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# The Grapevine

February &  
March 2018  
Issue 2



**The Church of England in Saddleworth**

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





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# The Rector writes...

In a primary school I asked a child what they thought the season of Lent was all about. The child replied, "It's the time we remember Jesus going into the desert and making pancakes for forty days". Nice idea, though eating so many pancakes would clearly not be the best idea for Jesus or for any of us!

Many people observe Lent as a time of self-denial and self-giving; by volunteering their time and giving of themselves for others, or giving monetary gifts to help fund things such as charity projects. And all sorts of people can benefit - and do benefit - from celebrating Lent.

Lent is a time to explore, to take stock of our lives and the state of our hearts; to confront the human condition and the state of the world, and stand in solidarity with all those who suffer. There is no set way of 'doing Lent', though traditionally practices revolve around fasting (which can include specific fast days, or particular foods). Also, it often includes the giving of ourselves, our time and money in service of others, self-reflection, reading and prayer.

Lent is an opportunity to reset our spiritual compass; to seek God's will and direction for our lives; for contemplation, an adventure of the spirit, a journey of discovery. Why not join in and take your own Lenten journey this year?

I wish you all a Holy Lent. Use it wisely and discover for yourself the giving presence of God.

Sharon  
Team Rector



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Many thanks to Ann Walters for our front cover photograph.



# 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 barbara.christopher@hotmail.com	01457 876802
Associate Priest	Revd Professor Michael Donmall michaeldonmall@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	
Priest for Discipleship	Revd Hilary Edgerton hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 871704
Self-Supporting Minister Assistant Curate	Revd Philip Williamson philipwilliamson@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	
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

## Confirmation Service at Christ Church Friezland on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017

The following were confirmed by The Right Reverend Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton

Jack Buckley	Alison Haynes
Tilly Buckley	Eva Haynes
Abbie Bywater	Lucy Johnson
Lexi Clarke	Oliver Kennedy
Isaac Davis	Max Leaver
Hannah Diamond	Ethan McCabe
Rachel Diamond	Mason McCabe
Denise Elvery	Alistair McCormack
Joshua French	Alfie Mortimer
Ruth Greenhalgh	Kate Sloan
Eleanor Grout	Caitlyn Smethurst
Hannah Grout	Elliot Ward



# 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)

## Easter

I got me flowers to straw Thy way, I got me boughs off many a tree;  
But Thou wast up by break of day, And brought'st Thy sweets along with Thee.  
Yet though my flowers be lost, they say a heart can never come too late;  
Teach it to sing Thy praise this day, And then this day my life shall date.

*George Herbert*

## Christ Church Friezland

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 9:30am Children's 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 09:30am 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 Children's 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)

## St Chad Saddleworth

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

29<sup>th</sup> Apr 9:30am Eucharist at the Parish Centre

## St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 9:30am Family Worship

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

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

## 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

## St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

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

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

# 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

# Ash Wednesday - 14<sup>th</sup> February

Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting, is the first day of Lent in Western Christianity. It occurs 46 days before Easter (40 fasting days, if the six Sundays, which are not days of fast, are excluded) and can fall as early as 4<sup>th</sup> February or as late as 10<sup>th</sup> March. Ash Wednesday is observed by many Western Christians as a day of reflection and repentance. This year it falls on 14<sup>th</sup> February. We will be holding a Holy Communion Service at the Parish Centre in Uppermill at 8:00am and in the evening at Holy Trinity Dobcross at 7:30pm.

According to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation. Lent originated as a mirroring of this, fasting 40 days as preparation for Easter. Every Sunday was seen as a commemoration of the Sunday of Christ's resurrection and so as a feast day on which fasting was inappropriate. Accordingly, Christians fasted from Monday to Saturday (six days) during six weeks and from Wednesday to Saturday (four days) in the preceding week, thus making up the 40 days.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from the previous year's Palm Sunday crosses and placing them on the heads of participants with the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ."



A cross of ashes on a worshipper's forehead.

# Holy Week and Easter

## Monday of Holy Week - 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Holy Trinity Dobs Cross	7:30pm	Riding Lights' "the People's Passion" (see next page)
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## Maundy Thursday - 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

St Thomas Delph	7:00pm	'Seder' Meal
Christ Church Denshaw	7:00pm	Maundy Eucharist
Holy Trinity Dobs Cross	7:00pm	Agape Meal
St Mary Greenfield	7:30pm	Holy Communion with Washing of Feet
St Anne Lydgate	7:30pm	Last Supper and Washing of Feet followed by a vigil Joint Service with Christ Church Friezland
St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen	7:00pm	Last Supper and Washing of Feet
St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church	10:00pm	Gethsemane Watch (10:00pm until 12 midnight)

## Good Friday - 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018

St Thomas Delph	10:30am	Joint Service at Delph Methodist Church
Christ Church Denshaw	11:00am	Reflections for Good Friday
Holy Trinity Dobs Cross	10:30am	Meditation
Christ Church Friezland	10:00am	Devotion and Veneration of the Cross
St Mary Greenfield	10:30am	Service of Hymns, Prayers, Readings and Meditation
St Anne Lydgate	10:00am	Meditations for Good Friday
St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church	12 noon	At the foot of the cross (prayers, music and readings).
Uppermill Methodist Church	2:15pm	CTiS 'Walk of Witness'

## Easter Eve - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

St Mary Greenfield	8:00pm	Easter Vigil
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## Easter Day - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018

The Roebuck, Strinesdale	6:00am	Dawn Eucharist
St Thomas Delph	8:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion (said) Holy Communion
Christ Church Denshaw	10:30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Holy Trinity Dobs Cross	10:00am	Easter Day Eucharist (breakfast at 9:00am in Narthex)
Christ Church Friezland	9:30am	Eucharist (CW)
St Mary Greenfield	10:30am	Holy Communion for all the family
St Anne Lydgate	8:00am 11:00am	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist (CW)
St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church	11:00am	Family Eucharist joint with the Parish Centre
St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre		No Service at the Parish Centre
St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen	9:30am	Family Eucharist





## Be part of the Easter story

From the roaring crowd at the entry into Jerusalem to the moving drama of the crucifixion, a chorus of voices tells the Easter story.

A powerful piece of theatre and worship, The People's Passion brings the community together to re-create the events of Holy Week. There is a part for everyone and no rehearsal needed. There are parts for groups and parts for individuals, music and moments of reflection.

Riding Lights provides the script. We provide the cast.

Come and join us on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March  
at 7:30pm at Holy Trinity Dobcross.

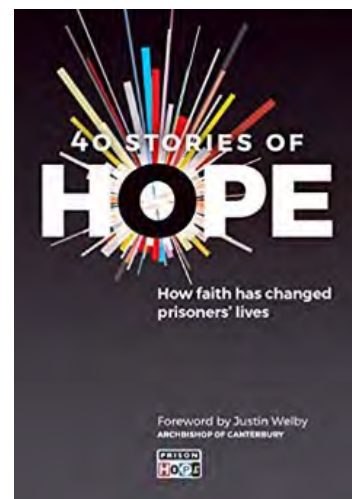
# Lent Courses

The CTiS Lent Course 2018 will be based on a book entitled “40 Stories of Hope - How Faith Changed Prisoners’ Lives” (ISBN-13: 978-1782597599). This recommended book costs £2.

There are to be five sessions starting week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> February:

Tuesday	2:00pm to 3:30pm	St Mary Greenfield
Wednesday	7:45pm to 9:15pm	St Anne Lydgate
Thursday	2:00pm to 3:30pm	Delph Methodist Church
Thursday	7:30pm to 9:00pm	The Sacred Heart Centre, Uppermill

Please feel free to visit any venue, depending on diary engagements.



## What will you do this Lent? Here are some ideas...

### Here are some ideas for fasting/sacrificial living during Lent:

- † Each day of Lent, remove one item from your house that you no longer wear or need and put it into a bag.  
At the end of the forty days, donate these items to a charity shop!
- † Use a skill you have and teach it to others. e.g. provide free singing lessons, teach people photography or share your knowledge of a language.
- † Turn off your phone and computer in the evenings, leaving space to read a book;  
reflect on the day and spend quality time with those around you.
- † Get out of your comfort zone: sign up for a Challenge Event and train every day.
- † Write a note of encouragement each day to a different person (forty people in all).
- † Find a jam jar. Each family member writes a short prayer on a piece of paper and places it in the jar.  
Say the prayers together.



### Other things you might want to consider “giving up”:

- † Nagging your teenager to tidy their bedroom;
- † Social media;
- † Cynicism - replace with wonder, compassion, and hope;
- † Perfectionism;
- † Criticising and judging others;
- † Meals out & take-aways - consider donating the money you would have spent to the church or to a charity.



## Keep a good Lent!

Share details of what your challenge has been during Lent with your local Grapevine Coordinator (see the parish pages for your coordinator’s contact details).



