder if the band have ever performed in such a confined space? Nevertheless the players always seem to really enjoy the friendly atmosphere and the terrific reception they receive. Very many thanks to Black Dyke Band and the Childs family for what promises to be another wonderful evening. Proceeds from the concert will be donated mainly to Christ Church but donations will be made to two other Denshaw community events.

Christmas Services

Sunday 23rd December, 3:00pm
Carol Service - a traditional service involving representatives of the community as readers and a brass ensemble from school.



Monday 24th December, 4:00pm
Crib Service.



Monday 24th December, 11:30pm
Midnight Eucharist with Revd Philip Williamson

Tuesday 25th December, 10:30am
Christmas Communion with Revd Aaron Jackman

Sunday 30th December, 10:30am
Holy Communion.

Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator

Mary Rodgers

rodgers@delphman.myzen.co.uk

01457 874354

Holy Trinity Dobcross

Centenary Commemoration of the “Dobcross Parish Church Magazine”

In January 1919 Revd H A Thomas published the first magazine for “*the population of 3,000 souls that reside within the limits of the Parish and who consider the Church as their spiritual home.*” The monthly magazine dealt with matters of present interest, early history of the Church and Parish and said something of the Churchmen who in the early days were the pillar of the Church in Dobcross.

“*Dobcross Church for the Dobcross*” people.” - Revd. Thomas’ mission statement for the first edition of a Parish Magazine, (formerly the Newsletter and now The Grapevine), has continued unbroken for a hundred years.

Charitable Giving

For many years we have supported, together with Holy Trinity School, Mercy Ships during Lent, WaterAid at Harvest time and The Children’s Society at the Christingle Service.



Recently, we have also introduced a charity fund to help some local groups at this time of the year.



Groups such as Oldham Young Carers, Dr Kershaws and the Booth Centre in Manchester. Homelessness is there for all to see in our towns and the Booth Centre is a small charity which relies on gifts, such as £250 we sent last Christmas. It supports over 200 people each week by



providing hot meals, showers, daily employment sessions, housing advice and a wide range of activities, including art, sewing, swimming and many more.

Thank you to everyone who donates to our chosen charities.

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians - Chapter 13

The Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, - but do not show love to my family, I’m just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen baking dozens of mince pies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautiful adorned table, - but do not show love to my family, I’m just another cook.

If I work in the soup kitchen, sing carols in the nursing home and give a generous donation to charity, - but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir’s cantata, - but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside decorating the tree to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn’t envy another’s home that has co-ordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn’t yell at the children to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn’t give only to those who are able to give in return, - but rejoices in giving to those who can’t.

Love bears all things, believes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Computer games will break, cashmere jumpers will wear out, golf clubs will get lost.

But giving the gift of love will endure.

May the love of Christ be with you this Christmas!



Welcome to Advent and Christmas

At Christmas time, we light a lot of candles. They are used for Christingles, for the Advent Ring, for Gospel readings, at Carol services, on decorations and other things beside. Candles are lovely, not only because they represent a very ancient Christian tradition, but also because they give off a radiance which is more beautiful than artificial light. The Chancel candle reminds us that the Lord is always there. This Christmas, may the candle lights shining in our churches remind us that Jesus, born over 2000 years ago, is still with us today.

"Joy to the World, the Lord is Come."

Sunday 2nd December, 9:30am and 10:30 am Advent Sunday

We start the preparations for the birth of Jesus by the congregation dressing the Advent ring. Reader Graham McGuffie will explain the meaning of each coloured candle as it is lit during Advent to represent the patriarchs and prophets, foretelling the birth of the Messiah.



"Hills of the North rejoice."

Sunday 9th December, 6:00pm Christingle Service

Church, School, Dobcross Youth Band and community join together to celebrate the Christingle tradition which originated in the Moravian church in Germany in 1747. All proceeds from this service go to The Children's Society, which has been supported by Christingle services for 50 years.



"Like a candle flame, ..."

Wednesday 12th 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.



Entrance: £5, accompanied children free.

"Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer...."

Sunday 16th December, 10:30am Nativity Service and Holy Communion

Come and hear the wondrous story of the Nativity with Revd Hilary Edgerton, Graham McGuffie, Little Fishes and Sunday Club.



"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed."

Sunday 23rd December, 6:00 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Revd Aaron Jackman will preside at this community celebration, joined by Dobcross Silver Band, our own church choir and the Harmummies. Come and enjoy those well-known readings and carols.



"O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant..."

Monday 24th December, 11:45pm Midnight Eucharist

Revd Aaron Jackman will celebrate the Midnight Eucharist. Come and welcome the birth of Jesus at this beautiful candlelit service.



"Christians, awake! Salute this happy morn"

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

Revd Canon Sharon Jones celebrates at a choral communion service, as we rejoice with the whole world that Jesus Christ was born today in Bethlehem.



"Yea, Lord we greet Thee..."

Sunday 30th December, 10:30am First Sunday of Christmas - Eucharist

Revd Godfrey Adams celebrates at a choral communion service.



