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# The Grapevine

December 2017 &  
January 2018

Issue 1

**The Church of England in Saddleworth**

*“Celebrating God’s presence in all people.”*





# Pearson

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# The Rector writes...

What better time than Advent for the inaugural edition of 'The Grapevine', the magazine for the churches and communities of Saddleworth. We launch it at the start of the Church's Year: a time of waiting and expectancy; a time of hope and promise. We pause together in the expectant hush of frosty mornings, for the coming of the Christ child.

Each bi-monthly magazine will contain news from across the villages. It will also provide a sense of what is going on beyond Saddleworth itself. The Christian Church is called to worship God and to a life of love and service. We are called to demonstrate our allegiance to Jesus Christ through the quality of our relationships with others. We are called to love God and neighbour over and beyond meeting our own needs and desires. We are called to be as the Virgin Mary; to give birth to the Christ Child in the darkness of challenging times, and to make his life and love visible to the world.

There is something wonderful about Advent and the anticipation of Christmas. God is revealed in human flesh; in the vulnerable, the small, the insignificant and the weak; the stranger, the refugee, the poor, the powerless. God opens our eyes to see not just shepherds, angels, wise men and a baby in the straw, but to see and share in the generous love of God to successive generations. Jesus is God with us. In him we see God. May he find his home in our lives this Christmas that we might look for him and find him in others.

You may like to check out this link:

<https://ost.edu/magis/keeping-watch-online-advent-retreat/>

'Keeping Watch' is an online Ignatian Advent Retreat on the 'Oblate School of Theology' website.

I invite you to begin the new year with the Team Advent Carol Service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Christ Church Denshaw at 3:00pm. All are welcome.

Every blessing for a peace-filled Advent and joyful Christmas.

Sharon  
Team Rector



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**The Clergy Team & PCCs wish you  
and all those whom you love  
a very Happy Christmas  
and a Peaceful New Year**



# Church of England in Saddleworth Who's Who

## Saddleworth Ministerial Team

Team Rector	Revd Canon Sharon Jones sharonjones@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07738 966271
Team Vicar	Revd John Rosedale jrrosedale@gmail.com	01457 874209
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Associate Priest	Revd Barbara Christopher barbara.christopher@hotmail.com	
Associate Priest	Revd Professor Michael Donmall michaeldonmall@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	
Priest for Discipleship	Revd Hilary Edgerton hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	
Self-Supporting Minister Assistant Curate	Revd Philip Williamson phwcss@talktalk.net	
Ordained Local Minister Assistant Curate	Revd Pat Gillian patgillian@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 870162
Reader	Mr Graham McGuffie grahammcguffie@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 872239
Administration Office	Mrs Susan Brierley office@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 879977

## St Thomas Delph - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Bill Maxwell	wardens@stthomasdelph.co.uk	01457 878512
Churchwarden	Fiona Thompson	wardens@stthomasdelph.co.uk	01457 820816
Secretary	Julie Lait		01457 829799
Treasurer	Diane Allingan		

## Christ Church Denshaw - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Ros Martin		07884 940608
Churchwarden	Peter Stefek		07973 332428
Secretary	Mary Rodgers		01457 874354
Treasurer	Carole Clarke		

## 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	01457 835261
Churchwarden	David Cartwright	07527 408726
Secretary	Elaine Cartwright	07764 658349
Treasurer	Deborah Thompson	01457 875038

## St Mary Greenfield - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Pat Bottom	01457 511320
Churchwarden	Vacant	
Secretary	Kath Jump	01457 875231
Treasurer	Al Gillian	01457 870162

## St Anne Lydgate - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	David Marshall	07590 074436
Churchwarden	David Lloyd	07525 029383
Secretary	Sue Willett	07808 474743
Treasurer	Al Gillian	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

## A welcome to all

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down at heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We

welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organised religion.' (*We're not that keen on it either!*)

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the Cathedral.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost on the ring road and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and you!

Source unknown but found on Coventry Cathedral's website. Ed.

# Regular Sunday Services

## St Thomas Delph

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 9:30am Informal Service  
10:30am Holy Communion

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

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 9:30am Informal Service  
10:30am Holy Communion

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

## Christ Church Denshaw

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

## Holy Trinity Dobcross

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10:30am Morning Praise  
and Sunday School

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 9:30am Little Fishes  
10:30am Eucharist (CW)

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10:30am Family Eucharist (CW)

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10:30am Morning Prayer (BCP)

## Christ Church Friezland

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 9:30am Morning Prayer

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10:30am Eucharist (CW)

## St Mary Greenfield

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

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

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

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

5<sup>th</sup> 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

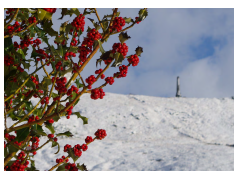
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion  
11:00am All Age Eucharist (CW)  
(including Church Parade)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion  
11:00am Eucharist (CW)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion  
11:00am Morning Prayer

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion  
11:00am Eucharist (CW)

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion  
11:00am Eucharist (CW)



Many thanks to  
Mike Donmall for our  
front cover photograph.

*"If you think you are too small to make a  
difference, try sleeping with a mosquito."*

Dalai Lama

## St Chad Saddleworth

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

31<sup>st</sup> Dec 11:00am Eucharist at  
the Parish Church

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## St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 9:30am Children's Eucharist

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 9:30am Morning Prayer and  
Sunday School

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and  
Sunday School

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and  
Sunday School

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## St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 11:00am Sung Eucharist

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 11:00am Sung Eucharist

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 11:00am Sung Eucharist

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11:00am Morning Prayer

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## St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 9:30am Family Service

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and  
Sunday School

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and  
Sunday School

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and  
Sunday School

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# Regular Weekday Services

## Christ Church Friezland

Tuesday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

Thursday 7:00pm Eucharist (CW)

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## St Mary Greenfield

Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist (BCP)

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# Parish Registers

## Holy Trinity Dobcross

### Holy Baptism

24<sup>th</sup> September Jude Alexander Longshaw,  
son of Kristian and Emma  
of The Square, Dobcross.

We welcome Jude into the fellowship of the Church.

### Funeral Service

21<sup>st</sup> September Samuel Thomas Buckley (Sam),  
aged 27 years,  
son of Kryshia and the late Andrew  
and stepson of Peter.

May the spirit of Sam rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

## Christ Church Denshaw

### Wedding Blessing

27<sup>th</sup> October Andrea and Lee Royle

We send our best wishes to Andrea and Lee.

## St Anne Lydgate

Wednesday 6:00pm Family Worship

Friday 10:00am Eucharist (CW)

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## St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

Tuesday 9:30am Eucharist



## Worship Leading

If you already lead worship in one of our churches, or think you might like to have a go, then you are invited to four sessions where we will think more about Worship Leading together.

Biblical worship, liturgical worship and how to lead with excellence will all be covered.

We will meet on a Saturday morning  
from 9:30am to 11:00am  
at a venue to be decided.

**Commencing on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Contact Hilary Edgerton (01457 871704) or  
Sharon Jones (07738 966271) for further information.

# St Thomas Delph

St Thomas in Delph is not renowned for the number of baptisms and weddings that it has. However, recently we have had a couple, Ben and Emily, with a special licence to marry at Heights Chapel, once the parish church and still dear to the hearts of many in the village. The special licence is in fact a faculty obtained through the Archbishop of Canterbury's Office. In addition, we have also had a baptism; Florence Elizabeth is the great-granddaughter of Peter and Margery Smallwood. Peter is the oldest man in St Thomas's congregation!

## Youth Working

### Wednesday Drop In:

With only Denshaw further out from the centre of Saddleworth, Delph might seem a strange place to undertake any youth work. However, some of the older members of the congregation saw a need for something to be done to meet with the youngsters of the village. After much prayer and conversation it was decided to start a group on a Wednesday afternoon (when the Saddleworth School is closed). Local businesses were approached and a sum of money was warmly received which when added to the grant given by the Diocese ensured that a variety of activities could be organised.