# Parish Registers

## Holy Baptism

### Christ Church Denshaw

- 5<sup>th</sup> November Evelyn Rose Wrigley  
12<sup>th</sup> November Oscar Nicholas Wright and  
Harry Craig James Wright

### Holy Trinity Dobcross

- 26<sup>th</sup> November Ralph Louie Gyves

### Christ Church Friezland

- 5<sup>th</sup> November Alexandra (Lexy) Louise Clarke  
26<sup>th</sup> November Evelyn Vera Catherine Cookson  
17<sup>th</sup> December Emmie Florence McWatt and  
Lottie Elizabeth McWatt

### St Mary Greenfield

- 19<sup>th</sup> November Harry Robert Hunter  
26<sup>th</sup> November Jake John Colebourn  
3<sup>rd</sup> December Joshua Charles French  
17<sup>th</sup> December Annie Ray Harrison

### St Chad Saddleworth

- 22<sup>nd</sup> October Phoebe Emma Pickles  
22<sup>nd</sup> October Chloe Victoria Pickles  
4<sup>th</sup> November Hartley Alexander Aspin  
5<sup>th</sup> November William David Weems  
19<sup>th</sup> November Edward Alan Chamberlain  
26<sup>th</sup> November Seth Harry Rex Mallalieu

*Welcomed into the fellowship of faith.*

## Marriages

### Christ Church Friezland

- 28<sup>th</sup> December Peter Mark Bowers and  
Donna Michelle Paterson

### St Chad Saddleworth

- 29<sup>th</sup> December Glenn McLaird and  
Jennifer Stocker

*Joined in mutual love and companionship.*

## Marriage Blessing

### St Chad Saddleworth

- 16<sup>th</sup> December Robert and Rebecca Cox

*Growing together in love and trust.*

## Funerals

### Christ Church Denshaw

- 17<sup>th</sup> November Samuel Mark Reynolds  
followed by interment at Denshaw.  
1<sup>st</sup> December Hilda Beard  
followed by interment at Denshaw.

### Holy Trinity Dobcross

- 21<sup>st</sup> November William Anthony Birch  
1<sup>st</sup> December Freda Witter  
1<sup>st</sup> December Graham Hill

### Christ Church Friezland

- 27<sup>th</sup> November Kathleen Collins

### St Chad Saddleworth

- 25<sup>th</sup> October Alan Rhodes  
30<sup>th</sup> November Clive Ball  
14<sup>th</sup> December Alan Phillips

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

## Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

Let not your heart be troubled  
Let not your soul be sad  
Easter is a time of joy  
When all hearts should be glad  
Glad to know that Jesus Christ  
Made it possible for men  
To have their sins forgiven  
And, like Him, to love again  
So at this joyous season  
May the wondrous Easter Story  
Renew our faith so we may be  
Partakers of His glory

*Helen Steiner Rice*

# Mothering Sunday - 11<sup>th</sup> March

Mothering Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Although it is often called Mothers' Day it has no connection with the American festival of that name.

Traditionally, it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family. Today it is a day when children give presents, flowers, and home-made cards to their mothers.

## History of Mothering Sunday

Most Sundays in the year churchgoers in England worship at their nearest parish or 'daughter church'.

Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area.

Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.

Most historians think that it was the return to the 'mother' church

which led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants or as apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family.

As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church or give to their mothers. This tradition continues today.

In churches across Saddleworth special services will be held encouraging families to come to give thanks for family life and to celebrate the love of God who is both Father and Mother of us all.



## Advertise in The Grapevine

Bi-monthly production of 1000 copies, full colour A4 pages, distributed throughout Saddleworth.

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

**Closing date for next issue is 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

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



## Welcome to 'The Grapevine' Our New Magazine

Once again, a big thank you to those people and businesses who have very kindly agreed to advertise in 'The Grapevine'. Welcome to Issue 2 of our bi-monthly magazine of the Benefice of Saddleworth.

Issue 1 has had some very positive feedback - thank you! We value any comments that our advertisers and readers might have. We hope that you find this issue similarly impressive!

If you have any articles of interest please make your local Grapevine Coordinator aware (see the parish pages for your coordinator's details).

If you would like to advertise in the next issue either on a 'one-off' or a regular basis please see details above.



# From retiring Reverend Duncan Rhodes

*“Thank you and God Bless you”*

I write as an 82-year-old who feels that now is the time to step aside and I wish to express my gratitude for the fellowship and support of the parish in my twenty-four years of ordained ministry. Thank you seems so very inadequate when I reflect on the privileges life has dealt me.

Made in Diggle in 1934, born in St. Mary's Hospital in 1935 and went to Diggle School from 1940 to 1946.

A West Riding scholarship enabled me to attend the Hulme Grammar School from 1946 to 1953, where I was Deputy Head Boy, Platt House Captain and was awarded soccer colours and athletics Victor Ludorum. National Service followed from 1956 to 58 and I was fortunate to be commissioned, earn Paratrooper's wings and be lucky enough to spend the final seven months in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

I joined the family Textile business (my father having died in 1953), before joining Lantor Ltd, nonwovens manufacturers in 1962.

I married Nancy in 1961 at Greenfield Methodist Church on the morning of 1<sup>st</sup> April, and it certainly was not a Fool's Day! We were cast together in the Saddleworth Musical Society's production of Ruddigore in 1959 and in so many ways our lives have mirrored the characters we played, Sir Despard and Mad Margaret, evil Baron and mad Miss who turn out to become District Visitors in Act 2 – evil to good!

During the period 1961 to 66 our first home was Lee Cross, Diggle when our three children, Rachel, Simeon and Abigail, were born, and we were involved in all the shows until 1975 when I took a post with a Lebanese company in Beirut in March, and the family joined me there in August, just in time for the outbreak of the civil war. Nancy returned with the children in October and my experiences amid the troubles of the region during my two spells there, 1975 to 1979 and 1982 to 1987, were to prove both dramatic and traumatic. A chance remark in the choir vestry at St Chad by a choir member, “we have been so worried about you” brought me up sharp and I realised just how unthinking those hard times had actually been for Nancy and the children, and I returned home. The experiences of man's inhumanity to man seen in Beirut led to my applying to go on the Local Ordained ministry course which was just starting in the Diocese.

1972 had seen the family move to Brownhill Lane Uppermill and then in 1985 to Spurn lane, Diggle.

Following encouraging words from the Revd Philip Stevens, both Godfrey Adams and myself entered Ordination training from 1990 to 1993, and we were ordained Deacon together in 1993.

Since that time the parish of St. Chad has been active in changes in clergy leadership.

Philip Stevens, Carole Marsden, Charles Lawrence, Jonathan Tinker, Willie Nesbitt, Jackie Calow, Howard Sutcliffe and finally a part of Sharon Jones, (a truly most welcome arrival), plus the intervals in each new appointment have meant that St. Chad has certainly not benefitted from stability!

In spite of all the changes I can say that this final third of my life as an ordained Non-Stipendiary Minister has been a tremendous privilege, without any regrets whatsoever.

It has been an amazing experience to serve as a priest in one's own village partaking in the celebrations and grieving along the way. I give thanks for the people of Saddleworth, of Uppermill and especially of Diggle for all the love, caring and sharing which we have enjoyed over the past twenty-four years together.

Finally, how could I ever thank God adequately for the love and understanding of Nancy, Rachel, Simeon and Abigail throughout our journey together, God bless you all.

Sincerely Duncan



# St Thomas Delph

## Reordering of St Thomas Delph

It has been noticed for some time and remarked on more often recently, that our church is beginning to look shabby and in need of a make-over. This, in “Church of England speak”, is called “re-ordering” and such a project has been under consideration for some time.

Now the plans have been drawn up to make the church buildings fit to meet the needs of the twenty-first century, not just for the congregation, but for wider use and with more accessibility for all, at a proposed cost of half a million pounds.

At the morning service on the first Sunday in December, Revd John Rosedale spoke of the plans, outlining the benefits of such a major enterprise and the members of the congregation were asked to return the “pledge” agreements, indicating what their commitment would be to the project.

The forms have been carefully drawn up, so that people can give amounts of money over a period of months, or years and can also pledge to increase regular giving on a month-by-month basis or an interest-free loan, repayable after five years.

When the amount pledged has been analysed, the Parochial Church Council will review the totals, in order to ascertain the feasibility of the proposal, a start needing to be made to eradicate the dry rot in the beam in the vestry immediately.



<b>Money pledged:</b>	<b>£158,000;</b>
<b>Money in Bank:</b>	<b>£ 62,000;</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£220,000.</b>

## Outreach at St Thomas Delph

There are many opportunities for spreading the Word during the course of a week and one of the most successful (in human terms) is “Messy Church”, an activity that has been running for some time.

