

The Grapevine

April & May 2020

Issue 15

£1



The Church of England in Saddleworth

“Celebrating God’s presence in all people.”

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The Rector writes...



Joy takes us by surprise. It emerges from the shadows when we least expect it. It shows itself in the courage of a snowdrop or the hope of a bird that sings in the dark in expectation of a new day. Joy touches us with a lightness that is both exhilarating and fragile. It is fraught with the fear of loss and the anxiety of things unresolved.

Joy is the rising of the mist on a frosty Easter morning in a garden of tombs and raw suffering. And, as the dawn of joy breaks, the reality of God's abiding presence is revealed in the figure of Jesus Christ; dead, buried and all but gone forever.

The end of the story is revealed as just the beginning, for when all appears lost, God comes. When we are filled with grief and drowning in an ocean of tears, God comes. When our eyes are opened to recognise the risen Christ in all things visible and invisible; God in all things and all things in God; joy springs up, unbidden and irrepressible.

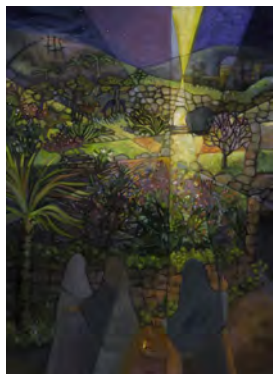
It is a gift that sustains you when everything else is falling apart.

This Easter, may the risen Christ come to you. May you be surprised by joy, and may the love of God be your inspiration and your delight.

Sharon

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The front cover image entitled 'Easter Morning' was created by artist, Jen Norton, from America.

"Jen believes that through art one can hear the whisper of a mighty Creator."

"Spiritual formation prepares us for a life in which we move away from our fears, compulsions, resentments, and sorrows, to serve with joy and courage in the world, even when this leads us to a place we would rather not go." – Henri Nouwen

Holy Week & Easter Day

Palm Sunday - 5th April 2020

St Thomas Delph	8:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion Morning Praise
Christ Church Denshaw	10:30am	Dramatised Performance of Christ's Passion
Holy Trinity Dobcross	10:00am	Procession of Palms, Passion Narrative & Eucharist
Christ Church Friezland	9:30am	Procession of Palms
St Mary Greenfield	9:00am 10:30am	Early Church Holy Communion & The Passion Narrative
St Anne Lydgate	8:00am 11:00am	Palm Sunday Eucharist with Passion Reading Palm Sunday Eucharist with Passion Reading
St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church	11:00am	Eucharist
St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre	9:30am	Village Procession with donkeys
St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen	9:30am	Family Worship for Palm Sunday

Monday of Holy Week - 6th April 2020

Christ Church Denshaw	7:30pm	Benefice Taizé Service. A devotional service of music and prayer
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Maundy Thursday - 9th April 2020

St Thomas Delph	7:00pm	Seder Meal
Christ Church Denshaw	7:30pm	Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar (BCP)
Holy Trinity Dobcross	6:30pm	Silent Eucharist followed by Agape Meal
Christ Church Friezland	7:00pm	Last Supper with Washing of Feet followed by a Vigil
St Mary Greenfield	7:30pm	Holy Communion with Foot Washing
St Anne Lydgate	6:30pm	Last Supper with Washing of Feet
St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church	9:00pm	Vigil
St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen	7:00pm	Last Supper with informal Holy Communion

Lent Course

The final Lent Course session will be during the week commencing Sunday 29th March (see below):

Tuesday	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Greenfield Methodist Church
Wednesday	8:00pm to 9:30pm	St Anne's Church Lydgate
Thursday	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Delph Methodist Church
Thursday	7:30pm to 9:00pm	The Sacred Heart Centre, Uppermill

Please feel free to visit any venue as the same topic will be covered in each venue.

Good Friday - 10th April 2020

St Thomas Delph	10:00am	Meditation - Joint Service at Delph Methodist
Christ Church Denshaw	10:30am	Walk of Witness around the village
Holy Trinity Dobcross	9:30am	Good Friday Meditation
Christ Church Friezland	10:00am	Good Friday Devotion and Veneration of the Cross
St Mary Greenfield	10:30am	Service of Hymns, Prayers, Readings and Meditations
St Anne Lydgate	10:00am	Good Friday Meditation
St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church	12:00pm	Meditation
Uppermill Methodist Church	2:15pm	CTiS 'Walk of Witness' from Uppermill Methodist Church

Easter Eve - 11th April 2020

Holy Trinity Dobcross	8:00pm	Benefice Easter Vigil
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Easter Day - 12th April 2020

The Roebuck, Strinesdale	6:00am	Dawn Eucharist
St Thomas Delph	10:30am	Easter Celebration with Communion
Christ Church Denshaw	10:30am	Family Communion
Holy Trinity Dobcross	9:00am	Breakfast in the Narthex
	10:00am	Easter Day Eucharist
Christ Church Friezland	9:30am	Eucharist
St Mary Greenfield	10:30am	Holy Communion for all the Family
St Anne Lydgate	8:00am	Easter Eucharist
	11:00am	Easter Eucharist
St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church	11:00am	Eucharist joint with the Parish Centre
St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre		No Service at the Parish Centre
St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen	9:30am	Family Celebration with Holy Communion

Good Friday Workshop

Christ Church Friezland
Church Hall



Friday 10th April
9:30am - 11:30am

Open to all children (accompanied by an adult) from any church (or none!) in Saddleworth. There will be a selection of over 10 stalls with a variety of activities to appeal to a broad age range. There will be baking and making, flour and flowers!

We welcome all the parishes of Saddleworth to join together to celebrate the Easter story through arts and crafts.

Cost (to cover materials) will be £3 per child (payable on the door).