Although the group is small in number, this group has supported youngsters on their afternoons off. There is no pressure for them to attend, no pressure to hear the gospel, but the opportunity for them be somewhere dry and warm with refreshments all provided through the love of God.

### Sunday Evening 'Participate':

This group has not been running very long and is open to all of the youngsters across the team who are either confirmed or in secondary school. The group offers young people the opportunity to explore their faith in a safe, non-threatening environment. During this autumn term we are using clips from the Harry Potter films to help us in our study of how we live our lives in today's world.

We meet on the first and third Sundays of the month from 7:15pm - 8:45pm.



## Charitable Giving

St Thomas is committed to giving away 10% of the regular income (tithing) and supports five charities who annually supply a volunteer to speak to the congregation about the work of the charity. One of the organisations supported is **Toybox**.

**Toybox's** mission is to end the injustice of children living or working on the streets. Record levels of inequality, violence and migration mean children are forced to live or work on the streets, escape abusive homes, or end up on the streets after being displaced or trafficked.



For some children working on the streets can be their only means to earn an income. Some street children have been chased from home by violence, natural disaster or the need to earn an income, some have been sold or trafficked and have ended up on the streets. Children whose home life is full of abuse often take refuge on the streets to escape. However, they are at risk of being enticed by gangs offering friendship or financial gain. Others find solace in drugs and alcohol. For all of these children their future is bleak and their life expectancy terrifyingly low. **Toybox** currently works in five countries around the world helping children who are marginalised and abused by those who should protect them. They work with local organisations who are best placed to find the most appropriate ways to help children escape from a life on the streets.

One exciting project, in Guatemala - partnering with Conacmi - provides vocational training to young people as well as micro enterprise loans to enable young people to start their own businesses. Child protection is at the heart of this project, which partners with local authorities to establish a functioning and effective child protection system and local child protection committees.

[www.toybox.org.uk](http://www.toybox.org.uk)

Other charitable giving takes place through special collections, e.g. Harvest and Christmas.



## Monday Coffee

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) St Thomas has a coffee morning in the church hall. Come along and enjoy cake, tea cakes, coffee and tea with good conversation.

Open from 10:00am - 12 noon you will receive a warm welcome from all. This is not a fundraising activity (tea or coffee are 50p with free top ups) but is the opportunity for people to meet and chat.



## Special Services to note

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

10:30am - Family Nativity

6:30pm - Carol Service with free supper

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017

5:00pm - Crib Service

11:30pm - Holy Communion

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018

No service at St Thomas Delph

11:00am We join with others in The Civic Centre.



## Parish Contacts

Church Hall Bookings

Alison Lambert

01457 875141

# Above & Beyond

Do you know a worthy candidate for Saddleworth's prestigious Above and Beyond Awards?

The search to celebrate and praise someone or an organisation worthy of joining the elite galaxy of award holders is underway.

The awards, backed by the Saddleworth and Lees District Partnership, celebrate Saddleworth villagers who go the extra mile for their neighbours or contribute to their community with selfless acts of kindness.

The judges include Councillor Adrian Alexander, Chair of the district partnership, Councillors Nikki Kirkham and Pam Byrne, Chair and former Chair of Saddleworth Parish Council, Lisa MacDonald and Christine Wilson from the District Team.

The awards for 2018 have been widened to include individual entrants plus churches, groups, societies and voluntary organisations from across the whole

of Saddleworth.

Entries will not be confined to one winner nominated from each village but the new scheme will see candidates drawn from across the whole community.

Do you know anyone, or a group, who deserve recognition for their unsung efforts quietly helping a neighbour or bringing joy to a group or a community?

To enter, simply send your choice of winner, in confidence, accompanied by a written, 350-word citation by email to:

**kd\_bennett@yahoo.co.uk**

or write, with your name and contact details, to:

**A&B Awards, Upperhouse, Oldham Road,  
Dobcross, Saddleworth, OL3 5RD.**

Closing date: **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

# Christ Church Denshaw

## Church - School Connections

Each Friday Revd John Rosedale leads an assembly at Christ Church Primary School for children, parents and staff. These assemblies also celebrate the children's good work and certificates are presented. Each half term different year groups present their own assembly on a particular theme. This half term is the turn of year 5/6.

Children also attend Celebrate Christmas, Easter and Pentecost with different year groups attending in rotation. Previously children have visited Holy Trinity Dobcross church to celebrate these festivals. However, this year we are hoping that Celebrate Christmas will take place here in Denshaw.

Revd Philip Williamson has also visited school on several occasions and is hoping to involve them in Eco-Church.

## Church News

A big thank you to all who donated to the Harvest both from school, Sunday School and the wider Parish. Once again the church looked lovely; our thanks to the work of the flower team on the Saturday morning. Thanks also to Hazel and Mike Billing for taking the goods to the Salvation Army; two vehicles were needed for the amount we were able to donate. The officers at Shaw were most grateful for our contribution and wished their thanks to be passed on to everyone who donated.

Another huge success was the Autumn Fayre. Thank you to all who helped, donated and supported in any way. Once again it was a very enjoyable event, socially as well as financially. Thanks also to Delph Youth Band for providing the background music. Special thanks should go to Mike Billing for his innovative idea in cutting up the wood from the tree work recently undertaken in the churchyard, bagging it and selling at the Autumn Fayre, also delivering where needed! We should add he got thoroughly soaked in the process of cutting the logs! Thanks Mike, a very successful operation.

Special thanks go to two of our younger church members, Bridget McGladdery and Sophie Martin who worked tirelessly throughout the day, both running their own stall and helping anyone who needed assistance. They were also a big help in clearing up afterwards.

Looking ahead to December, it promises to be a busy month here at Denshaw. On 3<sup>rd</sup> December we have been invited to host the Church of England in Saddleworth Advent Carol Service, a first for us as the newest Parish in the benefice. This will take place at 3:00pm which will give people time to attend the village 'Lights Switch On' which begins at 6:00pm. There will also be the usual service of Holy Communion at 10:30am on that Sunday.

The following week there will be a traditional, festive afternoon tea in the Village Hall from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. This will be ticket-only so please keep the date free as tickets will be limited and will be available shortly. Please see Ros if you would like to order a ticket. In addition to the traditional food on offer, there will be seasonal entertainment from Delph Youth Band.

## Christmas Services

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017

3:00pm - Church of England in Saddleworth Advent Service

This service will be led by our Team Rector, Revd Canon Sharon Jones, and Team Vicar, Revd John Rosedale. This will be a first for Denshaw and we are all very much looking forward to this special service.

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

3:00pm - Carol Service  
led by Revd Philip Williamson

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017

10:30am Crib Service  
Provisionally lay-led  
11:30 pm – Midnight Eucharist  
led by Revd Philip Williamson

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017

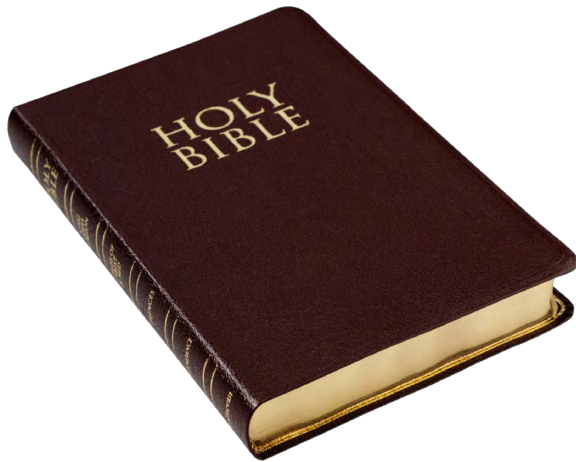
10:30am - Holy Communion  
with Revd Canon Sharon Jones  
and Revd Aaron Jackman

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

10:30am - Holy Communion  
led by Revd Hilary Edgerton



# An A-Z of Discipleship - 'P' is for Parents



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

**Parents** – we have all had them. How does the Bible say we should treat them?

The first mention of parents in the Bible comes early in Genesis when

*“for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife.” (Genesis 2 v.24).*

A new unit is formed with marriage but it certainly doesn't mean that parents are to be abandoned.