## Youth Drop-In

This is held in the church hall every Wednesday afternoon in term-time and caters for those students at Saddleworth School, for whom there is not a session on Wednesday afternoons. This is the Drop-In’s third year of operation and it caters for young people right across the age spectrum, from year 7 to year 11. All the helpers have completed a Diocesan course in youth work and all are DBS-checked; the Assistant Curate, Revd Aaron Jackman has recently joined the team and the others, all of retirement age, are Doreen, Anne, Sheila, Janet, Margaret and Alan.

Table football, snooker, table tennis, electronic games, bagatelle, table games and handicraft activities are all on offer, as well as snacks, fruit, and hot and cold drinks.

The numbers of young people taking advantage of this facility is gradually rising and there have been up to fourteen recently across the whole age range.

The atmosphere is pleasant and friendly.

## Coffee Stop

A group of older folk can be found every Monday morning in the church hall. They come for coffee, tea, cake and toasted currant tea-cakes, and for the fellowship and friendship. As well as the regular clients (both Methodists and Anglicans), there are those who call in because they have seen the sandwich board in the street and it is very nice to welcome them.

My little dog, Marley, comes along where he has made many friends. Jacqui, Sarah and Bill, who run the kitchen, are always welcoming. The Coffee Stop is from 10:00am to 12 noon.

## Prayer Breakfast

On Thursday mornings a small group of people meet at 7:00am in the church hall for an hour’s prayer and from 8:00am we have breakfast. It is a lovely way to start the day, having spent time together praying for the needs of the world and our community. It is a special time where we can share our own joys and sorrows, in prayer, and I find it very uplifting.



## Messy Church at St Thomas Delph

### What is it?

- Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality.
- It is found across the world.
- It involves having fun and fellowship.
- Its values are about being Christ-centred for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.

### How do we do Messy Church?

- Messy Church happens about five times a year.
- About twenty people are involved in a single production of Messy Church.
- Once the Bible theme is decided, various activities are planned with the theme in mind.
- On the day preparation starts in the church hall in the early afternoon.
- All the helpers have a well-defined role.
- At four o'clock the people begin to arrive, sign in and are provided with identity stickers, a programme of the day's events and a carrier-bag in which to take home all the goodies.
- It is a joy to meet our regular clientele and to see the pleasure in the children's faces as they become involved in the various activities.
- When everyone goes into church for a short talk, a frantic rush ensues as the helpers transform the hall into a restaurant.
- Messy Church always concludes with a meal, an occasion which allows for everyone to chat and get to know each other better.



We are thrilled when our regular families return, time after time and there are usually between eighty and a hundred guests.

Messy Church is a thrilling part of our outreach.

Margaret Robson

## Heights Church 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



On 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018 the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of a chapel at Heights will be celebrated. We plan to hold a service led by the Bishop of Middleton. The church, with displays, will be open all weekend to celebrate the Anniversary.

To complement this celebration a History of Heights Chapel and Friarmere Parish has been compiled by Mary Rodgers and Geoffrey Dent together with a number of other interested people.

Whilst being as factual as possible by gathering items and photographs from previous publications, historical archives and personal collections, the book also contains memories and recollections of those currently living.

The book, "Heights Church and Friarmere - A Potted History", is approximately 150 pages long. The chapters include:

- a History of Heights until the closure;
- from St Hilda's conversion to St Thomas to the present;
- a history of Whit Friday and other notable events;
- and a never previously published dialect poem by Ammon Wrigley.

There are also pictures of all the stained glass windows.

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## Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator

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Church Hall Bookings

Alison Lambert

01457 875141

# Christ Church Denshaw

## School Events

For the first time Experience Christmas was held at Christ Church. Previously the children had travelled to Holy Trinity and really enjoyed all three 'Experiences': Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. This year it was decided that, with our willing group of volunteers to assist, it would be possible to hold the sessions in our own church. This proved extremely successful and popular with the children, and on 11<sup>th</sup> December twenty six children from Denshaw School joined us in Church for 'Experience Christmas'. It was a fun event where the children moved to five decorated areas of the Church. The displays helped to explain:

- The Prophecies of the Old Testament,
- The Annunciation,
- The journey to Jerusalem,
- The Shepherds' tale,
- and the Gifts of the Kings.



Understanding the purpose of the gifts, the children were asked what they would give to the Christ child, the most popular choice being an iPhone!

Lastly the children met to reflect upon the Gift of the Christ child to the world. Afterwards they enjoyed a few snacks before returning to school.

Thanks to all those who volunteered to help and also those who loaned or gave artefacts. These included animal skins and shepherd's crooks among several other items. It looks as though all three 'Experiences' will be held in our own church from now on.

The two school Christmas productions for the younger children also took place in Church on the evenings of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December respectively. The Reception class Nativity was called 'A King is Born' and was a traditional nativity with a modern twist. The year 1 and year 2 production had the fascinating title of 'Christmas with the Aliens' – leaving much to the imagination! On the last Friday of term, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the whole school Carol Service was held. There were some outstanding individual performances and lusty singing of traditional carols as well as superb playing by the brass group, directed by Claire Chalk. As always the service was very well-attended.



## Church News

December has been a busy month here at Christ Church. We were delighted to be asked to hold the Church of England in Saddleworth Advent service at Denshaw and this was very much enjoyed by all who attended. The service was led by Revd John Rosedale along with Revd Canon Sharon Jones. The Church looked lovely by candlelight with the windows suitably adorned with evergreens to complement the candles. The Bible readings were followed by Reflections and all were beautifully read by representatives from St Mary Greenfield, Holy Trinity Dobcross, St Anne Lydgate, St Thomas Delph and Christ Church Denshaw. The presence of choir members from the various parishes in the benefice gave a real boost to the singing. The congregation were treated to mulled wine and mince pies after the service, making it a pleasant social occasion.

The same evening the village enjoyed the Christmas Lights 'Switch On' and we celebrated another 'First' when the church Christmas lights and outdoor crib were lit up. Thanks to Warden Peter Stefek for all his work in setting this up and to Councillor Nikki Kirkham for her donation from the District Partnership Allowance which helped immensely towards paying for this new initiative.



The following week a Festive Afternoon Tea was held at the Village Hall. This was a social event but also helped boost church funds, as most of the food and drink had been donated along with some terrific raffle prizes. A group from Delph Youth Band provided seasonal entertainment and the ladies enjoyed being waited on by some very smart gentlemen suitably attired in white shirts and black ties, looking very much the 'real thing'.

Church was bursting at the seams for our annual Carol Service, when our church and the wider community were represented by the lesson readers. The school brass group took part and their teacher, Claire Chalk accompanied the hymns on cornet which made the music sound extra special. Special thanks to Claire for organising this for us.

Christmas is now over and the decorations are packed away for another year, so now we turn to looking forward to a new start in a new year.

## And now for 2018...

Here at Christ Church we have lots of plans for 2018. As always, we will celebrate the great Christian festivals and be faithful in our Sunday worship week by week as always.

However, the work of our church family doesn't stop following coffee after the Sunday service. Our work as a Christian family continues throughout the week in many different ways. Two of the things we will be focussing on as we enter the New Year are our new *Pastoral Care* scheme and the continuing work of our *Eco Church Group*.

Our *Eco Church Group*, supported by the PCC, has made great progress over the last eighteen months in reducing our carbon footprint. We have installed low-energy lighting throughout the church, we have moved to purchasing only environmentally friendly cleaning agents and even our toilet paper is made from recycled products! During 2018 we hope to make our church grounds more environmentally friendly by encouraging wildlife with bird boxes, "Bug Hotels" for invertebrates and log piles to encourage hedgehogs. Certainly there is a lot to look forward to in the coming year here in Denshaw.

## Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator

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## Churches Together in Saddleworth (CTiS)



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

Many churches have Traidcraft stalls but each find a lack of interest by the members of their congregations. The campaign to get supermarkets to sell Fairtrade goods has been quite successful so what is the point of having Traidcraft stalls? The simple answer is added value.

Supermarkets reckon to contribute an extra premium to suppliers to help with local schools, health, clean water and other needed provisions but Traidcraft and Traidcraft Exchange go further. Traidcraft is a commercial organisation dedicated to fighting poverty through trade. It provides a guarantee that they will renew contracts year on year (providing the quality is maintained). In consequence the Fairtrade producers choose their best coffee beans and tea leaves for us. Traidcraft can provide half the money up front so the trader can buy their raw materials in advance whether it be seeds or materials for such things as jewellery and crafts.

Traidcraft Exchange is the charity arm which provides training to local Fairtrade organisations and co-operatives in Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and elsewhere. They, in turn, train the producers on

how to market their produce, on what is likely to sell in Europe but also in their locality. One of the early stumbling blocks was the difference between the shapes and sizes of clothing for their local population and for Europeans.

Traidcraft also sell products made in the UK that use products from their worldwide suppliers such as in their fruit bars or toiletries and products like toilet and kitchen paper which we all use and which help to boost sales. Over the years the toilet paper has improved to be the best available.