"O Little town of Bethlehem..."

Sunday 6th January, 9:30am & 10:30am Celebration of the Epiphany

The Magi will end their long journey to bring their gifts to the infant Jesus. We hope that you will join with Revd Aaron Jackman at this communion service.



"We three kings of Orient are."

Parish Contacts

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



9. Star guide: sailors use the North Star to help them find their way at night. Make a paper boat to float in water. Ask God to protect everyone who is travelling for work, for their safety, for their joy as they travel, and also when they arrive.

Christ Church Friezland

Eco Church News

We wanted to improve our support of local wildlife. So, one of our community commissioned a fabulous bird table, in memory of their late brother, which is now a focal point in the grounds. We have added a variety of bird feeders in our trees and are experimenting with small caged feeder for the little birds and fat balls for the bigger ones.



Our abundant hedge trimmings have been fashioned into a bug bunker and another community member has sponsored a hedgehog house - complete with snack pack, water and food bowls and straw! We're hoping to have a resident soon...

Eco Tips

A caged feeder stops larger birds (and other animals) from stealing feed intended for the smaller species, as the 'Birdy Bullies' can't fit through the cage to get to the goodies!



Our New Harvest Queen is Crowned

On Saturday 13th October, Alexandra Louise (Lexy!) Clark was crowned Harvest Queen in a packed-out service that involved seven visiting Queens (Harvest, Rose, Brownie and May!) - one from St Anne Lydgate; two from St George Mossley; one from St Agnes Lees; one from St Paul Stalybridge; one from St Anne Royton and one from Christ Church Ashton! As Lexy explained in her speech, she intends to raise funds towards the necessary work on the church building, but also for a charity which is very important to her family: Crohn's & Colitis UK. Lexy, her retinue and all those who supported her raised an incredible £311 on the day! Thank you to everyone involved in the Big Day well done!

Friezland Ladies Luncheon Club

With great pleasure we meet monthly, selecting a different venue each time - usually in Saddleworth, but occasionally straying over the border! "Where shall we try next month?" we ask, whilst socialising after the Sunday Service and enjoying a hot drink.

Almost five years have passed since our first outing. It was so enjoyable, we decided to meet on the first Thursday of each month. New friendships have formed and we now have eighteen regular members, but all ladies are welcome! Thursdays enable us to support the weekly afternoon Coffee Shop in Church, by enjoying a further cup of tea or coffee and a choice of home-baked cakes after the main lunch.

A Christmas Lunch is usually organised for the first week in December, to which the men are also invited along. However, Thursdays are avoided for this special event, so that Coffee Shop volunteers can also participate.



This year, we have booked for Wednesday 5th December at 12:30pm (for 1:00pm) and everyone is looking forward to once again enjoying the delicious food provided by The Old Bell in Delph, where we always receive a warm welcome.

Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year to you all. May we see you for lunch?

Chris Collett.

A War Child by Oliver Bentley

Boom!!! An explosion of saffron flames,
Bodies flying, waves of mud smashing,
Petrified, my stomach was churning,
My brother had died, it was like I was gradually melting away inside...

Bombs were dropping by my feet BANG!!!
I slid into shelter before I sacrificed my life,
Rain drops bouncing on a galvanised roof,
The door slamming like a tsunami hitting a cliff
SMASH!!!

Me, clinging on for dear life,
I came out of the shelter, my surroundings gone.
Could they, would they, strike again?

Scargill House

In mid-October we enjoyed a lovely weekend of faith, family, friendship, food and fun with the community members of Scargill House. Five of the nine Saddleworth churches were represented by ordinary folks and clergy of all ages! The children and adults took part in separate sessions exploring God's creation and ideas of Community, but we all ate (and how we ate!) and 'played' together. It was great to get to know people from our own churches better, as well as to meet and bond with those from other churches across the benefice and those from Scargill. Spending time together, away from our usual routines was refreshing, challenging and nourishing – on many levels! When can we do it again?

See advertisement on page 10. Ed.

Christmas Dates

Sunday 9th December, 9:30am
Christingle & Eucharist for all ages.



Saturday 15th December, 11:00am
Horseperson's Christmas Service
 Friezland Arena - Horses and other 4-legged friends welcome!



Sunday 16th December, 3:00pm
Nine Lessons & Carols.



Monday 24th December, 3:30pm
Christmas Eve Crib Service

Monday 24th December, 11:30pm
Midnight Eucharist



Tuesday 25th December, 10:00am
Christmas Day Eucharist

Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Yvonne Carson	grapevine.ccf@outlook.com	
Child Protection Officer	Simon Clark	clark.simon3@sky.com	07902 305281
ALM Worship	Duncan Ross	ross328@btinternet.com	01457 835261
ALM Community Outreach	Peter Whalley	loch2lock@btinternet.com	07746 665404
ALM Prayer and Spirituality	Megan Harrison	megharrison64.aol.com	07817 771663



10. Star light: as a family, light a candle in a darkened room. Look at the shape of the light from the flame. See how many star shapes you can see. Then invite each person to whisper their hopes for Christmas as a prayer.