There is a very high view of parents. One of the ten commandments is clear:

*“Honour your father and mother, that your lives may be long in the land the Lord your God gives you” (Exodus 20 v.12).*

There are some stern warnings about not obeying or honouring later in the book of Leviticus and elsewhere; one of the Proverbs is clear that:

*“parents are the pride of their children”*

just as

*“children's children are a crown to the aged” (Proverbs 17 v.6)*

so the generations are meant to enjoy and be glad of each other.

The value of family life is made plain when Jesus replies to his disciples who are beginning to wonder what they have let themselves in for by following him.

*“We've left everything...” (Luke 18 v.29)*

they say. Jesus knows it's a big thing. So he promises that anyone who has left parents, home, or land for his sake will receive their reward.

There is no excuse for not giving honour to parents

in Jesus' eyes. The Pharisees, religious to the extreme, have become so obsessed with the minute details of their religion that they are glorifying themselves by attending to the finer points whilst missing the big point. Tithing tiny things and dedicating things to God was taking the place of giving to their families (Mark 7 v.11-12).

In a different way, you will know that things are really taking a dive in terms of morality and heading towards the end of the world when

*“...children will rebel against their parents...” (Matthew 10 v.21)*

and Paul says that children who disobey parents are amongst the signs of decline (Romans 1 v.30). If all goes well, children should obey their parents and parents should take care not to

*“...exasperate your children...” (Ephesians 6 v.4)*

That is all very well, but some children (young or old) may find it hard to honour, obey and love parents who have not treated them well. What then? There is, I think, still a requirement for respect but yet the Bible is also honest about hurt. Forgiveness is a command of the Lord but sometimes a breakdown of relationship will happen.

Isaiah says that if it is possible that a mother could forget her child, God will not forget his children but will give comfort (Isaiah 49 v.15, 66 v.13). Like the Father welcoming the prodigal son back home, there is a need for forgiveness on both sides at times.

They may infuriate, embarrass and disappoint us; they may need effort and care; they may have treated us badly. God would not want us hurt more than is right but it seems to be clear that God himself lives in community (the Trinity of Father, Son and Spirit) and places us in families for our good. In so far as we see that good, we are called to honour, respect, love and care for those who are our parents.

- How can you honour your parents in the way you communicate?
- How can you honour your parents in the way you act?
- How can you honour your parents in the way you remember them?

**Next Time: 'Q' is for...** (this could be tricky!)



# Holy Trinity Dobcross

## A welcome to Advent & Christmas

*"Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!"*

Christmas is a busy time of the year for everyone, but it is good to remember that at the centre of our celebration is the birth of a special infant. We invite parishioners and friends to join us for the Christmas services and events in our beautiful church.

### Advent Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017

**9:30am & 10:30am** - We start the preparations for the birth of Jesus by making Christingles and dressing the Advent ring. We will learn 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"*

### 6:00pm - Christingle Service

Church, School, Dobcross Youth Band and the 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.



*"Like a candle flame, flickering small in our darkness."*

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**10:30am - Nativity** - Come and hear the story of the Nativity with Little Fishes and Sunday Club.

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

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017

#### 7:00pm - Christmas Concert

Musical Director Deborah Williams brings her 'Sing for Pleasure Choir' and 'Holy Trinity School Choir' to church for a Christmas celebration.

Entrance: £5, accompanied children free.

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



### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

#### 6:00pm - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

We are joined at this celebration by Dobcross Silver Band and our own church choir. Come, and enjoy all those well-known Christmas carols.



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

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017

#### 11:45pm - Midnight Eucharist

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

*"Christians, awake! Salute this happy morn"*



### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017

#### 10:30am - Choral Communion

Come and celebrate the birth of Christ at this morning service.

*"Yea, Lord we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;"*



### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018

#### 10:30am - Celebration of the Epiphany

The Magi will end their long journey by the North windows of the church to bring their gifts to the infant Jesus. We hope that you will join us.

*"We three kings of Orient are,..."*



## Did you know...

The Epiphany marks the arrival of the Magi - the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. But who were the wise men? No one knows for certain. Saint Matthew calls them "Magi" and that was the name of an ancient caste of priests from Persia (present day Iran). It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings and assumed to be three, to correspond with the gifts they brought. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wealth, clearly fit for a king. Frankincense represents worship and sacrifice, and myrrh was used for healing and embalming. Certainly, Jesus challenged and set right the way in which the world handled all three of these gifts.

Since the eighth century the Magi have had the names of Balthazar, Caspar and Melchior. It is a fascinating story of travels across a desert from the East towards an unknown destination. Their compass is a mysterious star and they carried valuable presents. The tale evolves into a grim struggle between good and evil and the Holy Family making a night-time escape, as refugees, to Egypt.

Saint Matthew ends the visit of the Wise Men by saying, "Having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road." The kings had paid homage, left gifts and they could not return to their old way of life.

## Supporting...



The Christingle service is an opportunity for Church and School to support the work of The Children's Society as they reach out to the most vulnerable young people in our community. It has been working across Greater Manchester for over 120 years to bring about positive changes for children and young families. The vision is that poverty will no longer be a barrier for children to get a decent start in life and that child neglect is not an issue.

The Children's Society runs six centres in Oldham helping families who are facing difficult problems. Rob Jackson, North West area director says, "Health needs are not always immediately visible and nationally there is evidence that increasing numbers of children need mental health support."

Each year Holy Trinity Church and School support the society by raising funds at the Christingle service and by people having a blue collecting box at home. If you are a box holder, please return it to Church at the beginning of December. Thank You!

*"Lord Jesus, we thank you for the Christingle and the ribbon that represents your loving sacrifice.  
We ask you to wrap your loving arms  
around each child in need today. Amen."*

## Experience Symbols

Five years ago, Revd John Rosedale introduced the 'Experience' events of Easter, Pentecost and Christmas to the children of Holy Trinity School. Together with several members of the congregation, he has given an opportunity for classes to learn more about the Church's important Festivals. On several occasions, Christ Church Denshaw School has also joined in the activities.

In October, Revd John introduced us to a new venture he had assembled - 'Experience Symbols'. The format was similar with an introduction from Revd John after which the class was divided into groups to visit five stations around the church.

The symbols found in the Bible and in church were linked with Christian beliefs and rituals – the Cross, bread and wine at Holy Communion, water and light at Baptism. Symbols of the natural world focused on the Old and New Testaments, such as the dove of the Ark, the eagle and the rooster which symbolises the acceptance of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

At the end of each session, Revd John brought the groups together to conclude with a prayer and refreshments. He thanked the helpers - Revds Aaron and John (Faraday), Graham, Beverley, Peter and Dorothy for spreading their wings and explaining different aspects of Christian life through symbols.

## Samuel Thomas Buckley 1990 - 2017

The service in church to celebrate Sam's life was conducted by the Revd Aaron Jackman and attended by over 200 people both young and old. In a moving service, Sam's family and friends told of a talented, enthusiastic young man who loved art and music and excelled at both in his short life.

Many people in the congregation remember Sam as a pupil at Holy Trinity School, including being student of the year and then later playing football, cricket and badminton at Saddleworth School. At Greenhead Sixth Form College in Huddersfield Sam started to express an interest in art which later led to being awarded a first-class honours degree in fine art from Slade, part of London University. In a loving tribute to his stepson, Peter Bryant explained how art and music were Sam's key interests but architecture, politics, cooking and antiques also played a large part in his life. Friends from school and college shared memories of happy times together and chose a recording of Sam's Band *Honeymagic* to be played at the service.

Peter paid tribute to Kryshia, Sam's mum, for her total love, care and devotion. Cystic fibrosis is a cruel disease which Sam bravely fought to the end.

Peter concluded his eulogy by saying, "This afternoon Sam will be lovingly laid to rest beside his father Andy, reunited after 17 years in Saddleworth Cemetery."