So please, the next time you see a Traidcraft stall have a good look, buy items you have been buying elsewhere and borrow a Traidcraft catalogue which not only sets out the products available but also tells the stories behind the products.

St Anne Lydgate has stalls after their morning services on the first Sunday of each month. Enquire from your local church if and when they hold a stall and consider volunteering to assist, please.

Richard Darlington

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# Holy Trinity Dobcross

## Mission Action Plan (MAP)

Following on from our information gathering at the Summer Village Fair and the Harvest Picnic, the planning group was able to establish the way forward for 2018.

Our priorities are to grow in faith, grow in common life and grow in serving others and meeting needs. Our outreach tells us that we are a welcoming church, so throughout this year, we intend to develop the opportunities to diversify worship, to enhance our school links, to support village life, and be visible in all aspects of communication.

We have had a couple of enjoyable picnics after special morning services - Summer and Harvest - which have been an opportunity to get to know others in the community. An Easter Breakfast is being held at 9:00am before the Easter Day Eucharist at 10:00am. An initiative suggested at a picnic was a Book Swap and this is now up and running. Thanks to a PCC member, we now have a set of bookshelves to house a wide range of books in the entrance room so that people can pop into church when they are passing. The response to this has been most encouraging.

## School Links

In the lead up to Christmas, the Church and School came together for several events. Experience Christmas, led by Revd John Rosedale, Graham McGuffie and a team of helpers is now well-established. Class 3 had the opportunity to spend some time in groups learning and taking part in activities about various aspects of the birth of Jesus. Finally, the whole class gathered around the manger for prayers.

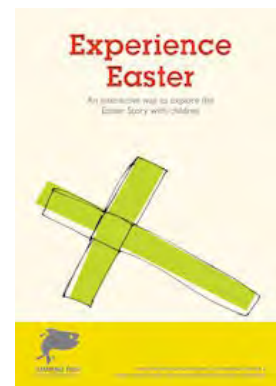
Once again, the Holy Trinity School Choir, conducted by Deborah Williams with accompanist Gordon Jackson, joined with the Sing for Pleasure Choir to entertain a packed church with a joyous concert. "Rudolph the red-nosed Reindeer" was a huge hit!

A highlight of Christmas is the Christingle Service when the School, the Church and the Youth Band take part in a service to remember that the birth of Jesus lights up the whole world. This is an enjoyable service for young and not-so-young to



hold a lighted Christingle orange and with dimmed lights sing "The Candle Song". Thanks to our Primary School, Church and community for donations to The Children's Society. Also thanks to Evie Driffield and Anna Mooney who read the first two lessons beautifully at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

An important link with school takes place every term when Headteacher Miss Liz Travis, pupils, staff, parents and community have an assembly of music and readings in Church to mark the end of term. This term, "Experience Easter" is on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March and the Easter assembly will take place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March.



## Christmas Charity Donations...

The Children's Society	£621.25
Positive Steps - Oldham Young Carers	£257.47
Booth Centre Manchester	£250.00

## Fairtrade Fortnight starts 26<sup>th</sup> Feb

*"Our vision is a world freed from the scandal of poverty, where trade is just, and people and communities can flourish."*

Traidcraft was established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty. It is the UK's leading fair-trade organisation and works in over 30 developing countries in Africa, Asia and South America. Traidcraft started off as pioneers when fair trade was little understood and considered to be the "right" thing to buy fair trade bananas. Gradually more products were introduced, and people began to see how these products connect us to communities that really need our help.

Fairtrade Fortnight will be an opportunity to campaign for trade justice, lobby government and work with businesses to deliver policies that ensure a better deal for the world's poorest. We can help by looking out for products which show the Fairtrade mark and adding a few items to our shopping list.

## Ash Wednesday Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes on 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm

February sees the beginning of Lent this year, Ash Wednesday being the first day. We will mark this occasion with a Eucharist conducted by Revd Canon Sharon Jones and Revd Aaron Jackman.

Lent is the season when we reflect on our relationship with God and neighbour.

Traditionally, we think of the day before Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday, as a day for using up ingredients in the house to remember how Christians may choose to abstain from various types of food during Lent. But there is a lot more to Lent than making pancakes.

Lent tells us the story of Jesus' time in the wilderness searching to understand what God was calling him to do. This is a life changing moment for Jesus as he is given the power to resist the temptations offered to him.

*"And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him."*

(St Mark 1, v.12,13)

Come and celebrate the Ash Wednesday Eucharist at Holy Trinity on this special day in the Church's calendar.

Churchwardens Paul and Denis.

## Mothering Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent we offer a warm welcome to everyone to celebrate Mothering Sunday. A Family Service will be led by Revd Aaron Jackman, where the children will distribute small posies of daffodils.

Please see the article on Page 12 regarding the history of this tradition.

This special day became a day of family rejoicing. In some places the day was known as Simnel Day because of the sweet cakes called Simnel cakes being eaten on that day.



There is an old Jewish saying:

*"God could not be everywhere  
and therefore He made mothers."*



### Dorothy's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Our blessed matriarch, Dorothy Townend, became an octogenarian on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

Here she is, assisted by the children, blowing out the candles on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>, at the end of the Nativity service. Interestingly, her husband, Bob, celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday the following week.

*"May the Lord bless them  
and keep them safe".*

## Parish Contacts

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

# Christ Church Friezland

## Christmas Fair

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

We held our best ever Friezland Christmas Fair. We have continued the tradition of holding the event in church rather than the hall. It takes a great deal of organising and hard work, but it is worth it as the atmosphere is fantastic. The Team Rector opened the Fair at 1:00pm and the Dobcross Brass Monkeys entertained us.

There was a wide range of stalls. The refreshment area was always busy, and fortunately, thanks to all those who baked, we never ran out food. We also had a fantastic raffle with a huge range of prizes, a children's craft area and tattoos! (no, not real ones! Glitter and transfers). Come 4:00pm, the church was re-set ready for the team confirmation service the following morning.

Big thanks to everyone who helped set up the fair, staffed the stalls, baked, made things to sell, came along and supported the event, and all those who did the big clean up in record time. The event grows from strength to strength every year. We raised almost £1500.

Peter Whalley

## Oldham Foodbank

Like all the churches in Saddleworth, we have been collecting food items for Oldham foodbank for many

years now. After reading recently in The Guardian and Sunday Observer that the charity is struggling to keep up with demand, following the roll out of Universal credit (as Oldham was a pilot town) it seemed that many people would have a very bleak Christmas and winter ahead. I felt galvanised to do something about it and try to bring some cheer.

As a result, I went all over the town's food shops to see what £5 would buy, not everyday items but Christmas treats and took the results into church on two large plates to show the congregation. I then asked if people would like to make a £5 donation for this cause and I would do the shopping and deliver everything to the foodbank.

The result was staggering... we collected nearly £300. With this I was able to buy: assorted chocolates and snacks, biscuits, Christmas cakes and puddings, pies, sauces and custards, stuffing

- 20 -

and finally I still had enough left to buy twenty frozen stuffed Turkey crowns. This provided at least twenty families with a full Christmas dinner plus lots of treats for others.

However, the foodbank needs our support all year round. Ann Forster or Howard and myself go regularly to the foodbank with our churches donations.

Please remember to pop something into the basket each week in the New Year.

I have arranged to meet with the foodbank manager in the New Year to find out more about people's needs and circumstances and how we can help. I look forward to reporting back soon.

Hilary Wrigley

## Christingle



Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December was the Christingle service in aid of The Children's Society. Normally this service takes place early in the New Year but due to early school holidays we were able to hold the service before Christmas this year. Enjoyment was evident on the faces of the children, of all ages, who attended the service and the workshop before the service where they had the opportunity to construct Christingles and write a Christingle prayer among other activities. The service had opportunities for moving around the church by candlelight as well as hearing God's message through the Christingle and the work of The Children's Society.

## 2017 and into 2018

Happy 'New' Year - well, it's still new as I write this! Christ Church Friezland has seen an exciting and busy time recently. In addition to all the regular services, at the end of November, Friezland hosted the Benefice Confirmation service with Bishop Mark confirming twenty four young people and adults from across Saddleworth. He also licensed me as Associate Priest - so I'm no longer a trainee curate!





Before then we continue to focus on developing our Pastoral Friends scheme and on our role as an Inclusive Church, committed to greater diversity - welcoming of all people, whoever they are and whatever they bring to the table!

With every blessing for 2018.

Mike

## Film Nights

Christ Church Friezland has held two film nights. The first one was The Sound of Music, complete with 'sing along' opportunities and fancy dress! A great night was had by all, young and not so young.

The second evening was for the young and young at heart. Batman 2 the Lego movie. We also had a children's workshop with badges, tattoos, drawing and lots more. This was a very good film that was also enjoyed by both children and parents! (on completely different levels of course!)