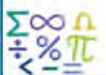
Maths Tuition: A-Level and GCSE Mark Rathbone BSc. (Hons)

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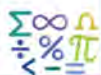
Experienced tutor based in Saddleworth offers flexible times and lessons.

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T: 07801 372751

E: marathbone@hotmail.com



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The Old Library, Wyre St, Mossley, OL5 0EU
 T: 01457 837900



5 Saddleworth House, Tame St, Uppermill, OL3 6BD
 T: 01457 870405

E: enquiries@mcconnellvets.co.uk
 W: www.mcconnellvets.co.uk



11. Star point: place a large star in an open space. As you turn from the North to the East to the South and to the West, ask God to protect people who are travelling to be with friends and family for Christmas. Thank Him for people who you love and who you might see at Christmas.

St Mary Greenfield

My Report

As we approach Christmas, it is with a sense of awe and wonder, and thanksgiving, as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus and sharing all the joys of this blessed season with those we love. We are also mindful of those who, for whatever reason may not find Christmas to be a happy time of year. We intend to reach out to those in our community by sending them a joint Christmas card from us and Greenfield Methodist Church inviting them to our services and events. We are also distributing angels that have been knitted to symbolize the good news that the angels brought to the shepherds when they announced that our Saviour had been born.



You will see from the list of services and events that we will be especially busy this year as we are holding our third Christmas Tree Festival. Pat Bottom has worked exceptionally hard to organize it, for which we are very grateful. We also thank all those who have sponsored and/or will be decorating the trees. Everyone is welcome to attend and we hope that many people from the wider community will come to see the Christmas trees and be amazed and uplifted by them.



As we move into the New Year, we are pleased that we will be having a joint service at Greenfield Methodist Church on 6th January, when we, as this year, will take part in the renewing of their Covenant. The words of commitment that we will hear and speak include:

“Let us claim this covenant which God has made with his people... let us give ourselves to him, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace... Lord God, Holy Father, since you have called us through Christ to share in this gracious covenant, we take upon ourselves with joy the yoke of obedience and, for love of you, engage ourselves to seek and do your perfect will. We are no longer our own but yours.”

May these words and our commitment to them guide and inspire us in our discipleship day by day.

During the Christmas and New Year period, we will of course be remembering with love and gratitude all those who have died whose names are in the Book of Remembrance in church. In December and January they are: Brian Shelbourne, Ernest Clifford Cuff, Florence Shaw, Angela Dawn Karen Connolly, Doreen Lee, Martha Green, Revd Frederick John Jones, Sheila Anne Partington, Norah Holden, Jeffrey George Booth and Doreen Evans.

With my love and all God's blessings for a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Barbara

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

My mother was a member of the Mothers' Union and I have followed in her footsteps. Moving around the Manchester Diocese has meant that I have been a member of six different branches, holding various offices. At present I am a member of the Saddleworth Branch which meets at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Waterhead every third Monday of the month at 2:30pm. New members are always welcome.

Mothers' Union was founded by Mary Sumner in 1876 in the village of Old Alresford where her husband was Rector. From that small beginning it is now a world wide organisation and includes men (amongst them are Bishop David and Bishop Mark). The aim of the society is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. Members use Mary Sumner's personal prayer each day, which is as follows:

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy Spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen

Joan Jones

Hurrah for Helena!

On a day of torrential rain Helena Bird ran the Manchester Half Marathon raising £600 in sponsorship for church. The Sunday after her run, Helena, who is a choir member, sprinted down the aisle to loud clapping as she showed her medal and received a thank you bouquet of roses.



Well done Helena and thank you to all who sponsored her.

Christmas Dates

Saturday 8th December from 11:00am
Christmas Fair - further details opposite.

Friday 14th December, 7:00pm
Christmas Tree Festival - further details opposite

Saturday 15th December, 7:00pm
Musical Concert - including music by Rachel Gibbons, Mossley Recorder Group, Sarah Davies on the harp and local acoustic pop rock singer songwriters **DETOURS**

Sunday 16th December, 2:00pm
Musical Concert - by Hazel and Sarah Davies and friends.

Refreshments will be available at each event.

Christmas Services

Sunday 2nd December, 10:30am
Christingle



Sunday 16th December, 6:30pm
Carol Service

Sunday 23rd December, 10:30am
Nativity Service - children are asked to come dressed as a character from the Christmas story.



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



Monday 24th December, 11:30pm
Holy Communion

Tuesday 25th December, 10:30am
Holy Communion - for all the family



Unique Christmas Photocards

will be for sale to raise funds for St Mary's Church, Greenfield, during the Christmas Tree Festival in December.

Images of:
 stained glass windows; Christmas ornaments; decorated trees; Santa; Magi; angels; etc.

Good quality card
 with blank inserts for personal messages.

From £2 to £4 dependent on size.

