

The Grapevine

June & July 2019

Issue 10 £1



The Church of England in Saddleworth

“Celebrating God’s presence in all people.”

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The Rector writes...

The gloriously warm and sunny Easter weekend was marred by fire and destruction. We watched our moorland burn. We learnt of the massacre of innocents at worship and on holiday in Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile our country continues to be leaderless and rudderless and drifting dangerously far from stability. We are encouraged to enter the public arena on social media, only to discover the dark side of many hearts and minds displayed in the rudeness and aggression that is shared.

We are an Easter people. We are called to sing a different song; to dance to a different tune; to a revolution of tenderness. The Christian Gospel is a world away from all that is negative, cynical and blatantly unkind. Jesus calls us to be different; to make a difference; to celebrate difference; to be church for a different world.

As Easter people we carry hope and joy in our hearts not because our lives are dependent on what we earn or what we own, nor on our status or power, but because our trust is beyond the material and rests in the unfailing love and faithfulness of God who raised Jesus from the dead.

We look towards Pentecost Sunday and Whit Friday (on 9th June and 14th June respectively) and pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit and the renewal of the Christian Church in this land.

We pray the Holy Spirit will be both comforter and inspiration for our life together; that our hearts and the hearts of many will be changed from

“hearts of stone to hearts of flesh”.
(Ezekiel 36:26)

We pray that the song we sing and the tune to which we dance may challenge many of us to a different way of life and different way of being. May the grace of God give us confidence to be bearers of Christ's love to all with whom we share our lives.

Sharon



Index

	Page
The Rector writes...	3
Who's Who	4
Regular Services	6
Do you remember...	7
Selective Memory	8
What is Prayer?	8
If Noah had lived...	9
The Holy Trinity	10
Parish Registers	12
Bishop David's visit	13
St Thomas Delph	14
Christ Church Denshaw	16
Holy Trinity Dobcross	18
Christ Church Friezland	20
St Mary Greenfield	22
St Anne Lydgate	24
St Chad - Parish Church	26
St Chad - Parish Centre	28
View behind Bars	29
St Chad - Kilngreen	30
Praying The Breath of God	31
PAPYRUS	33

Saddleworth 'Sing for Pleasure' Choir



Charity Summer Concert



in aid of Oldham Mountain Rescue Team

with special guests

Oldham Music Service Woodwind Ensemble

at

Holy Trinity Church Dobcross

on

Saturday 22nd June at 7:30pm

Tickets £5:00 available on the door.

The choir's programme will be varied and include traditional folksongs, sacred music, popular light classical pieces as well as a set of songs from "My Fair Lady" and a Saddleworth favourite.



Many thanks to Nicole at colormania 🇧🇪 for creating this montage from our Whit Friday photographs.

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
Assistant Curate	Revd Aaron Jackman aaronjackman@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07717 893466
Associate Priest	Revd Barbara Christopher barbarachristopher@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 876802
Associate Priest	Revd Dr Michael Donmall michaeldonmall@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07779 225063
Missioner for Discipleship	Revd Hilary Edgerton hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 871704
Missioner with Children and Young People	Revd Angela Bryan angelabryan@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07736 233122 0161 626 0380
Assistant Curate	Revd Pat Gillian patgillian@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 870162
Assistant Curate	Revd Philip Williamson philipwilliamson@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07736 416126
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
Secretary	Vacant	secretary@holytrinitydobcross.org.uk	
Treasurer	Peter Whiffin	treasurer@holytrinitydobcross.org.uk	01457 872386

Christ Church Friezland - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Duncan Ross	ross328@btinternet.com	01457 835261
Churchwarden	Vacant		
Secretary	Elaine Cartwright	elaineanddavec@icloud.com	07764 658349
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



Strawberry and Champagne Evening with Musical Entertainment

in aid of Oshandi Aids Trust In Namibia

Friday 21st June 2019 from 7:00pm onwards

Shawfield House, The Shaws, Uppermill, OL3 6JX

Tickets £10

available from Sarah 01457 875126, Ann 01457 874423, Liz 01457 810666

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)

Smile Lines!

A different kind of diet

Each day I aim to eat something from each of the four food groups: the bonbon group, the salty-snack group, the caffeine group, and the 'whatever-the-thing-in-the-tinfoil-in-the-back-of-the-fridge-is' group.

St Chad Saddleworth

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

30th June 9:30am Eucharist at
Kilngreen 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

Do you remember 9th July 1984?

In the early hours of 9th July 1984 a lightning bolt struck the South Transcept of York Minster. Within an hour 114 firefighters had rushed to save the historic structure. By the time that York Divisional Fire Commander, Alan Stow, arrived at 3:10am a third of the roof had been obliterated. It became clear the roof was beyond saving and bringing it down was necessary to save the rest of the building. By 5:24am, the fire was under control and the true scale of the devastation became clear.

Any fading memories returned on 15th April this year when a devastating fire tore through Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. In the aftermath the Archbishop of Canterbury tweeted *'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'* (John 1:5)



Notre Dame
15th April 2019



York Minster - 9th July 1984



York Minster - 9th July 1984



Notre Dame - 15th April 2019

Selective Memory

"I will forgive their sins and I will no longer remember their wrongs"

(Jeremiah 31:34 - Good News Bible)

I deserve a 1st class degree in forgetting things.

I can walk over to the kitchen cupboard, open the door – and not remember what it was I intended to take out. I can go to Tesco to buy some bread and come out with a dozen other things – and no bread. I have hidden Christmas presents but not found them until 18 months later.

And then there are all the times I have forgotten people's names, though I have found a solution to the problem. Just call everyone "you" or "there". If I see someone in the street and can't remember their name, simply smile and wave and say "hello there".

Did you know that squirrels are probably even more forgetful than humans? Every year they bury hundreds and thousands of acorns, nuts and seeds to provide for the winter and then promptly forget where they've hidden them.



From their short term memory loss, this has led, over many, many years, to the planting of millions of trees, often in new places. Great for conservation and brilliant for the environment. So sometimes good things can come out of being forgetful.

Maybe this is hard to believe, but God himself is sometimes forgetful. But there are many things that God deliberately forgets – he has selective memory.

When we turn to him and ask for forgiveness for the things we have done wrong, God chooses not only to forgive us, but also to forget all our sin.

In fact, he throws it away as far as possible...

"You will trample our sins underfoot and send them to the bottom of the sea!"

(Micah 7:19 - Good News Bible)

Now that's an image that's too good to forget.

Lord, thank you for forgetting all those times when I have hurt you or made you feel sad.

Let me never forget your gift of love and forgiveness.

Godfrey

This article was inspired by a book called "Has anyone seen my glasses?" by Judith Merrell and Anna Caddy.

What is Prayer?

In the lunchtime Prayer Group at St Anne's School I often ask this question, particularly when I have new members of the group. What I find especially interesting is how open the children are and how willing they are to share their opinions and experiences. The answers I might get from the children could include:

- † 'Talking to God';
- † 'Asking for help';
- † 'Sharing the day's events';
- † 'Thanking God for something'.

"So does God answer you?" I ask.

"Oh yes, He talks to me all the time!"

We have been exploring different methods of prayer often linking our theme to the teaching in the Wednesday evening family church. We've had 'arrow prayers', 'helping hands', 'picture prayers', 'speech bubbles' and other activities and the children can record their work in their own Prayer Book.

When I ask the children what effect prayer has on them, they tell me that it calms them down, it gives them peace and they get answers.

However, when I talk to adults about prayer they are inclined to be reticent so I ask,

"What causes you to pray?"



Quite often the answer might describe a moment of danger or fear; that split second before impending disaster when up goes an 'arrow' prayer and it generally isn't a conscious decision to pray.

Somewhere along the way, perhaps whilst 'growing up', we lose our ability to pray. We try to rationalise and use as evidence what we know. But, under extreme stress, rationality goes out of the window and we do what God intended.

Even on the busiest days, there is a real benefit to stopping, clearing our minds, taking time to listen and having a quiet conversation with God.

Do you have a quiet place that you go to when you need some peace? Try going there at a time that suits you, try to empty your mind and just listen.

If earthly thoughts try to fill the space, don't panic, just kick them out and keep listening.

Picture a calming image or hold an object, such as a cross or something similar.

Closing your eyes may help.
Simply let God in.

Al Gillian



If Noah had lived in Saddleworth

Now the Lord saw that the earth was corrupt and full of violence, but Noah was a righteous man because he lived in Saddleworth.