## #BeePeace

Some of you may remember that we had a campaign to raise money for the homeless in Manchester, in memory of the Manchester Arena Attack. We made small money boxes out of cardboard, with a picture of a Bee (the symbol of Manchester) on the front. Each person was asked to make two boxes, one for donations and one they gave away containing a message or prayer of peace written by them. The aim was to 'pollinate' as far as possible a message of Peace and Hope.



If anyone is interested in doing their own campaign, could Lent be an appropriate time? I have some templates left for the Bee Money Boxes, which I am happy to pass on. The money raised could go to a charity of your choice. We raised £170 which was donated to a Christian Charity called Barnabas, who provide help for the homeless of Manchester.

If you would like to get involved, please email me on [m.harrison403@btinternet.com](mailto:m.harrison403@btinternet.com)

Advent saw a candlelit Nine Lessons with Carols Service and 'Experience Christmas' for Friezland School, which was very well received.

Christmas week saw a new afternoon Christmas Workshop for the children before the Christingle Service itself in aid of The Children's Society, while on Christmas Eve there was a dramatic crib service with a difference! Acted by our new junior church puppets, it was quite extraordinary, fun and hopefully meaningful as well! Midnight Mass was very well attended and very moving, and a small group gathered a few hours later for Christmas morning Eucharist.

I'd like to thank everyone involved in all of this amazing stuff! These are really special and positive times.

On Palm Sunday there will be a Procession and Passion Dramatisation. Our Holy Week services and those of other churches are shown on page 8.

## Parish Contacts

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ALM Worship	Duncan Ross	01457 835261
ALM Community Outreach	Peter Whalley	07746 665404
ALM Prayer and Spirituality	Megan Harrison	07817 771663

# St Mary Greenfield

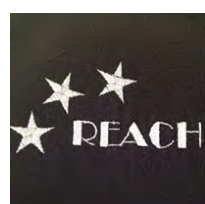
## Reflection and looking forward

At the time of writing, Christmas is not yet over, and we are still in 2017, but in terms of The Grapevine, we are already looking forward to Easter 2018!

But first, let's look back to December.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and all who took part in our special services and also those who decorated our church so beautifully for the festive season.

We are very pleased that our Christingle Service raised £188.41 for The Children's Society.



On Advent Sunday, we were grateful that the retiring collection for Reach Puppets, who had entertained and inspired us, raised a good amount to cover their expenses. Who can forget the

singing camels and the dancing sheep, and in contrast, the song of Mary as she looked forward to the life of her son with the beautiful words of 'Who would imagine a King?'

At Christmas, the children delighted us, as they always do, with their portrayal of the nativity, and our joyful worship over Christmas included being

joined by at least sixty people for carols and readings around the brightly lit tree in Greenfield at 6:00pm on Christmas Eve.



Earlier in the month, we held our second joint Christmas Fair with the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) from St Mary's School. This was a wonderful community event that helped to strengthen our existing strong relationship, when all ages came together in fellowship to organise and plan, work hard, spend money and raise funds for our church and school.

During January, we will be holding a joint service with our friends at Greenfield Methodist Church. We hold such services three or four times a year, alternating the venue, and always ending the service by socialising over a shared lunch. This time, we will be taking part in the Methodist Covenant service, so it will be a lovely way to start the new year by renewing our commitment to God and to his church. I will report back on this service in the next issue of The Grapevine.



On 28<sup>th</sup> January we will be taking part in the Churches Together in Saddleworth service at 11:00am at the Civic Hall in Uppermill, when the theme will be '*That all may be free*'.

At the 10:30am service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February we will be celebrating Education Sunday with St Mary's School. Early Church will not be held on that day. Class 2 from school will take part in leading the service and will be doing a presentation for us.



On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February from 2:00pm we will be holding Café Church at St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre in Uppermill. Everyone is welcome to attend. Café Church consists of worship and prayers, readings, stories, chats, friendship, refreshments and fun. There is no entrance fee, but donations are encouraged. On recent occasions we have been able to donate around £40.00 to charity.



On Palm Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, Early Church will meet at 9:00am. The 10:30am service will include the Palm Sunday Liturgy with a dramatic reading of the Gospel.

The Holy Week services and those of other churches in the benefice are shown on page 8.

## The New Year

As another year has ended and a new one has begun, we will all have been thinking especially of those we love, both in heaven and on earth, and so we remember now, all those whose names are in St Mary's Book of Remembrance during February and March:

Freya Elizabeth Boswell, Barbara Shaw, Allen Clayton, Frank Hallam, Eric Christopher, Albert Evans, Hilda Hill, Lucy Partington, Kathleen Clayton, Ann Loveridge, Isaac Partington, Victor Joseph Hallam, and Eileen Gail Parkin.

As we remember and pray for them, that they may rest in peace, we pray too for their families and friends who love and miss them, and we praise God for the reassurance of his everlasting love, as revealed by Jesus:

*'For God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but may have eternal life'.*

*(John 3 v.16)*

With my love and God's blessings to you all.

Barbara

## St Mary's Ladies' Luncheon Club

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March, we hold our AGM after lunch at Tame Valley Tennis Club, Greenbridge Lane, Greenfield. The doors will be open from 11:30am, with lunch starting at 12 noon. It is hoped that all members will attend, as we will be planning future meetings and events, etc. The food list will be in church on the two Sundays prior to the meeting.



## Maundy Market at Road End, Greenfield

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March

The name comes from the Latin word *'mandatum'*, which means 'commandment' and refers to the words of Jesus to his disciples after he had washed their feet at the Last Supper (*John 13 v.34*). The name survives in the Royal Maundy when the token gift of money replaces the actual foot washing of the poor which was regularly undertaken by Christian rulers from as far back as the ninth century.



All those centuries ago, Greenfield was granted a Charter allowing a market to be held on Maundy Thursday. Should there be no stallholders, then the Charter is broken and the privilege is gone. It has never been broken, and whatever the weather a stall or stalls appear. St Mary's Church members, as always, will be at Road End on the morning of Maundy Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March so do come along to bring, buy, and browse at this well-loved market. All money raised on our stall goes to the Church.

Notices from Joan Jones

## St Mary's Charity Shop

95 Chew Valley Road, Greenfield

Open: Monday - Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm  
Saturday 10:00am to 1:00pm

Please come to browse, buy, and bring us goods to sell.

For further information, contact:

Lynda McGowan, 15 Holts Lane, Oldham, OL4 5NJ  
Tel: 0161 665 0098 or 07708 996919

## Parish Contacts

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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



# St Anne Lydgate

## Magical Musical Evening

On the 25<sup>th</sup> November my retinue and I held a Magical Musical Evening in St Anne's church.



It was an amazing evening in which we all took part and we were joined by lots of friends. It was great fun. There were lots of talented performers of different ages and abilities. We were entertained with an assortment of singing and a wide variety of instrumental solos and duets. We even had some audience participation to ensure everyone got involved.

No Rose Queen event would be complete without refreshments and many of us enjoyed cake, crisps, sweets and drinks during the interval, when we also held a raffle. The evening raised a total of £350.

In the new year we will start to plan our Rose Queen at home afternoon. This is when we invite other Queens and their retinues to join us at our church for a service followed by fun, games and afternoon tea.

Rose Queen Hannah Manifold

## Lucy Cobb Fashion Show

lucy ● cobb

Following the success of our first Lucy Cobb fashion show in October where we raised over £1,200, we have finalised a date for the next one.

All are very welcome for a fun and friendly evening.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Venue: St Anne Church, Lydgate

Doors open at 6:45pm,  
fashion show starting at 7:30pm

Spring and Summer Fashions  
with matching accessories

Bar and refreshments available

Tickets £5.00 on sale  
from Sam Lowe 07725 535622

## Admittance to

### Communion before Confirmation

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November we celebrated 'Christ the King' with Team Rector Sharon. During the service we admitted thirty five children to Communion before Confirmation.

The children had, over the previous twelve weeks, followed closely the "Welcome to the Table" Course being taught at either Junior Church or the



Wednesday Evening service. On completing the course and booklet which accompanied it, the children were then ready to invite their families to the service to share in their special day and many families carried on the celebration afterwards with a family meal. St Anne's congregation along with the families supporting them shared a large iced cake in the parish hall as part of the celebration.

Revd Pat Gillian

## Challenge to

### Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs)

At the beginning of November, Jamie Mackenzie, the Diocesan Local Ministry Officer, sent out a challenge to all ALMs:

"Describe why you became an ALM in 100 words."

Here is my entry:

"God moves in mysterious ways and unbeknown to me had a plan. He prodded me into responding to Father Christopher's call for Morning Prayer Leaders. There I was on the ALM Course and Worship Elective - that was never on my radar - from Treasurer to treasuring the joy of leading God's people in worship, what a responsibility.

"Looking back I can now see how God was preparing me for the work I now do, training me in secular employment that gave me the skills that He now asks me to use in His service. Wow what a privilege!"

Jamie promised to make the entries into a booklet if he received sufficient responses to make it feasible. I wonder if he got enough?