Book to secure your place online at coeis.uk/good-friday-workshop



SCAN ME

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 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.) and 'Fifth Sundays' we have just one service at 10:30am for all the family.

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)

Ascension Day

Thursday 21st May at 7:30pm

St Mary's Church Greenfield



On Thursday 21st May at 7:30pm the benefice joins together for a Service of Holy Communion.

"When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight"

(The Acts of the Apostles 1 v9)

St Chad Saddleworth

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

31st May 9:30am Eucharist at Parish Centre

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

1st Sunday 9:30am Children's Eucharist

2nd Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and Sunday School

3rd Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and Sunday School

4th Sunday 9:30am Morning Prayer and Sunday School

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church

1st Sunday 11:00am Sung Eucharist

2nd Sunday 11:00am Sung Eucharist

3rd Sunday 11:00am Sung Eucharist

4th Sunday 11:00am Morning Prayer

St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

1st Sunday 9:30am Family Worship

2nd Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and Sunday School

3rd Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and Sunday School

4th Sunday 9:30am Eucharist and Sunday School

Regular Weekday Services

Christ Church Friezland

Tuesday 9:30am Eucharist (CW)

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

St Mary Greenfield

Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist (BCP)

St Anne Lydgate

Wednesday 6:00pm Family Worship

Friday 10:00am Eucharist (CW)

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

Tuesday 9:30am Eucharist

The Environment and Ecology

On Wednesday 12th February the General Synod set a 2030 target for net zero carbon emissions by the Church of England. It recognised that global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation

Launching the Lent resources, The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said:

"We urgently need to rebuild our relationship with our planet. To do this, we need to change our habits in how we pray and how we act."

Ruth Valerio, the author of his Lent book, 'Saying Yes to Life' said:

"Responding to the poverty and environmental crises of our times goes right to the heart of what it means to be a Christian in today's world, following God who calls us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with him."

Professor Kevin Anderson at Manchester University's Tyndall Centre says (I paraphrase):

"We are the pinnacle of 3.5 billion years of evolution. We have capacity for beauty and for destroying."

"Do we possess the qualities needed to harmonise survival or shall the human race become an anomaly in the fossil record?"

"To avert disaster we must achieve zero carbon emissions by the mid 2030s at the latest."

The Centre for Alternative Technology in the Zero Carbon Britain Report states:

"We have already got the tools and technology to efficiently power the UK with 100% renewable energy, to feed ourselves sustainably, and leave a safe and habitable climate for future generations."

(continued on Page 21)

Discipleship Groups

The story of the Good Samaritan:

Jesus told the story and then asked a question:

“Which of the people was a neighbour to the man who fell among thieves?”

The answer from one in the audience was:

“The one who showed mercy.”

Jesus replied:

‘Go and do likewise’
(Luke 10 v.25-37)

In a way, that is what all of us are called to do when we hear or read the Bible:

to ask questions which lead to a response.

Discipleship is about relating:

- † what we see in the Bible,
- † hear from Christian friends,
- † or follow in our church traditions,

to the everyday business of living where we are.

Our **Discipleship Groups** have made a start. After a launch service in Kilngreen where people readily talked about what the Bible passages for the day meant to them, a small group of people agreed to form our first **Discipleship Group**.

They are going to join up for a drink in the pub and use five questions to help each other think about a reading from the Gospels that will be used in some churches on the following week; the preachers will need to be on their toes!

Since then, another group has been formed by friends who already meet in each other’s homes to share in Holy Communion.

Two other churches are talking about how they might begin groups in ways that fit with the people who attend.

It is not about being led from the front by someone who expects you to have all the answers. It is about talking with each other about the insights you have.

A set of five basic questions are asked each time you meet to stop you going off track too much!

- † What does this passage say to you about God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- † What does this passage say to you about people?
- † What does the passage say to me in my own situation?
- † Is there something here we need to do?
- † Is there someone else I could tell about what I’ve learned?

If you would like to think about how to make more of the Bible and find a way of talking comfortably about your own faith, then please get in touch with Hilary Edgerton, who is taking the lead on developing the groups, or with any of the Clergy Team.

Hilary

‘Oshandi AIDS Trust in Namibia’ (OATIN)



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 are available at all worship centres (or downloadable using the QR code below).



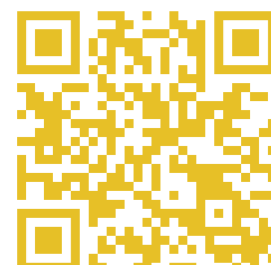
Full instructions on ordering, payment and collecting are on the forms.

All orders must be placed by Sunday 12th April

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

The majority of funds go towards helping the most vulnerable members of the Oshandi community e.g. people living positively with HIV /AIDS, orphans, vulnerable children, and older people, including Grandparents still caring for orphaned grandchildren.

On behalf of the Trustees - Thank you



Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

Christ Church Denshaw

16th February George Thomas Ford

Holy Trinity Dobcross

16th February Evie Brooke Cheetham

20th February Benjamin Antony Rosedale
Jonathan Antony Rosedale

1st March Ellis Maxwell Pearson

8th March Noah Andrew Williams

Christ Church Friezland

1st March Layla Paige Gee

St Mary Greenfield

12th January Jonah Alexander Lloyd Grant

12th January Alfie William Merrington-Gosling
Max Declan Merrington-Gosling
Riley James Merrington-Gosling
Cillian Joseph Merrington-Gosling
Jenson Leon Merrington-Gosling

29th February Zac David Lord

St Anne Lydgate

2nd February Aubrey Veronica Scallon

May they walk in the light of Christ

Marriages

St Anne Lydgate

21st February Mitch Ryan Thomson and
Jessica Elizabeth Siddall

To love and to cherish

Funerals

Christ Church Denshaw

7th November Brenda Young

8th January Barry Woodcock

20th January Anne Marie Brown

Holy Trinity Dobcross

24th February Christine Barlow

5th March Brian Race

St Mary Greenfield

2nd March Christopher Fahy

St Chad Saddleworth

29th January Eileen Buchanan

7th February Nicholas Paul Beaumont

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Life

St Chad Saddleworth

10th January Martin Warburton

A life of service and dedication



75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day - 8th May 2020

When VE Day dawns on 8th May 2020 it will be 75 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the war in Europe.

