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The Grapevine

April &
May 2018

Issue 3



The Church of England in Saddleworth

"Celebrating God's presence in all people."



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The Rector writes...

The Story of Holy Week and Easter doesn't make easy bed-time reading for children or adults. It's not like 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' or 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. It is a difficult story of betrayal, cruelty, suffering. We are tempted to make it palatable by dressing it up in chocolate, spring lambs and bunny rabbits.

Easter is the celebration of the greatest story. It's the story of an empty tomb. It's a story familiar to us in a world of wars and battles, victories and defeats. In this story, the Easter story, it is about Jesus and his defeat not of armies and soldiers but the defeat of the power of sin and death to control and imprison us. Easter is a celebration of death and sin being conquered and new possibilities; a new story arising from the dark depths of despair and anguish. It is a story of self-giving love and liberation; a story of freedom.

Much of our lives we think we are already free. Personal choice is the god of the age. It is the god that says we are free to have what we want, that we can do all things, achieve all things, be whoever we want; that if we satisfy our cravings, our longings, we can find happiness. But it's a lie. We are massively deceived. We're not free at all. We are enslaved to advertising, to social media, gossip and rumour. We are enslaved to the dictates of our mobile phones, of our bodily cravings and the compulsion to spend money to buy things to make us fulfilled and happy.

On the Cross, Jesus Christ bears the weight of the sin of the world. It is where we unload our baggage; where he reveals to us the shackles and deceptions of our lives and loves us back to life.

I wish you all a Holy and Happy Easter.

Sharon



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

Church of England in Saddleworth Who's Who

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Churches Together in Saddleworth (CTiS)

Over the Easter period the children and young people of Churches Together in Saddleworth (CTiS) were invited to decorate the cross in Uppermill by making orchid flowers and writing cards with this poem:

The Orchid Prayer by Megan Harrison

At the foot of the cross
The orchid grew
Swaying in sorrow
Whilst watching you.

At the foot of the cross
The orchid changed
Blood dripped down
Petals were stained.



At the foot of the cross
The orchid saw
Death being defeated
For ever more.

At the foot of the cross
The orchid knew
That very soon
He'd flower anew.

At the foot of this cross
The orchid flower
Shares its beauty
Showing God's power.

Amen.



Regular Sunday Services

St Thomas Delph

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

2nd Sunday 9:30am Informal Service
10:30am Holy Communion

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

4th Sunday 9:30am Informal Service
10:30am Holy Communion

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

Christ Church Denshaw

1st Sunday 10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

3rd Sunday 10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

5th Sunday 10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Holy Trinity Dobcross

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

2nd Sunday 10:30am Morning Praise
and Sunday School

3rd Sunday 9:30am Little Fishes
10:30am Eucharist (CW)

4th Sunday 10:30am Family Eucharist (CW)

5th Sunday 10:30am Morning Prayer (BCP)

'Teach us to Pray'

These one hour sessions will be held on Monday evenings at 8:00pm at the Saddleworth Rectory on Station Road, Uppermill on 11th June, 18th June, 25th June and 2nd July.

Contact the Team Rector if you are interested in attending.

Christ Church Friezland

1st Sunday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

2nd Sunday 9:30am Children's Eucharist (CW)

3rd Sunday 9:30am Morning Prayer

4th Sunday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

5th Sunday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

St Mary Greenfield

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

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

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

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

5th Sunday 9:00am Early Church ¥
10:30am Eucharist (CW)
6:30pm Eucharist

¥ 'Early Church' for children and young families.
On special occasions (e.g. Mothering Sunday,
Easter Day, Harvest, Christingle, Nativity, etc.)
we have just one service at 10:30am.

St Anne Lydgate

1st Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Children's Eucharist (CW)
(including Church Parade)

2nd Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Eucharist (CW)

3rd Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Morning Prayer

4th Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Eucharist (CW)

5th Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion
11:00am Eucharist (CW)



St Chad Saddleworth

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

29th Apr 9:30am Eucharist at the Parish Centre

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

1st Sunday 9:30am Children's Eucharist

2nd Sunday 9:30am Family Worship

3rd Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and Sunday School

4th Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and Sunday School

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church

1st Sunday 11:00am Sung Eucharist

2nd Sunday 11:00am Sung Eucharist

3rd Sunday 11:00am Sung Eucharist

4th Sunday 11:00am Morning Prayer

St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

1st Sunday 9:30am Family Worship

2nd Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and Sunday School

3rd Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and Sunday School

4th Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and Sunday School

Regular Weekday Services

Christ Church Friezland

Tuesday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

Thursday 7:00pm Eucharist (CW)
non-alcoholic wine

St Anne Lydgate

Wednesday 6:00pm Family Worship

Friday 10:00am Eucharist (CW)

St Mary Greenfield

Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist (BCP)

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

Tuesday 9:30am Eucharist

Churches Together in Saddleworth (CTiS)

Good Friday 30th March at 2:15pm

Meet outside Uppermill Methodist Church for Procession of Witness along High Street, ending with a short service on the grass at the side of the museum car park.



Tuesday 17th April at 7:30pm

Meeting - venue to be arranged.

Ascension Day 10th May at 8:00am

Service around the cross in the museum car park followed by breakfast at the Sacred Heart Centre.



Christian Aid Week 13th - 19th May.

Visit the pages of individual churches around the Benefice to see what is going on in your Parish.

Prayer Breakfast 19th May at 8:30am

Uppermill Methodist Church.



Holy Week and Easter

Monday of Holy Week - 26th March 2018

Holy Trinity Dobcross	7:30pm	Riding Lights' "the People's Passion"
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Maundy Thursday - 29th March 2018

St Thomas Delph	7:00pm	'Seder' Meal
Christ Church Denshaw	7:00pm	Maundy Eucharist
Holy Trinity Dobcross	7:00pm	Agape Meal
St Mary Greenfield	7:30pm	Holy Communion with Washing of Feet
St Anne Lydgate Joint Service with Christ Church Friezland	7:30pm	Last Supper and Washing of Feet followed by a vigil
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 - 30th March 2018

St Thomas Delph	10:30am	Joint Service at Delph Methodist Church
Christ Church Denshaw	11:00am	Reflections for Good Friday
Holy Trinity Dobcross	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 - 31st March 2018

St Mary Greenfield	8:00pm	Easter Vigil
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Easter Day - 1st 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 Dobcross	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

A view behind bars – Living with the Mafia



There are times when I realise I've become used to the clang of the gates and the shabby walls and I have forgotten that this is a prison. Although I'm not sure where else I would find myself chatting with half a dozen men at a time. I went to an all Girls' school; this was never normal life. We saw two men on a regular basis; one taught English and the other Physics. Any others were Sixth formers from the Boys' school across the road and would usually be sent back very speedily.

Sometimes I wonder if I'm in a parallel universe when I remember that the guys, who have just offered me a cup of tea (*"Normal or red berries, Miss?"*) and a toasted spam sandwich are the criminals who have wreaked havoc in society and family life. The wing cleaner, who cleans the officers' station, has access to the microwave so elevenses can be quite an event!

I'm brought sometimes to shocking recollection when I hear their stories. Matt and I talked for half an hour, perched on the snooker table, about how he is surprised about himself at the moment. The surprise is that he can sense he is changing. Instead of being care-less for what he has done to people, he is feeling guilty. Instead of thinking only of himself, he is beginning to think about how other people may feel.

He told me how he grew up with a mother who was a *'proper born-again Christian believer'* but how she gave up her faith when her father was shot and took to drugs for solace instead. Matt grew up in a family he described as being like the Mafia gangsters and he found it exciting and a good world to be in.

Now things feel different. He suffers with the guilt that although he didn't take the shot, his actions in leaving a gun in a house where he knew a teenage boy would find it, led to the boy's death. In a show-off trick to his friends, the faulty trigger went off in the boy's hands and he died.

I am glad Matt feels guilty rather than casual about his actions. Yet there is a fine line between the guilt which weighs down, leads to remorse and ends in bitter hopelessness and the guilt which leads to repentance, a 'Godly sorrow' and a changed life that works for good. Judas knew about that guilt which weighs down when he betrayed Jesus and hung himself. Whereas Peter, who abandoned his Lord, found a new purpose after the Resurrection.

I want to pray that Matt will cope with the knowledge that he can't put the past right but can make the future different. Perhaps that's already begun, as he told me that he'd recently decided to stop the secret handling of the drugs that are rife in prison (no, I don't know how they get there) and which generate an income for him on a small level. What changed him? Seeing a man fall under the influence and realising he had contributed to that state of body and mind.

Matt is thinking, feeling and acting a little differently. He's currently on a Christian Alpha course and I hope he keeps looking forward and allowing himself to be surprised at the changes in himself.



alpha

Just a couple of weeks earlier I responded to a request from a prisoner in the Segregation Unit, to pray and light a candle with him to remember his brother who died several years ago. He gets depressed at this time of year. He was quiet, polite, grateful and chatted about his boredom. He could ask for a jigsaw but said he hadn't the patience for it. A couple of days later he had given in, started one off but given up before he had even got the edge finished!

