

The Grapevine

February 2019 &
March 2019

Issue 8

£1



The Church of England in Saddleworth

“Celebrating God’s presence in all people.”

www.cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk

My picture represents peace in God's world because I believe that God wants peace in the world that we live in.



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The Rector writes...

The tinsel and decorations have been packed away. The bins have been emptied. We hunker down for the rest of the winter and dream of holidays in the sun.

As we celebrate Candlemas on 2nd February we turn from the Jesus-baby in the manger towards the grown up Jesus God-man who invites us to follow him; to stick with him and be led through the temptations and challenges of our lives.



He invites us to place our hand in his, and deep within our souls to recognise that we belong to him. He shows us what truth looks like. He reveals to us the nature of love. He shows us that although the future is not ours to know and is often obscured and uncertain and fear-filled, we find our true selves through relationship with Christ.

God calls us to change our lives and our mind-set and let God remodel us into the shape of Jesus. We do not know what the new year brings or what our lives may look like in twelve months time, but we can be sure that God whose love is infinite and unfailing will hold us, guide us and never let us go.

Sharon



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World Day of Prayer

“Come everything is ready”

A service for everyone prepared
by Christian women of Slovenia.

Friday 1st March at 7:00pm

at

Sacred Heart Church, Uppermill

The service will be followed by refreshments

Also a Coffee Morning on
Wednesday 20th February from 10:00am to 12noon
at
Methodist Centre Uppermill



The cover for this issue shows pictures drawn by school children in the benefice.

See more details on Page 5.

Ash Wednesday & Lent

Ash Wednesday Worship

On Ash Wednesday 6th March at 7:30pm, the benefice worships together at Christ Church Denshaw on the first day of Lent. Join us at this reflective Eucharist where we undertake the 'Imposition of Ashes'.

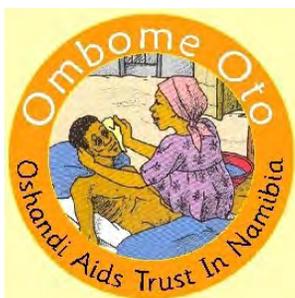
Lent Courses

The Churches Together in Saddleworth Lent Course sessions will run for five weeks, starting during the week beginning Sunday 10th March, and will be held as follows:

Tuesday	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Greenfield Methodist Church
Wednesday	7:30pm to 9:00pm	St Anne Church Lydgate
Thursday	2:00pm to 3:30pm	Holy Trinity Church Dobcross
Thursday	7:30pm to 9:00pm	The Sacred Heart Centre, Uppermill

Please feel free to visit any venue, depending on diary engagements, as the same topic will be covered each week in all the venues.

'Oshandi AIDS Trust in Namibia' (OATIN)



From the Trustees of OATIN to all who bought our 'alternative' Christmas Cards, thank you for your wonderful support. This year we raised over £500 which will go towards meeting the individual needs of vulnerable orphans attending either Malangu 'Primary' or Omungolyo 'Combined' schools in Oshandi.

The New Year festivities are truly over and February and March can sometimes be the dullest of times.

However, we can at last look forward to spring and longer daylight hours.

Spring is now the time to plan your summer garden...



What to plant in borders and tubs to give you, and your neighbours, pleasure and 'the best blooming show'?

As ever the OATIN Plant Sale is on hand to help by offering quality bedding plants at competitive prices. Please look out for order forms which will be available at all worship centres from early March (or downloadable using the QR code below). Full instructions on ordering, payment and collecting will be on the forms.

Almost a quarter of our annual income is raised through the 'Plant Sale', so we really do value your custom.

The majority of funds raised go towards helping the most vulnerable members of the Oshandi community such as people living positively with HIV /AIDS, orphans, vulnerable children, and older people – Grannies and Grandads still caring for orphaned grandchildren.

We also support projects designed to increase community 'income' e.g. the communal garden project and the Mahangu crusher. As you watch your garden 'bloom and grow' be assured that by buying plants on behalf of the Oshandi project you really are helping to support the continued health and well-being of the whole community.



On behalf of the Trustees - Thank you

Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort...
at easy answers, hard hearts, half truths
and superficial relationships.

May God bless you so that you live
from deep within your heart where God's spirit dwells.

May God bless you with anger...
at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people.

May God bless you so that you may
work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears...
to shed for those who suffer from pain,
rejection, starvation and war.

May God bless you so that you
may reach out your hand
to comfort them and turn their pain to joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe you can make a difference
in this world, in your neighbourhood;
So that you will courageously try
what you don't think you can do, but, in Jesus Christ
find you'll have all the strength necessary.

May God so bless you to fearlessly
Speak out against injustice,
unjust laws, corrupt politicians
cruel treatment of prisoners
and senseless wars, genocides, starvations
and poverty.

May God bless you that you remember
we are all called to continue
God's redemptive work of love
and healing in God's place,
in and through God's name, in God's Spirit,
continually creating and breathing life and grace
into everything and everyone we touch.

Front Page Artwork

Children at St Anne's Lydgate and St Chad's
Uppermill schools were invited to draw a picture to
illustrate their understanding of 'God'. The pictures
on the front cover are a selection from those we
received.

Children have a unique relationship with God and
have much to teach us about love, trust, wonder
and awe, spontaneity and joy. They are a window
onto faith and their thoughts should always be
listened to and respected.

All the pictures have been scanned and can be
viewed on our website at:
www.cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk/the-grapevine



Week of Accompanied Prayer

*Lord, May I see you more clearly,
Love you more dearly,
Follow you more nearly,
Day by day.*

24th February to 1st March

at

**Sacred Heart and St William
Presbytery, Uppermill**

What is a 'Week of Accompanied Prayer'?

A retreat in daily life: an invitation to deepen your
relationship with God through:

- † accompanied daily prayer;
- † a chance to pause, review and renew prayer.

Who is it for?

Anyone who desires to keep God at the centre of
daily life and wants to renew their prayer life.

What does it involve?

Life carries on as normal with some additions for
the week. Participants are asked:

- † to try to spend a few minutes in prayer each
day;
- † to pray daily as discussed by your
'companion';
- † to meet daily with your 'companion';
- † to come to the opening and closing meetings.

What/Who are 'Prayer Companions'?

Those who have been trained and experienced in
this ministry.

Programme for February/March

Information Meeting:

Sunday 10th February at 4:00pm

Opening Meeting:

Sunday 24th February at 4:00pm

Daily Meetings with 'companion':

25th February – 1st March

All meetings will be in:

Sacred Heart & St William Presbytery,
31 High Street, Uppermill, OL3 6HS

Please contact Father Bernard (01457 872603) if
you would like to find out more before the meeting
on 10th February.