St Mary's Church Greenfield will be open from 11:00am to 4:00pm for private prayer and contemplation and for people to view the war memorials.

Holy Trinity Church Dobcross will be open from 9:00am to 5:00pm for prayer and for people to view the war memorials.

The Royal British Legion (Saddleworth) are organising a parade down Uppermill High Street from bus turning circle to King George V Playing Fields for a short service of celebration and remembrance. All organisations are welcome to join in parade. All brass players will be welcome to join parade - contact Alison Clowes 07725 036172.

A view behind bars - Moving On



We like to think that all the men we see in prison are respected and valued by the Chaplaincy Team but we become especially attached to those who come to the Sunday services or study groups, having found direction, as Christ-believing men.

In the last few weeks no less than five of these have moved on to other places and their experiences will have been as varied as their own personalities. They show a microcosm of the prison and probation system, its successes and failings.

Nigel called our prison 'holiday camp', maintaining that it wasn't difficult to do a sentence. He did work hard at the courses required by his sentence plan. When his release was due, he was outraged that he was required to travel three days a week for seven weeks to the city to complete a further course which could not be offered at our prison.

There are a number of courses, in particular those connected with violence reduction, which are intensive for staff and it seems that many lower category prisoners are asked either to go to higher category prisons to do the work or to complete a course after release. News reached us that, having refused to do the travelling at his expense, he had been taken back into custody to finish the work.

In quick succession two more of our men finally 'got their D cat.' To move from our prison to D Category prisons means they will still spend some months on 'lie down' to assess their behaviour. Once that is complete, jobs outside the prison walls, day visits to family and occasional weekend visits are possible.

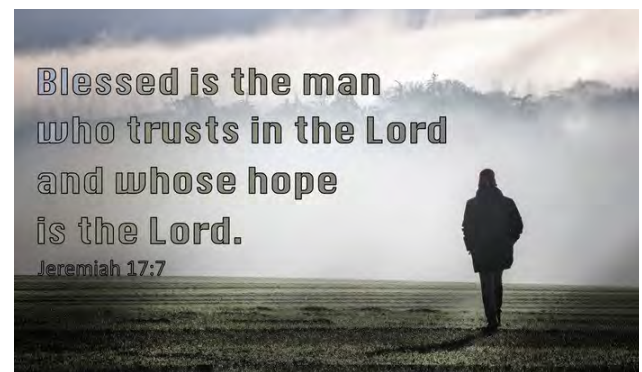
Equally available, of course, are the temptations to abscond, waste their time and revert to previous behaviours that caused difficulties in the first place. Not everyone can take it. We hope our boys can.

Then there is Alan. An older man who feels that his family have no expectations of him being able to change. His second prison sentence has been a hard shock for him to bear, especially as he recently heard of his father's terminal illness. He faces the outside world with determination to hold

onto God and his feet seem to be firmly on the ground. Yet for all his banter, wit and cheeriness whilst he has been working as our chapel orderly, there were moments in our one-to-one Bible studies when his eyes filled with tears and he admitted his fear.

Of all those recently moved on, perhaps the most vulnerable was Ian. With a fragile faith he seems the one most likely to be drawn back into difficult and harmful ways of life. We had hoped he would have a place at a local Christian home for ex offenders, who work together to create a family environment, and an inspirational community for others. They have visited us and spoken at our services many times. It was late that the possibility arrived and it seemed that the authorities could not get an interview set up quickly enough.

So, a little while ago, Ian walked out of prison a free man with £46.00 in his pocket, a travel warrant part way up the country, and no credit on his phone. Ahead of him was a journey to a former partner without knowing whether he would have a place to stay when he got there or not. We asked him to contact one or other of two chaplains as soon as he could. So far they have not had a call.



Sometimes it seems as though there is all the support in the world and sometimes it feels like a lottery. For Owen, things seemed more hopeful. He was delivered to a probation hostel; we had given him some information about local churches. He has a home to go to once his probation stay is finished. "I need to find out who I am" he said. "I've got a relationship with Jesus now and I've never had that before. I need to find my new identity." So he went, hopeful but unsure, wanting to stay rooted in his faith and wary of being pulled away by old associates. Moving on from the past is never straightforward.

Hilary Edgerton
HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale

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



**Monday 18th May
 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 'Who is my neighbour?'
 by Revds Barbara Christopher & Hilary Edgerton.



Church of England in Saddleworth

"Celebrating God's presence in all people."

You are invited to...
A Quiet Day
 for the season of Pentecost

"Power Issues"

Jesus had promised his disciples power
 when the Holy Spirit came to them at Pentecost.

What does power mean to us today?

*Input to get you thinking, with times of silence for
 prayer alone and together*

**Saturday 30th May
 9:30am to 2:30pm**

Christ Church Friezland

Soup and bread lunch available for £2 donation.

To confirm numbers for lunch,
 please contact Revd Hilary Edgerton
hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk



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Forssa Finland 6th to 9th August 2020

We have all been invited to join in this year's Camp in Forssa.



When they say camp in Finland, it is not with tents or anything like that. We are provided with accommodation in a well-equipped building on the edge of a beautiful lake on the outskirts of the town.



Ages are mixed - families are made very welcome.

There will also be visitors from Estonia, Latvia and Hungary. Most people speak English – and if they don't, communications are always very easy.