Later, I sat in on a meeting concerning him where it emerged that he had formerly been one of the most high-security risk prisoners in the country with his revenge attack having been all over the national news. He, it would seem, has softened with time.

At times this is a world of horrible crimes. We have to hold out hope that there is, amongst the power for evil, the power to change for good.

Hilary Edgerton - February 2018
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale

The Ascension of Jesus the Christ

This is one of the earliest images of the Ascension. It comes from the sixth century Rabbula Gospels completed in AD 586 at the Monastery of St John of Zagba, in what is now modern Syria.



Images of the Ascension often show two parts:

- † an upper (Heavenly) part
- † and a lower (Earthly) part.

In Eastern Orthodox icons like this one, at the centre on earth stands the Virgin Mary, her arms outstretched to heaven and surrounded by the Apostles. On earth, two heavenly angels make a link between the two worlds, both seem to be instructing their groups of people, one pointing heavenwards, the peoples' faces raised, looking at the risen Christ, the other deep in conversation and

teaching. In the realm above Christ stands surrounded by angels, his right hand raised in blessing, his left holding a scroll or perhaps the Gospel. Note that, in this image, there are saints and angels both in heaven and on earth.

Ascension Day is celebrated on the sixth Thursday (40 days) after Easter Day. It signifies the time after the Easter resurrection, and the appearances of the risen Lord, when Christ leaves the earthly realm and enters the heavenly realm. In Luke's account (*Luke 24 v50*) this seems to be continuous with his resurrection. In Acts 1, the event takes place after a period of 40 days; after talking to the apostles he is lifted up and a cloud takes him out of their sight. John's gospel has several references to ascension in Jesus' own words, including,

*"No one has ascended into heaven
but he who descended from heaven,
the son of man"
(John 3 v13)*

and his words to Mary Magdalene in the resurrection garden,

*"Do not hold me,
for I have not yet ascended to my father..."
(John 20:17).*

For me, the ascension shows the completion of Christ's earthly work. He has been fully human in order to show us *the ways of God* and *the way to God*. This work of His is now done.

Soon (at Pentecost or Whitsun), He will send His spirit, the Holy Spirit, to continue that work in each of us. It is rather wonderful to think that Christ's risen spirit is with each of us: teaching, leading, forgiving, loving.

Christ's Ascension links us umbilically with God the Father, the two realms, earthly and heavenly, forever joined together.

Revd Professor Mike Donmall

Pentecost (Whitsun) - The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Pentecost is the alternate name for the Jewish festival of Shavuot. Shavuot is one of the Three Jewish Pilgrimage Festivals and celebrates the revelation of the Five Books of the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament in the Christian Bible) by God to Moses and to the Israelites at Mount Sinai. It happens fifty days after the

Passover and Exodus from Egypt. It also commemorates the wheat harvesting in the Land of Israel and takes place in the Feast of Weeks.

It was during this festival following the death and resurrection of Jesus, when Jerusalem would have been full of visitors, that God's Holy Spirit came in

abundance for everyone. Up until this time God's Holy Spirit appears to only have been for individuals. Throughout the Old Testament we read of people having the Spirit of God upon them, but it seems to be for individuals for a specific task.

The Day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus changed the way that God was working in the world. On the day of Pentecost, The Book of Acts tells us that a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where the disciples were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.



The disciples received God's Holy Spirit and were now speaking through God's power not their own. For instance, Peter spoke to the crowds and in response three thousand people came to believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus, repented of their sins and were baptised (Acts 2 v14 - 41). Through the Book of Acts there is one example after another of the Holy Spirit being at work

through God's people and of people not only becoming believers but also of miracles being performed by the believers. These miracles, alongside the sharing of the Gospel outside of Israel fulfil the promise of Jesus that his followers would do more than Him.

So what does this mean for us?

God's Holy Spirit empowered the early church and when each of us is confirmed the Bishop prays that we will receive the Holy Spirit. We should no longer be working in our own strength but in the strength of the Holy Spirit. This shows itself in different ways, first our behaviour towards our fellow Christians and all around us should be Christ-like. In Galatians Paul tell the readers that when we truly live by the Spirit our behaviour is noted for Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control. Secondly, God's Holy Spirit endows us with gifts for building up the church. There are many gifts that we have, perhaps do not recognise, and do not use. Paul in his letters lists those gifts, the 'practical' and the 'spiritual'. The 'practical' gifts include teaching, preaching, administration and hospitality whilst the 'spiritual' include healing, prophecy and faith.

The purpose of these gifts is to build up the church. Let us seek the grace of God's Holy Spirit to enable us to serve him fruitfully in our churches and community.

Revd John Rosedale

The Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

The first Sunday after Pentecost is Trinity Sunday – the festival occasion for all churches dedicated to the Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The word Trinity comes from the Latin word meaning “three” or a “group of three”, but in this connection it does not mean three separate beings but one Being who makes himself known in three different ways. Christians believe that:

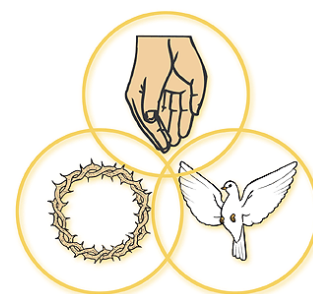
- † God the Father is the creator and source of all;
- † God the Son (Jesus) lived on earth and showed in his life the nature of God.
- † God the Holy Spirit (or the Holy Ghost) lives within us and equips us to serve God.

“*Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty*” – this is possibly the best hymn to be sung on Trinity Sunday, addressing direct and simply, “God in three Persons.” It combines images from Psalm 63 in the Old Testament and the saints in the Book of Revelations in the New Testament.

This wonderful hymn was not published until after the death of its writer, Bishop Reginald Heber (1783 -1826).

*Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!*

Dorothy Townend



Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

Holy Trinity Dobcross

4th February James John McRait
4th February Harley Amie Hilton
4th February Macy Ann Hilton
4th March Archie Edward Jackson

Christ Church Friezland

14th January Noah Alexander Hume

St Anne Lydgate

18th February Alissa Norgate
11th March Zac Davies
18th March Joshua Summerscales

St Chad Saddleworth

17th December Harry Heywood
17th December Scarlett Atherton
20th January Holly May Horrocks
28th January Sofia Louise Brumwell
28th January Jonah Ebden

Welcomed into the fellowship of faith.

Marriages

St Anne Lydgate

26th January Ryan James Smith and
Alexandra Louise Hoskyn

Joined in mutual love and companionship.

That tea-time smile

Some dried-out leaves
Some water boiled
How could they please?
They should be spoiled!
And yet we know
On Britain's Isle
That happy glow!
That tea-time smile!



For if we're down
Need cheering up?
No one can frown
With steaming cup!
No other treats
Appeal to me!
Cos nothing beats
A cup of tea!



Nigel Beeton

Funerals

Christ Church Denshaw

14th January Amy Helliwell
25th January Barrie Hilton Durose

Holy Trinity Dobcross

22nd January Sandra Mooney

Christ Church Friezland

23rd January Russell William Buckley
23rd February Connor Keith Crutchley

St Chad Saddleworth

11th January Thomas (Sam) Bradbury
15th January Ken Pickup
15th January Brian Harrington
31st January Aaron Cooper
13th February Eva Bunting

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

Thanksgiving and Blessing of a Child

St Chad Saddleworth

4th February Max Amian Adcock

May they know God's love.

'Come and Join Us' - Scargill Weekend Away



Prices, which include accommodation and all meals from Friday evening until after lunch on Sunday, are:

£135.00 per adult

£94.50 per child aged 12 to 16 years

£67.50 per child aged 8 to 11 years

£40.50 per child aged 5 to 7 years

Children under 5 years go free

A 10% deposit is required please.

Please do 'Come and Join Us' for a great weekend away.

If you are interested, please complete the online form by Sunday 29th April which can be found at:

<http://cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk/come-and-join-us>

For more information, visit

<https://scargillmovement.org>

or contact Revd Aaron Moffat-Jackman by email at

aaronjackman@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk

or by phone on 07717 893466.

From 12th - 14th October 2018, families from the Saddleworth community of churches will be spending the weekend at Scargill House near Kettlewell in the Yorkshire Dales. We would love as many families as possible to 'Come and Join Us' as we spend time relaxing, having fun and getting to know each other.

Scargill House will be providing all the hospitality to make all feel welcome and a variety of activities to keep everyone engaged - both young and old. It's the perfect opportunity to get a much-needed break, find some space and meet new friends.

No one should feel unable to come because of cost. There is a significant bursary available for families who need some financial support.

Finnish Church Links

The Benefice has had a Church link with Forsa (Finland) for several years. You may remember that Esa, the Rector of the Lutheran Church in Forsa, and some of the Parishioners, have joined with us before at some of our Churches. After a gap of two years, Esa and Minna are returning to Saddleworth to join in our Whit Friday celebrations.

Forsa is an old cotton manufacturing town some hundred kilometres from Helsinki and is surrounded by forests. The Church community is 90% Lutheran.