Church of England in Saddleworth Who's Who

Saddleworth Ministerial Team

Team Rector	Revd Canon Sharon Jones sharonjones@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07738 966271
Team Vicar	Revd John Rosedale jrrosedale@gmail.com	01457 874209
Assistant Curate	Revd Aaron Jackman aaronjackman@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07717 893466
Associate Priest	Revd Barbara Christopher barbarachristopher@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 876802
Associate Priest	Revd Dr Michael Donmall michaeldonmall@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07779 225063
Missioner for Discipleship	Revd Hilary Edgerton hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 871704
Missioner with Children and Young People	Revd Angela Bryan angelabryan@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07736 233122 0161 626 0380
Assistant Curate	Revd Pat Gillian patgillian@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 870162
Assistant Curate	Revd Philip Williamson philipwilliamson@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07736 416126
Reader	Mr Graham McGuffie grahammcguffie@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 872239
Administrator	Mrs Susan Brierley office@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 879977

St Thomas Delph - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Bill Maxwell	wardens@stthomasdelph.co.uk	01457 878512
Churchwarden	Fiona Thompson	wardens@stthomasdelph.co.uk	01457 820816
Secretary	Julie Lait	familylait@outlook.com	01457 829799
Treasurer	Janet Powell		01457 878828

Christ Church Denshaw - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Ros Martin	rosmartin05@hotmail.co.uk	07884 940608
Churchwarden	Vacant		
Secretary	Mary Rodgers	rodgers@delphman.myzen.co.uk	01457 874354
Treasurer	Carole Clarke	minihelenclarke@yahoo.co.uk	

Holy Trinity Dobcross - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Paul Wooding	churchwarden@holytrinitydobcross.org.uk	01457 878116
Churchwarden	Denis Cavanagh		01457 874343
Secretary	Vacant	secretary@holytrinitydobcross.org.uk	
Treasurer	Peter Whiffin	treasurer@holytrinitydobcross.org.uk	01457 872386

Christ Church Friezland - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Duncan Ross	ross328@btinternet.com	01457 835261
Churchwarden	David Cartwright	elaineanddavec@icloud.com	07527 408726
Secretary	Elaine Cartwright	elaineanddavec@icloud.com	07764 658349
Treasurer	Deborah Thompson	debxrah@gmail.com	01457 875038

St Mary Greenfield - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Brian Greenwood	bgreenwood1938@gmail.com	01457 872913
Churchwarden	Vacant		
Secretary	Kath Jump	Kathryn.Jump@shoosmiths.co.uk	01457 875231
Treasurer	Al Gillian	patandalgillian@btinternet.com	01457 870162

St Anne Lydgate - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	David Marshall	davemarshall@outlook.com	07590 074436
Churchwarden	David Lloyd	dave@jandave.f9.co.uk	07525 029383
Secretary	Sue Willett	sue@nwsecretarialservice.co.uk	07808 474743
Treasurer	Al Gillian	patandalgillian@btinternet.com	01457 870162

St Chad Saddleworth - PCC Officers

Churchwarden	Ian Brett	ian.brett@btinternet.com	01457 875014
Churchwarden	Alison Coates	alison99@talktalk.net	01457 876760
Secretary	Liz Rooke	lizzierooke@gmail.com	01457 810666
Treasurer	Chris Chard	chard.chris@gmail.com	01457 874165

Community AND CHANGE

saddleworth benefice churches weekend away 2019

8-10 March 2019 | Everyone Welcome!
sessions for adults & children,
and free time & optional activities

plus: YOUTH STREAM for ages 11+



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Regular Sunday Services

St Thomas Delph

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

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

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

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

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

Christ Church Denshaw

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

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

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

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

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

Holy Trinity Dobcross

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

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

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

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

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

Christ Church Friezland

1st Sunday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

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

3rd Sunday 9:30am Morning Prayer

4th Sunday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

5th Sunday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

St Mary Greenfield

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

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

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

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

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

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

St Anne Lydgate

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

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

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

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

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

Apples! The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. A nun had posted a note on the apple tray, '**Take only ONE! God is watching**'. At the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cakes, next to which, in a child's handwriting, was a sign, '**Take all you want! God is watching the apples**'.

St Chad Saddleworth

As the 5th Sunday is 'Mothering Sunday' there will be two services in the parish.

31 st Mar	9:30am	Kilngreen
	11:00am	Parish Centre

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

1 st Sunday	9:30am	Children's Eucharist
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2 nd Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship
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3 rd Sunday	9:30am	Eucharist and Sunday School
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4 th Sunday	9:30am	Eucharist and Sunday School
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St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church

1 st Sunday	11:00am	Sung Eucharist
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2 nd Sunday	11:00am	Sung Eucharist
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3 rd Sunday	11:00am	Sung Eucharist
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4 th Sunday	11:00am	Morning Prayer
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St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

1 st Sunday	9:30am	Family Worship
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2 nd Sunday	9:30am	Eucharist and Sunday School
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3 rd Sunday	9:30am	Eucharist and Sunday School
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4 th Sunday	9:30am	Eucharist and Sunday School
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Regular Weekday Services

Christ Church Friezland

Tuesday	9:30am	Eucharist (CW)
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Thursday	7:00pm	Eucharist (CW) non-alcoholic wine
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St Anne Lydgate

Wednesday	6:00pm	Family Worship
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Friday	10:00am	Eucharist (CW)
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St Mary Greenfield

Wednesday	10:00am	Eucharist (BCP)
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St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

Tuesday	9:30am	Eucharist
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Sacrament of Confirmation

The Saddleworth Confirmation Service will be held on Sunday 17th March at 3:00pm at Holy Trinity Dobcross.

Confirmation is for those who were baptised as young children and now wish to publicly affirm the promises that were made previously on their behalf. These promises include the following:

- † Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
- † Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?
- † Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

Children should be School Year 7 and above.

Confirmation is also for those who have never been baptised and, as adults, now wish to be.

You may find it helpful to visit Confirmation FAQs at:

churchofengland.org/life-events/confirmations/confirmation-faqs

Preparation will be held on Sunday afternoons at 4:00pm; the venue is to be confirmed.

27th January, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th February, and 3rd March.

If you are interested please contact one of the clergy team for more details.



Candlemas - Saturday 2nd February

Candlemas (also known as the Presentation of Christ) marks the end of the Christmas season.

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to Christmas on 2nd February, exactly 40 days after Christmas Day; this became known as Candlemas.

In New Testament times, 40 days old was an important age for baby boys; it was then that they made their first “public appearance”.

Like all good Jewish mothers, Mary went to the temple with Jesus, her first male child, to give thanks to God for his safe birth and “to present him to the Lord”. It must have meant a great deal to Mary because in the old Hebraic law, Jesus officially joined the worshipping community at this point, even as a baby.

When Jesus entered the temple for the first time, he fulfilled all of the Old Testament prophecies that God spells out for us. For centuries, He promised to send a Saviour and, when Jesus was born, we find that Saviour amongst us.

At the same time, Mary, as a new mother, was

“purified.” So we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

But where does ‘Candlemas’ come from?

Jesus is described in St Luke’s Gospel as the light of the world and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The church also fell into the custom of blessing the year’s supply of candles on that day – hence the name, Candlemas.



The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2, v.22-40. Simeon’s great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is now embedded in the Evening Prayer service. In medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was just used on this one day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist.

Men Unite - Alpha Course



The Men Unite Group, a Saddleworth Christian Men’s Group led by Tim Cooke, is considering starting an Alpha course in Greenfield. It would last for approximately six weeks.

If any men would like further details of this, then please contact Tim on 07878 190604 or Godfrey on 07717 222042.

What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation.

Alpha is run all around the globe: at universities, homes – you name it.

No two Alphas look the same, but generally, they have three key things in common:

- † food;
- † a talk;
- † good conversation.

Men from all sorts of backgrounds wanting to find out more about the Christian faith, have found Alpha to be a helpful step along their journey. All are welcome.

Further information of when the group meets, is also available from Tim.



A view behind bars – Unforgivable



Many people would consider him unforgivable. After all, if you've stabbed one person and killed another, you would expect people to be shocked at the terrible evil you've committed. You wouldn't be surprised if they turned away - permanently.

Derek was already eleven years into his life sentence when I met him. He had just been told that he had terminal cancer and he was polishing his shoes. A trivial detail, but one that seemed to say he would not give up on the little things now he had a new sentence hanging over him.