And what about the weather?

At this time of year, there is normally a lot of sunshine, longer days, and warmth – both in terms of the weather and in hospitality.

There is time to oneself if required.

Usually there are some musical events. The Parish has two Directors of Music!

And of course some joint worship – with English!



We are guests so the costs are limited to the plane fare. Finnair have regular daily flights between Manchester and Helsinki and can be very competitive if tickets are bought in advance.

Finland is a beautiful, friendly and musically creative country and is an amazing experience.

For further details, please contact Godfrey Adams on 01457 875126.



Street Pastors Graduation Service

Thursday 23rd April at 7:30pm

Sacred Heart Church, High Street, Uppermill

A special service where our new Street Pastors and members of other teams from across Greater Manchester will graduate and the whole team of Saddleworth Street Pastors will be commissioned.

Local dignitaries and members of GM Police will be invited.

Please come along and support our Street Pastor Team.

St Thomas Delph

What is Church?

Outside of Christian groups, and quite often within, people think of the church as being the building, so that here in Delph we have four churches.

Heights, up on the hill, which at one time was St Thomas, the Parish Church of Friarmere. Closed!



The Independent Chapel, the last minister being the well-known Mr Lewis, who still has relatives living in the village. Closed!



Methodist Church on Gartside Street.



St Thomas, at one time St Hilda, on Church Street.



But that's not what we teach at 'Experience Pentecost'! During this school/church event we teach the children that the church is the people, so that when the people come together the church comes together. Indeed, if the church was the building, St Thomas's would be in trouble due to the ongoing building works. Baptisms and funerals are being redirected to other churches with families being offered alternative buildings in the benefice.

The regular congregation are now meeting in the church hall and that appears to be the case until May at the earliest.

However, since supporting MIND by being active members of RED January, members of the



congregation have continued to join together on Tuesdays at 10:30am for a seated exercise activity.



This activity looks to continue into the future and meet on a Wednesday morning for an adult drop in from 9:30am to 11:30am to play games and chat.



'Hurricane' Harvey with 'Basher' Bardsley in the background

The 'church' is meeting to have fun and one non-Sunday worshipper has joined one of the groups.

Why not join members of the 'church' at one of these 'outside of Sunday activities'; all are welcome from across Saddleworth and beyond.



In addition, the 'church' is continuing to meet for Film and Theology nights on Sundays at 7:00pm in St Thomas's hall when we watch a film and then discuss the contents.

Proposed programme:

5th April - Rhapsody in August (1991)

Rhapsody in August was considered a disappointment when it premiered at Cannes in May 1991. It is not one of the writer and director's, Akira Kurosawa, great films, but shows him thoughtfully trying to come to peace with the central event of his times.

3rd May - Saving Grace (1986)

A young pope who feels he has lost touch with the people accidentally locks himself out of the Vatican and believes it is part of God's plan for him.

14th June - First Reformed (2017)

Paul Schrader's powerful new drama, First Reformed, is Shaker furniture in movie form: stark, plain, conceived in austere and intelligent good taste; beautifully made, in fact.

5th July - Still Alice (2015)

Still Alice is a must for all Dementia Champions. This film has been adapted from the novel by neuroscientist Lisa Genova. It casts Julianne Moore as a 50-year-old linguistics professor whose bouts of forgetfulness are devastatingly diagnosed as early onset Alzheimer's.



Parish Contacts

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

Christ Church Denshaw

Spring in the Churchyard

Each year even through the wildest of weather, we are cheered by the early appearance of a beautiful display of snowdrops. They seem to appear earlier each year and remind us that Spring is just around the corner.



There is a magnificent display worthy of a National Trust property, next comes the carpet of crocus, followed by the bright array of different species of daffodil. It really is a sight to behold and is remarked on by many who pass by the churchyard.

The crocus and daffodils are a legacy from our late Vicar, Sydney Clayton, and it was fitting they were just coming into bloom for the service to dedicate his memorial on the first Sunday in Lent.



Revd Clayton loved spring flowers and the reason there are so many is that it was an important part of his year to go to Lincoln to buy another batch of what he considered 'the best quality bulbs'.

He studied for ordination at Lincoln Theological College and so had a great affinity with the city. As a non-driver, he was always taken by the Henry family who are still an integral part of our congregation.

Our churchwarden, Ros Martin (née Henry), remembers planting some of the bulbs brought back from Lincoln. She says

"It was Sydney's initiative to plant out the yard, and his love of spring flowers, which has helped to create a beautiful display in spring.

"I remember planting them, when I was at school, so I know he had plenty of help."

Parish Pixels

During the autumn the congregation were introduced to the Parish Pixels competition by Alan Gorst, himself a keen photographer. The competition is run by Ecclesiastical Insurance and in addition to submitting a photograph with a meaning that typified your parish, you were asked to submit a sentence describing what makes your parish special.



We all thought Alan's picture excellent and quite different, scratched our heads a little over the sentence but eventually, along with St Anne Lydgate, decided to go ahead and enter. We all considered that both entries from Saddleworth were quite outstanding. However, when we saw the amount of submissions from merely the northwest area, we realised the competition would be great, even more so when we viewed the quality of entries. There were some amazing ideas and some beautiful churches.

The area winners were recently announced and it was really no surprise that neither church had been selected to represent the Northwest in the final judging. When we saw our area winner, there was no doubt that it was the sentiment and action of the parish and the fact that the photograph told a genuine story that proved a winner. Judge for yourself! However, we are still quite proud of our own entry and feel it echoes the sentiment of an Eco Church. We now know what to aim for if and when the competition takes place again and certainly gives us something to aim for.

Lent Food Collection

As usual we will be holding our Lent food collection, asking for imperishable items to make up food parcels for those in need. Also, tea, coffee and biscuits to offer to those who 'drop in' to the centre for many different reasons; they can find a warm drink and snack as well as a friendly smile and open ear to problems they might need to share.