Three years ago I attended one of their Confirmation services. In the Finnish Church it is the vicar who performs the laying on of hands to Confirm. In Forsa, there were so many candidates, the Confirmation was spread over two Sundays. On the Day I attended, there were more than 80 confirmands. Some asked for a special blessing for their home and family and so after the service, Esa and I travelled round to different houses/farms in the forest to sing a hymn and say prayers. Esa is also an accomplished guitarist which helped the music along.

It would be wonderful if one day more of us could experience the warmth, fellowship and music of the Church in Forsa. Esa and Minna are looking forward to sharing our 2018 Whit Friday celebrations.

Revd Godfrey Adams



St Thomas Delph

Tithing

The congregation of St. Thomas's has pledged to give away one-tenth of its income to different charities, known in the Bible as "tithing".

Every three years the PCC reviews our supported charities and makes a decision as to which ones we shall support for the next three years. We support:



Many years ago St. Thomas's pledged £10,000 to build one of the first houses for Kampala Children's Centre (KCC).

The house, named "House of Peace" is home to a dozen children and their housemother and our connection still continues as once a month we sell cakes after the morning service in order to provide her with some "spending money". Last month, for example, about £90 was raised from this cake sale.

The more musical of the children at KCC have been formed into a choir, called "Destiny Africa" and have performed in St Thomas's, the Civic Centre, Uppermill and even in 10 Downing Street, as well as in Europe and the USA.



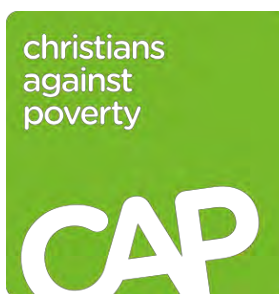
This is a charity whose vision is "a just world, with no street children." By definition, street children are those vulnerable children and young people who, for a variety of reasons, such as the necessity of earning a living, escaping from abuse, neglect and violence or as a result of natural disasters, have no place to call home and must take refuge on the streets, the only means to earn an income.

The United Nations estimate of the numbers of street children is hundreds of millions, although there are no accurate figures available. These are the children invisible to the world, living without rights or protection, who quickly become prey to drugs and alcohol, whose future is bleak and whose life expectancy is very low.



The Leprosy Mission (TLM) is an international Christian charity caring for people affected by leprosy and was founded in 1874, motivated and inspired by Christ's ministry of compassion towards those people suffering from leprosy. Working in over 30 countries, with around 2,000 staff worldwide, TLM is treating people affected by leprosy through its own hospitals and programmes and those it assists.

TLM aims to meet the physical, spiritual, social and mental needs of people affected by leprosy, whilst working towards the eventual eradication of the disease. It works in partnership with churches, voluntary agencies, national governments and international bodies, such as the World Health Organisation, to combat leprosy. It is supported by the voluntary contribution of churches and support groups around the world and has an international budget of nearly £10 million.



This charity, founded by John Kirkby, now its International Director, came from his own bitter experiences of being in severe debt and the freedom that comes from being debt-free.

It is out of thankfulness to God that he has devoted his life to enabling many people to become debt-free via a team of Debt Counsellors. As well as debt counselling, this charity runs Life Skills courses, Job Clubs and Release Groups and 10,000 people have learned to manage their money through the CAP Money Course. Taking clients away on a short break helps them feel renewed and donating food hampers at Christmas is a real treat for folk on a strict budget.

In order to further this work, many at St. Thomas's have chosen to become CAP Life-Changers, whereby they give an amount monthly to help finance the operation.

Open Doors has sprung from a simple, one-man expedition to a “Socialist” youth congress in Poland in 1955 by a Dutch Christian, who has come to be known as Brother Andrew. He spent years smuggling Bibles into the Communist bloc countries. Now Open Doors is worldwide and the current concern is principally about North Korea, the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian. Since 2002 it has been number one on the Open Doors World Watch List, the annual ranking of the fifty countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution

Any belief in an authority higher than their leader is viewed as deeply threatening by the state. Tens of thousands of Christians are incarcerated in labour camps and thousands more keep their faith in Christ a complete secret, even from their own children. And yet, incredibly, the church in North Korea is growing. Open Doors estimates that there are at least 300,000 believers in the country, despite its seeming impossible. If you want to read the story of Hannah who, with her family, was imprisoned for her faith in Jesus, visit:

<https://www.opendoorsuk.com>

MCM was founded in 1837 and exists to spread the Gospel to underprivileged members of the Manchester community.

The Dawn Project comprises a small group who visits five residential homes in Salford, singing hymns the residents remember and giving short Gospel talks. The Narrowgate Night Shelter ministers to the homeless. The aim of the Shelter is to help people practically as well as sharing the Gospel with them. Groundbreakers delivers assemblies and lunch clubs across Manchester, including Oldham and Saddleworth, and its aim is “to make real the Christian faith – to allow the children to understand they are important to God.”

MCM is also helping to deliver the Neighbourhood Prayer Project, whereby Christian folk undertake to pray for their neighbours and their community.

Margaret Robson.

Heights Church 250th Anniversary



On the weekend of 23rd and 24th June 2018 the 250th Anniversary of the opening of a chapel at Heights will be celebrated. We plan for the church to be open on Saturday 23rd from 2:00pm to 4:00pm followed by Evensong.

On Sunday 24th June a 10:30am Eucharist will be led by The Right Reverend Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton; there will be refreshments following the service. The church will also be open in the afternoon from 1:00pm to 4:00pm followed by a Songs of Praise.

When the Church is open there will be displays by The Piecemakers and historical information. Short graveyard tours will take place - weather permitting.

The book, Heights Church and Friarmere – A Potted History 1768-2018 will be on sale (£15) with the authors, Mary Rodgers and Geoffrey Dent, present for discussion of the contents. These 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. There are also pictures of all the stained glass windows and a previously unpublished dialect poem by Ammon Wrigley.

If anyone wishes to pre-order a copy please contact Geoffrey Dent on 01457 874027.

Parish Contacts

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

Christ Church Denshaw

Communion before Confirmation

On Sunday 4th February the children from our Sunday School who had been following "Welcome to the Lord's Table" were admitted to Communion before Confirmation. The service was led by Revd Philip Williamson who presented the children with certificates. Those who were to receive Holy Communion had made their badges during the Sunday School session prior to them coming into church for Holy Communion. There was a good congregation to support these young people and many brought family members along.

Mothering Sunday

On Mothering Sunday we held a family service instead of Sunday School. Our young people handed out posies of daffodils and cards to the congregation, which had been kindly donated by one of our families.



Palm Sunday



During the next few weeks we are looking forward to welcoming some guest speakers; the first of these is Revd Aaron Jackman who will give the Reflection at this month's Morning Prayer service on Palm Sunday. Aaron is already a

familiar face in Denshaw as his children attend Christ Church School and he is a regular at Friday assemblies, so not strictly speaking a guest but a good friend of the parish.

School Links

As school finishes on Maundy Thursday (29th March) this year due to the early Easter, there will be an Easter Service in place of the usual assembly at 9:15am. Although the service is primarily for parents, anyone who wishes to attend from the parish will be very welcome and we are sure they will enjoy the service and appreciate the enthusiasm shown by the children. They love taking part in these special services.

Experience Easter

One of the Year 6 children at Christ Church School and a regular worshipper at our church has written a piece for The Grapevine about what Easter means to her and how it is celebrated both at school and within her own family.



"Easter at Christ Church and Christ Church School is an important time of the year for us all. We especially enjoy Experience Easter, when we learn about Easter. An interesting way of doing this is by thinking about different parts of the Easter story. In my family we think about Easter and my mum and sister choose something hard to give up over Lent, this year it is chocolate. I try and not give anything up, but aim to do something nice each day as an act of kindness.

"At school this year, we will be thinking about Palm Sunday, and how Jesus arrived on a donkey to a crowd shouting 'Hosanna' and waving Palm Leaves. About how Jesus is a King but to be a King does not mean you need to ride on a stallion and live in a palace, it is about doing good things and being a good person.

"To remember the Last Supper we all sit together in a circle and share bread to remember what Jesus did for us. We share grapes instead of wine and think about how we can remember Jesus each time we eat and to be thankful.

"We learn how Jesus prayed at Gethsemane, we all say The Lord's Prayer. We say The Lord's Prayer every day after assembly at school and in church, we all say The Lord's Prayer after a blessing from Reverend John. It reminds us that God's will must be done and to do this we must speak to the Lord in all we do.

"Good Friday will be remembered in Experience Easter by thinking about the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus. Last year we did this by thinking how Jesus suffered and what would make us suffer, people thought about things that would make them suffer such as if they couldn't have electronics, and sweets! When I think about what would make me suffer, I think about what it would be like if I had no food or if I had no friends. Good Friday helps us to think about how there is sadness in the Crucifixion but joy and excitement in the

Resurrection. In previous years we have really enjoyed going to Holy Trinity to share Experience Easter, this year we are looking forward to the event being held in our own church which is quite exciting.