Derek and Elizabeth Pilkington



St Mary's School - Christmas Fair

Saturday 8th December from 11:00am
 organised by church and St Mary's School PTFA.



There will be numerous stalls hired by small businesses in the community, plus the usual raffle, tombola, Christmas gifts and café. Father Christmas will also be there in his winter wonderland grotto!

St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

Friday 14th December at 7:00pm
 to be opened and 'switched on' by The Right Reverend Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton, with words and music by the children of St Mary's School and Greenfield Primary School.



Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Barbara Christopher barbarachristopher@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 876802
Verger	Eva Holden	01457 873043
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	01457 872264



12. Star turn: as the Christmas season ends with Epiphany, choose one star to keep shining in your home all year round as a reminder that the light of Jesus Christ is with you every day.

St Anne Lydgate

Mustard Tree Harvest

Harvest this year was all about food for the body and soul. Our Youth Group (11+) lead the service. We started with a Bake Off Challenge where the congregation were challenged to identify different types of bread they tasted. Junior Church performed a drama all about sharing what we had. Then the Youth Group performed a drama of the Parable of the Sower where they particularly enjoyed literally strangling the seeds who were their fellow Youth Group members!

Fun was had by all, but the serious message came though about sharing all we have with those less fortunate than ourselves. We chose to support the work of the Manchester-based Mustard Tree Charity.



We heard stories of Norma who was struggling with mental health issues but through the charity learned to read and write and found work in their Community shop. James had very low self-esteem and confidence but found help and work as a warehouse worker through the charity.

St Anne's school also supported the Mustard Tree at their Harvest Service and the following week some of the pupils went with Pat and Al Gillian to take our donations to the charity. On the day they arrived they were told an emergency meeting had just taken place as the shelves were almost bare and they had run out of food donations to give out to people who came to them for help.

God's plan and once again, perfect timing!



My Visit to GOSH

During my year as Rose Queen at St Anne's Church the money my retinue and I raised, from our events, was split between church and Great Ormond Street Hospital charity (GOSH).

I chose GOSH because my Nan has supported it for many years and helping others has always been important to me and I particularly wanted to help the brilliant work the hospital does



for children. My Nan offered to double the amount we collected for GOSH, but I was so thrilled when she also arranged for me to go down to London with her, Grandad and Matthew to personally present the total of £874 to the hospital.

The first picture shows me handing over the cheque to Sam, one of the charity's fundraising coordinators, outside the main entrance. Just to the left of the entrance is a bronze statue of Peter Pan



(Sir J M Barrie gave all the rights to the play and novel to the hospital) and the next picture shows Sam and me in front of the statue.

Sam spent quite a bit of time with us showing us around parts of the hospital and I particularly liked The Disney Reef, which is a very special place open to patients, families and visitors. This is the photo of us sitting in the giant shell. Sam also took us into the lovely St Christopher's Chapel, which was very peaceful.



Hannah Manifold

Traidcraft's Future

Those of us who run Traidcraft stalls received a letter in September giving us the awful news that Traidcraft PLC is having to stop trading at the end of this year. There is talk of relaunching a scaled down version of the PLC.

In October the charity arm, Traidcraft Exchange, wrote that they will continue. Part of their income came from Traidcraft PLC so they are now appealing to us to make direct contributions.

Their immediate mission is three fold:

- † to use expertise in trade to support those Traidcraft PLC **producers** worst affected by the demise of the PLC;
- † to secure enough support and funds to continue their work in helping over 300,000 poor people get a better deal through trade, fair trade;
- † to continue to fight for a world where all trade is fair.



You can get more information by emailing hello@traidcraft.org or phoning 0191 497 6445 or by writing giving your contact details to Traidcraft Exchange, Kingsway, Team Valley, Gateshead, NE11 0NE.

Donations can be made on line to www.traidcraft.org.uk/donate.

Their Charity number is 1048752

So, **"Fighting Poverty through Trade"** will continue with our help.

Richard Darlington.

Cooking with Nature and Grandma

Later in the summer we collected strawberries from my garden and supplemented them with more from a rather well-known supermarket!!!! We also collected raspberries and gooseberries from my brother's garden as he had rather too many to use this summer!!!

We decided that I could show them how we make jam as they love toast with jam for a treat but I said, *"Just don't let the dentist know how much sugar is used and clean your teeth very thoroughly!!!"*

We talked about the history of preserving through the ages, salting meats and fish, drying, curing and of course bottling and jam-making to ensure the wonderful fruits we have can be enjoyed in the cold winter months when food was scarce. I explained that people had to do this due to not having any fridges, freezers or supermarkets selling everything we need now!!!!

Here is a slightly used jar of strawberry jam:



Anne Smith

What will Anne be cooking up in the next issue? Ed.

Christmas Dates

Sunday 16th December, 6:30pm
Favourite Carols Service

Sunday 23rd December, 2:00pm
Carol Singing at Lido House

Monday 24th December, 6:00pm
Crib Service

Monday 24th December, 11:30pm
Midnight Eucharist

Tuesday 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

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church

Enjoyment

We have enjoyed delightful celebrations, events and services this autumn.