Our gifts are always very welcome and we have built up a good relationship with Major Nigel and his volunteers, and learned much about the work done by his team in and around Shaw.

Easter Eggs



Last year, beginning on Palm Sunday, we collected Easter Eggs for the women and children in an Oldham hostel. The gifts brought so much pleasure to those spending Easter in the hostel.

As a consequence, it was decided to make this an annual collection with the Feber family kindly offering to take the gifts to the ladies staying in the hostel in time for Easter.

Naturally this idea really appealed to the children in Sunday School and our wider congregation and helped us to realise that not everyone is as fortunate as we are. We have already had several promises of gifts.

Easter Preparations

The flower team is looking forward to making the church look lovely for our Family Communion on Easter Day. We usually get together on Saturday morning and have an enjoyable few hours making sure all the flowers are looking good, the brasses cleaned, and the church is in pristine condition.



Working together in this way is very enjoyable and visitors might just hear a few of the Easter hymns being practised, especially the Easter anthem which has begun our Easter Day service for as long as we can remember.

Spare Tools - A Tip

Have a check round for surplus tools and keep everything in one place. Over the years many of us accumulate various hand and power tools. Once you have checked the kitchen drawer, the shed and those old kitchen units in the garage you are likely to discover a surplus of Stanley Knives and spare blades, hammers, screwdrivers and all manner of items you have been given and never used.

Rather than holding onto the surplus, pass these on to someone who can make use of them. The added benefit for your household will be that everyone should know where things are, rather than trying to remember when it was last used.

Michael Billing

Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator

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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 16) is Thursday 7th May 2020.

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

Holy Trinity Dobcross

Links with School

For many years we, like many other churches, have had strong links with the local school. For us at Holy Trinity our local school is also 'our school' in that it is a Church of England School for which we provide some school governance.

As part of our links and as part of the school curriculum, the children visit the church building for school services at Easter, Christmas, Pentecost, and the end of the summer term.

In addition, they also attend lessons on the parables, the Christian festivals, and symbols used in church both locally and around the world.

They also come along early in their school life for a 'Church familiarisation' visit. In this last activity Year 2 come to the church and, after a short talk from Revd John Rosedale, the children participate in a role play of a baptism, a wedding, and a funeral.

The lesson ends with the children completing a questionnaire that has them looking around the church.

Our picture is of the wedding when our groom was invited to kiss his bride!



Congratulations...

Congratulations to the Friends of Holy Trinity (Church of England) Dobcross School (aka FODS) A recent event at Uppermill Civic Hall,

"Now That's What I Call The 90s"

organised by Mums of the parent / teacher group, attracted 300 friends to enjoy a terrific night of entertainment.

Groups of volunteers helped to set up, run the bar and clear up after four hours of constant 90s classics. A magnificent £5,823 was raised so that the school can provide extra funds for resources, such as iPads and musical instruments, as well as fun activities for the children.

Priorities for this school year include a much needed re-vamp of the school library.

The next big fundraiser is the Summer Fete on Saturday, 20th June.

Do come along and show your support.



We are working to become an "Eco Church"

We are doing our little bit to sustain the planet and to express our care for God's world. Recently, we introduced a recycling scheme for household batteries.

Each year about 600 million household batteries are thrown away with two-thirds ending up as general waste. Recycling helps to reduce the possible risks to the environment and wildlife, preserves natural resources, and reduces the amount of waste sent to landfill.



Please place any used household batteries in the recycling box in the church room near the kitchen.

Thank You

In Memory of Christine Barlow

There will still be many people in Dobcross and Scouthead who remember Christine, the dearly loved wife of Canon Bill Barlow and also part-time teacher at the old Holy Trinity Primary School on Platt Lane.

On Monday, 24th February at her funeral service in Church, Revd Godfrey Adams recalled that way back in 1964, Bill, Christine and their young family, Clare and Nicholas, arrived in Dobcross and lived in the vicarage in Streethouse Lane.

It was not until the early 1980s that they moved into the newly-built vicarage on Woods Lane and so were 'next door to the shop'. Christine, a keen gardener, quickly set to work with spade and fork to create a new garden of lawns, flower beds and a vegetable plot. For many years Christine with a rota of helpers kept the church brasses in pristine condition.



When Canon Bill retired through ill health in 1998, they moved with their faithful dogs over Standedge to live in Marsden. Christine died, aged 85 years, in a care home in Stalybridge.

We send our prayers and thoughts to Clare and Jeff, and Nicholas, Ruth and James.



"Pledges on Justice and a Fairer World"

We continue the theme of justice in thoughts, prayers and deeds:

My Pledge for April: I will pray for those persecuted for their faith, consulting Open Doors, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, or Barnabas Aid for information.

My Pledge for May: I will support Christian Aid or CAFOD as regularly as I can.

A Good Friday Reflection

Jesus died to reconcile us to God

A Grain of Wheat must Die

Each of us is like a grain of wheat planted by God. Just as a grain of wheat must die so as to produce a harvest, so we must die to self in order to bear the fruits of Love. This dying to self is a gradual process and happens in little ways:

- † Every act of Humility involves dying to pride;
- † Every act of Patience involves dying to intolerance;
- † Every act of Tenderness and Compassion involves dying to the judging of others;
- † Every act of Generosity involves dying to greed;
- † Every act of Courage involves dying to cowardice;
- † Every act of Kindness involves dying to cruelty;
- † Every act of Love involves dying to selfishness.

Thus the false self dies and the true self, made in God's image, is born and nurtured.

- † It is by giving that we receive;
- † It is by forgiving that we are forgiven;
- † And it is by dying that we are born to eternal life.