“Easter Sunday is when we celebrate the life of Jesus and his Resurrection into Heaven. We all love Easter eggs and by sharing chocolate eggs as gifts we remember that Jesus was sent to us as a gift from God his father. At home we always have an Easter egg hunt in the garden and have a nice lunch together as a family after we have celebrated Holy Communion at Christ Church.



“My favourite Easter quote is from Luke 24 v3-6. It reminds me that Jesus is no longer in the tomb because he is alive. The empty tomb surprised Jesus’s friends, but it was a good surprise. The good news of Easter is that Jesus is alive today. By rising, he gave us good gifts such as forgiveness and peace.”

*Isabelle Simpson
Aged 10*

We are grateful to Isabelle for her thoughts on Easter and for telling us about Experience Easter. Christmas was the first time an 'Experience' was

held at Christ Church and we would like to thank the team of volunteers who did such an excellent job. We have had no trouble in finding volunteers for either the Christmas or Easter sessions and everyone is looking forward to another successful and enjoyable morning.

Easter Services

On Maundy Thursday we will hold our usual Maundy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar at 7:00pm and on Good Friday there will be 'Reflections for Good Friday' at 11:00am. There will be one service on Easter Sunday, our Easter Eucharist (BCP) at 10:30am. All services will be led by Revd Philip Williamson.

Whit Friday

Looking further ahead to May and hopefully some warmer weather, Whit Friday is 25th May this year and we are grateful to Philip Beckwith who has once again organised a top class band from Switzerland to play for our Whit walk. The bands always really enjoy the morning in Denshaw and it's great to hear such good playing echo through the village. Again this is a joint event when school children and staff join us for the walk, the smaller ones returning to school before tacking the climb up Oldham Road.

Denshaw were one of the first villages to break from the tradition of holding their Whit Walk on Friday and for very many years it was held on Whit Sunday. With the introduction of the band contest in the evening, pressure was put on to put the day in line with the other Saddleworth villages and return to holding the procession of witness on Whit Friday. This has been a great success and the day has become a real community event.

Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator

Mary Rodgers

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01457 874354

How passion flowers got their name

Why is the passion flower known as the passion flower? This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens is not native to the UK, but comes from South America. It was first discovered by Spanish missionaries working there, centuries ago. Drawings were sent back to Europe, and in 1609 an Italian priest



interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, otherwise known as the Passion.

He decided that the five petals and five sepals could represent the ten disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned Jesus). The corona could be seen as Jesus's crown of thorns. The stigma could be seen as the cross or nails, and the five stamens could be seen as the number of wounds Jesus received.



Holy Trinity Dobcross

A “Dedication of Textiles” Service Sunday 13th May at 10:30am

For some time, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has been working on a project to enhance our worship by renewing and replacing various pieces of textiles such as the communion rail kneeler and well-used Eucharist linens. After many discussions, it was decided to commission an ecclesiastical design specialist, Polly Meynell to visit Holy Trinity and offer advice and guidance. Her portfolio of work can be seen on her website:

<http://www.pollymeynell.com>

She commented that the beautiful gold-leafed woodwork at the front of church, mainly the pulpit, vicar and reader’s stalls, is covered by seasonal falls. This led our thoughts and discussions to adopt a way forward. Designs were drawn up and displayed for consultation with the congregation. Eventually churchwarden, Paul Wooding, was able to complete the necessary documents with the diocese to get permission to make the change.

The altar table is the focus when looking towards the East window. Thanks to the skill of Roy Hopkinson, the table has been refurbished to enable five new textile panels to be in place. A gilding specialist has applied gold leaf to the scalloped edges (in a similar manner to the reredos).

The altar panels have a design to reflect the shape and colour of the Saddleworth hills and skies. Complementary designs for the altar central panel, chalice veils, burses and stoles follow the church’s seasons.



The sanctuary rail kneeler and choir stall pew cushions are being introduced into church “in memory of Barbara Hopkinson” who passed away in 2014.

The Venerable Cherry Vann, Archdeacon of Rochdale, has accepted our invitation to bless and introduce these textiles into church.



Following the service we will be holding a ‘picnic’ in the narthex.

The churchwardens and the PCC offer a warm invitation to join them for this special dedication service and stay afterwards for a shared ‘Picnic’.

Whit Friday - 25th May

Order of the Day

- 9:30am Playing of ‘Silver Hill’ in the Band Club in memory of absent friends.
- 9:40am The Procession assembles at Sandy Lane - church, school, village brass bands and community.
- 10:00am Short open air service in The Square. Come and join in the hymn singing.
- 10:25am The Procession leaves The Square via Woods Lane and along Dobcross New Road to Uppermill.
- 11:00am Service in Uppermill Playing Fields after which the Procession returns to Dobcross via Sugar Lane.
- 12:30pm Children’s Lunch at Dobcross School.
- 2:00pm Children’s Sports Afternoon on Woolpack Playing Fields.
- 4:30pm Dobcross Brass Band Contest Starts.
- 10:00pm Last Entry to Brass Band Contest.



We are delighted that The Right Revd Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton has accepted our invitation to join us for our Procession of Witness.

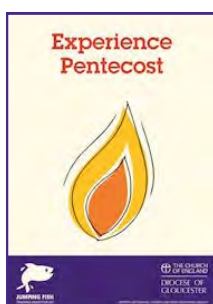
Trinity Sunday (see also Page 11)

The Parish Church of Holy Trinity Dobcross stands to the glory of God, made known to us by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, in whose name worship has been offered here since 1787.

Mission Action Plan (MAP)

At the last PCC meeting in January. Graham McGuffie reported to the PCC on the information which will be passed to the Team Rector and Diocese. Our four priorities are:-

- † Become friendlier with our neighbours including opportunities for café-style church and enhance our links with School.
- † Diversity in worship and look for opportunities to invite and support.
- † Develop and re-emphasise our choral tradition.
- † Advertise so that communication is first class and we are visible in all media.



With these aims in mind at the time of writing, we have plans to have celebrations on Mothering Sunday, Easter Sunday with breakfast, Songs of Praise on 29th April, and a Picnic Lunch on 13th May and also Experience Easter and Pentecost with School.

We are pleased to see that the Community Library/ Book Exchange scheme is now well under way with a well-stocked range of reading materials. Please call in when you are passing – church is open every day until late afternoon.

Thank You...

to Oldham Motor Company (Oldham and Rochdale) for your generous donation of £1,000. We appreciate the interest and support you give to us every year for the on-going refurbishment of our historic Church. Recent repairs have been made to the west end of the main ceiling and there is impending work to renew the verge on the eastern gable end wall.

An Exciting Year Ahead...

Just before last Christmas, 15 year old Julian Bayley of Delph received the news that he had won a place with the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain in its 2018 training sessions and concert programme. Julian, a Crompton House pupil, has been a member of Dobcross Training and Youth Band since the age of six, playing cornet, flugelhorn and changing to euphonium two years ago. He is also a church member and has played at a number of services over the years normally as part of a quartet. At last year's Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols service he played a solo accompanied by piano of Adolphe Adam's beautiful tune to the carol, "O Holy Night".



The first training week will be held in late March at Taunton College, with concerts in Cheltenham Town Hall and Wells Cathedral. In late July, Julian will have a second week at

Repton School with a concert at the school and at the Albert Hall in Nottingham. The finale at the beginning of November will be two concerts at the Barbican Concert Hall in London.

We send our best wishes to Julian as he starts his musical journey to meet and play with other young talented musicians.

Christian Aid Week - 13th to 19th May



Our help is needed for humanitarian work to continue in areas hit by natural disasters, disease and civil wars.

If you would like to volunteer to help with house-to-house collections in Dobcross, please get in touch.

Thank you.

Dorothy and Bob Townend (Area coordinators)

Parish Contacts

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

Christ Church Friezland

Christian Aid Week 13th - 19th May

Traditionally Christian Aid Week has been about delivering and collecting envelopes 'house-to-house' for donations in support of Christian partner organisations working overseas.



However, last year we experimented with only delivering and asking each donor to return their envelope to church, to Greenfield Post Office, or (as a last resort!) directly to Christian Aid. Church members handed in their envelopes; a few more were taken to the Post Office. Some noble souls still collected from their own roads as in previous years. We were concerned that the donations would be well down on previous years. But Junior Church came to the rescue with a very successful After-Service Breakfast! The proceeds from this, along with the contributions from the Coffee Shop that week and a generous donation from the Little Lights' raffle, boosted our total to more than £600!

Once again we appeal to everyone to deliver envelopes in your own road and collect them too, if you wish. Do come along and support all the fundraising events that help people whose needs are so enormous; we realise we are rich in comparison.

New for 2018: Quiz Night with Bring-and-Share Supper & Bar on Friday 11th May at the Church Hall. We look forward to seeing you at this new venture and to beating last year's donation!

Coffee Shop

Every Thursday afternoon from 2:00pm to 4:00pm we open our doors and invite the community to our weekly Coffee Shop.



It has been running for over two years now, with all proceeds going towards the maintenance of our beautiful Church building. Staffed by volunteers, who donate wonderful home-made cakes as well as their time, we offer a warm welcome to everyone.