Al Gillian

## Charity Collections

The collection at the St Anne's School Christingle service raised £320.38 for The Children's Society.

Church Christmas collections raised £326.75 [with Gift Aid] for The Children's Society and £107.52 [with Gift Aid] for Christian Aid.

## Useful information

Have you joined St Anne's Church 200 Club? – Numbers are £2.00 per month (£24.00 per annum). This enters you into the draw which gives you a chance to win one of three cash prizes each month.

Please ask at church for an application form or contact Tracey Manifold on 0161 633 0309 or email Tracey at [tmmanifold@hotmail.com](mailto:tmmanifold@hotmail.com)



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## Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Sue Willett	<a href="mailto:sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk">sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk</a>	07808 474743
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	<a href="mailto:sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk">sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk</a>	0161 425 7909

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**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018**  
**2:00pm to 3:00pm**

**St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre**

Station Road, Uppermill, OL3 6HQ

Music provided by Mike Hindson.

Prayers, reflection and activity

by Revds Barbara Christopher and Hilary Edgerton.



**Church of England in Saddleworth**

*"Celebrating God's presence in all people."*

## Beneath Thy Cross

Am I a stone, and not a sheep,  
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath thy cross,  
To number drop by drop Thy Blood's slow loss,  
And yet not weep?

Not so those women loved  
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;  
Not so fallen Peter weeping bitterly;  
Not so the thief was moved;

Not so the Sun and Moon  
Which hid their faces in a starless sky,  
A horror of great darkness at broad noon--  
I, only I.

Yet give not o'er,  
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;  
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more  
And smite a rock.

Christina Rossetti

# St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church

## Stained glass window project

### 'Seeing is Believing'

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November, the children in year 4 and year 5 at St Chad CE Primary School took part in a very exciting stained glass window project. The project was designed to link with the children's RE topic 'A Picture Tells a Thousand Words' and also with the St Chad's Church 'Seeing is Believing' project.

Karen Redmayne, from Redcurrant Studios, spent the day working with small groups of children and exploring a range of stained glass techniques.



Over the course of the day, the pupils created intricate designs in sections within a large stained glass window design. The children's ideas were inspired by the windows of St. Chad's Church and also a wide range of stained glass window designs studied in RE lessons.

The children's designs were applied to the glass using fireable glass stain, which is dried then worked on. Their impressive works were then taken away and fired in a kiln.

The children also looked at some finished samples of Karen's previous work. They had the opportunity to observe a demonstration of how to use the materials properly, understand health and safety considerations and to discuss the processes involved in creating a stained glass window.



Karen has now taken the designs back to



Redcurrant Studios where she will finish, solder, lead, cement and polish the window, which will be displayed in a handmade oak frame. We look

forward to seeing the finished result – due to be completed six to twelve weeks after Christmas.

We are grateful to The Uppermill Co-op and its shoppers for making this exciting project possible by choosing the St Chad's Seeing is Believing restoration and development project as one of its Community Fund causes.

## The last months of 2017

The congregation for the service of All Souls grows each year as we remember before God those who have died. The theme of All Souls and All Saints was continued into the Café Church Service. 'Soul' Cakes featured as part of the refreshments and Janet and Barbara talked about the Saints. Café Church is an enjoyable and different way to give praise our praise to God.

The development of land at Kilngreen and its effect on the Mission Church continue to cause considerable concern. The Diocesan Registrar (our legal representative) is now involved and dealing with this.

Those who have visited The Parish Church over Christmas will have noticed that four small pews have been removed making an area where we can safely serve coffee and chat. Also, it was of great use at the Crib service as pushchairs were stored out of the way. We are looking to improve accessibility for wheelchairs. We have applied for a Faculty (planning permission) for hand rails at the main door which will be an improvement, whilst not yet resolving this particular challenge.

The architect gave the PCC a presentation about the repair work necessary at St Chad and gave a list of some urgent work needed to keep the building watertight this winter.

The Church Carol service and the Sunday School Nativity were both excellent and enjoyable ways of bringing the Christmas message.

The Crib service had a moment of panic when setting up as the bag of hay 'had walked' but Stuart saved the day by collecting hay straw from his cousin's stable. It was the usual lively service with Liz and Sharon telling the story as each figure was brought up. The service was interspersed with readings and carols and finished with 'Happy Birthday to Jesus'.





The Christingle this year included the new benefice puppets who, with the help of the young choristers, the children and their fathers, told the Christmas story.

Midnight Mass was preceded by Canon Sharon and Revd Aaron leading raucous carol singing in

the Church Inn. It was huge fun and folk then came across to Church and participated in the Eucharist.

A busy time for churchwardens with three worship centres!

Alison Coates

## Mothering Sunday

All three worship centres come together for a Children's Eucharist on Mothering Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 11:00am at the Parish Church.

There will be no services at the Parish Centre or Kilngreen on that day.

## Date for your Diary

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 1:00pm at Kilngreen.

The Children's Society house boxes are now due to be emptied and counted.



Please hand boxes to:

† Mavis Green (Tel.: 01457 878706);  
 † a churchwarden;

Or leave it at:

† your worship centre;  
 † 27 Dorset Avenue, Diggle (my house)

Thank you! Mavis Green

## Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Sarah Barlow	sarah.barlow@gbarlowandsons.co.uk	07775 613787
Assistant Wardens	Tim Edge		01457 872429
	Debbie McCabe		

## A Religious Poem?

John Greenleaf Whittier was born of 17<sup>th</sup> December 1807 and died on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1892. He was an American Quaker poet and advocate of the abolition of slavery in the USA. His poetry was influenced by the Scottish poet, Robert Burns.

As an American Quaker, he firmly believed that God was best worshipped in silent meditation. He deplored the histrionics associated with the High Church and the Evangelical movement. His message was enshrined in a long (18 verse), eccentric poem which describes in shocked terms the Vedic Hindu habit of drinking hallucinogenic concoctions as a way of whipping up religious enthusiasm.

The final six verses of this poem have become one of the nation's favourite hymns. It's an ironic situation given his beliefs. The hymn was first published in 1884 although many hymn books include only five of the six stanzas.

**'The Brewing of Soma' is a very interesting read  
 and may change your understanding of this hymn forever!!**

Put 'The Brewing of Soma' into Google and be amazed!

# St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

## Reflection

It is a time of looking back to thank God for all the times we have been aware of his presence in our lives.

December has been an extremely busy month for the Parish Centre in preparation for Christmas Day.

Advent began with the children and parents making a beautiful Advent Wreath and they then enjoyed lighting the candles each Sunday.

The travelling cribs have visited many of the homes within our congregation and the Seeds group. There were some lovely pictures shared on our WhatsApp. Thank you Liz for organising all of this.

On the Second Sunday in Advent, the Sunday School acted out the Nativity story for us and the older ones narrated it. Some of us had the delight to see it twice as they took it to the Parish Church for their congregation on the 17<sup>th</sup> December. Their enthusiasm and spontaneity touched everyone. Thank you also to the narrators who encouraged us all and who rose to the challenge!



The Fourth Sunday of Advent happened to be Christmas Eve. Eighteen very excited children had a lovely Christmas party. After the service, everyone enjoyed bacon butties, mince pies and Christmas cake.

A very big thank you to everyone for making our Sunday Worship at the Parish Centre so full of love each week.

We look forward to the coming year, supporting each other in sharing the Good News of Christ with the wider community.

We are currently beginning our preparations for the Good Friday Workshop which will be on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Our Crib Service was held at the Parish Church on Christmas Eve. The church looked beautiful - the decorations had been made by St Chad's School as well as those arranged by the flower ladies.

There was a great air of anticipation and excitement in the church. Some children had come dressed as Nativity characters. Others were given figures or animals to place in the crib as the story was told.

Everyone felt involved. Some of the older children read the prayers and led the singing.

The service ended with everyone singing 'Happy Birthday to Jesus'.

## Sunday School Nativity

Our Nativity play delighted the Parish Centre congregation on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. A week later we performed again, this time for the congregation at the Parish Church. We received a warm welcome and an appreciative round of applause.

Our older Sunday School members narrated the story, while the younger children took the acting roles. Traditional carols provided background music.

A heavenly host of angels accompanied Gabriel to give Mary the message that she was to be the mother of a special baby. Mary and Joseph travelled down the aisle and back to Bethlehem. After trying to find a place to stay, a kindly inn keeper showed them to his stable. Here, baby Jesus was born.

The angels visited the shepherds to tell them the good news. The shepherds with several lambs (our very youngest members) then knelt at the manger.

One of the angels quickly transformed into the Christmas star and led the wise men to the stable, where they handed their gifts to Mary.

We ended with everyone singing "Away in a Manger".

Cath Fletcher



## Regular events

### Seeds

Our Seeds Group meets every Wednesday in term time from 10:00am to 11:30am.