(Chosen by the late Revd Alan Butler at a CTIS Quiet Day.)



"Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

(John 12 v.24)

Parish Contacts

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Baptisms and Weddings	Dorothy Townend	01457 873861

Christ Church Friezland

ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will take place on Sunday 26th April following the 9:30am Eucharist Service. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Eco Church – Earth Hour

SWITCH

OFF ON

FOR YOUR WORLD

On Saturday 28th March, people were encouraged to turn off their electric lights between 8:30pm and 9:30pm as they joined in with World Wildlife Fund's Switch Off event.

This not only saves electricity but reminds us of the cost of that

electricity. It is an act of solidarity with everyone else around the world doing the same, working together to address the climate emergency.

One of the biggest wastes of energy is putting too much water in the kettle, so only boil up what you need. Wherever we can, remember to:

refuse to consume, **reduce** what we use, **reuse** what we already have, or **recycle!**

A Gift for Maggie's

A huge thanks to all who attended the concert held in Church on Leap Day.



MAGGIE'S

Over 200 people turned out to enjoy the fabulous Saddleworth Male Voice Choir and Saddleworth Singers. The concert was held to raise money for Maggie's in Oldham, who offer free support to anyone with cancer and their families.

Good Friday Workshop

The volunteer youth workers from churches across the Benefice of Saddleworth are once again teaming up to offer a children's Good Friday Workshop with favourite activities, such as bread making, Easter gardens, crafts and much more!

We are hosting this year's event in the Church Hall.

Full details about the event are on Page 4.



Photographs from the 2019 Good Friday Workshop

'Time for a Cuppa' Lunch

The lunch was held in church on Thursday 5th March to raise funds for Dementia UK.



Volunteers served up a delicious light lunch of freshly-made sandwiches, jacket potatoes, soup, and quiche together with a wide selection of home-baked goodies and John's famous pancakes!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to raising a whopping £376 in 3 hours!

Encountering A Corpse

He was knit together in his mother's womb
fearfully and wonderfully made.

The silence of the silent night was broken
by cries of a new-born, bloody, babe.

Tiny hands, that had once flung stars into space,
clutched at a mother's breast; a father's finger.
The conduit of creation learned first to kick,
then to crawl and to walk before he could run.

The soft baby feet became hardened by dust
and the grit of walking through life;
The boy's calloused hands carved and crafted
as he grafted for a living.

Then a man came to be washed in the river:
skin baked in the sun; hair grown long;
fully bearded.

This man's spittle, mixed with dust, gave sight
to the blind,
and his body lay down on a corpse and gave it life.

This man's hands washed the feet of his friends,
and served them bread and wine.

This man's strong arms grasped those he loved
in a final embrace.

A kiss on this man's cheek brought betrayal,
the washing of another's own hands gave him over.
So, this man's body was beaten, battered
and bruised;
until death came, for blood and water
to flow over the spear.

As a mother washes an infant, so the women
wanted to prepare his body;
to gently cleanse, to tend and care for this
precious, now empty, vessel.
Time had seemed to stand still, but as it ran out,
they laid the body hastily in a cold, dark tomb.

That body is gone, but it is still alive:
in a new born baby or pensioner;
in a little child or a young adult;
in a man or a woman;
In a heartbeat, with an open heart,
his body lives.

©Yvonne M Carson 2014

Maundy Thursday - Food and Feet



Last year's event was a relaxed but a very poignant
and peaceful experience. We are doing something
similar again this year, involving a shared meal and
(optional) foot washing in church.

Please do come along, just as you are!

Parish Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Yvonne Carson	grapevine.ccf@outlook.com	
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ALM Prayer and Spirituality	Megan Harrison	megharrison64.aol.com	07817 771663

The Environment and Ecology (continued)

(continued from Page 7)

*“Clearly there is no single technology, policy or
action to solve Climate Change. It will require
people from all walks of life locally, nationally and
internationally.”*

It needs to be governments, companies and
individuals taking actions.

While governments and industry have to make
changes we individuals can make a difference too.
Fill your kettle with only the water you need for your
cuppa. Any surplus can go into a Thermos.

The Energy Saving Trust
estimates that if everyone in
the UK did this, the UK could
run half the country's street
lights on the saved electricity.

This is the first item in
Saddleworth Parish Council's
information on how to reduce
one's carbon footprint which
is due to be published
imminently.



(continued on Page 27)

St Mary Greenfield

Greetings

As I write, the weather is wet and wintry, but daffodils are blooming in our gardens, revealing the hope and promise of spring. By the time this is being read, our great God will once more have proved his faithfulness in the changing of the seasons and our gardens will be bursting with even more new life, colour and activity.

Observing nature can make us more mindful of the need to preserve all the beauty and resources of the world that God has given us to care for and enjoy. For this reason, I'm very pleased that four Early Church families and a member of our 10:30am congregation have volunteered to take the lead on us becoming an Eco Church. We are still at the beginning of the process, but intend to play our part and do our best to protect our planet. Watch this space for updates in future issues!

Many Early Church families are at the start of their Christian journeys with us, whilst other members of our congregation have a life-long connection. One such person is Eva Holden, who retired as our Verger at the end of 2019. I wish to thank Eva for her dedication and service over very many years, which she gave free of charge. She always approached her work with steadfastness and efficiency, and with a smile and a kind word for everyone. Thank you Eva.

Maundy Market – Thursday 9th April



Greenfield holds a mandate to have an open market at Road End on this day. It is in place until such time as there is no stall there on that day.

We have always held a stall and come what may, we will be there on 9th April from 9:00am to 12 noon selling goods on behalf of our church.

Do please come along to BRING, BUY, and BROWSE.

St Mary's C.E. (A) Primary School

Welcome to the newsletter from St Mary's C.E. Primary School.

I trust that it finds you all well and in good health.