And the Lord said to Noah:

"I've had enough! I'm going to send flood waters to cover the earth in one year's time and I want you to build an ark to save all the righteous people in Saddleworth – you won't need many cabins – and the animals, two by two."

After one year, the clouds began to roll up and the winds began to blow. The Lord returned to Noah and saw him weeping in front of a few planks and pieces of timber. Noah said,

"Forgive me Lord but I need more time. Firstly, I've run out of money. Tax inspectors have been round and informed me that as there was a previous ark, I'm altering an existing structure and must pay VAT. The employment office insists I must pay my sons the minimum wage – with benefits – and so they've all got their wives pregnant and gone on paternity leave.

"I've been onto English Heritage and they say I must stick to the original specification and use gopher wood which is not easy to find round here. I've been up to Dovestones, Binn Green and Dick Clough, but Friends of the Earth will not let me fell any gopher trees that I find. And would you believe my timber merchant is now being taken to court because I asked him for timber sizes in feet instead of cubits. Saddleworth Council won't approve my boatyard as they can't decide if the ark is for industrial or recreational use. Equal Opportunities are forbidding me from discriminating between the righteous and the unrighteous as it is deemed inappropriate in a multi-faith, multi-cultural society.

"Customs and Excise have also noticed that the last time they saw the ark it was on a mountain in Turkey and they're now there looking for drugs.

"The Department of the Environment are also planning on producing an injunction against any flood. I have already told them that they can't control the Almighty, but they say that the only Almighty they know is the European Court and anyway, how many lawyers does God have on his side?"

"Not many – in fact, very few", interjected God.

"And then there are the problems with the animals. The RSPCA won't let me capture birds of prey and every time I capture a mink, the Animal Rights people release it, and to cap it all, the Archbishop's Council has established a commission to determine what form of divine worship we should have on board, and they don't report back for three years!"

Then the sky began to clear and the wind dropped.

"Does this mean that you are not going to destroy the earth, Lord?" Noah asked.

"No! I don't have to bother. Your politicians are doing that already", said God.

"Are we then condemned to that dreaded place where the eternal flames flicker and burn?" asked Noah anxiously.

God said,

"I'm afraid so and it's worse than you think. They're not flames that you see. It's red tape!"

Submitted by Julie Parkin,
and attributed to her husband, the late David Parkin.

The Holy Trinity (Trinity Sunday 16th June)

We live in a three-dimensional world. All physical objects have a certain height, width, and depth. One person can look like someone else, or behave like someone else, or even sound like someone else. But a person cannot actually be the same as another person. They are distinct individuals.

However, God lives without the limitations of a three-dimensional universe. He is spirit. And he is infinitely more complex than we are. That is why Jesus the Son can be different from the Father and, yet, the same.

The Bible clearly speaks of: God the Son, God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit. But emphasizes that there is only **one** God.

If we use maths, it would not be: $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$. It would be: $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$. God is a triune God. Thus the term 'Tri' meaning three, and 'Unity' meaning one 'Tri' + 'Unity' = 'Trinity'. It is a way of acknowledging what the Bible reveals to us about God; God is three 'Persons' who have the same essence of deity.

Some have tried to give human illustrations for the Trinity. One illustration is H₂O being water, ice and steam, all different forms, but all are H₂O. Another would be the sun which gives light, heat and radiation; three distinct aspects, but only one sun.

No illustration is going to be perfect.

But from the very beginning we see God as a Trinity. In the book of Genesis, the first book in the Bible, God says, "Let us make man in our image... male and female he created them". You see here a mixture of plural and singular pronouns.

When Moses asked God for his name, God replied, "I am" (eternally existing).

Jesus used the same phrase numerous times:

"I am the light of the world..."

"I am the bread of life..."

"I am the way, the truth and the life."

Abraham is someone mentioned in Genesis, thousands of years before Jesus was born. Yet, Jesus said of himself,

"Before Abraham was born, I am."

The Jews understood fully what Jesus was saying because they picked up stones to kill him for 'blasphemy' - claiming to be God. Jesus has always existed.



This came up time and time again. Jesus was so clear about his unique relationship with the Father. This is why the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God.

And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying,

*"This is my beloved Son,
in whom I am well-pleased."*

Jesus says to His disciples in John's Gospel says:

*"And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another helper,
that he may be with you forever;
the Spirit of truth..."*

*...If anyone loves me, they will keep my word;
and my Father will love them
and we will come to them,
and make our home with them."*

The last words of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel:

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."*

God, Money, The Bible and Church



You are invited to three discussions based on what the Bible says about money, including practical examples to use money well and encourage 'Giving' in our churches.

Saturday 25th May, 1st & 8th June
9:30am to 11:30am

Parish Centre, Station Road, Uppermill

Contact Hilary Edgerton on 01457 871704
or hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk



Church of England in Saddleworth

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Join us for free
**Fun, Food,
Fellowship & Singing**



Monday 1st July
2:00pm to 3:00pm

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

Station Road, Uppermill, OL3 6HQ

Music provided by Mike Hindson.

Art work by Janet Iles.

Prayers, reflection and activity
on the theme of Friendship
with Revds Barbara Christopher & Hilary Edgerton.



Church of England in Saddleworth

"Celebrating God's presence in all people."

SADDLEWORTH BENEFICE

PENTECOST PRAISE



SUNDAY
9 JUNE
6PM

CHRIST
CHURCH
FRIEZLAND

With sung worship led by a gospel-style choir formed from members of Saddleworth churches and primary schools

To hear the songs in advance, search youtube for [scrabblefan11](#) & then playlist Pentecost Praise

You are invited to wear red, orange or yellow

All welcome

TAIZÉ SERVICE

*A service of meditative prayer
and silence*



Manchester Cathedral
Sunday 30 June, 7pm



Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

Christ Church Denshaw

7th April Mabel Reese Morton-Kyle

Christ Church Friezland

24th March Ralph Joshua Bridge

24th March Ethan Stuart Beesley

St Mary Greenfield

10th March Harry Austin Jackson

21st April Sarah Michelle Hall

28th April Jac Ronald Ap Thomas

28th April Moli Joy Ap Thomas

28th April Max James Gunton

28th April Benjamin George John Hawley

St Anne Lydgate

7th April Frankie Marshall

20th April Esmee Roselyn Hoburn

28th April Autumn Charlotte Smith

St Chad Saddleworth

20th April Oliver Jack Wearing

21st April Beatrice Evelyn Reid

Journeying into the fullness of God's love

Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Life

St Chad Saddleworth

26th March Michelle Louise Crossland

*Lives lived with generosity of spirit and
kindness of heart"*

Marriages



Holy Trinity Dobcross

13th April Ben Anthony Lavin and
Lorna Mary Hill

St Anne Lydgate

27th April Simon James Edge and
Rachel Elizabeth Roberts

St Chad Saddleworth

6th April Benjamin Bradshaw and
Leanne Ashley

Joined in mutual love and companionship.

Funerals

Holy Trinity Dobcross

3rd April Gerald Eyre Harrison

Christ Church Friezland

19th March James Harry Taylor

St Mary Greenfield

26th March Clifford Barnes

11th April Muriel Tewson

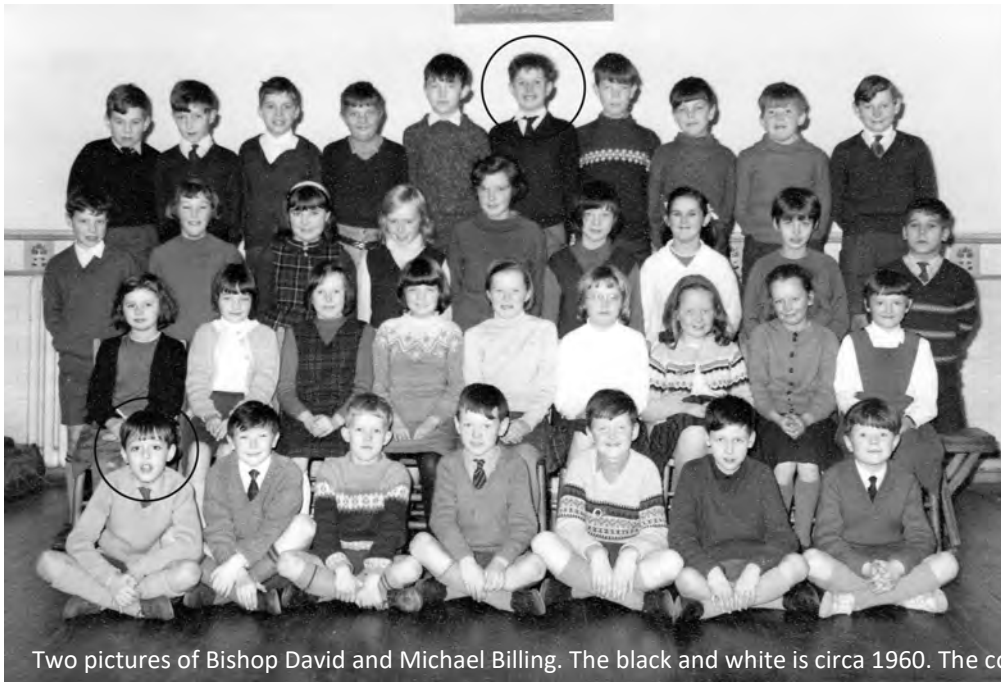
18th April Peter Frank Robinson

St Chad Saddleworth

5th March Gillian Tetlow

Entrusted to God's compassion and mercy

Bishop David's visit to Saddleworth



Two pictures of Bishop David and Michael Billing. The black and white is circa 1960. The colour is Good Friday 2019 at Denshaw.