*God is love, and they that dwell in love,  
dwell in God and He in them. Amen.*

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## Parish Contacts

Baptisms and Weddings

Dorothy Townend

r.townend@btinternet.com

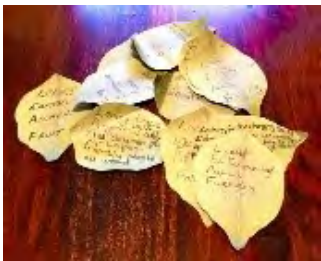
01457 873861

# Christ Church Friezland

## Mission Action Planning

Our vision is to be an inclusive people: prayerful, joyful and following Christ. We are exploring the opportunities of being part of 'Inclusive Church'. We seek a broader and deeper engagement with the community through meaningful worship and a culture of invitation. We intend to nurture discipleship through sacramental ministry, prayer and engaging with Scripture. We are very happy that the church building facilitates 'Little Lights' for very young children and their carers on Thursday mornings and a coffee shop on Thursday afternoons. All are welcome.

## Matt & Yvonne's Alternative Service



In our quest to explore the many ways we can worship God we held an alternative service on Sunday afternoon 1<sup>st</sup> October. The service was led by Matt and Yvonne Carson who put

a great deal of hard work into putting on a service that made us all think about creation and nature. Over thirty people attended and everyone entered the spirit of the service that focused on Autumn as a period of renewal, when the old dies off to make way for the new life that will come in the spring. We really must thank Matt and Yvonne for their hard work and hope this will become the start of many more services like this. It was thought-provoking and challenged everyone's perception of what a church service should be.

## Friezland Ladies' Luncheon Group

On the first Thursday of each month a group of mostly-retired ladies enjoy a social luncheon date at one of our fine local public houses. In October thirteen of us had a superb meal at The Printers Arms, Denshaw. We chat and share stories and experiences, both current and some even going back as far as the war! There is never a dull moment. We then return to Church afterwards for tea/coffee and cake at the Thursday afternoon coffee shop. We welcome all ladies. We car share so transport is not a problem for anyone. Watch out for the list in church towards the end of the month and put your name down if you fancy joining us.

## Friezland Community Show

We held our second Annual Community Show on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. It was a great success and attracted entries across all the categories that included produce, baking, art, photography, knitting, needlework, poetry, handwriting and model-making. Rosettes were presented for first, second and third in all classes. We also held our first family fun run at Well-i-Hole farm which produced a challenging 2k run and we hope with the continued support of the land owners we can repeat this in 2018.

Lots of people who came to the show enjoyed a great afternoon, looking at the exhibits and enjoying the 60s disco, games, BBQ and cream teas.



We would like to thank all those who exhibited and supported the show in whatever capacity with special thanks to Greenfield and Grasscroft Residents' Association, The Women's Institute, Men in Sheds, the British Motorcycle Preservation Society, Friezland School and Well-i-Hole Farm.

## Presentation to Little Lights Baby and Toddler Group

Thank you to Paul Geary (NatWest Community Banker) for donating toys to Friezland Little Lights Baby and Toddler Group to show their appreciation to Christ Church for the use of space in church for a NatWest Help Desk due to the closure of the Uppermill branch.





## Autumn

by Yvonne M Carson (September 2017)

*Sweet Summer shine subsides to Autumn  
Falling heavy on the heart  
Damp seeps into the corners of the soul  
Darkness draws slowly nearer as  
Hope begins to suffocate  
'Neath a crisp, brown eiderdown  
Shutters stay closed now  
A barricade against the world.  
Light a candle to warm it.*



This poem is dedicated to anyone dealing with Seasonal Affective Disorder, Anxiety or Depression.

## Aspiring to Great Things

After an initial grant of £15,700 we have now been awarded £157,000 for urgent repairs to the spire and roof. The church itself must find £15,000 and this will help to ensure that our church has a long future for generations to come. Christ Church Friezland was opened in 1850 and our beautiful Gothic church, designed by George Shaw, has been at the heart of the parish of Friezland ever since. Today, we not only provide a place of worship, we also provide a vital role in our community by providing a range of services such as a pre-school nursery, mums and toddler group, Thursday Café, Guides and Brownies, green gym, Whit Friday band contest and our Community show.

Our church has also become an excellent concert venue and has hosted some superb concerts throughout the year. In addition, our hall is available for parties, weddings, dances and other social occasions.

## Congratulations to Megan...



...on being commissioned at the Cathedral to serve as an Associate Lay Minister.

## Christmas Celebrations

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017

5:00pm - Christingle Workshop

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017

7:30pm - Pennine Singers Concert

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

6:30pm - Nine Lessons and Carols

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017

9:30am - Eucharist

4:30pm - Crib Service

11:30pm - Christmas Eve Eucharist

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017

10:00am - Christmas Day Eucharist

## Parish Contacts

Child Protection Officer	Simon Clark	07902 305281
ALM Worship	Duncan Ross	01457 835261
ALM Community Outreach	Peter Whalley	07746 665404
ALM Prayer and Spirituality	Megan Harrison	07817 771663

## The Best of the Bad Christmas Cracker Jokes by S. Claus

Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters?  
What sings, wears a jumpsuit and helps Father Christmas?  
What does Father Christmas do when his elves misbehave?  
What do you drain your carrots with at Christmas?

*They keep losing their needles.  
Santa's Little Elvis!  
He gives them the sack.  
An advent colander.*

# St Mary Greenfield

## Reflection and looking forward

It has been my custom in St Mary's magazine to reflect on the past month and look ahead to services and events in the coming month, and it should be possible to continue with that in future issues of The Grapevine. However, this time I thought I would say a few words about St Mary's by way of introduction, as one of the purposes of our new magazine is to help us get to know each other better, and to bring our parishes closer together.

## History

St Mary's Church was consecrated in 1875 and had its own stipendiary Priests until 1996, followed by two non-stipendiary House for Duty Priests. I was ordained Priest in 2010, and since that time, I have served in the Benefice as an Ordained Local Minister (OLM), with most of my ministry being at St Mary's, which is my life long church.

A year ago, the new extension was built at St Mary's, so it now has a small kitchen and two toilets, which have made the building much more comfortable and it can be used more often and in more ways than previously.

## Services

St Mary's has two services on most Sundays: Early Church for children and young families at 9:00am, and a more traditional service at 10:30am. There is also a midweek service of Holy Communion at 10:30am on Wednesdays, using the service from The Book of Common Prayer. On special occasions, both Sunday congregations worship together at 10:30am, and four or five times a year, children, families and staff from St Mary's School also take part in these special services, which help to reinforce the good relationships that exist between Church and School.

## Finance and fundraising

As with all our parishes within the Church of England in Saddleworth, there is a constant focus on finances and fundraising, but St Mary's is particularly blessed to have a charity shop on the main road in Greenfield, which is a real asset to the church and to the whole community that is about far more important things than money: the

volunteers who work there, those who donate items for sale, and all the customers who benefit from the social interaction and from the genuine love and concern that is shown and shared.

## Mission Action Planning

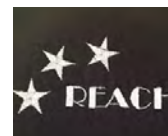
St Mary's, like all our parishes, is also working on its Mission Action Plan. Whilst this could easily be dismissed as a paper exercise, I hope and pray that in all our churches, it will be a real focus for spiritual growth and will help to increase our faith and build up our relationships not only within our churches, but also as we reach out with God's love into the wider community.

## Christmas Services

Christmas is a very good time to reach out and welcome people into our churches. At St Mary's, the services in December will be as follows:

### Advent Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017

10:30am - Reach Puppets  
will help to lead the worship with some inspiring images.



### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017

9:00am - Early Church  
10:30am - Holy Communion



### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

10:30am - Nativity Service  
6:30pm - Carol Service



### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017

10:30am - Holy Communion  
6:00pm - Carols  
round the tree in the village  
11:30pm - Holy Communion



### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017

10:30am - Holy Communion

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

10:30am - Holy Communion



## Remembering

As I come to the end of my report, we remember and pray for all those we love who have died, including those whose names are in St Mary's Book of Remembrance during December and January. As we give thanks for them and their lives, we pray too for their families and friends who love and miss them.