In fact, I found Derek to be polite, interesting and helpful in the jail. Of his crimes, he was only too well aware. The only woman he'd really loved had died because of him, when in moments of depressive anger he had let his emotions get the better of him.

"There is not a day when I don't wish I'd just picked up the dog lead and gone out for a walk instead", he said.

It's Derek who I wrote about some time ago, crying on a hospice bed on the day he learnt that there would be no compassionate discharge and he would still die a prisoner. Later, he was moved back to another prison where he did eventually die with some healthcare staff, but no family present.

Yet in the weeks before he died I really believe Derek changed. He had politely refused the offer of a prayer one day in his cell but in later days he asked me to pray for him and spoke about his burden of guilt and how he could never be forgiven.



I told him about a God of mercy who knows our hearts. There is a God who welcomes the prodigal who has taken everything and wasted it all. Then, in self-loathing desperation, has come stumbling back with a prepared speech, asking to be counted a mere slave if it means he can be sheltered for a while.

The story Jesus tells goes on to talk about the Father who doesn't even let the words come out before he has thrown his arms around his son, for gladness that he has him back. It's not about rights and wrongs at that moment: just about loving connection.

A few days later Derek told me he had been praying and asking for forgiveness and he thought perhaps it might just be possible.

But it was prayer for him by others that convinced him too. Only two days after I had found him in such abject misery I saw him radiant. Not only had he a sense of some peace but only an hour after a colleague had visited and prayed with him he had had a visit from an estranged brother, and news of his long-lost daughter. There would be no re-connection (he didn't want to interfere with her life and she had chosen not to communicate with him) but he now felt content in knowing she was happy.

That afternoon, Derek asked if he could read from the Bible to *me*. With ever-decreasing breath, he read three chapters. I became the one who was encouraged, touched and helped by this dying 'unforgivable' man who had been responsible for such evil and hurt.



So what do you say at the funeral of someone whose record is so tainted? In front of me were family who had all been impacted: the death of another relative, absence of a father, a son, a grandfather; people who may have felt ashamed and parents of children who just knew they visited granddad in strange places - it would have left a mark on them all.

I could only acknowledge three things I believe to be true:

- † Derek had committed more serious wrong than most and he knew it.
- † We are all a mix of good and bad.
- † God has mercy for those who know their need of it and come to him for a rescue.

*Hilary Edgerton
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale*

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

Holy Trinity Dobcross

2nd January Heath Rupert Brocklehurst
Eloise May Norton

Christ Church Friezland

25th November Elias and Beatrix Downs

2nd December Daisy Lilac Michaelas

9th December Lilly Ivy Miller

22nd December Isla Sadie Kelly

6th January Isabelle Rose and
Oliver William Michael Hardy

St Mary Greenfield

4th November Clara Poppy Iris Higgins

25th November Eva Mae Rose Barker

St Anne Lydgate

4th November Hannah, Elliott and George Lyons

16th December Harry Royle

St Chad Saddleworth

18th October Oliver James Barrett

28th October Iestyn Morris

8th December Mabel Rose Gill

30th December George Albert Hughill

May they walk in the light of Christ.

Interment of Ashes

Holy Trinity Dobcross

16th December John Julian Reilly

May God give them His comfort and peace.

Marriages

St Mary Greenfield

29th September Suzanne Connolly and
David James Sheldon

28th December Diane Hinselwood and
Robert Nigel Tewson

St Anne Lydgate

30th December Sarah Elizabeth Roberts and
Mark Peter James Done

St Chad Saddleworth

21st December Nina Sutcliffe and Steven Otter

Joined in mutual love and companionship.

Funerals

Christ Church Denshaw

13th December Douglas Paul Breakey

Holy Trinity Dobcross

15th November Kathleen Sarah Georgia Chapman

6th December Harold Bottomley

17th December Marie Christine Middleton

St Mary Greenfield

4th October Pauline Veronica Clayton

16th November Joseph Whitehead Buckley

St Anne Lydgate

30th November Margaret Roscoe

13th December Geoffrey Bentley

17th December Margaret Mary Taft

St Chad Saddleworth

4th December Esmee Maitland

10th December Pat Smith

13th December William Brown

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

COME & JOIN A

GOSPEL CHOIR



FOR A BENEFICE
PENTECOST PRAISE
ON SUNDAY 9 JUNE

Open to all ages

You don't need to be able to
read music, just enjoy singing

Rehearsals on Sundays 4-6pm
at the Parish Centre:

April 28
May 12, 19, 26
June 2, 9

Please let Angela know you're in:
0161 626 0380 / 07736 233122
angelabryan@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk

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



**Monday 4th February
2:00pm to 3:00pm**
St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre
Station Road, Uppermill, OL3 6HQ

Music provided by Mike Hindson.
Art work by Janet Iles.

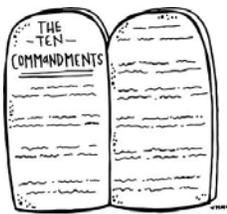
Prayers, reflection and activity
on the theme of Stillness
by Revds Barbara Christopher & Hilary Edgerton.



Church of England in Saddleworth

"Celebrating God's presence in all people."

Big Picture Discussion Group **Ten Commandments for today's world**



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

at

St Anne's Church Lydgate

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

For more details contact Hilary Edgerton
(hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk)
or Val Stocker (valstocker61@gmail.com)



Church of England in Saddleworth

"Celebrating God's presence in all people."

You are invited to ... **A Quiet Day 'At sea with God'**



Saturday 16th March
11:00am to 4:00pm

at

Christ Church Friezland

A day to focus minds and hearts on our responses
to God and others when difficulties emerge,
using the stories and character of Jonah.

Soup and bread lunch will be available
for a donation of £1.50.

For more details contact Revd Hilary Edgerton
hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk



Church of England in Saddleworth

"Celebrating God's presence in all people."

St Thomas Delph

“God’s Purposes in Later Life”

This was the title of a conference held on 29th September given by the Pilgrims’ Friend Society, held at St James’ Parish Church Glossop, which Joyce, Meghan and I attended.



This society was founded in 1807 and seeks to serve “older Christians” by running about eighteen communities nationwide. These communities aim to be “a place that can be your home where the attention is personal and of the highest standard, and Christian worship, prayer and support is a core part of daily life.”

Along with The Salvation Army, The London City Mission, Mission Care and The Keychange Charity, Pilgrims’ Friend Society (PFS) is part of an initiative called “Faith in Later Life” which was launched in 2017. It seeks to inspire and equip Christians and churches to reach, serve and empower older people in every community that they may live fulfilled and fruitful lives in older age.

In his introductory message, Carl Knightly, Director of Engagement for PFS writes:

“The world is going through a profound demographic shift as the older generation will outnumber their younger counterparts for the first time ever. This is not a surprise to God of course and the Bible points to the way forward, seeing the older age as a time of fruitfulness and value and the Church as an intergenerational ‘body’.

“Increasing numbers of older people are going to lead to a demand for more residential care provision, with even more older people also needing help in the community.”

The first speaker after the Welcome and opening prayer was Stephen Hammersley CBE, whose theme was “How restoring the Biblical concept of old age will benefit all generations.”

He made the case for dignity and respect for the old, quoting from Paul’s second letter to Timothy,

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

As far as the elderly may need to face change, he reminded us of Jacob’s journey into Egypt when a very old man, by reassuring him,

“Do not be afraid to go down into Egypt, I will go down with you and surely bring you up again.”