Looking for a bit of company or a change of scenery from being at home all day? Fancy a tasty treat to recharge after a busy day or the afternoon school run? The Coffee Shop is for you!

Little Lights

A warm welcome awaits at our Baby and Toddler Group. Held every Thursday morning (during term-time) in the main Church from 9:30am to 11:30am, Little Lights has been running for just over two years and continues to go from strength to strength. It is proving popular with parents, grandparents and carers, as well as with the children. Baby changing facilities are provided in Church. Car parking is available at the side of Church and also at the Church Hall. Our now earlier opening time of 9:30am has been much welcomed and our dedicated team of volunteers from within our church community provide a fun and supportive environment.

Come along and have a great time with our: bouncy castle; ball pit; train sets; lots of sit-and-rides and a slide for active toddlers. We also have a safe area for young babies with lots of cushions and mats for a comfy, cosy, relaxing space. There is a different safe space for older babies (crawlers) and another area for those who enjoy Creative Crafts such as colouring or playdough and this sometimes includes a themed crafting table. There are also lots of books and shape jig-saws for those who want some quieter time.

Drinks and snacks (toast, fresh fruit and sometimes cheese or sausages) are available for the children. Freshly-brewed coffee and tea and a home-bake are on offer for adults. All this is provided for a voluntary donation of £3 which goes directly to support our Church.

The children especially look forward to 11:15am when we start our singing session. With lots of musical instruments to hand, everyone joins in and makes a joyful sound. Our Team Curate often comes along to close the session with a short 'Thank You' prayer.

Come along on a Thursday morning to visit and see what goes on; everyone is welcome.

News and updates can also be found on our new Facebook page:

[@friezlandlitttlelights](https://www.facebook.com/friezlandlitttlelights)



or give Elaine a call on 07764 658349.

Junior Church

Junior Church is a lively group for children of all ages, currently ranging from under 2 to 13 years old. We have around forty children registered and a regular attendance each week of around twenty. There are toys available for younger children and a group specifically aimed at older children (aged 10 and above). During term time, each week involves activities such as crafts, drama, games, discussions, baking, prayers and stories, which parallel the main church service or are based on special occasions.

Every week we participate in part of the service and once a month we are all in church for the whole service. This is a slightly-shorter integrated worship specifically aimed at children and the young at heart. Junior Church members are regularly given the opportunity to be more involved in church worship by serving, reading during the service, writing prayers, and talking to the rest of the congregation about what they do in Junior Church. We also run an introduction to communion course for primary school aged children every few years, culminating in a service celebrating their 'first communion'.

Each October one of our Junior Church members is crowned Harvest Queen/King. Throughout the year they, along with their retinue, represent our church by visiting other churches in the area and they are a key part of the Whit Friday parade.

Whit Friday Band Contest

Spring is in the air and throughout the valley plans are underway for this year's Whit Friday Band Contest.

The Friezland Contest has been attracting bands for thirty six years and is unique in being hosted by a church. Christ Church Friezland starts the day with the Whit Walks and in the afternoon prepares for their Band Contest.



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

We expect around fifty bands from far and wide to be marching and playing throughout the evening; last year's winner even came from Scandinavia.

The twenty church volunteers will organize, set up, marshal, serve, dismantle and tidy up the event with any surplus funds helping to maintain the structure of the church building.

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

Why don't you come along on 25th May from 4:30pm and enjoy it with us?

Baptism Matters

Godparents' Sunday

This is a response to research undertaken on behalf of the Archbishops' Council looking at parents' real experiences and expectations around the baptism of their child. In 2016, Godparents' Sunday took place for the first time with resources made available to help create a great day of welcome and celebration.

In 2018, it will take place on 6th May, but you can celebrate the role of godparents at any time of year, if you wish. One of the biggest findings of the research was that godparents really, really matter to families. Godparents are part of family life for all the years ahead; a relationship that will last into adulthood and beyond. Setting apart a Sunday to celebrate and pray for this special relationship is a great opportunity to share with families and to ask for God's blessing on godparents and godchildren everywhere. We are looking to recognise this initiative this year and more will follow.

Parish Contacts

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

St Mary Greenfield

Reflection and looking forward

By the time you read this, spring will have arrived, and we will be celebrating a joyful Eastertide, but as I write, snow keeps fluttering past the window and it is incredibly cold outside. Every year the seasons reveal God's continuing goodness towards us and how wonderful it is that Easter always occurs in spring, alongside so many other reminders of new life and new beginnings.



As we look beyond Easter, we will be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 10:00am on Sunday 29th April. Soon afterwards, we will celebrate Ascension Day on 10th May, with a service at 7:30pm at St Mary's, when we look forward to welcoming friends from the other churches in our Benefice.



Ascension Day is St Mary's patronal festival, as the church was consecrated on Ascension Day, 6th May, 1875, by Bishop James Fraser, the second Bishop of Manchester. St Mary's was one of 99 churches that he consecrated during his time in office, so the Diocese must have grown considerably under his leadership.

Ascension Day is, of course, quite closely followed by Pentecost or Whit. On Whit Friday, 25th May, our day will begin with a service at Church at 9:15am, and then we will walk onto Road End to meet our friends from Greenfield Methodist Church for our outdoor service, before enjoying our joint walk of witness around the village. Whit Friday is a real community event and always attracts people from far and wide. It's also an opportunity for the Church to witness to its faith in our great God, and it's always a joy to see everyone gathering to walk and worship together.



But our Christian witness shouldn't just happen on Whit Friday. The reports about St Mary's Charity Shop and Early Church, Pulse, and other groups that meet, are a part of our on-going work, mission and ministry at St Mary's, and I am grateful to all those who serve God and his people both from and within our church building.

And there have been many who have served at St Mary's during its 143 year history, who are remembered with love and gratitude. From our Book of Remembrance for April and May, we particularly remember Norah Bourne, Hilda Helena Maclean, Duncan Maclean, Kathleen Pilkington, Harry Parkin, Tom Partington, Edith Elizabeth Brassay, Priscilla Forber and John Brian Buckley. As we give thanks for them and their lives, we also pray for their families and friends who love and miss them.

To end my report for this time, I refer back to our joint service with friends from Greenfield Methodist Church on 7th January. The service was inspiring and uplifting as we were able to join in their covenant prayers. The words we prayed were similar to those that we also prayed as an Anglican Team on New Year's Day 2017 when we held a joint service at Christ Church Friezland, and are worth repeating here as a reminder of our commitment to our God:

"I am no longer my own but yours, your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me, in all that I do and in all that I may endure; when there is work for me and when there is none; when I am troubled and when I am at peace.

"Your will be done when I am valued and when I am disregarded; when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking; when I have all things, and when I have nothing. I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.

"Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever. Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen."

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

Barbara

Stuff for the kids

Pulse is a club that we run in partnership with Greenfield Methodist and Christ Church Friezland churches. Every other Friday night children of junior school age from across the villages are welcome to come to hang out, have fun, play games, learn about God and make friends.

Location: Greenfield Methodist church. Cost: 50p.

For more info contact Tim on 07878 190604

Men unite

Calling all men! Men unite is an open invitation to men from across the area to come and be together, share some food and drink, and open the bible.

Men's breakfast

Come for a coffee and breakfast bagel.
Second Saturday of the month at Abaco (Java).
7th April & 12th May from 7:30am to 9:00am.

Beer and bible for blokes

Meeting on Mondays
at the Kingfisher, Greenfield.
16th April & 28th May
from 7:30pm to 9:00pm.



Mums Getting Together

Mums getting together with or without the little ones to have a good natter and look at the bible and pray together.



We meet every other Tuesday in term time:
17th April, 1st & 15th May, 12th & 26th June.
Babies and small children welcome.

Contact Charissa for more information:

charissa@makejesusknown.com

St Mary's Charity Shop

We are situated in a very good position on Chew Valley Road, opposite the turning for the Library and Surgery. Our manager, Lynda McGowan, along with 34 volunteers, are all unpaid. In the shop there is a notice which reads:

Volunteers are UNPAID
Not because they are WORTHLESS
But because they are PRICELESS.

This is true of all volunteers but I do believe that volunteers are rewarded because of the camaraderie and the joy of being able to meet

people in the shop, and help the church and other charities such as Emmaus and The Booth Centre.

People visit us from far and wide as well as local, and as well as bringing, buying and browsing, they share their joys and sorrows. I well recall a woman coming in after a visit to the doctor when she said:

"Five minutes in here is worth more than the pills I am going to get at the chemist!"

The shop is indeed the church in the community, reaching out to all who come in or pass by, in the name of St Mary's, and therefore in the name of God, and very definitely with his love.

We sell (and give) The Grapevine in our shop, and our constantly changing stock consists of almost anything you could imagine!

Our selling prices are realistic, and there are many bargains. Quite often we are overwhelmed when we open up and see how much stock there is to put out on the forecourt and to sort out. It is then we utter our prayer: 'God help us', and it happens because always God does help us. God bless all of you readers who support us.

Our shop is **small**, but it is **big** enough for **love**.