What a joy it was to share our Holy Week and Easter Day services and events with the Right Reverend Doctor David Walker, Bishop of Manchester.

In a week that started with two donkeys and finished with an Easter Day of two breakfasts and two Eucharists, Bishop David led meditations, celebrated at Eucharists, and gave us an insight into the Passion of Christ in art.

We are also aware from the last issue that Bishop David has memories related to Saddleworth.

"...In coming to share that journey with you this year in Saddleworth, it will also be for me a journey into my memories of the place I grew up in, ..."

Therefore, it should come as no surprise that Bishop David met someone from his younger years.

During the week Bishop David met Michael Billing; they had both attended Friezland Junior School.

Michael said,

"David and I attended Friezland Junior School. He lived up on Stockport Road and I lived down High Grove. In those days we all walked down to and back from School with the older children taking charge of the younger ones."

"I will be 65 years old in September so as David is younger than me we would be there from 1959/60 until we were of an age to leave. He went to Manchester Grammar School and I went to Saddleworth School."

"From leaving Friezland I cannot remember meeting up with him till he came to Denshaw on Good Friday last. He had taken a service in Denshaw when he came to Manchester as Bishop but I missed speaking to him that day."

"Having common memories of our early days we soon picked up where we had left off 55 years earlier".



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 11) is Thursday 27th June 2019.

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

St Thomas Delph

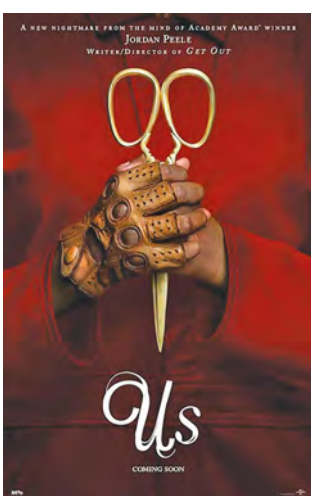
Film and Theology

Soon to begin at St Thomas' are some Sunday evening Film and Theology discussions. Following the lead of other churches in the Benefice St Thomas' now has a licence to show films. The films we intend to show may not always be suitable for children, they might not be the films that you would automatically go to the cinema to watch – there are so many genres and we all have different tastes and they perhaps won't always entertain!

What do the films shown at the cinema or on in our homes on TV or DVD have to tell us about the world we live in and what message do they give to those who watch them? Are the films we watch meant to be entertainment or do they mould our thinking and our behaviour?

The intention is that we watch the film and then discuss what the film says to us and possibly to the communities in which we live. What might we, as Christians see, that others might not? An example of the line our discussion/review might take is indicated through the following article around the film 'Us'.

What does the Jeremiah 11.11 reference in the film 'Us' mean?



Jordan Peele's horror film *Us* has been terrifying UK audiences for the last couple of weeks. One of its key motifs is a Bible verse – Jeremiah 11.11. It first appears on a cardboard placard, and 11.11 keeps coming back: the fateful figures appear on a clock, they're referenced on a t-shirt and a baseball game is tied at 11-11.

At one level '11.11' is a visual trick, mirroring the theme of the film which features evil doppelgangers, identical in appearance to the main characters. But the Bible reference is more than that. The verse reads:

'Therefore this is what the Lord says: "I will bring on them a disaster they cannot escape. Although they cry out to me, I will not listen to them."

In the context of the film, the verse is a chilling prophecy of impending doom: disaster is coming and there's nothing anyone can do about it. But what does it mean in its place in the Bible?

Jeremiah was a prophet who lived in the 6th century BC, when the southern Hebrew kingdom of Judah was under threat from the powerful Babylonians. During his lifetime Jerusalem was conquered and thousands of Judeans were taken into exile – a shattering blow. Jeremiah saw the tragedy coming. He saw the disaster as the consequence of people breaking faith with God. They abandoned their covenant with him and worshipped other gods. So God tells Jeremiah that he shouldn't even pray for them: *"I will not listen when they call to me in the time of their distress"* (verse 14).

The Bible passage *Us* draws on is bleak. It talks about how actions have consequences. The choices we make matter. We don't always make wise choices and we can't always undo what we've done.

But the overall message of the Bible is still one of hope. Jeremiah 11.11 warns of inescapable disaster, but just a few chapters later comes one of the most famous verses in the Old Testament: *"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'*"

Us is a story of horror. But the Bible is a story of hope. The exiles return, good overcomes evil and God restores what's broken.

Author: Mark Woods, 9th April 2019
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The planned films at St Thomas are as follows:

Sunday 2nd June 7:00pm

'The Book Thief' (12)

contains scenes of emotional distress and moderate threat

Sunday 7th July 7:00pm

'The Reader' (15)

contains strong sex

Entrance is free with donations welcomed for refreshments.

Fastest Finger on the Buzzer

Over the years the Church of England has appeared to have a majority of women in its congregations and many of the social events have naturally been for women and couples. To keep men, and in seeking to bring them together, many churches have tried activities for men, with varying successes. In recent years a group called 'Men Unite' has been set up by Make Jesus Known. On its website, www.makejesusknown.com, it states:

"Men Unite exists to help men in Saddleworth and surrounding areas on their journey of faith.

"We believe that God is raising a movement of men sold out to follow His way and live for His cause."

The men of St Thomas' have started to attend the events laid on by Men Unite and last year won the Quiz and the trophy that goes with it.

The trophy has stood proudly in the church hall, with much banter between the team who won and the other team from St Thomas who last year came about sixth (there is some ongoing discussion about the exact placing).

When the advertising came out for the April Quiz Night, our motivator, Matt Brunton, had little effort to get another two teams out. When a father and son, and a friend of another member joined us we were oversubscribed, but no matter, we were ready for battle. With two young men in their teens being with us we split them up so that once again the teams could be on an equal footing! Let battle commence, and so it did.



In the opening round last year's winners fell behind the underdogs and the underdogs played to keep their advantage, having some lucky guesses and, by getting fingers on the buzzer first, bonus points were generated. But then the questions changed and last year's winners began to claw their way back; it was looking like a fight to the end. The excitement grew so intense John Powell fell off of his seat taking the event banner down with him, where would this end we asked ourselves?

As the quiz went on, there were few points between the two teams. With last year's sixth place team taking the lead, it all came down to the last question:

'How long was the video clip we had just watched?' and with that St Thomas' 'B' team came in second and last year's winners took fourth place.



The winners? Well we'll offer you their picture we think they were called 'Any Suggestions', perhaps you know them (*check page 23*) and perhaps you might get some men from your churches to join up and make a team for the next event.

Regular events run by Men Unite include:

Saturday 8th June from 7:30am to 9:00am
Men's Breakfast at Abaco, Uppermill.

Monday 17th June from 7:30pm to 9:00pm
Bible and Beer at The Kingfisher, Greenfield.

Saturday 6th July from 7:30am to 9:00am
Men's Breakfast at Abaco, Uppermill.

Monday 15th July from 7:30pm to 9:00pm
Bible and Beer at The Kingfisher, Greenfield.

All men are welcome to join us, we don't bite and we do have fun.

Parish Contacts

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

Christ Church Denshaw

Thailand Trip to the Orphanage October 2018

In December 2004 a devastating tsunami hit parts of Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. This left hundreds of children and families displaced with many losing their lives. A wonderful Thai couple, Rasa and Root, left their home in Chang Mai and travelled to one of the worst affected areas in Phuket. They arrived in the area of Khao Lak and found children alone and unsure of the future.