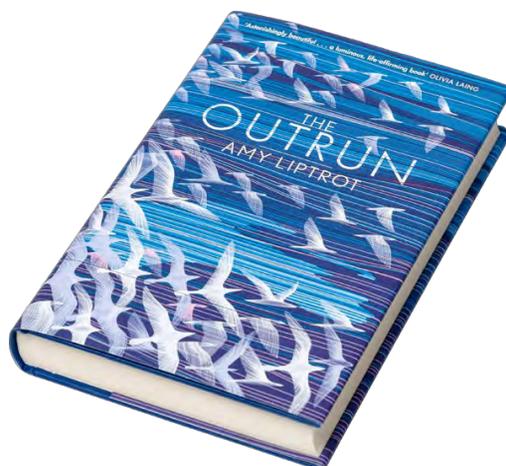
He reminded us, as Ecclesiastes quotes, that it is not good to be forever bemoaning the “former days” and concluded that seniors have “God-designed roles” to take up and that old age is indeed a “blessing from God.”

The list of speakers was impressive, including Janet Jacob and Louise Morse, who has written several books for PFS. However, the accolade must go to Dr Jennifer Bute, herself a sufferer from dementia, but whose only concession to the condition was, as she said, to have to use notes for her lecture.

Delph Library Book Club

Two people in St Thomas’ congregation are members of a Delph Library Book Club. Our book club meets monthly. The books that we read are usually decided independently through the Oldham Library Service and therefore we read books that we might not normally choose to read. Our horizons are widened. Through the book club we have learned that just because a book is a prize winner it doesn’t mean that we will enjoy it or, indeed, get to the end of the book.

However, a recent read, *The Outrun* by Amy Liptrot, is both a prize winner and a book that took us both into the world inhabited by the protagonist.



Amy, who is both the author and protagonist, takes the reader on a journey between her birthplace of Orkney and London and from a child growing up in a somewhat dysfunctional family into her alcoholism and subsequent sobriety. Intertwined with her personal story Amy lures the reader into the land and seascape of the Orkney Isles with descriptions of both life on the land and the life within the ocean.

Her realisation that alcoholism is a type of mental illness appears to come as a surprise to her and her understanding that the alcohol needs to be replaced by something else helps the reader to perhaps better understand the challenges that any and all addictions can bring to us.



Whilst Gillian has said that the book made her want to visit the Orkney Isles and experience the scenery and weather, John stated that of the twenty or so books he has read in the group it has been the easiest and most enjoyable to read.

Gillian and John would recommend this book on so many levels, geographic, biography and sociological.

17th Century Nun's Prayer

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and someday will be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening of cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that, occasionally, I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen

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Advertise in The Grapevine

Bi-monthly production of 900+ copies, full colour A4 pages, distributed throughout Saddleworth.

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

Closing date for the next issue (Issue 9) is Thursday 7th March 2019.

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

Christ Church Denshaw

Black Dyke Concert

Many locals and some not so local, enjoyed a superb concert by the world-famous Black Dyke Band on Saturday 1st December.



The programme was very appealing to those who regularly listen to brass band music and also to those new to the genre.

It was a wonderful beginning to the Christmas Season with 'just enough' seasonal music, possibly the highlight being Richard Marshall's rendition as principal cornet of 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas'; a simple piece played with such feeling that illustrated the excellence of Richard's playing.

Everyone must have gone home more than happy with what they had listened to. Very many thanks to the Childs' family for organising a superb concert with a wonderful atmosphere.

The concert was the usual financial success and provided much needed finance for three good causes in Denshaw. Whilst a substantial proportion of the money raised went to Christ Church, generous donations were also made to Denshaw Whit Friday Band Contest and to the Oddfellows Club children's party fund making it a real community event.

Many thanks to the strong men who helped remove the choir stalls on Friday evening, and returned on Saturday, some after the concert, to make sure everything was back in place for the Sunday services. This again shows how the community in our small village all pull together.

A final thank you to St Thomas' Church, Delph for loaning extra seats and Delph Band Club for chairs for the band; this was a real Saddleworth effort.



When the PCC learned that the Church of England's theme for Christmas reflections this year would be '#FollowTheStar', it was decided to adapt last year's lighting theme in the hope of encouraging residents of the parish to think about the theme and 'Follow The Star' into church where the reflection booklets were readily available.

To begin with, of course, stars were needed. The white tree lights from last year were soon adapted to line the path leading to church, one star was placed on the outside of the lychgate and the lights led to another star on the church porch.



The decorative lights leading up to church also gave extra light for the Black Dyke Concert and our evening services. In addition, the lychgate was surrounded by gold lights and a crib placed close by. All this work got finished in time for Advent Sunday which was the same day as the 'Denshaw Lights' switch on; it proved to be quite a weekend!

There was a good uptake of the booklets and gold stars were handed to each member of the congregation and taken to the crib during the Christmas Eve Crib Service.

Revd Philip Williamson

School in a Bag

Few weeks ago at an Evensong service, I spoke about a charity called 'School in a Bag', which provides the basic essentials for a child to go to school and learn. I had talked about the charity at a morning service last year. At both services the congregation gave generously. We received certificates to say how much we had given and, more importantly, the numbers on our bags. We have learned that our first donations funded bags for children in India.

In 2004, Piers and Luke Simon, who were both teaching abroad, were on holiday on Ko Phi Phi island when a devastating tsunami hit Thailand. Luke managed to survive, but his brother Piers lost his life. Later that year the family held a memorial service in Yeovil and raised £10,000 to help the people of Thailand. The charity became the 'Piers Simon Appeal' and for the first four years was a disaster relief organisation which sent money to other aid agencies.

In 2008 Luke discovered Shelter Box, and since then the charity has funded more than 200 Shelter Boxes. This gave the family an idea and in 2009 'School in a Bag' was born. In 2012 it was granted its own identity, brand and logo and strapline, 'Giving the gift of hope to a child's future'.



www.pierssimonappeal.org | www.SCHOOLinaBAG.org

Poverty is the single greatest factor preventing children from going to school in many developing countries. If there has been a disaster of some sort or children have lost their parents through illness or disease, school is one thing which gives routine and structure to their lives.

The charity delivers rucksacks filled with stationery, plain, lined and squared exercise books, 12 pencils, coloured pencils, a sharpener, a ruler, a geometry set, a lunch box, a water bottle, a plate and a spork [a cross between a spoon and a fork].

Bags are either funded and packed here in the UK or 'in Country', which means working with a recognized organisation to source rucksacks and

contents more locally. All bags have to be new and of a high quality, as have the contents. This means that money can go back into the local economy. The charity also provides 'Classroom in a bag' to make classrooms more interesting and stimulating, and 'Sport in a bag' to improve co-ordination and promote teamwork.

There is so much more I could say or show you, but I hope I have given you a good idea of what the charity is about.

Millicent Feber

Teach us to Pray

We will be holding a series of four sessions during late January and February. These will be led by Revd Philip Williamson (with Revd Canon Sharon Jones leading the final session).

Philip comments:

Jesus indeed taught his disciples how to pray to their Father in heaven. We all know the Lord's Prayer and most of us pray it daily. Do we just recite the prayer as we might a familiar song without actually really considering the content?

Do we feel confident in our prayer life?

Do we feel a sense of growth on our spiritual journey as we seek to speak with God?

Do we want to learn more about prayer?

We intend to explore what it means to pray and look at some different ways we can do so. Whilst the sessions will be led and interactive, they will be relaxed and last about an hour.

Revd Philip Williamson

Looking to the Future

Everyone is looking forward to Bishop David's visit to the Benefice during Holy Week and Easter. He will visit Denshaw on Good Friday and Revd Philip Williamson has already planned an outdoor service on the lines of Stations of the Cross. With Easter falling later this year, we hope there will be more chance of fine weather. This type of outdoor service will hopefully bring the church to the people and we envisage it will give many members of the parish who don't regularly attend church, the opportunity to join in at least part of the service and also to meet our Bishop. As always in our part of the country, 'Success will all depend on the weather!'