Ladies Luncheon Club

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12th April from 11:30am for 12 noon lunch at Tame Valley Tennis Club, Greenbridge Lane. Our speaker is Saddleworth Journalist Ken Bennett. The food list will be in church on Sunday 1st and 8th April.



Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Barbara Christopher barbarachristopher@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 876802
Vergar	Eva Holden	01457 873043
Organist	Graham Sheldon Graham.Sheldon@oldham.gov.uk	01457 513236
Flower Secretary	Pam Butler pambutler2@tiscali.co.uk	01457 876982
Gift Aid Secretary	Elizabeth Pilkington lizhp2170@lizhp2170.plus.com	01457 837268
Charity Shop Manager	Lynda McGowan shel48@live.co.uk	07708 996919
St Mary's School, Headteacher	Mrs S M Hall info@greenfieldstmary.oldham.sch.uk	01457 872264

St Anne Lydgate

Church connections with

St Anne's C of E School

The church and school have really good connections with Thursday school assemblies being led by either Revd Pat Gillian, Mr Al Gillian or Mr Brian Devenport. These usually involve the children taking part in the particular topic that is being led on that day and they thoroughly enjoy these.

During the year there are 'Church Experiences', which include one at Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest. This is when some of the children visit church. Revd Pat welcomes them and explains the purpose of the visit.

The children break into small groups and are invited to look at the different stations which contain different themes. Our regular church volunteers have kindly set up these stations and explain to the children to what their station relates. Each station contains props of all kinds: pictures, things to touch, smell, taste. There is usually a story associated with each station. The children also have the opportunity to ask questions and there are often many.

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 27th April 2018

Venue: St Anne's Church, Lydgate

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

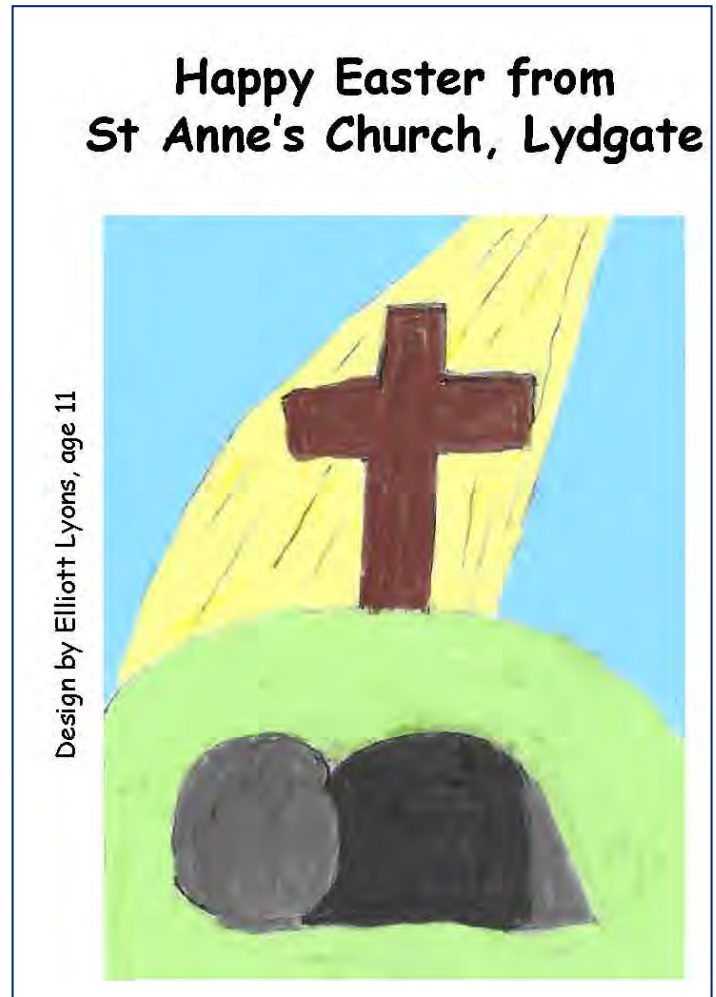
Spring and Summer Fashions
with matching accessories

Bar and refreshments available

Tickets £5.00 on sale
from Sam Lowe 07725 535622

Happy Easter Cards

A 'Happy Easter' card cover has been designed by Elliott Lyons, aged 11 and is shown below.



The card will be delivered to all houses in the parish during March by a team of fifty volunteers.

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

Easter Services

(Services at St Anne Lydgate unless stated otherwise)

Palm Sunday 25th March at 11:00am

Monday 26th March at 7:30pm

The People's Passion at *Holy Trinity Dobcross*

Maundy Thursday 29th March at 7:30pm

Supper and washing of feet followed by a vigil

Good Friday 30th March at 10:00am

Meditations for Good Friday

Easter Eve Saturday 31st March at 8:00pm

Easter vigil at *St Mary Greenfield*

Easter Day 1st April

Eucharist at 6:00am at *The Roebuck Strinesdale*

Easter Eucharist at 8:00am

Easter Eucharist at 11:00am.



@stanneslydgate



stanneslydgate@gmail.com

Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Sue Willett	sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk	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	patandalgillian@btinternet.com	01457 870162
Weekly Sheet Manager	Sue Willett	sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk	0161 425 7909

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**Monday 9th April 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."

You are invited to ...
**A QUIET DAY
'Food for the Journey'**



**Saturday 2nd June - 11:00am to 4:00pm
Christ Church Friezland**

In the Bible we find many characters who discover strength for their souls and their faith as well as for their bodies over a meal. Come and meet them again.

There will be three short times of input from the speaker on themes in the Bible, each followed by quiet time to think about what these things mean for us. We share lunch together and end the day with informal worship and prayer.



Church of England in Saddleworth

"Celebrating God's presence in all people."

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church

Reflection

The beginning of the year has seen much tidying and sorting of the Parish Centre vestry and meeting rooms so as to make them more usable. After the report by the architect we have spent time getting ready for some of the maintenance work that needs to be done. Gradually we are making the vestry more usable. Shelving has been put in the boiler room to create more storage. The Whit Friday Banners are being hung upstairs so they will be more visible and kept safe when St Chad's roof and ceiling are repaired.

We hosted the Churches Together in Saddleworth (CTiS) Prayer Breakfast that was led by Revd Aaron. It gave us time to ponder and reflect on a short reading and to offer prayers. These breakfasts are led by a different person each time and are both thoughtful and very friendly. Please do come to the next one on 19th May from 8:30am to 10:00am at Uppermill Methodist Church.

CTiS organised the week of Christian Unity which culminated in the impressive service in the Civic Hall.

There have been further meetings about all the necessary restoration work that needs to be done at the Parish Church. The Faculty has been applied for the handrails at the main Church entrance. Helen is working hard on the application for a grant, we are all very grateful to her for her work on this.

On a very cold frosty morning the gutters and tower gullies were cleaned and some roof tiles repaired in an effort to keep the building water tight.

The bell ringers are now having evening practices and would welcome any new volunteers. We have also enjoyed the ringing of a visiting team. It is wonderful that the bells are in good order and that there are bell ringers available.



The Church clock has played up this month causing the electricity to trip to several parts of the church. I am on a learning curve as to where all the different trip switches are in the church. We await the fitting of parts before the clock can be restarted. Life is always interesting looking after old buildings.

Alison Coates.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The meeting will take place on Sunday 8th April at Kilngreen. Do come along to this important meeting and hear how all the Church organisations are doing. There are more than you think.

Dates for your Diary

Easter Day 1st April - Services at Kilngreen and the Parish Church; none at Parish Centre.

Tuesday 17th April - Kilngreen Supporters AGM at 7:30pm in Kilngreen.

Sunday 29th April - (5th Sunday) All at Parish Centre. Other services are as usual.

Whit Friday 25th May

Short service at the Parish Church at 9:30am before processing to the park for the joint service at 11:00am.

Kilngreen procession leaves Kilngreen church at 9:15am. There is a quick hymn on Sam Road and a service at The Gate Inn on the way to Uppermill for the joint service.

Sunday 3rd June - Charity night at Delph Theatre where the Saddleworth Players perform 'We are three sisters'. Enjoy a play and a meal.

OATIN Plant Sale

Can you help us make it our best ever?

At this time of the year the Oshandi Aids Trust In Namibia (OATIN) holds a Plant Sale to raise funds to support the orphans, those living with HIV, and the elderly who are sick in the Oshandi villages in rural Northern Namibia, with whom our parish has a link.



There are a good variety plants which are of an excellent quality. Plant forms will be available during March in all Saddleworth Churches and from the Team Office. All forms need to be completed and returned with payment by Sunday 8th April.

Plants will be available for collection from Uppermill Cricket Club on Tuesday 15th May.



If anyone would like more information, please contact Ann Hibbert 874423 or Liz Rooke 810666.

Wellsprings

A bit of background (for our new readers)

Wellsprings was developed by a group of people from Rochdale and Saddleworth with friends from the UK and beyond. Since 1991 they have been engaged in a growing programme of solidarity, help and friendship with the *campesino* community of El Tular, El Salvador (in Central America).