Our next sessions are:  
3<sup>rd</sup> January, onwards until 21<sup>st</sup> March inclusive excluding half term on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

We had a wonderful Christmas Party at the end of the autumn term and it was lovely that Father Christmas was able to call in with beautiful books for all the children.



It was good to see some of our families at the Christmas Eve Crib service.

### Praise and Prosecco

This is a new group for the younger ladies in our congregations.

The first meeting of the Prosecco Group will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 8:00pm at Java in Uppermill. It is expected that the group will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month.

Do come along and find out more.



### Among Friends

This group meets fortnightly, next meetings are:

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March at the Parish Centre at 2:00pm.



Every two months... and cake.

Next meeting will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 2:00pm at the Parish Centre.

Do come along to meet others, sing some favourite hymns and enjoy a cup of tea and cake.

Everyone is welcome.

Please bring a neighbour or friend.

### Coffee Mornings

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



#### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Sunday School parents will be assisting, raising money for their chosen charity for "Away Giving" Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

#### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February

'Seeing is Believing' coffee morning.

#### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Away Giving.

#### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March

'Seeing is Believing' coffee morning.

## Lent and Easter

For many years we have held a children's workshop on Good Friday from 10:30am until 11:30am. This has become an Easter tradition for many families.

There will be many activities on offer and it will conclude with children's worship.

## Parish Contacts

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



# St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

## Alan Rhodes

On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Kilngreen Church was packed full of people wishing to pay their respects to the late Alan Rhodes. Revd Duncan Rhodes took the service, and in a fitting tribute to their ex-president, Diggle Band provided the musical accompaniment.

Kilngreen Church was always very dear to Alan's heart; he attended the Sunday School as a child and has helped out in



various ways over the years. Kiln Green Supporters, along with North West Air Ambulance both benefited from the £1,050 collected in Alan's memory.

Alan was born at Harrop Green in 1935, and apart from a stint serving as an Army Sergeant in Belgium and Suez during the crisis and holidays in Australia, South Africa and the Far East, he lived in Diggle his whole life. Alan loved living in Diggle; he lived at New Barn, Harrop Green with Dorothy his wife of 53 years. He loved animals, especially horses, and one of his recent pride and joys was the restoration of his vintage tractor which his family painted bright red!

After the burial in St Chad's Graveyard the tribute to Alan continued at Diggle Band Club.

Alan was a doting father and proud grandfather and he will be sadly missed by all family and the wider Diggle Community.

## Kilngreen Notes

A Happy New Year to all! Kilngreen Church was a very busy place during November and December.

### November Family Service

Maggie Dobb and Sarah Barlow led this service on the theme of 'What lies beneath?' (based on Matthew 23, v.1-12)

Rachel was dressed up in full Pharisee religious wear, a badge saying 'RABBI', and sat in the vicar's chair.

The reading was read slowly and beautifully by Maddie Hunter whilst Hannah slowly removed the clothes and accessories and chair! At the end of the reading we were left with Rachel, just Rachel.

The congregation had a conversation about Jesus challenging the false living of some scribes and Pharisees, and in particular their love of status, position and privilege.

We discussed the relevance of the message to us today and to our own modern lifestyles. Jesus points to our true identity in God's presence, and our true calling: to be a humble servant to others, following Jesus.

### December Family Service

Family Worship was led by Janet and Geoff Iles and was on the theme of "Advent". The service focused on how we as adults could help others over the coming weeks. During the service members of the congregation were asked to think about acts of kindness that they had witnessed recently. At the end of the service everyone was given an "Advent Calendar" which gave suggestions of something kind to do every day during Advent.

### Christmas Fair

The annual Parish Christmas Fair was held at Kilngreen on the afternoon of 11<sup>th</sup> November. The Fair was opened by Revd Hilary Edgerton and was very successful, raising around £1,600 for Parish funds. A big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the afternoon a success. As in previous years Santa's Grotto was very popular and a record number of children visited Father Christmas.

### St Chad All Stars Pantomime - Cinderella

St Chad All Stars performed another successful pantomime at the end of November and played to packed houses on four nights and a matinee. There was lots of positive feedback from the audiences, and on the first night we welcomed the uniformed groups. Rehearsals start in January for a spring show in April. If you are interested in helping backstage with costumes, painting sets or building, we would love to hear from you. New members to "tread the boards" are always welcome, age is no barrier! Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings at Kilngreen. Contact Kate Millett on 01457 239136 or visit our Facebook page for more information.

## Diggle Diamonds Christmas Party

Every early December the Diggle Diamonds Committee holds a Christmas dinner and entertainment event at Kilngreen for the older members of the community in Diggle. Over sixty local people attended and enjoyed a beautiful Christmas dinner supplied by caterers Greenwoods. This was followed by a Christmas Quiz and the singing of Carols accompanied by Diggle Band. Everyone received a gift to take home and there were lots of raffle prizes. A big thank you to Mike and Doreen Hall and everyone on the Diggle Diamonds Committee for their hard work.

## Christingles and Lighting the Tree in Diggle

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December villagers gathered at Diggle Band Club for mulled wine and mince pies and to hear Diggle School Key Stage 1 Choir sing some songs, before we all marched down to the big Christmas Tree in Diggle, led by Diggle Band. The children lit Christingles and Revd Duncan Rhodes said prayers and the tree was lit by two children from Diggle School who won the Christmas card competition.



## Christmas Nativity

This was once again performed by the Sunday School. "A Donkey's Christmas" seemed perfect as Janet had made George, a beautiful donkey, ably pushed round the stage by Joseph Rutter. The nativity was a traditional one; carols were sung accompanied by Tracey on the keyboard. Thanks also to all Sunday School leaders especially Alex for



the back drop, Rebecca and Caroline for unstinting support, and the amazing children for once again pulling it off!

## Christmas Flowers and Decorations

A big thank you to Doreen Hall for all the beautiful Christmas flowers and displays around Kilngreen. Janet Iles provided the nativity display and the Shepherds and Wise Men for the windowsills, whilst Mike Hall and Geoff Iles put up the lights and braved the ladders!

## Christmas Day Service

Sadly, this was Revd Duncan Rhodes' last service with us as he takes a well-earned retirement from being our Ordained Local Minister (OLM) in Diggle. Duncan was delighted to be accompanied by all his family for the very first time at Kilngreen. In his address Duncan spoke about his twenty seven years as an OLM since his training, which he had undertaken alongside Godfrey Adams. Duncan said he had wanted to "give something back" to the community and becoming an OLM had been his way of doing this. He talked about the most important thing that we all need, and that is love. He quoted from Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians, that without love we are like "a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal". He left us with the message to "love one another". Thank you Duncan for all that you have done at Kilngreen, for all the baptisms, weddings, services, and for your considerable contribution over the years to St Chad All Stars - we shall miss you very much.

## Diggle Diamonds Coffee Mornings

The coffee mornings are held at The Hanging Gate at 10:30am on a Saturday morning.

All are welcome! Come down for a chat.

The dates for the next few months are:  
10<sup>th</sup> February, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> May  
and 9<sup>th</sup> June

Any questions ring Mike Hall on 01457 870480

## Parish Contacts for Kilngreen

Grapevine Coordinator	Sarah Barlow	sarah.barlow@gbarlowandsons.co.uk	07775 613787
Assistant Wardens	Lynda Barlow		01457 878338
	Mike Hall		01457 870480
Kilngreen Lettings	Lynda Barlow		01457 878338



# Positive Steps - Oldham Young Carers Service

The Oldham Young Carers Programme has been run by Positive Steps for eight years and aims to recognise and support children (aged 8 to 18) with caring responsibilities by offering group social activities, information and more tailored individual support where needed.

A young carer is defined as:

*“A child or young person who, without payment, provides help or support to a parent, sibling or other family member, who could not manage without their help. This could be due to age, physical or mental illness, addiction or disability.”*

The project aims to raise public awareness about the particular needs of young people with caring responsibilities.

Young carers face multiple barriers in their lives, which are hidden from view and often lead to other problems in their adult lives. A day in the life of a young carer can include caring for siblings, shopping, administering medication, and personal care up to running the whole household.

While these can offer the opportunity to learn useful life skills, it can leave no time for study, developing friendships or being a child. Young carers are more likely to find themselves out of education, employment and training and they are more likely to achieve lower GCSE grades than their peers. Therefore, young carers are more likely to work in lower paid jobs and struggle in higher education.



We provide a range of activities such as arts and crafts, games, mindfulness, film nights, cooking and information sessions that are relevant to our young people. We also work with local organisations to provide opportunities such as volunteering.



Oldham Young Carers Programme Manager, Martin Sutton said: *“We have currently identified over four hundred young carers in Oldham, and we provide direct provision to 50+ young people per week. Group work and 1-to-1 sessions are carried out, plus we participate in projects and activities which aim to educate and inspire young people.”*



In 2016 we won the Professional Services category at the 'Pride in Oldham' awards and we were also finalists in the 'Reader's Choice' category.