The names in the Book of Remembrance are: Brian Shelbourne, Ernest Clifford Cuff, Florence Shaw, Angela Dawn Karen Connolly, Doreen Lee, Martha Green, The Reverend Frederick John Jones, Sheila Anne Partington, Norah Holden, Jeffrey George Booth, and Doreen Evans.

At this Christmas time, and as we approach another new year, may we give thanks for the past, and look forward to the future, confident that God is with us, and in our prayer and our praise, may we join with the angels who heralded the birth of our Lord:

*'Glory to God in the highest and peace,  
goodwill among all people'.*

*Luke 2 v.14*

With my love and good wishes, and all God's blessings.

Barbara

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## Parish Contacts

Verger	Eva Holden	01457 873043
Organist	Graham Sheldon	01457 513236
Flower Secretary	Pam Butler	01457 876982
Gift Aid Secretary	Elizabeth Pilkington	01457 837268
Charity Shop Manager	Lynda McGowan	07708 996919
St Mary's School, Head Teacher	Mrs S M Hall	01457 872264

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### Advent Looking and Longing

How do we keep looking for God in a world where people often hide themselves and where God at times seems absent?



A series of reflective evenings with Bible and prayer to lead us through the season of Advent.

We meet on a Wednesday evening at 8:00pm in the Vestry of St Anne Lydgate.

**29<sup>th</sup> November, 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Contact Hilary Edgerton 01457 871704 or [hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk](mailto:hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk)



### Serving God in what we do

Whether you run the department, care for your elders or volunteer in the community, how can you best serve God?

We look at what the Bible says on the theme of work.



Three sessions to help us to think and learn together. All are welcome to attend.

We meet on a Wednesday evening at 8:00pm in the Vestry of St Anne Lydgate.

**10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> January**

Contact Hilary Edgerton 01457 871704 or [hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk](mailto:hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk)



# St Anne Lydgate

## Family-friendly worship Wednesday Evenings at St Anne, Lydgate

'Church' is not just for Sundays. Here at Lydgate we have been holding a family-focussed service every Wednesday at 6:00pm for over a year. We encourage the youngsters to participate in different ways and help lead the prayers. In these last fourteen months we have seen the children grow in their faith. This is reflected in their willingness to respond when we meet up again in school for Thursday assembly and Prayer Group. It is our hope that these children will develop a faith that will last and develop further throughout their lives; we can only sow the seeds.

We actively encourage the children to sit with their parents during the service so that they can be guided through the liturgy. This is family time, and just as valuable as what happens in the home. It is also good that families are mixing with each other.

This is now our largest congregation. Average attendance this term is well over seventy. It is helping us to grow the relationship with our community and the local school, where Religious Education is very important. Weekends are so full-on with all the other activities that families want to fit in. Church doesn't have to be on a Sunday. He is with us every day; we just have to find Him.

Al Gillian

## Emmaus Mossley

Saddleworth Churches celebrate twenty years since Emmaus Mossley first took in homeless residents.

St Anne Lydgate and Christ Church Friezland took the lead twenty years ago toward setting up an Emmaus Community in this area. Thanks to a national charity organised by Emmaus UK and the free conveyancing by a local firm of solicitors we were able to purchase Longlands Mill for £150,000 in August 1996. But we had very little other money and the insurance alone was £6,000 a year and the company stipulated many security requirements. It was here that church members in Saddleworth came to the rescue with fundraising. Emmaus Cambridge also helped from the October with £1,000 a month only four years after opening. We in turn are helping other needy projects from our

solidarity funds. We were the sixth Emmaus Community in the UK, the first in the north. Now there are twenty nine communities so far.

It is twenty years since we took in our first homeless people and a book has been compiled from stories of people involved over those twenty years, available from Emmaus front counter for just £5.00 or go online for more information about Emmaus.

[www.emmausmossley.org.uk](http://www.emmausmossley.org.uk)

Richard Darlington  
President of Emmaus UK

## Love Lydgate

'Love Lydgate' holds regular monthly talks on the first Monday of the month at 2:30pm. These are held at the Parish Hall, Lydgate. The guest speakers are from wide-ranging backgrounds and always informative and often great fun.

All are welcome and the entry fee is £3.00 with refreshments, including homemade cakes. The money raised goes towards much needed refurbishment at the Parish Hall. To date £2,500 has been raised by the group, paying for new windows and a new sign amongst other things. Please see the 'Love Lydgate' website for further information or email [lovelydgate@btinternet.com](mailto:lovelydgate@btinternet.com).

**Our next meeting is Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017.**

## St Anne's Youth Group Report 2017

A new Youth Group started in September 2016 for anyone in Year 7 and above. We usually meet on the second and third Sundays in the month at 11:00am in the Parish Hall. We currently have nine members but not everyone manages to come each week. This doesn't matter and new members are always welcome to join us even if they don't usually come to St. Anne's or attend another church or don't attend church at all.

We have done lots of activities so far such as making and eating bacon sandwiches, pancakes and pizza, cake decorating, drama and games.

It is good fun and we learn things too such as how Shrove Tuesday got its name. We have learnt about being homeless by presenting a drama to the main congregation where we brought a life-sized toy dog to church and playing a game where we

had to find our own shoes, hats and scarves. More recently some of our group put on a puppet show for "Welcome to Church" Sunday set to music, which was very funny.

It is fun keeping in touch with friends who have gone to different secondary schools and talking about things that are important to us. We look forward to welcoming any new members.

St Anne's Youth Group

## Putting 'Fun' into Fundraising

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October, St. Anne's Church Lydgate hosted their first Lucy Cobb fashion evening to raise funds for the Church. Over a hundred members of the local community and members from the various congregations came together to combine fashion and fundraising.



For the first time the church was used to hold the event with the aisle making the perfect catwalk for all to easily see the clothes and accessories

available for purchase. Church candles were lit as the darkness of the night set in providing a great atmosphere. Cake and prosecco were available as the guests prepared to watch the models glide up the catwalk in their outfits. It was a relaxed, fun and friendly environment where everyone felt comfortable in such an unusual venue for a fashion show.

As the show finished, the guests perused the many rails of clothes and tried on their favourite outfits before selecting matching jewellery and accessories. The models became fashion advisors for everyone.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone we raised over £1,000 on the night. We raised a further £265 from Lucy Cobb (from receiving 10% of the overall sales) and therefore raised an incredible £1,277.46.

We have received fantastic feedback as to how well organised and enjoyable the night was and received several requests for a further show to be held in the spring! So watch this space for the next Lucy Cobb Fashion night event to be held at St Anne's and come along and join in the fundraising!

Sam Lowe



@stanneslydgate



stanneslydgate@gmail.com

## Parish Contacts

Parish Hall Bookings	Frank Boocock	01457 873985
Junior Church	Lianne Marshall	07225 650233
Baptism & Wedding Coordinator	Anne Smith	07507 339983
Sexton & Grave Enquiries	Al Gillian	01457 870162
Weekly Sheet Manager	Sue Willett sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk	0161 425 7909

## 'Thank You' to 'The Grapevine' advertisers

A big thank you to those people who have very kindly agreed to advertise in 'The Grapevine', the new bi-monthly magazine of the Benefice of Saddleworth.

Some of you have been advertising in our parish magazines for a long time and others are new advertisers. We are confident that with its larger print run and coverage 'The Grapevine' will serve as a means of communicating something of the life of the Church of England in Saddleworth.

Once again, many thanks.

Sue Willett

# St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church

## Restoration and Development of St Chad's Church

In 2015-6, Saddleworth St Chad celebrated 800 years of continuous worship on the current site. As part of the special anniversary, church members began plans to improve and develop the church building to ensure that St Chad's Parish Church is a special place to visit, worship and treasure for many years to come. Plans include creating greater accessibility, a wider welcome for the community and more opportunities to offer arts and educational activities for all ages.

During 2016 we were shocked to learn that, in addition to the suggested development works, we needed to find hundreds of thousands of pounds to repair and restore the beautiful stained glass windows. After more than two hundred years, the iron rods within the stonework of the windows have corroded causing cracking and bowing of the stained glass. In order to undertake the necessary masonry repairs, the glass will have to be removed so adding to the cost. A recent, detailed survey of the whole church has identified that, in addition to the windows, extensive repair work is also required to the roof, ceiling and tower.