The Trust is supported by a large group of committed friends here and also works with a local management committee in El Tular chosen by the people, and with a partner development organisation, the Asociacion El Balsamo, in the capital, San Salvador.

The main thrusts of the work in El Tular can be summarised as:

“To promote charitable objectives to the relief of poverty, the advancement of education and the preservation and protection of good health”

The encounter began in 1991 about the time of the signing of the peace treaty which followed a brutal repression of the Salvadoran people. The main features of the development side have been friendship, some economic improvement, educational development, emergency help (earthquake, hurricanes, drought etc.) and health (including clean water).

Latest News

Christmas Activities in El Tular

In the last days of December we provided a number of activities for the whole of our community, especially El Tular's youth and children.

Activity 1

On Christmas Eve, after the children have visited all their families for the traditional pre-Christmas Eve breakfast, most of them gathered at the front of the church where there was a football game after which the parents shared presents and food with the boys and girls.

These events combine with other activities which

happen at this time, such as the supper which follows the mass in the Church.

The food for all these is prepared by the women of the community who come together on this day of festivity.

Activity 2

We have a cultural activity in our community which happens in the last weekend of December. Several



children and young people felt moved to initiate us into some of the traditional dances and the pastoralia suitable for our times.

Activity 3

Following on from various activities a group of young people with some friends from our neighbouring village, Los Pintines, came together to construct a “Marimba”, the traditional musical instrument of our people, and play traditional music on it.

Activity 4

This is how these activities are developing in our community in the context of our patronal festivals. Traditional dances, music and choral songs with groups of children and young people.

Every year we are able to put on these events because the people *unite* to bring them about.

One of the traditional dances of the patronal festivals is called the Spotted Calf. This year it was put on to the music of the marimba by these artists from our community.



Visit

We are hoping that 2 or 3 people from El Tular and/or Balsamo will be able to pay us a visit towards the end of September. Offers for bed and breakfast would be welcome. Fluent Spanish is not essential!

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

Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Sarah Barlow	sarah.barlow@talk21.com	07775 613787
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Assistant Wardens	Tim Edge		01457 872429
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	Debbie McCabe		
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St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

Reflection

The New Year has started with much hope and love. Several families have been affected by illness and bereavement but everyone has rallied round offering care and support. Christianity in action.

The Christingle service at the beginning of January was made extra special this year with some life size puppets to help tell the Nativity story. Thank you to the puppeteers and narrator for entertaining everyone so well. If you missed it do look out for other opportunities to see them in action again. They belong to the benefice and may appear in any of our Churches.



Revd Aaron gave us a very disturbing sermon about the plight of those trapped in 'slave labour', very often right under our noses. We heard how they are tricked and coerced into situations where they are then treated in the most appalling manner, living and working like animals. He challenged us to think about what Jesus's response would be and for us to do likewise.

The following Sunday we all met in the Civic Hall for the Churches Together in Saddleworth United Service to mark the week of Christian Unity. The theme was "breaking the chains" and there was most definitely a sense of unity as 300 people from across Saddleworth shared in this act of worship together.

The Sunday School have been very busy making a variety of things from paper chains for the United Service, to decorating pancakes as they prepared for the start of Lent. One of the very special cards they have made was for Margaret Hardy, as she celebrated her 80th Birthday in February.

Thank you also to Jim Hall who led us in a reflection on St Mark's Gospel Chapter 12, the story of the five sparrows. He made us all realise how special we are to God; if God cares so much for an insignificant sparrow, just think how much he cares for us!

The Prosecco and Praise group had its first meeting in Java, six of us had a great time getting to know each other better (mainly over hot chocolate - it was too cold for Prosecco). We also spent some time thinking about the story from Luke and reflected on how special we are to God.

Happy 80th Birthday to Margaret

In February everyone at the Parish Church, Kilngreen and the Parish Centre wished Margaret Hardy a wonderful 80th birthday.

Margaret is a life-long, active member of St Chad's church. She attended Sunday School at Lee Street as a little girl and, as a teenager, was a member of the church's Young People's Society. Later she became a Sunday School teacher herself, a role she performed with enthusiasm and devotion, until her retirement aged 70! During those fifty years of service, many as Sunday School leader, Margaret taught and inspired generations of children. She is pictured here with today's Sunday School.



Margaret's work for church and for charity was recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours List in 2013. She was awarded the British Empire Medal which was presented at a local ceremony. Later that year Margaret and her family were guests at a Buckingham Palace garden party. We are so proud of Margaret - such a worthy recipient of the honour.

Margaret's family organised a special party to mark her 80th birthday. We all wished her many happy returns of the day!

Whit Friday 25th May

We all meet at 9:30am at the Parish Church for a short service before we set off on our Procession of Witness.

Our route is down Church Road to the top of Wellmeadow Lane, where we have a hymn stop. Then down Wellmeadow Lane for a second hymn stop. The route then takes us down Church Road, turning left past the Village Green and on to Lee Street for our final hymn stop. We then process down Court Street and join the other churches for the United Service at 11:00am in King George V Playing Fields.

After the service we process with the other churches along High Street to the viaduct. We return to Uppermill village and end our walk at the Parish Centre on Lee Street.



Every two months, Benefice Café Church and cake. Next meeting will be held on Monday 9th April at 2:00pm in the Parish Centre.

Coffee Mornings

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



Saturday 7th April

Away Giving.

Saturday 21st April

'Seeing is Believing' coffee morning.

Saturday 5th May

Away Giving.

Saturday 19th May

'Seeing is Believing' coffee morning.

Praise and Prosecco

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

The next meeting of the Prosecco Group will be on Thursday 12th April and Thursday 10th May.



Please ring Sarah Adams on 07747 091253 for more information and venue details.

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

Contacts

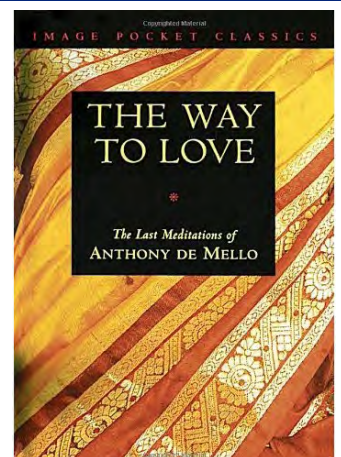
Grapevine Coordinator	Sarah Barlow	sarah.barlow@talk21.com	07775 613787
Assistant Wardens	Margaret Fletcher		01457 874941
	Sarah Adams		01457 875126
Parish Centre Lettings	Joe Hughes		01457 873165

Book review - Revd Aaron Jackman

The Way to Love, though small in stature, is a book which attempts to tackle some of life's biggest questions. Written by Indian Jesuit priest, Father Anthony De Mello, as a series of short meditations, each chapter focuses on a teaching of Jesus and expands on them to offer simple, yet profound insights into the meaning of love.

In an age where the much-needed and deeply spiritual practice of inner contemplation has been hijacked by money-making populist 'gurus', this book brings things back to basics, reminding us that the true path to love and freedom lies in the act of letting go of attachments - to things, to people, and (as Christ demonstrated in his death and resurrection) even to life itself.

A book for the contemplative person who is eager to ask honest questions about themselves and the way they experience reality. This is recommended as a helpful way to begin exploring contemplative prayer or meditation.



St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

Kilngreen Notes

As I write these notes the snow is falling on what has been reported as the coldest week of the year! Hopefully by the time you are reading this we may be seeing spring!

New Year's Day Service

As has been the custom in Diggle since 2000, a New Year's Day Service was held on the car park at The Hanging Gate which was attended by members of Kilngreen and many villagers from Diggle. This was Revd Duncan Rhodes's final public service and he talked about love and the importance of this in our lives. We were joined by members of Diggle Band who accompanied the hymns and prayers to welcome in 2018.

January Family Service

Goodbye 2017 Welcome to 2018

January Family service was led by Janet and Geoff Iles and was on the theme of letting go of the old year and welcoming the new one. Everyone in the congregation was given a square of paper and a square of card, and asked to write something on the paper that they wanted to leave behind from 2017. These pieces of paper were then screwed up and put into a bucket to be thrown away.

Everyone was then asked to write something on their card that they would like to either achieve or see happen in 2018. These were not for sharing but were small enough to put inside a diary or a wallet. We were invited to keep this and look at it later in the year to see if we had been able to achieve the aim written on our cards. We were also invited to write on a flip chart anything we would like to pray for in this new year and these were included in the prayers.

February Family Service

February Family Service was led by Val Stocker, Tracy Waller and Anne Wilson. Val welcomed everyone to the service, and asked each person to choose a small stone, write their name on it and keep it for later in the service. She then explained the theme of the service which had three strands:

What is the Church?

What is the purpose of the Church today?

How can we spread the Good News to others?

Val explained that there are three words we can use to represent these:

“UP” purpose to Worship God in our Church;

“IN” purpose to create our community here on earth like the one in heaven;

“OUT” purpose to share the Good News of Jesus with others.