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Holy Trinity Dobcross

How we #FollowedTheStar

Holy Trinity has seen an exciting and busy time recently as we bring together, church, school and village at Christmas time. In addition to all the Advent services, we had the opportunity at the beginning of December to reflect with Graham McGuffie on how we see ourselves on the Mission Action Plan (MAP) journey and then to plan the year ahead. Our links with school and community activities, particularly over the festive season, shows that the building has an iconic status in the village.



We embraced the Church of England's Christmas campaign, #FollowTheStar, by undertaking a number of 'star-led' initiatives. The children produced 'star' bunting which we hung in church. The presence of our external nativity scene was enhanced by a large lit star as we took part in the 'Night of the Stars' event when we posted the photograph (shown below) on Facebook along with thousands of other churches across the country.



Christmas Craft Fair



This was a Christmas first and organised by Roy Hopkinson. This was a great success with a wide variety of crafts represented and the music of the Harmummies helped to spread goodwill.



***Will this new event become a tradition?
We hope so!***

Thank you everyone

Our thanks to all the people who helped with services, events, preparing church, lovely flower arrangements, decorating the tree and contributing to the hundred and one jobs. All this help makes the Christingle service, Sing for Pleasure Concert, Nativity Service, and the wonderful Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, such happy and meaningful occasions for congregation and community. Our strong ties with the music traditions of the village continue with Dobcross Youth Band contributing to the Christingle service and Dobcross Silver Band supporting our music at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

A Host of 'Knitted' Angels

Links with Churches Together in Saddleworth were strengthened as a group of knitters made Angels in a multitude of colours, to send a Christmas message throughout the area.

A Host of Angels arrived at Holy Trinity just before Christmas and for a short time took up residence on the altar table. They were small, colourful and carried a message of goodwill: "Peace on Earth", "Bringing good news".



Our community were delighted to find an Angel to take home.

In Memory of Ian Hargreaves (1955 - 2018)

At the beginning of December, we were saddened to receive the news that Ian had died after a short illness, at his home in Anglesey. Ian and Karen had been part of the Holy Trinity family for many years and both had enjoyed being members of the choir.

Ian had taken on several roles in the life of the Church: Lay Assistant, Secretary of the PCC, and, more recently, a Churchwarden from 2011 – 2015.

Newly retired in the spring of 2017, Ian and Karen decided to leave Saddleworth and move to Anglesey where they had spent many happy holidays.

***We send our thoughts and prayers to
Karen and their families at this time.***

Charity Donations

during Autumn and Christmas

†	Water Aid Harvest Appeal	£410.21
†	Dobcross Youth Band	£100.00
†	Royal British Legion	£100.00
†	The Children's Society	£611.87
†	Manchester City Mission	£200.00

Our Lent Charity is Mercy Ships



During Lent, we are supporting the work of Mercy Ships. For over 40 years, this Christian Charity has operated four hospital vessels, visiting more than seventy countries where clean water, electricity, and skilled medical workers are non-existent.

More than half of the world's population lives within 100 miles of the coast so a ship is the best way to reach the poor, sick and dying. Lack of medical help is a global epidemic.

Mercy Ships is a life-transforming surgical charity, powered by prayer, crewed by volunteers and partnered with the Church. As well as donating money during Lent we will also ask people to collect and bring used stamps to church throughout the year.

Mothering Sunday - 31st March

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, we offer a warm welcome to everyone to celebrate Mothering Sunday. A Family Service at 10:30am will be led by Aaron and the children will distribute small posies of daffodils. Please come along and give thanks for family life and to celebrate the love of God who is both Father and Mother to us all.

There is an old Jewish saying:

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

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Horsepersons' Carol Service

Saturday 15th December was probably one of the coldest days we had leading up to Christmas, but the welcome at the Horsepersons' Carol Service was warm (and furry!) indeed!



Animals and their people dressed up in all sorts of Christmas costumes and gathered together at Friezland Arena ready to sing carols and celebrate not only Christ's birth, but the part played by the various animals in the Nativity Story.



Revd Mike Donmall blessed the animals and spoke about the service, companionship and comfort that God's creatures bring to us and the joy that we experience caring for them.



A hot beverage and a mince pie were on offer to the humans and suitable snacks were generously provided for the all the four-legged friends. Santa even managed to make it too! A big thank you to all those who took part in playing, singing and reading in the service and especially to Friezland User Group (FUG) who include:

- † Oldham and District Riding Club (O&DRC);
- † Saddleworth & District Pony Club (SDPC);
- † West Pennine Bridleways Association (WPBA);
- † Greenfield & Grasscroft Residents Association (GGRA).

Valentine's Offering

*What shall I give for a Valentine?
A box of chocs or a heart-felt rhyme?
I could buy a gift with wrapping fine...
But there is no present like the time.*

Yvonne M Carson (Feb. 2017)



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St Mary Greenfield

Looking back

Christmas trees and other decorations in church were a joy to behold, and the entertainment provided during the weekend of 14th to 16th December showed that we have a wealth of talent in our churches and villages. The Festival was not meant to be a fund raising exercise, as the focus was to invite and welcome the village and local community into the church, but we were pleased to have raised £636.26.



The puppet show was a highlight of our Christmas celebrations and part of our traditional nativity service on 23rd December. The children in Years 4, 5 and 6 who attend Early Church had written their own 'rap' of rhyming couplets to tell the nativity story from the announcement by the Angel Gabriel to Zechariah right through to the wise men visiting Jesus. Some of the words were hilarious yet meaningful and told the story in a new and joyful way. We borrowed our Team puppets, and the children used them to great effect.



At the Covenant Service on 6th January, together with Greenfield Methodists, we made our commitment and promises to God and to each other.

The meaning and purpose of the Covenant Service, as described in the Methodist Worship Book, is also relevant for us as a team of churches, and across our area as members of Churches Together in Saddleworth. The emphasis of the whole service is on God's readiness to enfold us in generous love, not dependent on our deserving.

Our response, also in love, springs from thankful recognition of God's grace.

The covenant is not just a one-to-one transaction between individuals and God, but the act of the whole faith community.

Looking ahead

Following the popularity of the Teach us to Pray sessions that we held at church during October and November last year, we are now starting a monthly prayer group.



Teach us to Pray will meet in church at 2:00pm on the second Monday of every month, so the forthcoming dates are **11th February, 11th March, 8th April and 13th May**. All are welcome.

St Mary's Ladies' Luncheon Club

continues to flourish. It was started about twenty years ago by Margaret Whyborn. It now meets about every six weeks on Thursday lunch times at Tame Valley Tennis Club on Greenbridge Lane, Greenfield. The lunches are always delicious 'bring and share' feasts, and each time there is a guest speaker, lots of conversation and good fellowship. The next meeting, which will be the AGM, is on **7th March at 12 noon**.



We hold regular services during the year when the school comes to church and helps to lead our worship; usually this is at Harvest, Christingle and as we celebrate the end of the school year in July. We are holding an Education Sunday service at 10:30am on Sunday 17th March. I am keen to build on the excellent relationship we already have between the church and school.

Looking towards the end of March, Mothering Sunday, which this year falls on 31st March, is always one of the highlights of our year and is one of the services when our whole church community comes to worship together: Early Church families, our 10:30am congregation, and our Scouts, Cubs and Beavers and their families. We are looking forward to it already!