In early September we welcomed visitors during a rather wet and windy weekend as we took part in the Heritage Open Days. There were heritage displays and the bell ringers invited visitors to try ringing the bells. The registers were available for those who were interested in their family tree and the Rushcart banners were still up with our Morris Man around to answer questions.



The Bailey Sisters' Folk concert was an absolute delight. Three talented women sang and played a wide variety of folk songs.

They had written or arranged many themselves, all with a birding theme. They raised over £1000 for RSPB work on the fire-damaged moor as well as money for the repair of the fire-damaged churchyard.

We celebrated St Michael and All Angels with an innovative service with the children dressing up as angels and distributing white feathers.



The Harvest Supper at the Parish Centre was very entertaining with good food, good company, enjoyable music and some very amusing and clever turns.



The reception class at St Chad's School and their families were invited to join the Sunday Eucharist at the beginning of October. They had

learnt about David and Goliath the previous week in school and so this was acted out during the service by two of the Church Choir. It was wonderful to see all the young children enjoying being in Church.

Alison Coates

Scargill Trip - October 2018

Remarkably, given that it was pitch-black and raining, we'd been playing 'I spy' when she went quiet for a second and then sprung the question on me.

"Daddy..." she said contemplatively.

"Yes Zara", I replied.

"Is God the same as Jesus?"

"Erm..., Erm" I stuttered, "Daddy has to concentrate on the road Zara; we'll talk about it when we get to Scargill."

I'm hoping you have all been at that point too..... That point when you realise you actually don't have a good answer to a question from a five year old. I hoped she'd forget in the excitement of arriving at our 'holiday' which was about 10 minutes away.

As luck would have it she did forget. My rather weak explanation of the 'Trinity' could wait for another day. We arrived a little later than planned and the welcome meeting was underway. Plenty of familiar faces but plenty of new faces too. Nearly fifty of us in all from Saddleworth and of all ages.



"There are two sessions and other activities in the morning with free time to relax in the afternoon" explained Revd Jackie. I laughed quietly to myself... I've got two kids (aged 3 and 5) - there's never any time to simply 'relax in the afternoon'.

The morning sessions, interspersed with tea and biscuits, were really rather enjoyable. All the kids had a great time and were very capably looked after by staff from the centre (in a creche or kids groups). This gave us, the adults, space to engage without worrying. We were challenged to consider creation and community. We also had a wonderful chat about what we appreciated around our church communities. Common themes included our superb mix of clergy and the general sense of belonging we have to our churches. As a wider group we resolved to mix more as church communities and I genuinely hope this suggestion plays out in and amongst the challenges of our busy lifestyles.

And then Revd Jackie started to talk about the Trinity. I may actually be able to explain this to Zara after all this I thought...

She advised that we should read / watch 'The

Shack' - a book by William P Young. I have since elected to watch the film and I advise you do the same. It will help you understand the notion of the Trinity more fully - a bit anyway. You probably still won't be able to explain it to five year olds though.

Scargill is a wonderfully hospitable place. We did get chance to relax in the afternoon. The kids all ran off together in the building and were perfectly safe playing amongst friends old and new. We had the dubious honour of being their first group ever to crack open the wine before dinner. I suggest this was borne of feeling really at ease with others from our Churches. The evening culminated in a hugely enjoyable family quiz and singalong to Disney films. Great fun!



Sunday saw a full service in the chapel with a focus again on creation. It was probably quite a different service than you are used to but served to remind me what a varied bunch us Christians are. Following the service and more excellent food we headed home.

"We'll be back", we said; and we will. March 2019 is now confirmed so feel free to track any of us down and ask questions.

Peter Greenhalgh

Parish of St Chad Away Day

Saturday 12th January, 9:30am to 4:00pm

St Andrew's Church Dearnley, OL15 8NJ

"Vision and Change"

Does St Chad's Parish Church have a future?

Given the challenges of the building and finances, what might that future look like?

A day of discussion, prayer and quiet reflection.

*A time to listen to God,
to discern the will of God
and to commit ourselves
to the love and service of God.*

All are welcome.

For catering purposes please notify the churchwardens if you are intending to come and indicate any dietary needs.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 2nd December, 3:00pm
Team Advent Carol Service
at the Parish Church.



Sunday 16th December, 3:00pm
Carol Service
at the Parish Church.



Tuesday 18th December, 10:00am
St Chad's school carol service
at the Parish Church.



Wednesday 19th December, 7:00pm
Saddleworth School Carol Service
at the Parish Church.



Sunday 23rd December, 11:00am
Songs of Praise
at the Parish Church.



You are invited to choose a hymn which means a lot to you and explain briefly your choice.

Please either sign the sheet at the back of church or phone Mike on 01457 872163

Monday 24th December, 5:00pm
Crib service at the Parish Church.
All welcome. Christmas fancy dress encouraged.



Monday 24th December, 11:30pm
Midnight Eucharist
at the Parish Church.