Root secured an acre of land a few miles out of the centre and he and his wife set about inviting children who had lost their parents and found themselves alone to stay with them for as long or as short a time as they needed. This was all done without any financial support. Their small orphanage then became known as 'Home and Life' with just ten children. Their ethos was very different to the larger orphanages with the focus on treating the children as a part of a larger family. Initially they cared for a small number of children and then found that a local mother, whose children had sadly died in the tsunami, offered to come and help.

Over the years since the tsunami, Rasa and Root have welcomed volunteers to 'Home and Life' and support them in building a sustainable and self-sufficient home for the children.



I first heard about 'Home and Life' from a friend who was part of a relief team from the UK. My daughter Ella and I have visited and fundraised for many years now, supported by our family, friends, school, Brownies and Guides. This allowed us to finance the building of a dormitory for the girls, which we have seen during our recently spent time in Thailand at the end of 2018.

Ella and I have had the privilege to watch some of the children grow and move away from 'Home and Life' but also witness other children, not affected by the tsunami but affected by some of the social challenges faced in Thailand, make progress in their lives.

Root and Rasa have been able to build a café and bakery on site. This is used as a way for some of the children to work and learn skills, which they can use when they go out to work or leave to study away from 'Home and Life'. The ethos remains a family approach, one that is based on working together, whether a part of the family or as a volunteer, for however long you are in Thailand.

'Home and Life' will forever be in our hearts and we expect to visit again in the coming years.

Hanna Simpson

Purple Day

Isabelle Simpson attends Crompton House School and is a regular member of our congregation. On Tuesday 26th March, Isabelle held a bake sale at school. She raised a staggering £176 for the Epilepsy Society's Purple Day. The Epilepsy Society have been a huge support to Isabelle and her family after her diagnosis of Epilepsy in 2016.

'Purple Day' is the International Day for Epilepsy when people from across the globe come together to raise awareness of the condition and make a difference to the lives of those affected. It was created in 2008 by Cassidy Morgan, a young girl from Canada who has epilepsy and wanted to get people talking about it and assure them that they are not alone. 'Purple' was chosen because lavender is recognised as the international flower of epilepsy.

Isabelle will be delivering the Reflection during our June Morning Prayer service, when she will talk about Purple Day and also what it is like to live with Epilepsy.



Eco-Church Update

A very brief update on Eco-Church progress, the benefits of which can now be seen a lot more clearly with the good weather we have been enjoying. The Eco-Committee are still appealing for any spare boots or wellingtons which can be adapted. More are needed as the birds will have chance to explore them for second clutches.



Volunteers will be hedge laying at the moment as the last date under Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) guidance is the first of May. Firstly there will be posts and cross supports on a section of dogwood that can then be under planted with some hazel to bulk it up. In absence of suitable nesting hedge Mike has piled up some brash which birds are using and may be nesting in. Putting feeders and water drinkers round the area is bringing more birds in judging by the amount of seed taken.

The committee are also planning to make an area for the committal of ashes apart from the rest of the graveyard.

Another Heritage Day is being planned for the early Autumn and yet more stonewalling, everyone is keen to reach the Silver award before too long.

An Inspiring Holy Week and Easter

On Palm Sunday, the congregation joined in a Passion Narrative with hymns and prayers. This was very well received and looks set to become a permanent feature in the future.

The visit of Bishop David on Good Friday was made extra special by the beautiful weather as Philip had planned a silent Walk of Witness round the village and we had all been praying for fine weather; our prayers were certainly answered.



Lessons were read, prayers said and hymns sung at various stops round the village. Yes, we certainly managed a good sing with several strong male voices in our number. With a plain wooden cross carried at the front it made for a meaningful service.

The toasted hot cross buns and tea/coffee served when we got back to church gave those involved not only a chance to speak with Bishop David, but for fellowship among ourselves. It didn't take long for us to decide that the morning paved the way for an annual Good Friday service with a difference.

Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator

Mary Rodgers

rodgers@delphman.myzen.co.uk

01457 874354

Holy Trinity Dobcross

“Go! Helen. Go!” And she did !



Together with four friends from the Mossley Running Club, Helen Rowland completed the Manchester Marathon on the 7th April. After months of training, she ran 26.2 miles and passed the finishing line in 5 hours 25 minutes. A delighted Helen said,

“We did it! Thanks to everyone for all your support and encouragement and special thanks to family and friends who cheered me on from the pavements. Also congratulations to the other four club runners who took part. I am really grateful to my brother David, who cycled alongside me for the last tough eleven miles and played all my favourite songs – a moral boost on a bike.

“That’s my first and last marathon – Done!

“Paul, William and Thomas were there at the race finish to welcome me home. I am very pleased to have been able to raise funds for Diabetes UK. Thank you all so much.”

This charity is very important to Helen and Paul, as four years ago their younger son Thomas aged 8, was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. In thanks for the charity’s support, Helen challenged herself to raise a whopping £1,000 to help other families. All the funds from sales and a raffle at the March Coffee Shop in Dobcross Band Club, a collection at Church and sponsorship helped to raise the magnificent total of £2,900.

Whit Friday Walk of Witness Banners, Bands and Smiles

As we gather for the short service in The Square, it’s a wonderful thought that people have been coming together to celebrate Whit Friday for over a hundred and thirty years. Over that time many things have changed so it is worthwhile thinking about all the people who have kept the Walk of Witness going since Queen Victoria was on the throne. Whit Friday has grown into a international event which not only brings the villages of Saddleworth together but attracts visitors from further a field. However, one thing that has not changed is the story that lies at the heart of this wonderful tradition.

And this is the story in the Bible which tells of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Christian disciples over 2000 years ago. It was, in itself, an extraordinary event that transformed the lives of Jesus’ disciples as they received the power of God to go out and tell everyone they met the good news of Jesus Christ. It is the same Holy Spirit that has continued to transform the lives of millions of people worldwide.

The hymns we sing, the reading and the prayers, will tell of God’s Spirit of truth and peace. The Dobcross hymn chosen this year is *“Father, Lord of all Creation”*, a most appropriate hymn at this present time.

This is what the Walk is all about – witnessing to the new life that is ours in Jesus.



Let us hope for fine weather on the 14th June, but whatever comes -- Enjoy the Day!!

WALK FOR PEACE FOUNDATION

On Monday afternoon, 29th April, we were all set up in Church for Experience Easter and waiting for Year 6 to arrive from school with Revd John.

A man came in and asked if he could have a look around the church, so we truly obliged and told him a little of the history, including the upstairs box pews. We had an interesting conversation about the "Walk for Peace" logo on his fleece.

He had walked that morning from the centre of Manchester and was on his way to Huddersfield. It transpired that his "Walk for Peace" started in Belfast and would take a route through the Northern towns and finally to Brussels. Very intrigued so far, the gentleman then introduced himself as The Right Honourable Lord Michael Bates, a former conservative MP, a Minister of State at the Department for International Development and a member of the House of Lords.

The purpose of his walk was twofold - to try to gauge the feeling of this divided country caused by Brexit and to work out a common ground for the future. This fascinating discussion was curtailed by the chatter of children coming into church. Lord Bates thanked us warmly for our welcome, signed the visitors book, left a donation and said goodbye.

This fifteen minute conversation gave us much food for thought, and we both felt privileged to have had a chance meeting with such a man.

Dorothy Townend and Peter Whiffin

His online diary on www.walkforpeace.eu says:

"...Then it was down into Dobcross..."

"Halfway up a very steep bank is Holy Trinity Church, an Anglican church. The door was open. And the opportunity to have a seat and catch my breath was a welcome one. As I entered the church was a hive of activity as they were preparing for a school visit, but Dorothy Townend insisted I come in and explained some of the history to the town and the church. I was shown upstairs where the old pews with doors were still in place. It was a beautifully cared for church and warm and welcoming.

"We were joined by Peter Whiffin, who is also the Church Treasurer and they asked what I was doing. I explained

the purpose of the walk being to search for Common Ground to see how we could bring the country back together again. This was Yorkshire where people have a reputation for being a bit direct, he rubbed his forehead and said, 'but how are you going to do that?' I had flashbacks to my interview with Ivan on Newstalk in Dublin. I simply said I didn't know but that was the purpose of the walk. With that the doors burst open and the schoolchildren burst in - Dorothy invited me to stay longer, but it was time to go. I had another fifteen miles to cover..."