Prayerful thoughts

At Christmas time and as a new year begins we all think of those we have loved who have died and remember the happy times we've shared. This is true all year round, but seems especially so at family times. During our Sunday services we always remember and pray for those who have died whose names are written in our Book of Remembrance, and whose anniversaries occur during the following week.

In February and March they are:

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,
Eileen Gail Parkin.

May they rest in peace,
for ever enfolded in the love of God.

Barbara

How did we survive?

This year I am entering my 90th year and as I look back on my childhood I wonder how I survived to reach this age! We faced daily perils: there were no cycle helmets, no car seatbelts, no trauma counselling. Dogs roamed the streets freely with nothing but the elements to clean up their mess. .

How did we survive our normal daily activities? We roamed the countryside picking berries from the hedgerow and it didn't occur to us to take them home for washing. We accepted sweets from the old man who sat on a park bench watching us children play without suspicion.

Hygiene was another minefield. There were no 'sell-by' let alone 'use-by' dates on food products. Everything was eaten until the last morsel had been used up. Shopping was a source of potential

danger. Biscuits were displayed in open-topped square tins and were frequently fingered by waiting children before being put in a brown paper bag by the shop keeper's hands via the weighing scales.



Sweet shops had jars of loose sweets and chocolates into which the assistant's hands, which had been counting money in to the till, were plunging. However did we outlive the germs?



We used to play Peggy, British Bulldogs, Running the Gauntlet. We climbed trees, dammed the brook. We slid on frozen ponds. No soft grass to fall on in the park, just bone-grazing asphalt.

We stood on moving double decker buses and jumped off before the bus stopped. We got clipped around the ears at school and even got the cane for misbehaving - without parental complaint.

We were survivors and are glad to be able to tell wonderful tales to our children and grandchildren.

Joan Jones

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St Anne Lydgate

The Youth of Today

Teenagers and older children often get a bad press in society today. They are often few and far between in our churches. However, we feel really blessed to have a great Youth Group made up of nine children aged 11 and above who meet on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays in the month to discuss topical issues and enjoy food and games too.



Our Christmas celebration was a visit to Hollywood Bowl in Ashton.

Our church is now officially an inclusive church and as part of that our Youth Group is included in running and planning services. In December our group talked about refugees and asylum seekers and then led a service where we collected toys for the refugees and asylum seekers in Oldham this Christmas. Elton John and the John Lewis Christmas ad gave us the perfect link that the toys we gave were so much more than a gift, they were also an expression of how we should love, care and share. We finished the year with a collection of advent gifts that some of us delivered to the Mustard Tree homeless project on Christmas Eve.



Our Saddleworth Benefice

Our planned trip to the Christmas Carol Service on 16th December had to be cancelled when our daughter-in-law was rushed into hospital in the early hours of that morning. We were already disappointed as other commitments had meant we couldn't attend either of the performances by Lydgate band in the church hall or the White Hart.

A week later when Katie was fully recovered we were talking of everything that we had missed. I suddenly remembered reading The Grapevine magazine (How useful the magazine had turned out to be!) and I recalled that there were Carol Services on different days in various churches throughout the Saddleworth benefice.

Further reading informed us that there was a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at Holy Trinity Dobcross that evening, and not only that but Dobcross Silver Band were going to be playing – all our prayers were being answered at once.



We duly arrived at 5:55pm, not easy to park - obviously going to be a full house! And it was.

A warm greeting from Aaron at the door and then to find a seat, it's a long time since I've seen such a full church, except for some funerals and the children's carol concert, but what a lovely warm welcoming atmosphere there was here. After a few minutes we were offered 'privilege' seats on the second row that were no longer needed; our grandson had a fabulous view of the band.

We had a fantastic evening, the church choir were magnificent, the 'Harmummies' were a joy to listen to, and of course the band just made it for us.



When I came home and thought about this, it made me realise that quite often we only think about 'our own' church in Saddleworth, the one we attend most weeks and perhaps we forget there are other churches out there in our benefice that are just as welcoming, just as beautiful and with different things to offer.

Perhaps we should dare to be a little adventurous, a bit brave and embrace what there is on offer within the Saddleworth benefice.

Thank you to all at Holy Trinity for putting on such a marvellous Christmas Carol Service and for making my family so welcome, especially the gentleman who found us the wonderful seats.

Sue Howarth

May Queen Francesca's Musical Evening

On 24th November 2018 I hosted a Musical Evening at church. There was a wide range of musical talents entertaining the audience including the junior choir, pianists, harpists, guitarists and brass to mention but a few. The majority of performers were children although our organist Helen played the piano and Revd Angela Bryan sang for us all.

It was a real celebration of musical talents and was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, as well as raising funds for my chosen charity Age UK and Church Funds.

We now look forward to our next event, our Family Race Night on Saturday 9th February in the Parish Hall at 6:30pm.

Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children which includes a pie supper.

Tickets are available from the May Queen retinue Mums or phone Janet on 07598 306806.

All welcome.

May Queen Francesca



Cooking with Nature and Grandma

Finally, we went collecting blackberries which I must say are a little earlier this year due to the wonderful hot sunny weather. As one of my granddaughters is 15 years old I assumed they wouldn't be very interested. How wrong can you be! She was so enthusiastic; we collected well over a kilogram, (around 2lb 5ozs in old 'money'!).

We made some jam with them and then decided on a crumble, lovely with cream, ice cream or yoghurt.

I have to say that it was great fun and of course we had a chance to talk about the changing seasons and God's wonderful gifts of fruits which we can enjoy.

If you have the time next year, give it a go, we won't win Masterchef or Bake Off, but so much fun and so tasty!

Here is one of our blackberry crumbles:



Anne Smith

Anne's 'Cooking with Nature and Grandma' was originally written for Issue 6 of The Grapevine (it's still autumn!), but was serialised due to space constraints.

Will Anne be back with more? Ed.



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St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church

Services at the Parish Church

As always the autumn is a very busy time in the church calendar. We started with the very thoughtful meditation that Aaron led on All Saints Day. That was followed by the All Souls service which is always poignant as all the names are read out of friends and relations that the congregation wished to remember and light a candle for them.

This year we hosted the Advent carol service. The dramatic presentations certainly gave added meaning to the readings.



During Advent we joined in the theme of '#FollowTheStar' by placing an enormous star above the altar. The children from St Chad's school added more stars in their decorations and an illuminated star was hung above the entrance. The flower arrangements were superb and much remarked on. Everyone stopped and admired the Christmas tree in the porch.

Saddleworth School Carol Service showed what exceptional students they have.

Just before Christmas Mike Hindson led us in a Songs of Praise service with congregation members telling us about hymns and carols that have a special meaning for them.

Christmas was a joyous celebration starting with the Crib Service, the Midnight Eucharist, and an Eucharist on Christmas Day morning. We had a great many visitors, family and friends in the congregations over Christmas; it was a delight to see so many. Thank you to the bell ringers for the pleasure they gave. It was very special on Christmas Day morning.

On New Year's Day many gathered at The Gate Inn in Diggle for the service in the pub car park and then went in and enjoyed the company and refreshments. On 29th December, all three congregations gathered in the Parish Centre for a service led by John Rosedale. It is good to gather as one congregation.

Having the Sunday School Nativity on Epiphany gave added meaning to the full Christmas story. The children were delightful as they acted out the story with a clutch of young angels, sheep, a donkey and a camel as well as all the holy family, shepherds and wise men.

Then the figures of wise men and camels were added to the Crib by the children as at the Crib service the wise men had gone on a long journey and were still only just inside the Church door. The children then joined Sharon at the altar to take part in the Children's Eucharist. It was a most enjoyable service and a delight to welcome so many young families.