Tuesday 25th December, 11:00am
Christmas Day Eucharist
at the Parish Church.



Sunday 6th January, 11:00am
Epiphany Service
with Sunday School Nativity
at the Parish Church.



Saturday 12th January, 9:30am to 4:00pm
St Chad's Parish Away Day

Sunday 20th January, 11:00am
Service for Christian Unity at Uppermill Methodist Church (No other service in the parish).

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

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

Inter-generational partnership

For many years, St Chad's C of E Primary School has been successfully running an inter-generational group; making positive links with the local community.



This term, the children in year 5 have enjoyed visiting parishioners at the Parish Centre to engage in a range of crafts and activities to celebrate Harvest and recognize Christian values. Some of the activities have included making collage pumpkins, painting autumn trees, reading Harvest poetry and even playing Beetle Drive!

The school values the relationships that we establish within the community and continues to recognize the social benefits for all involved. We very much look forward to planning activities for the season of Advent.



Salvadoran visitors to Saddleworth

Members of the local charity 'Wellsprings El Tular' were delighted to welcome four visitors from El Salvador for a 12-day stay in Saddleworth early in October. The charity has a unique 'friendship and development' connection with the poor subsistence farming community known as 'El Tular' in the southwest of El Salvador, Central America.

The area relies primarily on the production of maize, which is increasingly succumbing to the effects of drought and climate change. Through many visits and delegations, the link has become crucial in their commitment to bring together a deepening of faith and friendship together with the quest for a more just and caring world.



Over more than 20 years Wellsprings El Tular has helped around 150 young people by providing funding to help further their education and hence reduce their reliance on the maize crop. A microcredit fund has supported villagers starting new business enterprises and also with assistance for those requiring special medical care.

Private donations funded the visit to Saddleworth by Allan, from the charity 'Balsamo', along with Victor, Maria, and Carlos from El Tular. 'Balsamo' is based in San Salvador and acts partly as an intermediary between Wellsprings in the UK and El Tular. Carlos, aged 22, said, *"I am very grateful to Wellsprings in the UK for what they have done for me. I have been able to study electrical engineering and now have a job."*

Their busy programme included attending assembly at St Chad's Primary School and visiting Saddleworth School where they were able to speak



to students studying Spanish. Stories of life in El Tular were shared during several church services. Trips included: a day in York, which for some was their first ever train journey, watching Rochdale AFC in action at the Spotland stadium, and various sight-seeing trips around Oldham and Manchester. They enjoyed their visit to Saddleworth Museum and were treated to some northern culture with the Houghton Weavers and Delph Band in concert.

A highlight of the visit was an opportunity to take part in a special ecumenical service of thanksgiving in the Church of Sacred Heart & St William to mark the canonization of Oscar Romero by Pope Francis on Sunday 14th October. As Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero spoke out against poverty, social injustice, and torture. In 1980 he was assassinated whilst offering mass. He is El Salvador's first saint. Father Bernard Bickers said, "...*having Maria, Alan, Carlos and Victor with us at the service made it very special and a number of our own parishioners said how moved they had been by what they had to say.*"

The assistance provided by Wellsprings El Tular is possible through donations and the generosity of regular givers. To become a supporter or receive our newsletters please contact: rosiebanham@live.co.uk.



Coffee Mornings

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



Saturday 1st December
in aid of Bethlehem Children's Hospital.

Saturday 15th December
'Seeing is Believing'.

Saturday 5th January
in aid of a charity.

Saturday 19th January
'Seeing is Believing'.

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 2nd December, 3:00pm
Team Advent Service
at the Parish Church



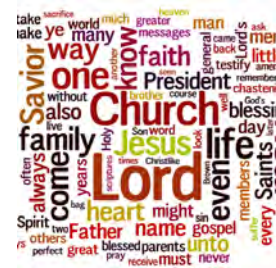
Sunday 30th December, 9:30am
All at Parish Centre for Holy Communion



Saturday 12th January, 9:30am to 4:00pm
St Chad's Parish Away Day
See page 27 for further details



Sunday 20th January, 11:00am
Service for Christian Unity
at Uppermill Methodist Church
(No other service in Parish)



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

St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

Diggle Village Harvest

The Diggle Village Harvest Service took place as usual at the allotments on Ward Lane on a dry, but unusually chilly, Sunday morning. Aply encouraged by Diggle Band the service began with a rendition of 'We plough the fields and scatter'.

This was followed by a dramatic presentation of Luke 8, v.4-15 performed by Hilary and Val with support from a cast of Sunday School children, who took on the roles of sower, corn, thorns, birds, etc. with much enthusiasm. The Bible reading looked at how corn, planted in the right conditions can grow tall and strong.

We then looked at a different kind of crop. Although potatoes can, on the surface at least, look like a pretty rubbish crop by the time they are harvested, there can be lots going on under the surface that is good. The local cubs helped Jon to dig up our potato plant and (thankfully!) a bumper crop of potatoes was revealed. It just shows that



outward appearances can be misleading, there can be a lot of good things going on inside that we are not always aware of. A bit like people really!