Whit Friday 14th June Programme

- 9:30am Playing of 'Silver Hill' in the Band Club in memory of absent friends.
- 9:40am The Procession assembles at Sandy Lane - church, school, banners, brass bands and community.
- 10:00am Short open air service in The Square. led by Revds Godfrey Adams, Aaron Jackman, and Canon Jim Burns. Come and join in the hymn singing.
- 10:25am The Procession leaves The Square via Woods Lane and along Dobcross New Road to Uppermill.
- 11:00am Joint Service in Playing Fields in Uppermill after which the Procession returns to Dobcross via Sugar Lane.
- 12:30pm Children's Lunch in Dobcross School.
- 2:00pm Children's Sports Afternoon on Woolpack Playing Fields.
- 4:00pm Dobcross Brass Band Contest starts

If you would like to help with the Walk, lunch or sports, please contact any PCC member.

School Links

The church and school have continued to work together in activities that reflect a caring, community ethos, in which pupils can develop a strong understanding of Christianity in values, such as love, respect and service. We were also pleased to host a Spring Spectacular Concert, organised by music teacher Debbie Williams to raise further funds for the Holy Trinity School Music Scholarship which was established in memory of Phil Renold. This was a wonderful evening to showcase the talents of our young people. The evening raised over £1,200 with an anonymous gift of the same amount.

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

Holy Week and Easter

What a busy Holy Week and Easter period:

- † Palm Sunday's Passion Narrative;
- † Monday's Taizé;
- † Maundy Thursday's Supper, Foot Washing & Vigil;
- † Good Friday 's Veneration of the Cross & Messy Easter Workshop;
- † Easter Eve's Benefice Vigil;
- † Easter Day's dawn & morning Eucharists.

Just some of the services experienced in April!
Here are a few photographs of what went on...



Eco Church & Green Gym

A warm, sunny Saturday morning in March saw many helping hands, of all ages, join at the church to clear out one of its flower beds. With a little training and many bacon sandwiches, we all managed to clear the bed of weeds and dig our way to the membrane. (Membrane is a material that is used to stop weeds from growing but, unfortunately, it fails over time.)

At about midday, after a few hours of working, the flower bed was clear and the membrane was showing - so that it could be removed.

When the work on the church building has finished, the Green Gym team will help to plant some flowers and pretty plants in this area to attract bees and butterflies to the church. So many people had a great time doing a very satisfying job!

Four Weddings and a...

Floral Fanfare!

At the time of writing, there is to be a Wedding every weekend in May, which means: Flowers! Nothing says 'Flowers' like a Wedding, but with many couples neglecting to decorate for the big day (for a variety of reasons) I created a simple brochure of what we can offer. This includes images of various-sized arrangements with costs, making it simple for the couple to match their taste and budget. It is cost effective, as we have few overheads and we gift our time. The church looks even more beautiful for the special couple and for Sundays too!



Occasionally, wedding flowers are used at a subsequent concert and re-using our simple, but pretty, pew ends means we reduce our environmental impact. Any profit goes to the Flower Fund, keeping a healthy balance for future materials and allowing a small surplus to be passed on for other needs.

We've found very few brides have no flowers and we enjoy getting to know the couples before their wedding and making them feel welcome when they return afterwards. Many are surprised to discover that our high altar arrangements are not real - showing how incredibly life-like some artificial flowers are these days! But this doesn't mean we never 'do' flowers or use the real thing in other seasons. For example, on Good Friday, a six-foot wooden cross was covered with Oasis then fir, into which the congregation inserted red carnations. We've done similar for Remembrance Sunday: a large wreath with poppies made by the children.

Our Floral Team is small but dedicated and welcomes new additions and if anyone is planning a wedding for 2020... you know where to come.

Sarah Wells

A Prayer for difficult times.

A Prayer I have found helpful during a difficult few months (by Revd David Cooper for his Induction Service to a Walkden parish):

*We give you thanks, O God, for your faithfulness.
 We praise you that you are always with us.
 In all our changes, your love supports us,
 reminding us that in Jesus,
 we have a God who knows both suffering and
 resurrection.
 When we are in the depths, help us to recognise
 your light.
 When we are on the mountaintops, help us to
 breathe in your joy.
 When we are in a no-man's land of uncertainty,
 help us to hold onto you in trust.
 We ask this through Jesus, who has been this
 way before.*

Ann Forster

Whit Friday Band Contest

The Friezland Contest has been attracting bands for thirty-seven years and is unique in being hosted by a church. We start the day with the Whit Walks and in the afternoon prepare for our Band Contest.

Our contest attracts the more traditional audience with a family friendly atmosphere and no tolerance with rowdy behaviour. The atmosphere is enhanced by the compact location, the sheltered seating available during inclement weather, the indoor meals and outdoor barbeque, the children's stall and a real ale bar.



We expect around fifty bands to be taking part throughout the evening. Our contest focuses on Youth, and Third and Fourth Section bands. We attract a number of University Brass Bands who entertain us with their dress and flair.

The aim of the organizers is to produce an opportunity for the local community to socialize, to appreciate traditional brass band music and to relax in convivial surroundings.

Join us on 14th June from 4:30pm

Last minute NEWSFLASH:

We have chosen to give any funds donated for our Sunday refreshments this coming year to Oldham Mountain Rescue Team!

(The amount raised for the two charities supported this year will appear in later Issue.)

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	joanandpeterwhalley@uwclub.net	07746 665404
ALM Prayer and Spirituality	Megan Harrison	megharrison64.aol.com	07817 771663

St Mary Greenfield

Greetings

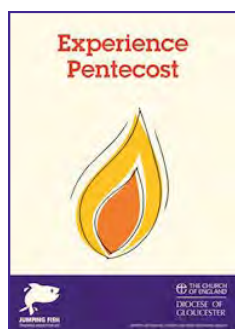
As we approach the seasons of Pentecost, Whitsuntide and Trinity we look forward to celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit and worshipping God who is Three in One and One in Three.

On Whit Friday, 14th June, we meet in church for a short service at 9:00am before processing to Road End accompanied by Boarshurst Silver Band, and proceed to Greenfield Methodist Church for a service there at 9:45am.



This is followed by our joint walk of witness around the village led by The Right Reverend Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton. Come rain or shine, Whit Friday is always a joyful occasion and each year we build on the memories we've made.

Soon after Whit Friday, on Tuesday 18th June, we will be holding 'Experience Pentecost' in the church when Classes 3 and 4 from St Mary's School and Greenfield Primary School will be taking part together. It will be led by Alison O'Brien, our Authorised Lay Minister.



During Pentecost, and hopefully before Trinity Sunday the church organ repairs should be completed, and it will be sounding more melodious than it has for quite some time. The three huge bellows have been removed and 're-leathered' and at the time of writing, the much smaller 'puffers' are also being repaired. We commissioned this work shortly after Christmas, so we are looking forward to our much-loved organ being played again.

By the time you read this, our Ascension Day celebrations are likely to be in the past. The benefice-wide service will be taking place at St Mary's church at 7:30pm on Thursday 30th May. It's customary to hold the service here because it is the church's Dedication Festival, having been consecrated on Ascension Day, 6th May 1875, by The Bishop of Manchester, Dr James Fraser.

In 1985, to celebrate the church's 110th anniversary, a paper was written which, taken from an earlier document, described the consecration service as follows:

"A short ceremony was held outside the church just before 12 noon. The Bishop's Secretary (Mr Purden) read the petition praying his Lordship to consecrate the church. Following this, the bishop, accompanied by a number of clergymen, entered the church by the principal door and proceeded up the aisle, the crowded assembly joining in the chanting of Psalm 24.

"The Consecration Service itself continued with the bishop's exhortation and prayer of consecration, the bishop's intercessory prayers, all followed by Morning Prayer, which included Psalms 8, 15 and 21, and had as the set lessons Daniel 7. 9-15, and Luke 24. 44-53. The first hymn was sung, 'Hail the day that sees him rise'.

"The Bishop then proceeded to lead the Communion service; the Sentence of Consecration was said, after which it was signed and commanded by the Bishop, together with the petition and deeds to be recorded and registered in his registry. This done, the second hymn was sung, 'O God who lovest to abide'. The Bishop then preached, taking as his text Colossians 3.3: 'For ye are dead, and thy life is hid with Christ in God'.