Alison Coates

Who was St Chad?

St Chad was born in Northumbria and was the youngest of four sons, all of whom became both priests and monks. They entered the monastery on the island of Lindisfarne and were taught by Saint Aidan. Chad's brother Cedd had founded the abbey at Lastingham and, on his brother's death, Chad was elected abbot.

During the confusion in ecclesiastical discipline between the Celtic-orientated Anglo-Saxon hierarchy and the pressure from Rome for conformity, Chad became Bishop of York for a time. He graciously stepped back with the arrival in Britain of Theodore, who doubted the validity of indigenous consecrations. This was eventually rectified and Chad became Bishop of Mercia, a huge Diocese the centre of which he moved from Repton to Lichfield.



Chad travelled extensively and became much loved for his wisdom, humility and gentleness in otherwise difficult circumstances. The plague was prevalent at this time and Chad died on 2nd March in the year 672.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 3rd February, 11:00am
Candlemas and Christingle



Canon Sharon will be leading us in a very special family celebration for Candlemas this year with Christingles as an integral part of the worship.

The Christingles in our parish are made by the children at St Chad's school with oranges, red ribbons, cocktail sticks and sultanas.



A warm welcome awaits you.

At this service, we raise funds for The Children's Society, who support vulnerable children throughout the year. This year, they are celebrating 50 years of Christingle services.

Let us help them make it a golden year for some of those children in desperate need.

Saturday 2nd March, 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Saint Chad's Day - Afternoon Tea

We are celebrating the feast day of St Chad in style this year and everyone in Saddleworth is welcome to join in.

We will be having Afternoon Tea at Kilngreen, hopefully with a return appearances of our entertainers from last year.
Contact Alison on 01457 876760



Saturday 2nd March, 6:00pm
Saint Chad's Day - Hoe Down

During the evening, come and enjoy the fun at one of our famous Hoe Downs, with a delicious supper provided between sets.

Contact Sarah 01457 875126



Sunday 7th April,
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
at the Parish Centre
after 9:30am Service



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

The Children's Society House Boxes

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 at:

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

Thank you! Mavis Green.

A Lasting Difference

Once you have made provision for your loved ones, you have the opportunity to make a lasting gift to God, by leaving a legacy to His church.

Leaving a gift in your Will to your local church is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support the mission and ministry in your community.

A gift can be an expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God, and can help keep your local church alive, and help transform its future.

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

Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator Sarah Barlow sarah.barlow@talk21.com 07775 613787

Assistant Wardens Tim Edge 01457 872429

Debbie McCabe

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

Wellsprings El Tular

You may recall from Issue 7 of The Grapevine that we had a visit of four Salvadorans to Saddleworth during October last year.



Whilst we covered their visit in some detail, we thought we would provide more general information about Wellsprings.

Carlos has reflected on his visit and writes:

“Yes, it was a fantastic trip, I enjoyed very much being with you all. I liked the canal and the museum. I always miss you when we were together the last Thursday night. All the people were very polite. And furthermore, the boys and girls in England begin to study when they are 4 years old. That’s very good!”



Carlos is working as an Electrical Engineer, having received Wellsprings funding towards his studies.

Supporting development in El Tular

Every December Wellsprings (UK) provides an estimate of the funding we hope to make available in the coming year to the Wellsprings committee in El Tular. They then receive requests for funding from students wishing to further their education or gain new skills.

Recent requests have been from students wishing to study English, electrical engineering, or train as a welding mechanic and waitering, which could help them secure employment. English is useful for those seeking work in call centres, which is relatively well-paid.

Money is also allocated by the El Tular committee for special healthcare needs. An interest-free loan was given to a mother to pay for transport and tests for her son who requires life-saving treatment. Hopes are pinned on a free operation in February.

The committee in El Tular has the autonomy to use the funding for micro-credit for new business initiatives and other programmes that could be beneficial to sustaining the livelihood of the community.

Internet Masts?

Investigations have now taken place regarding the feasibility of an internet mast or, in fact, three internet masts. Due to the topography of the land between Cuisnahuat and El Tular (the hills) it may be necessary to install three towers, each at least six meters high.

An alternative also under consideration is the possibility of installing a satellite internet service. This information and costs will be presented to the community to evaluate and agree a consensus on the way forward. This could potentially provide a valuable link with the outside world, access to resources and improved communications.

Get involved...

Would you like to visit new places that are off the beaten track, meet new people and experience a different way of life and culture?

Would you like to hear more about previous trips to El Tular, with a view to considering a visit yourself (no obligation)?

We will be arranging a talk with slides and an informal chance to discuss this further.

The good work of Wellsprings El Tular continues and opportunities are opened up for El Tular’s young people. With the support of the charity ‘Balsamo’, new ways are sought to sustain the community’s livelihood in the face of increasing hardship, recurring drought and climate change.

The assistance we can provide is only possible through donations and the generosity of regular givers. To become a supporter or receive our newsletters please contact: treasurer@wellspringseltular.org



Inter-generational partnership

St Chad's C of E Primary School would like to offer their thanks to the parishioners of the Parish Centre for another thoroughly enjoyable term. The season of Advent didn't disappoint; bringing lots of opportunity for Christmas craft, socialising and merriment! Activities this term have included: Conker decorating, poppy painting to honour and remember those affected by war, Play-Doh modelling and bingo.



Our most memorable afternoon was helping to make the Christmas advent rings for church; they really were beautiful. We were delighted to bring one back to school to enjoy over the Christmas period. Many thanks to all involved.



It was a pleasure to support the Parish Centre with their advent window: the three kings '#FollowingTheStar'. What a lovely way to end the term, remembering the true meaning of Christmas through the depiction of the night of Christ's birth.

The staff and children of St Chad's school would like to offer the warmest wishes for the new year to the parishioners of the Parish Centre and to members of the wider community.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 3rd April

Last Seeds of Spring Term

Sunday 7th April,

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
after 9:30am Service**

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



Coffee Mornings for Charity

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



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

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

Saturday 2nd February

Hearing Dog's for the Deaf

Saturday 16th February

'Seeing is Believing'

Saturday 2nd March

Water Aid

Saturday 16th March

'Seeing is Believing'

Saturday 6th April

OATIN (Namibia)

Saturday 4th May

Christian Aid

Saturday 1st June

Action Duchenne

Saturday 6th July

North West Downs Syndrome Group

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

Contacts

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

St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

Autumn Family Services

The November and December Family Services were led by Janet and Geoff Iles and Val Stocker and Ian Brett respectively.

The November service was based around the lectionary reading for that week from Mark Chapter 12, verses 28-34, on the theme of the two greatest commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind" and "love your neighbour as yourself".

The Advent Service on the first Sunday in December looked forward to Christmas focussed on the theme of light, which is revealing, saving and guiding. The congregation were asked about what types of Advent Calendars they have. Then we looked at how hard it is to see without light and considered the different types of light we have in our lives.

The first Advent candle was lit and then there was a reading from John's Gospel about how Jesus is the light of the world. The children made Christingle cakes whilst Ian explained the history of the Christingle. We looked forward to following the Star towards Christmas and beyond, by writing and hanging prayers on our prayer tree; one prayer to say thank you and one asking for God's help.



Diggle Diamonds Christmas Party

On 7th December, over 70 older residents of Diggle enjoyed a three-course Christmas Dinner and entertainment from Diggle Band at Kilngreen. Several guests were invited to attend, including Mike and Doreen Hall (who recently moved away, but had organised these dinners in past years), Duncan and Nancy Rhodes, who are now living in Uppermill, and the Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor Rob Knotts, and his lady, Lesley Knotts.