The Brownies then took over to celebrate the different uses for potatoes. They explained that just as there are many different ways a potato can be prepared and eaten, they themselves are all different. Each of them is working towards different



Brownie badges to demonstrate their skills and interests. God loves us because of our differences and no one person is better than another.

Finally, with the assistance of the Rainbows we looked at what Mr Potato Head might see if he came to Church. Together we reflected that:

- † with his eyes he would see lots of happy smiling faces as we say thank you to God for our community here in Diggle;
- † his ears would help Mr Potato Head to listen in Church as God's message is explored,

- † with his mouth he would be able to sing, pray and praise God, telling everyone about Church and what they might find if they came along;
- † with his hands he would be able to shake hands with his new friends, and join them in prayer.
- † and his nose is in the centre of his face. Jesus should always be at the centre of everything we do; we should worship him and follow in his footsteps.

Thanks to the Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs and Sunday School members, as well as to the Allotment Society for providing such a stunning setting and Diggle Band for keeping us on track with all of the hymns. Special thanks to Hilary, who didn't know what to expect at our service, but was happy to join in, and to the Diggle Community for turning out and for providing such generous donations (collected in our very own wheelbarrow, for the Booth Centre and Oldham Foodbank).



Living in Diggle and considering a Church School education?

Why not come to Kilngreen Church? Attending Kilngreen Church regularly as a family will allow you to apply for a place for your child at the Senior Church Schools in Oldham.

So if you live in Diggle and are considering this education for your children when they reach eleven, you will be very welcome to come along to our Sunday Services. A warm welcome awaits you and your family.

If you are not sure where to find us, the Church is in Lee Side, down the road from the Diggle Hotel. There is a car park alongside the Church. Church is also accessible for wheelchair users.

Services are at 9:30am on Sunday mornings and a Sunday School takes place on three Sundays in the month in the smaller room next to the kitchen. The children join the main service towards the end and are encouraged to share in the communion bread at the altar rail along with their parents. On the first Sunday of the month we hold a Family Service, which is an all age Service of the Word where we all worship together.

Janet Iles

Notes

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers!

Saturday 10th November 2:00 to 4:00pm St Chad's Christmas Fair at Kilgreen

As in previous years the Christmas Fair was well attended and the stalls and Father Christmas were busy all afternoon. The Fair was opened by Mike and Doreen Hall, who made a return visit to see us, as they moved to Lymm back in August. At the time of going to press the final amount raised was not confirmed, but we are hoping to at least reach our target from last year. More information in the next issue of The Grapevine.

Diggle Diamonds

Coffee Mornings at Kilgreen

Diggle Diamonds' Coffee Mornings are held each month on a Saturday morning starting at 10:30am. These now take place at Kilgreen Church in the small hall next to the kitchen. Admission is £1 plus £1 for raffle tickets. All older residents of Diggle are invited to join us for coffee and friendship. If you have difficulty getting to Kilgreen, a lift can be arranged by phoning Doreen Dyson on 01457 873337. Dates for 2019 were not available when The Grapevine went to press, so please contact Doreen for the date of the next coffee morning.



Saturday 1st December at Kilgreen Diggle Diamonds Christmas Party

Everyone who is over sixty years old and lives in Diggle is welcome to attend the Christmas party. If you want to meet up with others of a similar age and enjoy a lovely Christmas dinner and entertainment from



Diggle Band then why not contact Doreen Dyson on 01457 873337 who will be happy to tell you more about the event.

Christmas Dates

Sunday 16th December, 9:30am
Kilgreen Christmas Nativity
Please join us.



Monday 24th December, 11:00pm
Midnight Eucharist - all welcome.

Come along and enjoy our first Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion service and Carols.

Tuesday 25th December, 9:30am
Christmas Day Eucharist. Come and celebrate Christ's birth. Children please bring a present to open if you are coming along. All are welcome.



Tuesday 1st January, 12 noon
New Year's Day Service

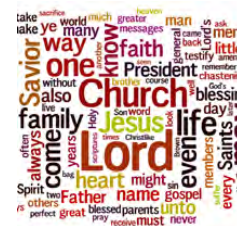
at The Gate car park, Diggle. All residents of Diggle are cordially invited to join us for a short service to welcome in the New Year. Now that Duncan has retired, we hope to have Revd Godfrey Adams to lead the service.

Sunday 6th January, 9:30am
Family Service - Songs of Praise for Epiphany.

Our first Family Service of 2019 will be an All Age Songs of Praise for Epiphany. All welcome.



Saturday 12th January, 9:30am to 4:00pm
St Chad's Parish Away Day
See page 27 for further details



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

Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Sarah Barlow	sarah.barlow@talk21.com	07775 613787
Assistant Wardens	Lynda Barlow		01457 878338
	Mike Hall		01457 870480
Kilgreen Lettings	Lynda Barlow		01457 878338

**The
Children's
Society**

**No child
should feel
alone**

Together, ... we are changing lives.