"Ten days after the consecration, on Whit Sunday, 16th May at the 10:30am service, the Reverend John Cheetham, who had been in charge of the parish from the previous October, read himself in as Vicar. This he did by reading the 39 Articles and making the Declaration Of Assent.

"The Parish was formally created the next year on 27th October 1876 when the Official Order in Council was published in the London Gazette."

(Thanks to Mr Jack Dockerty for this information.)

Looking back reminds us of all the faithful people who have worshipped and served in our churches in years gone by, and who laid the spiritual and physical foundations on which we continue to build.

This brings me to the names of those in our Book of Remembrance for whom we will be praying during June and July. They are: Nancy Warren, Shirley Barbara Taylor, David Frederick Parkin, Barbara Partington and Eric Thomas Hill.

As we give thanks for them and their lives we also pray for their families and friends who love and miss them.

Wishing you a joyful Pentecost.
With my love and all God's blessings,
Barbara

Special 90th birthday celebrations for Joan Jones

Our church resounded to loud applause following our Sunday morning service on 17th March when Revd Barbara presented Joan, an active, popular and well-loved member of our congregation, with a beautiful bouquet of flowers to mark her forthcoming birthday. This was followed by a celebratory lunch provided by parishioners, and was enjoyed by all present.



The following Wednesday, 20th March, was Joan's birthday and as usual she came to the midweek service, but on this day she was accompanied by her son, Mark, who had just flown in from New Zealand. At the service, Revd Barbara gave Joan a Birthday Blessing and after the service we all enjoyed fellowship and refreshments.

Joan is a most valued member of our church, whose purpose in life is to laugh, care, advise and follow her late husband, Revd Fred Jones, on the Christian journey. Our lives are brighter for her presence, and may we see her celebrating her 100th birthday.

Julie Parkin

Maundy Thursday Market

Our team enjoyed a very successful morning at their stall and thank all who came to donate and/or buy items. It was especially pleasing to have Team Rector Sharon and Bishop David visit us. We must thank Tony Simpson, proprietor of The King Bill, for supplying us with tea and toast, delivered by his granddaughter, Ellie-May, free of charge. We made £482.35 for church funds.

Joan Jones

Just to let everyone know that we won the annual 'Men Unite' quiz on Sunday 29th April. We hold the trophy for the next year. (See page 15 for more info).



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 info@greenfieldstmary.oldham.sch.uk	01457 872264

St Anne Lydgate

The diary of May Queen Francesca



I have now retired as May Queen and I wanted to write a final note to share with you all the wonderful times I have had during my year.

In February, I hosted a Family Fun Race Night at the Parish Hall and it was great to see so many people enjoying themselves. It was a fantastic night with many people attending from the community.

In March, I had my "At Home" service, where we welcomed ten other Queens from Churches across Saddleworth, Oldham and Tameside, followed by refreshments and stalls. We all had a lovely afternoon and the weather really helped to make it a special day.

On Mothering Sunday my retinue and I distributed cake and flowers to Mothers in the congregation and the local community who are less able.

At the APCM in April we served sausage butties to help people get through the meeting!!

During my year I have visited ten other Churches for Crowning's and At Homes of other Queens and it has been a privilege and an honour to represent our church at these events. This is a wonderful tradition that is still relevant today, bringing young people together from different communities and backgrounds. Long "May" it continue.

My retirement was on 12th May where I handed over to our new May Queen, Katie Lowe. I'm sure Katie will enjoy it as much as I have done and I wish her all the best for the coming year.

As a final note, I would like to say a huge Thank You to my retinue and their families for all the support they have given me over the past year.



May Queen Francesca

Easter Reflections

What a fantastic Easter we've had, having five grandchildren aged from 1 to 6 helped to make it fun and special. What helped more than ever though was that, unlike Christmas, Easter is a much calmer time where the pace doesn't have to be so fast and we all get chance to think, reflect and enjoy.

We started with a trip to the farm to feed the baby goats. Then a few days later we took on the Diggle challenge of going on a Scarecrow Trail, a well-presented map of the village helped us to find most of the 40 scarecrows, each represented by a children's book. There were plenty of clues to help you solve the title (with a little help from good old Google though!). Then a walk down the canal to enjoy one of Grandpa Greene's ice-creams.

Good Friday saw a trip to St Chad's Parish Centre for two hours of 'Messy Play'. What a brilliant idea! My grandchildren thoroughly enjoyed making Easter baskets, Easter gardens, stained glass crosses, bread, Jesus' tomb (made out of biscuits and icing!) and endless other activities - all for £3. What a bargain and what a fantastic Good Friday morning we had! At the same time it gave me chance to explain some of the Easter Story to my grandchildren.

It finished when some 40 of us celebrated the dawn Eucharist at The Roebuck led by Bishop David at 6:00am on Easter Day. This was followed by the now customary sausage sandwiches, croissants and coffee to welcome in the Easter morning. Contributions of £100 from breakfast were passed on to Liz to send to Shelter.

I hope you all enjoyed your Easter as much as I did.
Sue Howarth

Forget-me-not, Garden to remember

When I choose flowers for my garden I always think of those I have loved and lost and I decided that one flower is the perfect choice, Forget-me-nots. They are easy to grow, don't seem to be eaten by the snails and slugs (a problem with many flowers), and I chose them particularly due to losing my lovely Mum to dementia. They are the flower of choice for the Alzheimer's Society, so very appropriate. They are a plant to remind me of anyone who I can't see anymore, give them a go.



They are such a beautiful colour of blue and very tolerant to our weather conditions.

I have also started my tomato and chilli plants in the greenhouse. I find that the small cherry varieties are the best performers in what is a short growing season 'up north'!

My onions are in the plot along with some charlotte potatoes with others in potato bags. This means we can write names on the bags and see who gets the best harvest!

Make the most of any small space you have, even a pot of herbs can be so wonderful, picked fresh and used in any dish you choose to cook.



Anne



Eco Church award & recycling news

In February of this year we started our journey to become an Eco Church. We have always tried to manage our church in an ecological way. Over the course of several weeks a group of us reviewed the questionnaire and found that we were already able to claim our Bronze award. This was ratified and we are now await our certificate. Work is continuing to improve our score to achieve our Silver award.

Over the last year we have started our own ink cartridge recycling when we registered with 'Empties Please' for recycling both inkjet and laser cartridges and we now provide bins at the back of church. If anyone has any for recycling, they will

take all branded laser cartridges and various types of inkjet cartridges. The list of acceptable inkjet cartridges is also at the back of church or can be obtained by visiting www.emptiesplease.com and looking for the link on their home page.

If any local businesses would like to reduce their impact on the environment please consider donating cartridges to church.

'Empties Please' make donations to charities for every cartridge they can recycle. So far we have recycled two large bins of cartridges earning £34.

We have also started a scheme, linking with a local company (SER Ltd), to recycle old computer equipment. Any equipment taken will result in a donation to church, so please bring any equipment along to church, or contact Sue Willett or myself.

David Lloyd

My time as Churchwarden

Well, the time has come for me to step down as churchwarden after four years in service. It is a sad day in a way, as I have enjoyed my time. It is one of those jobs that seems really daunting at first, but I always saw it as a great opportunity to meet new people and experience new things. Nothing quite puts you on the spot like being a warden! That said, I would encourage everyone to consider stepping up and taking on the role, it is hugely rewarding and there is always plenty of support when you need it. Firstly, my thanks go to Dave Marshall, my fellow warden over the last four years, for sharing the job with me and who has helped and supported me throughout our tenure. His level-headed and pragmatic approach has been a great help. I would also like to thank Anne Smith, Pat and Al Gillian, Brian Devenport and deputy wardens Jenny Greenwood and Paula Hill for their support and of course the wider congregation, who have made the job so enjoyable. Thank you all.

I am now standing as a Deputy Warden and I'm looking forward to supporting Dave as the sole Warden and any future Wardens who take on the challenge.

David Lloyd

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

Schoolboy seeks help from Sir Richard Branson to save St Chad's Parish Church

By Ken Bennett

Schoolboy Jack Greenhalgh has written to Sir Richard Branson asking for ideas how to save ancient Saddleworth Parish Church.

In a handwritten appeal to the tycoon, Jack, aged nine, says: "You have lots of good ideas to make money - you're the richest man I know.

"With this in mind I wondered if you could help me raise money so the church doesn't close."

In his letter Jack explains he was christened at the church and attends with his family.

"The church needs a lot of work on the building and the roof. It has been estimated it will cost about one million pounds," he wrote.