*Previous activities have included: healthy cooking courses, craft activities, theatre trips, roller skating, indoor skiing, and residential. These activities have all been funded by donations and have improved the well-being of the young carers enabling the young people to learn new skills, make new friends and allow opportunities to go out of the local area - something some of the young carers would not get the chance to engage in without support from the programme.”*



*Positive Steps is a registered charity that provides integrated support services for families, young people and adults.*

*If you would like to support Positive Steps in any way then please get in touch via our website.*

*Professionals can email us on: [youngcarers@positive-steps.org.uk](mailto:youngcarers@positive-steps.org.uk) or ring us on 0161 621 9400.*

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*[www.positive-steps.org.uk](http://www.positive-steps.org.uk)*



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[enquiries@mcconnellvets.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@mcconnellvets.co.uk)  
[www.mcconnellvets.co.uk](http://www.mcconnellvets.co.uk)



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# A view behind bars – Education Matters



'Buckley Hall College' is the prison building where men go for their education sessions. When I first asked what 'level 1' or 'level 2' English or Maths meant, I had in mind that maybe it was heading towards a GCSE. Instead I learned that this is considered to be what many a 13 year old might manage at school.

Many of the prisoners here have had little formal education. Why would you stick at going to school if your parents are not there to push because they are on drugs themselves or when you could be robbing motorbikes at the supermarket (another true story... "Oh it's very easy" said Tim when he told me)?

So under the auspices of an educational organisation, paid and unpaid tutors help men to learn how to compose formal letters for job interviews and complete simple maths problems to help with their finances.

Exams happen every few weeks after short modular courses. Everything stacks up. When it comes to parole hearings, collecting material that will show good results counts. Whether it is completion of an English course, a Restorative Justice scheme, good comments on a job, or helpfulness on the Wings, the dossier grows and shows that this man may be ready for release into the community to do good rather than ill.

The classes are not held with the most extreme discipline. It is common to find one or two men reading a newspaper whilst the others are working. It is not always a popular choice to go to education even as an adult. The library is sometimes just a nice place to go for a break, but some men really do read avidly and talk about complex philosophical issues, given the chance. The Chaplaincy courses get some keen discussions going too, though our courses are not certified other than by ourselves.

At times though, people shine. Two men have provided poetry for the Carol Service which gets to the heart. One man began an in-house magazine on the back of his desktop publishing course; another has been given a commendation by his art tutors after repainting the whole of our chapel Nativity set – it's stunning.

There is still respect for the Chaplaincy, by and large, amongst the men. One of the most touching moments came whilst showing a visitor round the Education department from our clergy Team. He had come for the day. As we popped our heads into the English class, without any concern for how it might look amongst his peers, one man spotted the black shirt and collar, sprang to his feet and said, "Will you give me a blessing, Father?" We stepped outside whilst my colleague, just a visitor for the day, gathered himself, perhaps holding back a tear, as I did, and offered a prayer in the corridor as people passed by. At the end, he found another man waiting for the same reason.



Yet for perseverance and determination, how about the two men who were awarded Open University degrees this autumn? In a small ceremony, which took place in the multi-faith building at the prison (we have one of the few large and reasonably pleasant spaces that are suitable for bigger gatherings), representatives from the University robed the prisoners in their graduate gowns and presented their certificates. They were watched by some staff, a number of relatives, and a few hand-picked enhanced status prisoner friends. Mathematics and Social sciences were amongst the degree modules, which had taken between six and nine years to complete. It gives you hope.

The families were proud, the buffet was good and the men did not let all that extra food go to waste. Having brought their sandwich boxes, some of them took food back to their cells for later!

*Hilary Edgerton – December 2017*

*HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale*



## N W Secretarial & PA Service

*For all your secretarial and PA needs*



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- Spreadsheets, audio typing & digital transcribing, etc.
- Computerised Sage accounts for small/medium businesses
- Filing and other clerical duties undertaken
- Telephone answering
- Work can be done in-house if required
- Need sickness/holiday cover in the office?

**Sue Willett**

*Copley Mill, Huddersfield Road,  
Stalybridge, SK15 2QF.*

**fsb**<sup>08</sup>  
MEMBER

[sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk](mailto:sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk)  
[www.nwsecretarialservice.co.uk](http://www.nwsecretarialservice.co.uk)

0161 425 7909  
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## Norman Wisenden Model Railways



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07808 474743



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

**We help our clients achieve their dreams,  
no matter how old they are.....**

A few years ago, one of our clients who is an artist and an author writing in Lancashire dialect asked us for our help in writing some letters as he wanted to donate some prints of his oil paintings; 'The Cup Final'. The letters

and copies of the print went off to Sir Bobby Charlton and Sir Alex Ferguson at Manchester United. He later secured a meeting with Sir Bobby. After the meeting my client wrote a letter of thanks to me saying that I had made his dreams come true.

He was absolutely thrilled. As well as donating the prints to Sir Bobby and Sir Alex, there was one hanging in the reception room at Old Trafford Football Ground.

This made me feel so good, and proud that I had helped our client achieve one of his dreams. The year after he had an art exhibition at Uppermill Museum. We wrote

again to Sir Bobby notifying him of it. The exhibition consisted of many different styles, some to my choice and others not so!

One of my favourite exhibits was indeed 'The Cup Final'. I expressed my views of my visit, and a few days later my client arrived with two copies of the print for me. How wonderful is that? I was paid financially and rewarded with such wonderful gifts; they hang in my office and at home.

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

[sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk](mailto:sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk)  
[www.nwsecretarialservice.co.uk](http://www.nwsecretarialservice.co.uk)



**THE ROEBUCK  
RESTAURANT & INN**

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# SADDLEWORTH LIVE



at the

# MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE

SAT 24 FEB 2018, 7.30pm £15

## Barb Jungr & John McDaniel Float Like a Butterfly: The Sting Project



British jazz and international cabaret legend, Barb Jungr, re-unites with Broadway's Grammy & Emmy winning supremo, John McDaniel to bring their critically acclaimed new show revealing the beauty and breadth of The Police & Sting's extraordinary repertoire of songs - from jazz to pop to Broadway.



**STING** has been writing and performing songs for 40 years and has won 16 Grammy awards in the process.

\*\*\*New Date!

THURS 8 MARCH 2018, 7.30pm £10

## Brennan Reece: Everlong

**STOP PRESS!**  
In February of this year, Brennan will be heard as the voice of ITV2's new series, *Survival of the Fittest* which is the highly anticipated new show from the makers of the hugely popular *Love Island*.



English Comedian of the Year and Edinburgh Best Newcomer nominee is back with a **BRAND NEW SHOW!** Following last year's sold out UK and Australian tour,

Brennan brings his new 'powerfully entertaining' show all about the stars (in the sky), memories (in the mind) . . . and his Nanna (in a home).



**"A brilliantly infectious, gifted storyteller"**

★★★★★ *The Independent*

SAT 17 MARCH 2018, 7.30pm £12

Hambledon Productions proudly present Ray Galton & Alan Simpson's

## Steptoe and Son

adapted by John Hower

This brand new stage play lovingly breathes life back into the Steptoe household with this faithful, fresh and hilarious adaptation of the long-running smash hit BBC sitcom.

Relive some of the funniest misadventures of the two warring rag-and-bone-men live on stage.



SAT 24 MARCH 2018, 7.30pm £10

Talking Stock Productions present

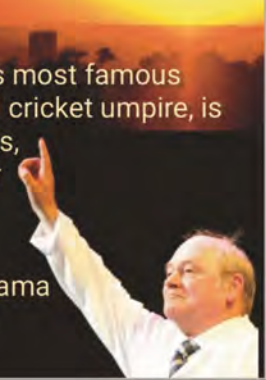
## Godfrey's Last Summer

by Alan Stockdill

**BRAND NEW PLAY**  
a Saddleworth première

Godfrey Shackleton, Yorkshire's most famous lottery winner and international cricket umpire, is coming to the end of his innings. Before he leaves the Middle for the very last time he needs to put his affairs in order...

This heart-warming comedy drama is about Northern life, dreams, family, fun and friendship.



"A great mystery, expertly told"

★★★★★

The Times



## The Man On The Moor

Sat 21 and Sun 22 April 2018

written & performed by Max Dickins  
Inspired by the Saddleworth mystery of 'the man on the moor'

"Beautifully written"

★★★★★ *Voice Magazine*

## Patti Boulaye: Billie & Me

Sun 29 April 2018

Patti Boulaye showcases her one-woman jazz show featuring the music of **BILLIE HOLIDAY**



MILLGATE ARTS CENTRE, STONESWOOD ROAD, DELPH, SADDLEWORTH, OL3 5DY (above the library)

Tickets available from Delph library BOX OFFICE 01457 874644 and online [www.saddleworthlive.com](http://www.saddleworthlive.com)