## 'Seeing is Believing'

St Chad's Church Development Group is leading on the task of securing resources and expertise to deliver a restoration and development project called '**Seeing is Believing**'. Securing funds for this major project to preserve our special heritage and grow and strengthen St Chad's parish will require support from the wider community and a significant amount of money to be raised through grant applications and a fundraising campaign.

Special events have already taken place since the official launch in March 2017 and more are planned to cater for all ages and tastes.



## 'Seeing is Believing' Christmas Cards

As part of our fundraising campaign we are selling Christmas Cards showing off two of the small windows - the manger scene and the arrival of the Magi.



These are in packs of ten (five of each design) for £7.50 and are available from:

Susan 879977 or [office@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk](mailto:office@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk)  
Lily 873745 or [leeshopkinson@gmail.com](mailto:leeshopkinson@gmail.com)

**Get your pack now while stocks last!**

## Namibia 2017

As many of you will know Revd Sharon, Peter Burnley, Godfrey and I have recently returned from Namibia. We spent the first week in Windhoek, the capital city, where we made contact with lots of old friends. One such friend was Onesmus, who first came to Saddleworth as a student in 1992 and helped us form the link with the church of the Holy Spirit in Oshandi, which is the village where he grew up.

We also met Emma and Chris, who were both in the delegation from Oshandi to St Chad's in 2002 and who are now teachers. Emma teaches in a primary school on the edge of the township in Windhoek and Chris teaches in a secondary school in a town an hour's drive from Windhoek.

The highlight for Godfrey was meeting Louise and her 20 year old son, Godfrey. Louise came from Namibia to Bolton as a student and surprised us all by giving birth to a baby boy in the bathroom of a vicarage in Bolton. Godfrey is now in his second year of an Accountancy degree.

Before traveling to Oshandi we met with Bishop Luke and listened to the challenges he faces with the growth of the GAFCON Church in Namibia; please keep him and the Diocese in your prayers.



On a Sunday in Oshandi, Revd Daniel had asked Sharon to celebrate. The church was full and we enjoyed an emotional and uplifting act of worship. It must have taken fifteen minutes for Sharon to bless all who came forward.

I had planned a community meeting to look at the weaknesses and concerns of OATIN / OMBOME OTO and to plan for the future. We held the meeting in the church and over a hundred people turned up: Headmen, Ombome volunteers, nursery teachers, orphans, and people who had benefited from our training, food parcels, and support over the years. People were very open and honest. It was humbling and very emotional to hear how our contributions have changed the lives of so many.

**Thank you** to everyone who has contributed to the OATIN project over the years. As a result of the drugs and food parcels, people are now able to work and support their families while living with HIV and AIDS.

Living conditions throughout the North are improving continuously. Some homes are now connected to the pipeline, and some have solar panels; this was the first time I have had the luxury of a fridge and electricity in Father Lazarus' home. New roads, schools and clinics are being built and people who had left for city life are now planning to return. It was the most positive and uplifting visit I have experienced. There is still much to do and our support, friendship and prayers have been asked for.

Sarah Adams

## Alternative Christmas Presents

If you would like to support our friends in Namibia why not buy an Alternative Christmas Present:

- £5 A book;
- £10 A solar torch;
- £15 Food parcel;
- £20 School uniform for an orphan.



Recycled, hand-made Christmas cards (6 for £1) and labels (12 for £1) are also available with all profits to the Oshandi Aids Trust in Namibia.

All cards and alternative presents are available from Sarah Adams 875126, Ann Hibbert 872243, or Liz Rooke 810666.

## Travelling Crib

St Chad's Travelling Crib is visiting homes in the parish.

If you would like it to come to you please contact Liz Rooke 810666.

For the crib travelling around Diggle contact Sarah Barlow 07775 613787.



## Advent & Christmas Services

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017

7:00pm Saddleworth School  
Carol Service

### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017

10:00am St Chad's School  
Carol Service

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

11:00am Sunday School Nativity  
and Children's Eucharist  
3:00pm Carol Service

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017

5:00pm Crib Service  
11:00pm Christmas Eucharist

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017

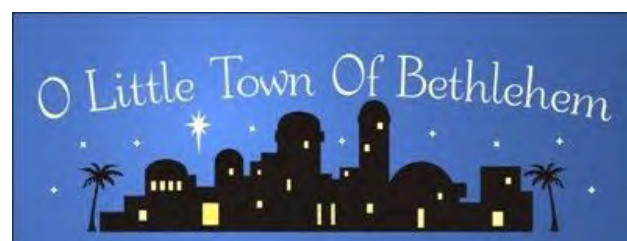
11:00am Christmas Day Eucharist

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018



4:00pm Christingle Service celebrating the work of The Children's Society.

Christingles available from Mavis Green 01457 878706.



## Parish Contacts

Assistant Wardens Tim Edge

01457 872429

Debbie McCabe

# St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

## Welcome to the Parish Centre

The Parish Centre is at the junction of Lee Street and Station Road in the centre of Uppermill.

We have a Sunday service at 9:30am and a Tuesday morning service also at 9:30am.

On the first Sunday of the month we have a Family Eucharist which is enjoyed by young and old. On the second Sunday we have a lay-led service while the children have Sunday school. The following Sundays are Eucharists with the Sunday school joining part way through. We are a mixed-aged congregation which feels like one big family. Our worship is relaxed and inclusive and most people stay to chat afterwards.

Throughout the year we have other events such as a Good Friday workshop, a Summer Picnic and a Harvest Hoe Down.

## Regular events

### Seeds

Our Seeds group meets every Wednesday in term time from 10:00am - 11:30am at the Parish Centre. We welcome all babies and toddlers with their parents, grandparents and carers. Our next sessions are:



**6<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (Christmas Party)**

**10<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**17<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**24<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.**

We hope our families are enjoying having the Seeds Travelling Crib in their homes. If you would like it in your home, please contact Liz Rooke by email [lizzierooke@gmail.com](mailto:lizzierooke@gmail.com)

### Among Friends

Fortnightly, on Tuesday afternoons, there is a group known as 'Among Friends' where retired people can relax and make new friends. Often there is a speaker or activity organised. Our next sessions are:

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 2:00pm**

**9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 2:00pm**

**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 at 2:00pm**



### Café Church

Every two months a Café Church is held on a Monday afternoon where people can sing their favourite hymns, pray, and relax with friends over a cup of tea and cake.



### Coffee Mornings

Every other Saturday between 10:00am and 11:30am a coffee morning is held. The first of the month is for the whole-parish 'Away Giving' (to a nominated charity) and the third is especially for the 'Seeing is Believing' project (see page 20).



### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017

'Away Giving' for Bethlehem Children's Hospital.

### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017

'Seeing is Believing'  
Christmas Morning - Coffee, Cakes and Carols, Mulled Wine, Christmas Stall and Raffle.



### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018

'Away Giving' for Oldham Unity Project to help Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

### Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018

'Seeing is Believing'.

We will keep you updated throughout the year in future editions of The Grapevine.

## Advent & Christmas

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017

9:30am Family Worship & Sunday School Nativity.



### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017

9:30am Eucharist & Sunday School Party.

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017

11:00am Christmas Day Eucharist at the Parish Church.

*Unto Us  
a Child is Born*



## Parish Contacts

Assistant Wardens	Margaret Fletcher	01457 874941
	Sarah Adams	01457 875126
Parish Centre Lettings	Joe Hughes	01457 873165

# Churches Together in Saddleworth (CTiS)



For many of us CTiS is a bit of a mystery, for some of us CTiS is a meeting that people go to but not us! And some of us, even though we have been in Saddleworth for many years, well ... we are wondering if this is something new as we have never heard of it before today.

Let me explain what CTiS is all about and how we do things in Saddleworth.

We know that there are many different Christian churches and denominations, but all have the same basic calling – to worship God, to share the good news about Jesus Christ and to work for the good of all people. In Saddleworth, as different churches, we seek to work together and support each other in the work that we do separately, deepening our fellowship with one another without losing that which makes us interestingly different.