In Britain there are children and young people who feel scared, unloved and unable to cope. The Children's Society works with these young people, step-by-step, for as long as it takes.

There are approximately 58,800 children living in Oldham. Around 7,500 of these young people are clinically diagnosed with a mental health issue. In Greater Manchester over 19,000 young people are living in poverty and there were nearly 3,000 recorded cases of child sexual exploitation.

The statistics are heart-breaking, but that's why our partnership with the church and community is vital for positive outcomes.

Our Oldham office, in Holts estate, from where we coordinate and deliver our services is less than half a mile from the Saddleworth benefice. We deliver services such as:

Families Greater Together - providing support to families who have been impacted by low-level domestic abuse and working with the whole family to ensure this does not escalate.

Resolve - providing therapeutic support via counselling, art therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy to help young people deal with the trauma of child sexual abuse or living with domestic abuse and exploitation.

Footsteps - a service that provides intensive support direct to young people who go missing from home or care 2 - 5 times. The service provides support across Greater Manchester.

On behalf of The Children's Society, I want to **'Thank You'** for your support to our cause and for the impact you help us achieve. Please do continue to pray, volunteer, campaign, donate and attend your local Christingle Service.

Please visit www.childrenssociety.org.uk for more information on our work.

Joanne Nicholson,
Relationship Manager for the North West.
E: joanne.nicholson@childrenssociety.org.uk

**Together, we listen, we support and we act.
No child should feel alone.**



A light that shows a child they are not alone.

This Christmas, Christingle (or the Christ-light) will shine across Saddleworth and throughout the country. Churches will open their doors to the community, inviting in schools, uniformed groups, the elderly and the young. Those who know and love God and those yet to meet with him.



It is a very special year for Christingle, as it marks 50 years since we held the first Christingle service at Lincoln Cathedral on 7th December 1968.

For many, it's the one time of year they step into church – a family tradition that brings in the start of the Christmas festivities.

Please support your local Christingle Service and when you light the candle remember that together, we can raise awareness, take action and make positive change.

God bless and enjoy a joyful Christmas.

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Christmas Quiz - No prizes, just for fun!

1. Which Christian feast celebrates the visit of the Three Wise Men to the infant Jesus?
2. St Thomas Aquinas established nine choirs of angels – which is the highest rank?
3. In which Puccini opera does Rodolfo meet Mimi on Christmas Eve?
4. What was the surname of the man who patented a design for a safety cab (a form of horse-drawn taxi) on 23rd December 1834?
5. In which capital city is Wenceslas Square?
6. Which archangel informed Mary that she would give birth to a son and name him Jesus?
7. According to tradition, which insects hum Psalm 100 on Christmas Eve?
8. Which UK charity started a Christmas Jumper Day?
9. Christmas Island is situated north-west of which country?
10. Baron Hardup is the father of which pantomime female character?
11. Which popular carol was written by the poet Christina Rossetti in 1872?
12. The 33rd President of the United States died on Boxing Day 1972. Can you name him?
13. For what meteorological event are reindeers “Donner” and “Blitzen” the German words?
14. Which author wrote “The Father Christmas Letters” to his children between 1920 and 1942?
15. What is the answer to the most popular Christmas cracker joke of 2017:
“How will Christmas dinner be different after Brexit?”

This year we also have a “#FollowTheStar” question:

Many thanks to Dorothy Townend for the Christmas Quiz. Ed!



Star Question: can you complete the title of a new children's book by Delph author, Jo Perry?

“Wish upon a _____”

The book is available from Delph Library (£4.99) with £1 donated to the library.



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What do we do at N W Secretarial & PA Service and why do people use our service?

We all need a bit more time!

It's that time of year when we could all do with more time. More time to do family things. It might be our Christmas shopping for gifts for family, friends and work colleagues. It might be that we are preparing to go off on holiday to escape the winter

weather and the cards need organising before we go.

Whatever we are doing it is always really nice to send and receive Christmas cards to and from loved ones and people that we have known for many, many years, both in this country and overseas. This is our way of sharing our good wishes for the season and the New Year to follow and letting people know that we are thinking of them.

Over the years we have helped lots of people. They may have failing eyesight or just not be in a position to go out and buy, write and post out their cards.

This is how we have helped clients. We can collect their cards with a list of names and addresses, or they can be dropped off with me, or lists can be emailed/posted; whichever is most convenient.

We have also purchased a selection of cards and stamps on behalf of our clients making this easier for them. We caringly handwrite them and post them out.

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

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www.nwsecretarialservice.co.uk



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Answers to the Christmas Quiz...

'Star Question' Answer: "Wish Upon a Shooting Star"

1. Epiphany
2. Seraphim
3. La Boheme
4. Joseph Hansom
5. Prague
6. Archangel Gabriel
7. Bees
8. Save the Children
9. Australia
10. Cinderella
11. In the bleak mid-winter
12. Harry S Truman
13. Thunder and Lightning
14. J R R Tolkien
15. No Brussels!



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