"If we don't raise the money the church will close. I don't want it to happen as I feel really happy when I've been to church with my mum and my family."

Jack who lives in Greenfield, said: "I was so upset when I found out that if Saddleworth Church doesn't raise the money it will have to close.

"My mum has been going to this church since she was a little girl. My uncle and aunty got married there and I was christened there so it's very important to me.

"I feel really happy when I'm in church, singing and being involved with shows - especially at Christmas - with my friends.

"When I found out how much money the church needs I thought 'that's a lot, A LOT, of money' so I was thinking what I could do and who could help us.

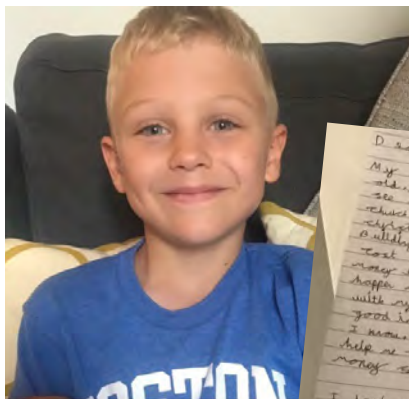
"My mum said we needed to think big so I was thinking about who had a lot of money and how they got it.

"I know Sir Richard has airplanes, trains and wants to go into space so he must have a lot of good ideas.

"I thought if I write to him he might help me come up with some ideas to help us... Fingers crossed."

His proud mother Lindsay said: "Jack loves church and being involved with all the activities they do.

"He was so upset that the ideas he was coming up



with would leave us somewhat short still, so we started thinking of ideas outside the box.

"Richard Branson was the obvious answer - self-made with so many ideas and projects he is involved with.

"Jack has

been writing letters at school so it was his idea to write to him. With so much money required there really was nothing to lose - I'm not sure there will be a response but Jack is hopeful."

Saddleworth's spiritual leader, Canon Sharon Jones is spearheading an appeal to save the parish church of St. Chad.

She said: "Jack and his family have been part of the St Chads Church family for many years.

"Jack approached me one morning and told me he had an idea to write to Sir Richard Branson for ideas.

"With no direct links to Saddleworth, the project to save Saddleworth Church may not be high on Sir Richard's radar, but the fact that it clearly matters so much to Jack and other children will hopefully at least prompt a reply."

She added: "I hope Jack's enthusiasm and resolve encourages others to get involved."

Meantime, she said: "From the contacts made, we are drawing together a group of qualified and experienced individuals who are enthusiastic and passionate in taking a lead in the Save Saddleworth Church Project.

"Helpful suggestions around increasing our profile on social media are being taken seriously, as are the numerous fund-raising ideas.

"Saddleworth School and St Chads school have particularly expressed an intention to raise awareness and work with us in making the vision a reality."

To see how you can help, go to:

cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk/seeing-is-believing

St Chad's Ramblers

The Monsall Trail Ramble

The first outing of the year was on Saturday 30th March when 15 of us (including two first timers) met up at Millers Dale for a walk along the Monsall Trail. We used the trail to just beyond Monsall Head before looping back via the village of Little Longstone to regain the trail and return to the start.

After an overcast start the day quickly became bright and sunny allowing us to fully appreciate the magnificent limestone valley and varied scenery on offer. We took our picnic in the grounds of the very welcoming small chapel at Little Longstone using the garden benches provided. Brew facilities were available just inside for a small donation into the honesty box provided. There was even a small library of second hand books and one of our party purchased a book he had last read over 40 years ago. One aspect of this walk, which caused considerable amusement, was that twice we somehow managed to temporarily lose a small part of our group. We will try not to be so careless in future!

Look out for a report of our next outing, a local one, scheduled for Saturday 11th May when we propose to walk from Uppermill to the Roman Fort at Castleshaw and return. If anyone would like to join us for future walks you would be most welcome. We have two other walks pencilled in for 13th July and 12th October.

Contact Tracy Waller 01457 874770

Kiln Green Art Group Exhibition

We need help with the programme of musical items at the exhibition. 'Soul Sounds Saddleworth' are booked in for a slot on Sunday 7th July at 2:00pm. They are a new, local singing group who meet on Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the Satellite Centre Greenfield.

If you play, sing or organize a group and could perform in church over the weekend of 6th and 7th July we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Carol Whittle on 01457 876813.

Dates for your diary

Friday 14th June, 9:30am
Whit Friday Procession of Witness

Meet at the Parish Church before processing down the hill to Uppermill.



Tuesday 25th June, 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Brass Band Concert



Tuesday 2nd July to Saturday 13th July
Uppermill Summer Music Festival

The Parish Church is one of the venues hosting events for Uppermill Summer Music Festival. See www.usmf.uk for more details.



KILN GREEN ART GROUP
presents
an exhibition of arts and crafts
at
St Chad's Church, Uppermill
Thursday 4th – Friday 12th July
2019
10am – 4pm
(Sunday 7th July 1pm – 4pm)
Musical performances & children's activities
ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH BUILDING FUND
Enquiries to Kath 07746620988

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

Whit Friday 14th June

This year, our church procession will be hosting two new exciting bands from abroad. Thanks to Phil Beckwith of Champion Brass, we are hosting the Weston Silver Band from Canada and the Brassband Reykjavikur from Reykjavik.

Weston Silver Band describe themselves as a band in the English style, founded in 1921, promoting traditional brass band playing in the Province of Ontario and throughout North America. They are very much looking forward to their British Tour and to experience Whit Friday. They have a number of recordings on YouTube.

Brassband Reykjavikur are a young band, founded by members of a school band in 2013, and have a varied repertoire of traditional and contemporary music. They perform on Icelandic radio and in many concerts in their home land.

We are looking forward to a wonderful sunny Whit Friday. Everyone is welcome for potato pie at the Parish Centre after the walk. Please book your meal in advance.

Easter Garden

The Easter Garden for church was made by St Chad's School Year 5 pupils in their last Wednesday inter-generational session of the term at the Parish Centre.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 14th July, 9:30am

Open Air Service

There will be an open air service in the Rectory garden followed by the children's end of year party.

Every Wednesday, 2:00pm to 3:00pm

Parish Church and School Community Group

Members meet every Wednesday. All are welcome for a fun hour for both young and old.

Coffee Mornings for Charity



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

We have delicious homemade refreshments (including gluten free), a raffle, a bookstall and information about the charity we are supporting.

If you are in Uppermill and would like to pop in, we would love to see you... the kettle will be boiling!

Saturday 1st June

Action Duchene

Saturday 15th June

'Seeing is Believing'

Saturday 6th July

North West Downs Syndrome Group

Saturday 20th July

'Seeing is Believing'

Saturday 3rd August

Oldham Unity Project



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

A view behind bars – ‘The First Stone’



I asked him if he had any dreams.

“Just to one day have my own house and maybe a wife.”

I suggested that a good job might help too, and he smilingly agreed.

It’s not an outlandish dream, is it? Yet I wonder how realistic it is, even so.

Jez spent several days last autumn in a terrible state, not speaking, staring, banging his head, jumping on his bed and other things that are unmentionable in a piece like this.

The Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN) and mental health team tried various kinds of intervention both through talking and through medicine. At the point at which it seemed Jez really would have to be taken somewhere else, he calmed down and gradually began to engage with life again.

He was 14 years old when he first tasted life in a Young Offenders’ Institution after crime that he says goes back to trauma in his childhood. Out in the big wide world at the age of 16, he found a girlfriend, had a baby and 11 months later was back in prison. He’s been serving a sentence ever since and he’s now 30 years old.

How do you start to unpick that kind of a past and tell him he can dream of something better? How do you learn life in what must seem like a different country? On a recent escorted trip to hospital Jez realised that corner shops had been taken over by Tesco and that there was more traffic about. That was just the start of new realisation.

“Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”

John 8:7b

There’s a story in the Bible where the damning conclusion of a few religious types is that the woman caught ‘in the act’ of adultery (where, exactly, was the man?) should be stoned to death. After all, that was how they interpreted the Law.

“If you’ve committed no sin” said Jesus, *“then throw the first stone.”* The story continues that they all began to leave, one by one, the oldest (and most life-experienced, we assume) first. Presumably there was a pile of stones littering the ground where they had stood.

Previously, when I heard comments on the news or in the street about the guilt of prisoners, I would have backed up and endorsed them. However, whilst I cannot condone the crimes, I am slower to reach condemnation of the person. Could I really throw the first stone?