Revd Duncan Rhodes kindly agreed to lead the Grace before the meal and everyone enjoyed a wonderful turkey dinner with all the trimmings, courtesy of Greenwoods, who did an excellent job on the day. The meal was followed by musical entertainment and carols with Diggle Band. A big thank you to the Band, the caterers, and all the committee for a wonderful afternoon.

Kilngreen Nativity

On Sunday 16th December, the Sunday School children presented the Nativity in the style of a BBC outside broadcast, and everyone expertly played their parts in the recreation of the Nativity.



A big thank you to all the leaders and helpers at Sunday School for their hard work in this wonderful presentation.

Our first Midnight Eucharist

Christmas at Kilngreen included a first for the village as we held a Midnight Eucharist led by Revd Hilary Edgerton. Lighting the Christmas candle in darkness we were reminded of Christ's light coming to us and offering hope and love, before continuing our time together - a communion with each other and with God.

We ended almost as we began but this time the small candle flame was passed to each of us and with small candles alight we sang a final chorus of *'O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!'* outside. The final prayer of blessing under the still, clear sky sent us out to take the light into the dark night and into the lives of people we would meet.

New Year's Day Service

As in previous years, a New Year's Day service was held on the car park at The Gate Inn. This year the service was led by Revd Godfrey Adams and we were accompanied by Diggle Band for the hymns. Afterwards we all received a warm welcome from the new landlords, Eve and Steve, who provided much-needed coffee!

Our Epiphany Family Service

On 6th January, our first Family Service of 2019 continued the theme of "#FollowTheStar". Maggie welcomed everyone to the service and we lit our Star for the last time that morning to celebrate Epiphany, which in some countries is known as Three Kings Day. Three members of the congregation presented a drama entitled "Seeking a King", based on the reading from Matthew 2, verses 1 to 12, and Janet spoke about the traditions and celebrations for "Three Kings Day".

Family Services

Family Services are All Age Worship; everyone is welcome!. They are held on the 1st Sunday of every month, from 9:30am to 10:30am, and are lay-led by our Family Worship Team members and by Sunday

School, who present a service themselves during the year. We have recently invited a local Authorised Lay Minister (ALM) to lead one of our Family Services and we would welcome other local ALMs to lead a service for us.

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

Lay Leaders Needed – Is this You?

If you regularly attend Kilngreen Church and would like to consider being involved in presenting one of our Family Services, we would love to hear from you! One of our Family Worship Team members would happily support you in the process as we generally present the service in twos. This is a wonderful way to expand your knowledge and explore your faith in more detail whilst helping others to understand their faith.

Please do chat to one of the team, either Ian Brett, Val Stocker, Janet Iles, Geoff Iles, Maggie Dobb, or Sarah Barlow.

Diggle Diamonds – Coffee Mornings



Diggle Diamonds Coffee mornings are held each month on a Saturday morning starting at 10:30am Admission £1 plus £1 for raffle tickets.

The February coffee morning will be held on Saturday 16th February at Kilngreen Church in the Small Hall next to the Kitchen.

The new landlords of The Gate Inn have invited us back for our coffee mornings at the pub and we will return there on Saturday 16th March at 10:30am.

All older residents of Diggle are invited to join us for coffee and friendship. If you have difficulty getting to a coffee morning, a lift can be arranged by contacting Doreen Dyson on 01457 873337 or Geoff Iles on 01457 877875.

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



The Samantha Jones Trust (TSJT) was set up in 2004 as a charitable organisation by the friends and family of Samantha Jones who had Leukaemia and passed away aged 16 years.

TSJT work tirelessly throughout the year to raise funds to help children and families from the Northwest, both practically and emotionally, with an aim of improving the quality of life of these special children and families whilst they go through the tough and ever-changing challenges of leukaemia treatment.

TSJT provide:

- experiences, treats and trips for children;
- equipment that helps to make life easier;
- adaptations to the home;
- equipment to aid studying;
- and family holidays where special memories can be made.

TSJT has purchased an innovative 3D Pain Distraction Unit, which is operational on the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. This unit brings new technology to the treatment of vulnerable children undergoing necessary medical procedures as part of their cancer treatment and helps alleviate the distress caused by treatment.



During last year TSJT commenced two new ventures of Indoor Sunday Markets in the Civic Hall Uppermill and Awareness Days. The Sunday markets have become a vital source of regular income to the Trust allowing them to fulfil their charitable aims and raise awareness of this disease.

This popular fundraiser showcases a themed café and home-bake stall each month as well as 60 stalls of local goods, including gifts, household items, food produce and crafts to name a few.



These markets will be held on the following nine Sundays in 2019:

10 th February	10 th March	14 th April
19 th May	9 th June	3 rd September
13 th October	10 th November	8 th December

As the work of TSJT grows so does the need for volunteers with the trust looking for people to offer a few hours of their time at the Sunday Market Fundraiser. If you are in a position to help or would like to raise funds in aid of TSJT then please get in touch.

W: www.thesamanthajonestrust.com

E: thesamanthajonestrust@hotmail.com

T: 01457 829479

The Samantha Jones Trust is a Registered Charity (No. 1107443)

A Poem for 2019

The House of Christmas

by Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874 - 1936)

There fared a mother driven forth
Out of an inn to roam;
In the place where she was homeless
All men are at home.

The crazy stable close at hand,
With shaking timber and shifting sand,
Grew a stronger thing to abide and stand
Than the square stones of Rome.

For men are homesick in their homes,
And strangers under the sun,
And they lay their heads in a foreign land
Whenever the day is done.

Here we have battle and blazing eyes,
And chance and honour and high surprise,
But our homes are under miraculous skies
Where the yule tale was begun.

A Child in a foul stable,
Where the beasts feed and foam,
Only where He was homeless
Are you and I at home;
We have hands that fashion and heads that know,
But our hearts we lost - how long ago!
In a place no chart nor ship can show
Under the sky's dome.

This world is wild as an old wives' tale,
And strange the plain things are,
The earth is enough and the air is enough
For our wonder and our war;
But our rest is as far as the fire-drake swings
And our peace is put in impossible things
Where clashed and thundered unthinkable wings
Round an incredible star.

To an open house in the evening
Home shall men come,
To an older place than Eden
And a taller town than Rome.
To the end of the way of the wandering star,
To the things that cannot be and that are,
To the place where God was homeless
And all men are at home.

Intinction

This is the practice of dipping the communion wafer/bread in the chalice of wine, rather than sharing the common cup.

The Bishop of Manchester has sent a letter to all clergy saying that this practice should cease. Those with concerns around hygiene should receive the bread only.



To receive Christ in one kind is sufficient.

Dipping a wafer into the communion wine not only potentially transmits bugs through fingers and hands but more significantly transfers gluten into the wine, thereby making it unsafe for those with allergies.

In Churches that use fresh bread for communion this is particularly a hazard to be avoided.

Please encourage one another to follow the guidance of the Bishop.



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New Year's Resolutions!

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We help businesses with their resolutions and goals. Business can be quite a lonely place, particularly for sole traders or lone workers; where do you turn for help?

Businesses may have a desire to grow which can also be quite daunting. Often they are unsure how to do this without having to employ staff with the associated employment and premises costs.

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Initially, when people don't know which way to turn, I simply ask them to make a list, tick the things that they like doing (and take the least time) and delegate the rest to us.

If clients have to do things they don't enjoy or can't do very well they go on the backburner and never get done!

We help our clients grow in confidence knowing there are people out there who they can trust and they don't have to 'go it alone'.

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