Education Sunday

Year 1 children took part in this service on Sunday 9th February. The children spoke clearly and gave a wonderful presentation. Many parents and members of the church community commented on their wonderful presentation. Many thanks to the staff in Year 1 who enabled the children to present so well and giving up their time at the weekend to support this event and strengthen our ties with St Mary's Church.

Experience Easter

St Mary's Church have kindly offered to provide an Experience Easter Day for the children of St Mary's. This will take place at the end of March and Year 3 and 4 will take part in this experience at St Mary's Church.



Heating Works

Our Heating Works project went well over the February half term. Many thanks to Mr. Allsopp, our site manager, who liaised effectively with the contractors to ensure the project was successfully completed in time.

The heating is now much more efficient and we are already noticing a difference in the temperature of the classrooms especially in this colder weather.



There are still some further works to be carried out in Class 6 which will be picked up again in due course.

PTFA Events

PTFA Pancake Toss

All children took part in the Pancake Toss on Shrove Tuesday. It is a great event that raises much needed funds for school.

Thank you to all families that sponsored their child.



Chocolate Bingo

The ever popular chocolate bingo took place again in March. This event is ever so exciting and the children love the bingo and the abundance of eggs and chocolate that are won in this event. It is a superb family time.



Family Festival - Saturday 4th July

Reserve the date so you don't miss out on our incredible Family Festival. All of the community are welcome to this fabulous event with great entertainment from the children and people of the community throughout the day.

Pop up Circus - Sunday 19th July

We are so excited to announce that the PTFA have booked a circus to come to school.

There will be two afternoon performances each holding 300. Candy floss and refreshments will also be sold and tickets will go on sale after the Easter holidays.

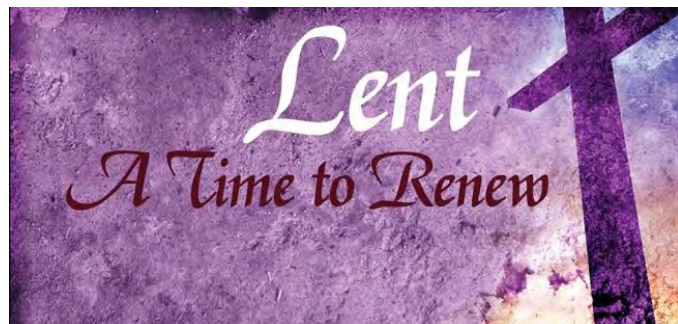
POPUP CIRCUS

Watch this space and if you are on Facebook, check out the Greenfield PTFA Facebook page that will be giving you all the details.

Spring is gradually announcing itself with daffodils just beginning to pop their heads up out of the ground and Easter is fast approaching.



Lent is a time of thoughtful reflection on the past, followed by the promise of a renewed faith and hope in the future.



As we focus in school on our Christian values of thankfulness and hope, I trust that you will join me during the Lenten period in holding ourselves in quiet contemplation of the world around us and our contribution.

With God's Richest Blessings
from all at St Mary's School
Mrs S M Hall
Head Teacher

And now we remember...

Finally, as always, we remember all those we love who have died, particularly those whose names appear in our book of Remembrance for April and May. They are:

Norah Bourne, John Brian Buckley,
Edith Elizabeth Brassay, Priscilla Forber,
Duncan Maclean, Hilda Helena Maclean,
Harry Parkin, Tom Partington, Kathleen Pilkington.

As we give thanks to God for them and their lives, we are comforted by the words of St Paul in Romans 8 v.39 that the same is true for us as it is for them, that nothing "... in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord".

With my love and all God's blessings.

Barbara

Parish Contacts

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Gift Aid Secretary	Elizabeth Pilkington lizhpilkington@outlook.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

Revd Pat Gillian - Associate Priest

On 26th January we welcomed Bishop of Middleton, The Right Reverend Mark Davies, to our Eucharist.

During the service Bishop Mark licensed Revd Pat Gillian as an Associate Priest within the Benefice of Saddleworth. This was an acknowledgement that Pat has now finished her initial training which has been signed off by the Bishop of Manchester.



Pat would like to thank everyone who has supported her through her training and also for the cards, gifts and flowers given to her on the day. Many thanks to Lydgate Larks who formed a choir and sang 'O Jesus I have promised' for Pat.

Following the service and licensing, the congregation joined with Pat for tea, coffee and cake.



Fundraising Questionnaire

When is the ideal time for...?

What stalls would you like to see at ...?

What fundraising activities should we hold...?

Comments and suggestions appreciated!

Please contact Sue Willett to contribute
(details opposite)

Pulling Back from the Brink!

Watching the news this lunchtime we had pictures of striking schoolchildren attending a rally in Bristol addressed by Greta Thunberg. I am immensely impressed with Greta; to have the courage to do what she does at just 17 years of age!

We may wonder whether our own children should be out on strike, but then I got to think about what they are already doing. I can see and hear from my visits to school how much they care about the damage being done to our environment and how they try to do their bit, but sometimes feel unable to change things. But, in their own quiet way, they are doing; they are acting as our conscience and keeping us aware that some of the things we, as adults, do are continuing the damage.

Is it time for the adults to start doing their bit, if they aren't already? As I write it is the third day of Lent and I am aware that this is a superb time to start to change and it doesn't have to stop when Lent is over.



Could we:

- † reduce the number of car journeys we make?
 - Every time we walk or take the bus we save CO₂ emissions, could we do that at least once a week (or more)?
 - Do you take the children to/from school in the car? If it is too far to walk, could you and a friend alternate and carry each other's children together?
- † reduce the temperature of our house heating by 1°C?
 - It is amazing what a second jumper can do!
- † recycle everything more efficiently?
- † ask our children for their opinions and ideas?
- † have a forum in which to share ideas for saving the planet?