“It was three minutes that changed my life” said the one who is an enhanced prisoner, as he finished telling me eloquently about his travels abroad and his university course, left incomplete. He had gone home for a vacation, got into an argument and hit someone and the rest, as they say, is history.

Martin talked to me about how he was shocked to realise he had become a ‘career criminal’. He hated prison but once outside he would find himself forgetting the misery of it and fall back into old ways that he had been taught since he was a boy.

John has been selling drugs to get money for his family since he was small; Aidan robbed someone because his mates made it clear that the gang couldn’t cope with ‘losers’ and he feared for his life.

Jesus was the ultimate judge for the woman who lay on the ground before the jury who knew exactly what she deserved. When they had turned tail, he told her that if there was no one left to condemn, he would not condemn either. Then he made it clear she must leave her life of sin.

It’s not about brushing it under the carpet and trying to pretend it never happened. Sometimes punishment is needed along with every effort to get people to a new track for the rest of their life. Yet in the midst of it, let’s not forget: born in a different time, a different place, with different family or in a moment of angry frustration, it could have been me; it could have been you.

*Hilary Edgerton
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale*

St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at Kilngreen

One of our congregation Caroline Tamworth has been supporting a campaign to raise £1,400 to have a defibrillator installed outside the church. At the time of writing the amount is almost raised and hopefully in a few months time we will have an AED outside the church.



A big thank you to everyone involved in this campaign and those who have donated.

St Patrick's Day - 17th March Dedication of New Carpet

We were joined by Evan Compston and family at this service to present Kilngreen with a new aisle carpet in memory of his wife Hilary. Hilary's mother also attended the service and Evan told the congregation that it was 37 years to the day that he and his wife Hilary had moved in to Diggle. Revd Hilary Edgerton blessed and dedicated the carpet and the congregation thanked the family for their generous gift.

Mothering Sunday 31st March

A Mothering Sunday service was held at Kilngreen for the first time in many years. Led by Revd Hilary Edgerton, the service ended with the distribution of daffodils to the ladies and girls in the congregation.



Joseph's Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

All Stars Spring Production

The All Stars' spring production of Joseph in early April was a sell-out success! The cast was joined by Diggle School choir and a special performance was given on the Friday afternoon especially for the school. A big thank you to everyone involved in this production and also to Diggle School for their hard work with the choir, who were amazing. Our Pantomime production in November this year will be "Ali Baba". Further details later in the year.

Easter Day Service

Revd Hilary Edgerton led an Easter Day Service and brought along a "friend" – Resurrection ("Res") the Bunny! Res helped Hilary to tell the story about Jesus, and the children enjoyed listening intently to them both!



Everyone received a small egg at the end of the service and Easter cake and coffee was enjoyed by all after the service.

Diggle Diamonds

Coffee Mornings at The Gate Inn

All older residents of Diggle are welcome to join us for our regular coffee mornings at The Gate Inn. If you have difficulty getting to the coffee morning, a lift can be arranged, please contact Doreen Dyson on 01457 873337 or Geoff Iles on 01457 877875.

Dates for the rest 2019 are:

- † 8th June;
- † 13th July;
- † 17th August;
- † 14th September;
- † 12th October;
- † 16th November.



Diggle Diamonds Christmas Party - 7th December at Kilngreen

Diggle Blues Festival 30th May to 2nd June

Some of the entertainment will again be at Kilngreen. There will be barbecue food and drinks available during the first weekend of June when the music is playing in the hall.



Notes

Spring is in full swing now, and we are beginning to prepare for Whit Friday in June. Everyone is hoping that the weather will be better than last year for our Walk of Witness!

Family Services

Family Services are All Age Worship so everyone is welcome! They are held on the first Sunday of every month from 9:30am to 10:30am. They are lay-led by our Family Worship Team members. The Sunday School also present a service during the year. We have also recently invited a local ALM to lead one of our Family Services, and we would welcome other local ALMs if they would like to consider leading a service for us.

Please contact Janet Iles on 01457 877875 if you would be interested.

Family Service Dates

2 nd June	Sunday School
7 th July	Ali O'Brien - Authorised Lay Minister
6 th August	Janet Iles - Authorised Lay Minister
1 st September	TBA
6 th October	Diggle Allotment Service Family Worship Team
1 st December	Advent Service - TBA
15 th December	Sunday School Nativity

Whit Friday

14th June



We set off from Kilngreen at 9:30am.

We stop briefly for a hymn on Sam Road and then a mini service at The Gate Inn at 10:00am before walking to Uppermill to meet everybody else.

There will be a bus from The Gate for those less able to participate in the Walk.



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	Lynda Barlow		01457 878338

Praying The Breath Of God

The last stanza of Psalm 150 concludes with these words: *“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord”*. It is the sixth verse finalizing a description of man’s praise carried out in the sanctuary and His mighty heavens. The praise is responding to God’s power and surpassing greatness. The outward manifestation of the inward blessing is done with the sounding of the trumpet, with the harp and lyre, tambourine and dancing, with the strings and flute and ending with the clash of cymbals and resounding cymbals. The living and non-living of creation give praise and glory to the creator and sustainer of the heavens and the earth. *(Luke 19:40)*



Richard Rohr shares a rabbi friend taught him we praise God with every breath of life. In Jewish tradition, you were never to speak the name of God. It was blasphemy for created man to know and understand the Creator and speak His Name. In reverence, the vowels were never spoken. The written consonants of Yahweh (JH-VH) sounded like our breath. In pronouncing it, you were not to close your lips or use the tongue in proclaiming it. In every breath we take, we breathe the name of God. It sounds on the inhale and exhale of breath. On the inhale, the “YAH” is sounded and on the exhale sounds the “WEH”.

With every breath, you praise the name of God. All living creatures who have ever lived praise His Name. So relax and pray the name of God with every breath you take in life. (Inhale-YAH, Exhale-WEH) God is as close as your breath. God is your breath. YAH-WEH.

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PAPYRUS

PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE

PAPYRUS is the national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide.

What We Know

Suicide is the biggest killer of young people in the UK. Last year over 1,500 people under the age of 35 took their own lives; this equates to more than 4 people every day. PAPHYRUS exists to give hope to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and those concerned for them.

Our Vision

Our vision is for a society which speaks openly about suicide and has the resources to help young people who may have suicidal thoughts.

Our Mission

We exist to reduce the number of young people who take their own lives by shattering the stigma around suicide and equipping young people and their communities with the skills to recognise and respond to suicidal behaviour.



What we do:

SUPPORT: We provide confidential support and advice to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and anyone worried about a young person through our helpline, HOPELINEUK.

EQUIP: In addition to our nationwide work, our North West team, who cover the Saddleworth area, engage communities and volunteers in suicide prevention projects and deliver training programmes to individuals and groups. This includes equipping local councils, community groups, healthcare professionals and school staff with suicide prevention skills.

INFLUENCE: We aim to shape national social policy and make a significant contribution to the local and regional implementation of national suicide prevention strategies wherever we can. Our campaigning comes from our passion as individuals, parents, families and communities who have been touched personally by young suicide. We press for change in many places using hard-hitting and dynamic campaigns as well as presenting evidence to those in power so that lessons can be learned and learning implemented to help save young lives.

If you are interested in preventing young suicide and making Saddleworth suicide-safe please visit our website:

www.papyrus-uk.org

Are you, or is a young person you know, not coping with life?

For confidential suicide prevention advice please call

HOPELINEUK

0800 068 4141

Text: 07786 209 697

Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org



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*Copley Mill, Huddersfield Road,
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What do we do at N W Secretarial & PA Service and why do people use our service?

More on fact or fiction...

Following on from issue 4 in June 2018, I received a phone call from Richard Darlington saying that two things inspired him the previous day: Revd Sharon's sermon and my article on fact or fiction. Richard, who I have known for many years,

told me that he had always wanted to write a book, but needed some advice and needed my help. I was only too glad to help him.

A couple of days later Richard arrived at my office armed with fantastic architectural drawings, numerous sketch pads and other drawings going back to when he was about 5 years old.

I asked him all types of questions to get a feel for what type of book he was looking to put together. I gave him positive feedback and suggestions, and brought all different styles of books out of my railway stockroom.

After an hour or so he left and went off to do

'his magic' and produced the lovely 'My Sketchy 85 Years' (see issue 9 for details).

On a less cheery note... Last week we started typing another book for a new client. This is about a person who had been abused. When finished the author is going to have it published.

We do help people in many ways and feel privileged that people trust us with their personal and private things.

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