When we come together as a Church we begin with Jesus at the centre, and the cross reminds us of Jesus and his resurrection, and we are his “living stones”. The Church is not the building where it takes place, but the people who are in it and our ‘UP purpose’ is to worship God with all of our heart, mind and soul.

Tracy then showed everyone “Rublev’s Icon” which is 900 years old and depicts three people at a table. This has come to be seen as depicting the Trinity - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It is a devotional painting and, because of the relaxed nature of the figures, we can see they are in a relationship with each other and this is how we should worship God. Our ‘IN purpose’ is to be in a relationship with God and each other, in a community of love, unity, humility, harmony and peace. Our Church should be a community like this too, where we accept, encourage and love each other; that we are not a closed group, but open with room for anyone else to come in too.

Our ‘OUT purpose’ is that we have good news to share with others that God loves us and Jesus died for us and this news needs to be taken to our neighbours, friends, Diggle and the whole Saddleworth community and beyond. We know it can be hard to do this, but we need to take that message out and show that love for everyone.

We gave each other the stones with our names on. The prayers included a time of silence for us each to pray for the person named on the stone we now had. Afterwards we brought all the stones and placed them around the cross on the table, and Val reminded everyone that there were spaces on the table between the stones which left room for more people to join us.



A big thank you to everyone who was involved in preparing and presenting this excellent service.

Diggle Diamonds Coffee Mornings

The coffee mornings are held each month at The Gate in Diggle on a Saturday morning at 10:30am.

Admission: £1.

All older residents of Diggle are invited to join us for coffee and friendship.

Dates for this year are:

14th April, 12th May,

9th June, 14th July,

11th August, 8th September,

13th October and 17th November.

Diggle Diamonds Summer Trip

will be on 5th June, venue to be announced later in the year.

Diggle Diamonds Christmas Party

will be on Saturday 1st December at Kilngreen.

Any questions ring Mike Hall on 01457 870480.

St Chad's All Stars Annual Dinner

On Friday 23rd February the All Stars held their annual dinner and party at Kilngreen where members (old and new) enjoyed a lovely meal provided by Greenwoods. There were games and dancing, with music provided by Geoff Iles.

If you have ever fancied "treading the boards" or helping out either at front of house or backstage then we would love to hear from you. We are 'all stars' and no previous experience of singing or dancing etc. is required. You are welcome to just come along, join in and have fun! If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact Kate Millett on 01457 239136.

St Chad's All Stars Spring Show

Rehearsals began in January for the show, entitled "Hurrah for St George!" This is a comic celebration for St George's Day and presents a light-hearted look at English history, through traditional English songs and comedy sketches.

Performances are on 26th, 27th and 28th April at Kilngreen and start at 7:30pm. For tickets contact Hazel Edmends by [phone on 07813 829566](tel:07813829566) or email at hazel.edmends@gmail.com

With Thanks ...

I, and all our family, would like to thank Duncan, David, Linda and Sarah for their support, good offices and kindness following Hilary's sudden death on 22nd November 2017. Also, we would wish to thank all our friends and members of the three congregations of St Chad's Parish that offered assistance, condolences and kind words.

Hilary's funeral was held at St Michael's Church in Alkington, Middleton on 11th December 2017. As she wished, her ashes were interred in the Memorial Garden there on 31st January 2018. Donations in lieu of flowers raised over £2500 for the charity 'Kidneys for Life' based at Manchester Royal Infirmary.

With thanks, Evan Compston.

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

Contacts

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

Parent and baby fostering

Help keep a young family together



Oldham
Council



Suzannah said *“It’s fantastic to be able to give a young parent the stability and security, help and encouragement to be able to look after their baby and help move them onto independence. Seeing a young parent gain confidence in their own abilities and learning the skills they need to go forward on their own two feet is so rewarding.*

“Fostering is 24/7 and involves all your family and often your extended family and friends. It’s important that the time is right for all of you. If you have a spare room, patience and love to give, then it’s time to give fostering a go!”



Suzannah and Paul Marland-Griffiths

Parent and baby fostering is where a parent and their young child live with a foster family.

Any new parent will tell you just how tough it can be having children. Becoming a parent at an early age or when you have not had a good experience of being parented yourself can be completely overwhelming.

Our parent and baby foster carers support the young parent to develop the maturity and skills they need to look after their baby, helping to build their confidence and hopefully become good parents and live independently.

Fostering a young parent and their baby is a very rewarding experience. Carers offer support and guidance to a young family at a time when they need it the most, helping to keep the family together. They play a vital role in helping a young parent develop a bond with their baby, at an important stage in their development.

The baby benefits from the extra support received by the parent giving them the best start in life. The parent gets to live in a stable family environment, which helps them to focus on looking after their baby without worrying about anything else.

Suzannah and Paul Marland-Griffiths have fostered for Oldham since 2009, and have recently become parent and baby carers.

Fostering a young family can be challenging as well as rewarding, so we will support you every step of the way. Carers receive:

- a competitive financial package;
- one-to-one support with your own social worker;
- specialised training to help you provide the best care possible;
- emergency support line.

There is no such thing as a typical foster carer. Life experience and personal qualities make all the difference to a young person and their baby.

You can apply to foster regardless of marital status, sexuality, race or religion, or whether you are in work or have a disability.

All we ask is that you are over 21 years old, have room in your home and have the time and flexibility to be able to care for a young parent and their baby.

If you are interested in becoming a parent and baby foster carer or fostering in general, please:

- call 0161 770 6600
- or visit www.oldham.gov.uk/fostering

We look forward to hearing from you.

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CHILDREN'S HOSPICE
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www.saddleworthlive.com



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 Thursday 3rd May 2018.

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

A Patronal Civic Service of Welcome

Parish councils are the most local elected body within the English system of local government and are often referred to as the first tier of Local Government.

The origins of most English parishes date back over five hundred years to a time when England was divided into areas known as 'manors' owned by Lords. Taxation was levied by The Lord of the Manor to support the poor. Over time the Lord of the Manor's rights and responsibilities were taken over by the Church which had recognised rights and obligations of charity to the poor. The obligations were managed in each church's parochial area, known as a parish. These responsibilities were administered through meetings of the inhabitants and were known as Vestries (as they were usually held in the Church Vestry).

"Parish" is an old English word meaning a local territory or catchment area. In ancient times it played a very important role in the lives of people, from providing them with a sense of communal identity through to how they were governed. A parish had two principal functions:

- To act as a civil unit which was responsible for collecting taxes and tithes, the dispensing of justice and the raising of armies.
- An ecclesiastical institution served by a local church or chapel, with a priest or similar clergyman tending to the spiritual needs of local people.

Prior to Local Government re-organisation in the late 1800s, a parish was administered by the church, with the Overseers of the Poor and the Road Surveyors reporting to the Churchwardens. Before the days of local Rates or Council Taxes, the Church used to set a 'Tithe Apportionment' to pay for the poor.

By the late 19th Century, the two functions of civil and ecclesiastical parish were formally split in law. The Local Government Act (1894) created local authorities responsible for the administration of a parish's services as well as the civil functions of the older parochial institutions - the new authorities were known as Parish Councils.

Parishes and Parish Councils have been subject to many changes. One major one affecting Saddleworth was the Local Government Act (1974). Saddleworth Urban District Council was absorbed into Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council and the Saddleworth Parish Council was established. Few, if any, other Parishes seeking Neighbourhood Planning status have such a complex area of a large number of individual and diverse communities as Saddleworth. We are possibly the largest Parish council in the country covering a geographic area of 29.4 square miles (76 km²) and housing 25,500 people in over 12,000 households spread throughout 13 communities.



Saddleworth Parish Council is served by twenty elected councillors. Each year one is elected to chair the council. This year Rob Knotts, a member of the congregation of Holy Trinity Dobcross, has that honour. His inaugural church service will be held in

Holy Trinity Dobcross at 2:00pm on Trinity Sunday 27th May which will be attended by civic dignitaries from around the area, family and friends. Graham McGuffie has kindly agreed to be Rob's chaplain during his year of office. All are invited to attend and for refreshments at the Dobcross Band Club after the service.

Book review - Revd Canon Sharon Jones

Here is a book I have read and re-read many times.

It is a spiritual classic written by the retired Archbishop of Canterbury. It explores the transforming and challenging experience of silence and why it is something for which we should yearn.



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We help our clients hold onto memories!

We recently had an enquiry from a local lady whose relative had sadly passed away. She had an audio recording of her relative chatting with another member of her family and wanted to know if we could transcribe the audio file into text so that

they had a constant reminder of him.

As audio transcription is something that we specialise in so we were glad to help. The lady doesn't drive so I went to her home to collect the recording which was on a hand held recording device.

The file was downloaded onto my computer and has now been transcribed into a Word document and copies of the audio file have been made so that my client and her family members can still feel close to their relative.

I had much empathy for her and her family and told her of my own experience 5 years

ago with my own father a few days before he passed away. I was working at his house and I recorded a couple of conversations that we had when I was explaining how my recording device worked, and showed him how with the use of modern technology and the internet that most things are possible, and this clearly demonstrated that I can work anywhere and not just in our office.

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