Throughout the year we hold a variety of activities to which every Christian across Saddleworth is invited, including those in the Church of England, and to which anyone is welcome, regardless of their faith or lack of faith. These activities include worship, specific prayer, discussion groups and mission/outreach activities.

### Worship

We have an annual Joint Service in January that coincides with the International Christian Unity Week. Some years this service is in the form of several services across Saddleworth but on **28<sup>th</sup> January 2018** there will be one large service in the Civic Centre. Many of the Church of England churches will be closed on that morning as a way of encouraging us to meet with other Christians from

across the area. This really is a wonderful way of meeting other Christians from across Saddleworth and from other denominations.

### Prayer

There are regular Saturday morning prayer meetings 8:30am to 10:00am. **Scary?** The scare is taken away by beginning the meeting with breakfast, usually cereal and toast which is followed by about an hour of prayer led by a minister or elder. Nobody is forced to pray aloud, the prayers cover not just Saddleworth but also the world and the ongoing situations that need our prayer and God's intervention. Put the following date in your diary:

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at  
The Parish Centre, Lee Street, Uppermill.**

### Discussion Groups

We organise Lent Discussion Groups that run at different times and different locations across Saddleworth. The material used to start the discussions is usually discussed and agreed well in advance and then the group leaders prepare the material to ensure good conversations can be had. In addition, CTiS advertises other discussion groups that take place throughout the year, including a regular Theological Discussion Group.

### Mission/Outreach Activities

These are usually advertised on church notice boards. Look out for the upcoming:

**Carols Round The Tree  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

and become involved in proclaiming the gospel through word and action.

Our next CTiS Meeting when we agree future activities is:

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at  
The Parish Centre, Lee Street, Uppermill.**

John Rosedale (Team Vicar)



# St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

## Kilngreen Notes

Welcome to Kilngreen Notes which will be appearing in every issue of The Grapevine so we can keep you up to date about what is going on.

My name is Janet Iles; I am a member of the congregation at Kilngreen and also an Authorised Lay Minister for Worship within the Benefice of Saddleworth. I have been writing the Kilngreen Notes for several years and it is our way of keeping everyone in touch with our Mission Church, which is the only Christian Church currently based in Diggle village.

Kilngreen Church is situated in Leaside just down the hill from the Diggle Hotel. When it was first built in 1870 it was Diggle School, and remained so for many years, until a more modern school was built on Sam Road.

Some of our older congregation members still remember their schooldays here including Revd Duncan Rhodes, our Ordained Local Minister, who has lived in Diggle all his life (although of course he was not a pupil when it was first built in 1870, I hasten to add!).

Because of its previous life as a school, it is a "multi-purpose" community building, housing both the church and a wide variety of groups and activities throughout the week.

## Kilngreen Church



The church chancel is divided from the main area of the big hall by a slatted roll-down shutter, which protects the altar when the church is not in use, so that the building can be easily used for lots of other purposes.

There are individual seats for the congregation, which means we can be very flexible about how we present services. Seats can be in rows, in a circle or semi-circle, or with tables, thus making for a creative and lively service of worship. The church is accessible for wheelchair users and has accessible toilet facilities.

## Early Communion

Communion at an early age is encouraged at Kilngreen and children are always welcome to come to the communion rail to receive the bread or a blessing with their parents. Hymns are mostly accompanied by the piano, played by Tracy or Cathie, with the occasional guest playing from Howard, or if all else fails we have a variety of CDs which cover all sorts of different hymns and songs for everyone to enjoy.



## Sunday School

Kilngreen has a smaller room alongside the big hall which incorporates the kitchen. This is where Sunday School meets on most Sunday mornings for part of the service, joining the congregation each week at the Eucharist. The Sunday School children have a board to display their work and they always tell everyone what they have been up to when they join us in the service. One of our younger congregation members, Rachel Diamond, has completed the Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry Level 1 and regularly works alongside the Sunday School teachers, ably assisted by her younger sister Hannah. Our current Sunday School children are all quite young and new families are always welcome to come along.



## Weddings

Not everyone realises that Kilngreen Church is licensed for weddings and there have been several here over the last few years. Kilngreen makes a wonderful combined wedding and/or reception venue.



## Church Services

Our church services take place at 9:30am every Sunday. The first Sunday of the month is 'All Age Worship' when both the congregation and Sunday School worship together. Kilngreen has a long established group of Lay Worship Leaders who take turns to present this service throughout the year. They also include the children in the presentation of worship whenever they can.

The other Sundays of the month are communion services; these are taken by either Revd Duncan Rhodes or different members of the clergy team. If there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month we have joint services with the Parish Church and Parish Centre on a rotational basis.

## Kilngreen as a Community Resource

### St Chad's All Stars

Kilngreen is the home of the St Chad's All Stars theatre group. There is a full-sized stage in the hall and the All Stars put on a Spring Show and Pantomime each year. Everyone is welcome to become involved, although due to Safeguarding requirements, we cannot currently accept under 18s into our group. However there is no upper age limit. The emphasis is on everyone being a "star" and enjoying being part of the group, whether performing on stage, painting sets, or working backstage.

### Diggle Ducklings

This group for young children and parents meets on Thursday mornings in the big hall.

### Uniformed Organisations

Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers/Cubs and Guides meet at Kilngreen weekly during term-time.

### Social Activity Groups and Events

At the moment there are Tai Chi classes weekly and also an Art Group that meets on Tuesday mornings. There are often one-off events held including Afternoon Teas, Wine Tasting, Children's Parties, Anniversary Parties, etc.

## Kilngreen Supporters Club (KSC)

KSC raises funds to help pay for the upkeep of the building and holds several different events during the year.

### Diggle Diamonds Christmas Party

Kilngreen hosts an annual Christmas Party for our Diamonds of Diggle (over 60s) and they enjoy a Christmas dinner and entertainment with Diggle Band, including carol singing. This is a very popular event and is generally well attended.

### Diggle Blues Festival

In the last few years Kilngreen has also been part of the venues for Diggle Blues Festival which is held in June. The Kilngreen Supporters Club provides a barbecue and bar at this event.

### Diggle School Concerts

Diggle School have also held several concerts at Kilngreen in previous years.

### St Chad's Annual Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair takes place in early November and includes Santa's Grotto which is always worth a visit.

If you would like any further information about either Kilngreen Church or would like to book the hall for an event, please contact Lynda Barlow on 01457 878338.

Janet Iles

## Advent & Christmas Services

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

1:30pm Diggle School Carol Service

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

9:30am Nativity  
and Sunday School Christmas Party

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017

9:30am Christmas Day Eucharist

### New Year's Day Service 2018

12 noon at The Hanging Gate. All welcome



## Parish Contacts for Kilngreen

Assistant Wardens Lynda Barlow

01457 878338

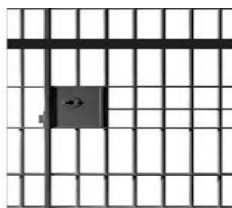
Mike Hall

01457 870480

Kilngreen Lettings Lynda Barlow

01457 878338

# A view from behind bars – *Safe and Secure?*



The Safer Custody Department of the prison does what it says on the tin: aims to keep people safe whilst in custody.

Jason had a bad spell a few months ago and was placed on an Assessment, Care in Custody & Teamwork (ACCT) document to monitor him on a regular basis to try to stop him from self-harming or taking his suicidal thoughts further.

He came through it and seemed to be picking up in mood. He got on with his job on the wing. Then things took a dive again. In the space of a few days he heard that his mother had been diagnosed with terminal cancer and his partner was moving in with his brother and taking the kids with her.

You can't write the scripts. His sentence was for arson. After a threat to his own family he attempted to set fire to property. He failed but, whilst trying to flee, was knocked down by a vehicle was seriously injured.

His latest piece of news drove him to what some officers feel were attention-seeking behaviours: rather botched attempts at injuring himself, first with a jump, then with a kettle. I spare the exact details.

When these things happen, Safer Custody have a duty to protect the prisoner but that can mean locking them in a 'safe cell' i.e. one with reinforced perspex at the bars which allows constant observation.

ACCT reviews are conducted regularly between the prisoner, senior officer or Governor, Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN), and chaplain. On the occasion I attended, Jason was talking about his expected visit that afternoon with his mother and sister. The prison staff had found him so unpredictable that they were wary of letting the visit happen in the usual hall in case problems were created for other visitors or staff. The CPN spoke out: *"I don't think the visit can be facilitated"*. The safer custody officer agreed that it was *'not safe'*.

Jason stormed out, telling them they might as well take his visit from him because he had lost everything else.

I went to see him a few minutes later. *"They're not really going to stop my Mum from visiting are they?"* he said, almost in tears. *"She's the one who knows what I need to do to feel better"*. We talked about his past and about his sense of having lost everything and how his mum had been his rescuer. Now he felt that she, the one person he could trust, was about to die. I tried to help him to see that she needed him as well and to help him to think about some verses from the Bible. *'The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need'* is a great statement of trust from someone who later on talks about his enemies. The Psalm speaks of walking through pleasant places and dark shadows of death. It seems right for plenty of prisoners who are desperate.

I urged the people responsible to reconsider his visit. If he was intent on killing himself then at least, it seemed, he might have had a chance to see his mum first and maybe she would help him to think things were better rather than worse. At least one other officer saw things the same way. The visit went ahead and Jason is still with us. So, for now, is his mum.

Others have written of how our need to keep people safe is more about how frightened **we are** to face the unknown and the risks in life than about genuine and necessary compassion. At times, risks help us to assess our capabilities, prove ourselves and take us into new places that we would not once have managed; they can, when handled rightly, give us greater self-worth and new possibilities.

The balance is tricky, undoubtedly. The Prison Service has to keep people as safe as possible especially when things have been unstable beforehand. Yet the man who is depressed will not always be drawn out of depression when he is compelled to stay isolated for his own security. How to work out the balance is just one of those everyday issues faced by the staff in a demanding situation.

*Hilary Edgerton – October 2017*

*HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale*



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For further information contact Sue Willett on:  
[grapevineadvertising@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk](mailto:grapevineadvertising@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk)



## Churches Together in Saddleworth - Vacancy for Christian Aid Secretary

Churches Together in Saddleworth (CTiS) raises around £9,000 each year for Christian Aid, which is used to work with its partners in over fifty countries, to help people to improve their own lives and tackle the causes of poverty and injustice.

CTiS has an opportunity for someone, or possibly two people working together, to take over the role of Christian Aid Secretary from January 2018.

The main responsibility of the Christian Aid Secretary is the coordination of Christian Aid Week, liaising with the Christian Aid representatives for the churches across all denominations in Saddleworth, ordering resources and receiving remittances.

Besides Christian Aid Week, which falls in May each year, there is some banking administration and reporting required at CTiS meetings. The amount of extra fundraising activities is entirely up to the person(s) who takes on the role.

Everything will be explained, and assistance will be on-hand for the Christian Aid Week 2018.

If you are interested, or to discuss this further, please contact Rosie Banham on 07939 946816 or email [rosiebanham@live.co.uk](mailto:rosiebanham@live.co.uk)

# Bright Futures School

Bright Futures School (BFS) in Grasscroft brings a new approach to autism education. We use a 'guiding' (derived from the autism intervention 'Relationship Development Intervention' RDI) to work **directly on** some of the difficulties at the heart of autism **instead of working round them** like most other schools.



We know that autism is a developmental disorder. Children with autism do not master (or only partially master) key developmental milestones such as social referencing, joint attention, perspective-taking, and emotional regulation. All of these are crucial for friendships and relationships, independence, and employment.

We know that if children do not master these milestones, they become rigid thinkers who find it difficult to cope with uncertainty and change. This is why children with autism have high levels of anxiety and are prone to what some parents describe as 'meltdowns'; they are constantly coming up against uncertainty and change and are unable to cope with it.

Everyday uncertainties include (for some children) simple things like a change in the route of their journey to school, new clothes or shoes, a new teacher at school..... things most typically developing children wouldn't bat an eyelid at. If a child with autism is unable to cope with any type of uncertainty, they react in one of three ways – flight, fight or freeze. What we see as 'autistic behaviours' (avoidance, withdrawal and meltdown) are actually an expression of this anxiety and inability to cope.

Fear and feelings of incompetence make us all anxious, but typically developing people have had thousands of experiences that have led to memories of competence and success. They have had these experiences during their early years in

the special 'guiding' relationship they have with their parents. It is this 'guiding' relationship that our staff replicate in school to help students master missed milestones.

## Our pupils say...

"I enjoy working with staff at BFS. I enjoy the activities and there isn't any other place I'd rather be. In my old school I was bullied and the teachers didn't do anything. At Bright Futures School there isn't any bullying and when we fall out the teachers help us to understand each other and to make friends again."

"At my old school, staff and other pupils used to wind me up. I used to get into a lot of trouble. I was excluded a few times and eventually I stopped going. It's not like that at Bright Futures School. Staff understand me and help me and I've made friends here. I like my work placement and I like getting ASDAN certificates."

To learn more about Bright Futures School visit:

**[www.brightfutureschool.co.uk](http://www.brightfutureschool.co.uk)**

and to learn more about RDI visit:

**[www.rdiconnect.com](http://www.rdiconnect.com)**

To see RDI/'guiding' in action, via video footage of Mums working on developmental milestones with their kids, visit:

**[notnigellanotjamie.blogspot.com](http://notnigellanotjamie.blogspot.com)**  
and **[brightsideoflifeasd.blogspot.co.uk](http://brightsideoflifeasd.blogspot.co.uk)**

To join an online autism guide, a Facebook group consisting of parents and Consultants discussing RDI, visit:

**[www.facebook.com/groups/Autismguide/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/Autismguide/)**







# Christmas Quiz (No prizes - just for fun!)

1. "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo lying on the rug. Name the book and author of these famous opening lines.
2. Which two Gospels do not have a Nativity story?
3. By whom and to whom was a very large Christmas gift given in 1885?
4. Who was Tiny Tim's dad in "A Christmas Carol"?
5. What event took place at 3:00pm on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1957?
6. Which English town is associated with a thorn tree that blossoms at Christmas?
7. What traditionally are the names of the Three Wise Men?
8. In which sport was the Revd David Shepherd a renowned official?
9. Which American writer best known for "Breakfast at Tiffany's" wrote the 1956 memoir "A Christmas Memory"?
10. What is at the centre of a stollen?
11. In which Harry Potter book is there a Yule Ball held as part of the Triwizard Tournament?
12. What colour was Elvis Presley's Christmas in his 1957 recording?
13. Which "Batman" film is set at Christmas?
14. "Twas the night before Christmas...". What comes next?
15. In the Morecambe and Wise 1971 Christmas Show, name the piece of music described by Eric Morecambe as "I'm playing all the right notes but not necessarily in the right order"?

Answers on page 30

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## Christmas: The story of mince pies



Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food.

Mince pies used to be a different shape: cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.



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## Dementia

## Friendly Church

## What do we do?

1. Accept and value people regardless of cognitive abilities.
2. Ensure that the person who has dementia, and those who support them, are cared for through all the stages of the illness.
3. Make sure that the person who has dementia, and their friends or family members, are both spiritually and pastorally supported and nurtured in order for them to enjoy being a part of a worshipping community in every sense.
4. Be open to what people with dementia have to offer. Look for strengths and abilities. Then support and encourage the use of these gifts so that they may participate in the community that is the body of Christ.

**'Remember the person'**



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### Answers to the Christmas Quiz

1. Little Women by Louisa M. Alcott;
2. The Gospels according to St Mark and St John;
3. France gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States;
4. Bob Cratchett;
5. The first televised broadcast of the Queen's Christmas speech;
6. Glastonbury;
7. Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar;
8. Cricket;
9. Truman Capote;
10. Marzipan;
11. "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire";
12. Blue;
13. "Batman Returns";
14. "... when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse";
15. Grieg's Piano Concerto.



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