I am sure if we all did a little bit more things would start to improve. Little changes made by large numbers of people will create improvements and show children that we do care about their future, by ensuring they have a world in which to grow up.

Al Gillian

Crowning of new May Queen

On Sunday 3rd May our current May Queen, Katie Lowe, will hand over her crown to our incoming Queen, Holly Marshall.

The service begins at 3:00pm and there is an open invitation to everybody. It would be lovely to have as many people as possible join Katie and Holly on this special day.

After her crowning, Holly is looking forward to following in Katie's footsteps, representing our church at many events throughout the year including walking in this year's Whit Walks. In addition to this, Holly and her retinue will be responsible for raising money for charities, including our church.

Please come and support the girls on the day of the crowning and offer Holly your continued support throughout the next year.

ST ANNE'S ROOF APPEAL

"Save me, O god for the waters are come" Psalm 69

Our church stands in a very beautiful but exposed position, which has taken its toll on the building and roof. With recent storms we need to patch up our roof.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

£2,500 is needed urgently to carry out these repairs and keep our church open for worship.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- "Buy a Slate" – 60 @ £10 each
- "Sponsor a gutter!" - 14 @ £20 each
- Increase your weekly giving
If everyone gave £2 more each week we would be able to cover these everyday costs more easily.

All donations gratefully received and can be 'Gift Aided' if you are a UK Tax payer.

Please contact Al Gillian (details below).



My brother's hill top funeral

My 90 year old farmer brother's funeral in February was unusual. Not just because it was a Saturday but because he was buried in a grave at the top of his farm.

The undertakers took him to the farmyard where he was transferred into the bucket of a tractor digger in his chosen wicker coffin.



We all walked in quiet procession up to the top field; on a clear day one can see Snowdon and Cardigan Bay. On this day, it was not clear with gusts of wind and an occasional flurry of rain.

Arthur had been a pioneering organic dairy farmer. The farm was bought for him by our parents in 1954. He married Elizabeth in 1959, the year I also met my Elizabeth. There were loads of tributes from people who had enjoyed staying on their farm over the years. A typical comment was *"My two holidays there were the happiest of a lonely childhood"*.



After the burial we all trooped back down to a short Quaker meeting in the Village Hall followed by refreshments, spoken tributes, lots of reminiscing and loads of photographs stuck on the walls.

Richard Darlington,
Arthur's 'baby' brother.

Parish Contacts

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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
Verger	Anne Smith		07507 339983

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Church

Dear Grapevine reader,

On behalf of the 'Save Saddleworth Church' group and the Seeing is Believing (SiB) campaign, I'm delighted to report that work to the East Window is now well underway. As I mentioned last time, work on historic buildings is never straightforward - and so it has proven. Nonetheless, we hope this element of the works to Save Saddleworth Church will be completed by early May.



Our contractor, Mather & Ellis Ltd, is making steady progress despite the recent horrendous weather.

Completion of this element will successfully conclude the SiB campaign and I offer my gratitude (and congratulations) to all who have given time and / or money to make this happen. Completion of this work though, should in no way detract from the level of effort required still to 'Save Saddleworth Church' and this of course will be the campaign name from here on in. The building still requires somewhere in the region of £1million to save it!

Ideas for further community fundraising are in development and we continue to build upon plans to apply for the major funding required – likely to be the Heritage Lottery Fund. We hope that successful completion of this 100% community-funded project (SiB) will demonstrate to funders that we are able to deliver capital projects on this iconic building. This can only add weight to any future bids.

I must again thank Fiona Ward for developing the necessary plans and documents to get us into the right place to apply for funds. However, we still acknowledge the need for fresh ideas, approaches and funding and ask everyone to attend the forthcoming events and consultations.

For more information or to be involved please do contact us. We are particularly keen to speak to anyone who has the time and energy to help us run two or three fundraising events each year.

Peter Greenhalgh
Save Saddleworth Church (Chair)

Peter: pagreenhalgh@hotmail.co.uk
Fiona: fionaward@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk

Saddleworth Ramblers

Saddleworth Ramblers get together occasionally for a good ramble. These are great days out, easy walking, great company, well researched and often dry weather! There is usually a 'Plan B' for those who are not able to do the whole walk.



All are most welcome!
Lifts are also available.

Contact numbers are:

David Davies on 07904 036682
Andy Waller on 07791 051386.

The remaining dates for 2020 are:

Saturday 9th May - Holme Circular

The walk is proposed to follow a circular route from the village of Holme, near Holmfirth.

Saturday 11th July

Saturday 10th October

The routes for the July and October walks will be published later in the year.

Friends of Saddleworth Church

The Friends held an 'Afternoon Tea' as part of St Chad's Day Celebrations.

The afternoon tea was a great success. All who attended remarked on how much they had enjoyed it. Liz had put together a magnificent raffle and Mike and the singers entertained us wonderfully.

Thank you to all who helped, baked or donated in any way. You helped raise a superb £1,390.50 which will be used to repair and maintain our three worship centres.



News from the Parish Church

The basic needs of our large Parish, with three worship centres, have to be catered for, but more excitingly the building work has begun. The scaffolding has gone up at the East end of the Parish Church. Black plastic is draped over the inside and the organ is now wrapped up to protect it from dust and cold. Outside the scaffolding is also wrapped and looks a little incongruous glistening in the green hill setting. It all adds its own wailing music throughout the services during these strong winds.

During a packed St Chad's Day celebratory service, where the three parish congregations had gathered to worship, red fabric was used so that the magnificent depiction of St Chad was shown in its full beauty. This had been created by Janet Iles and used at the afternoon tea (the day before) surrounded by our red CTiS banners.



Next, a part of the large old cast iron central heating pipes rusted and had to be urgently replaced. Of course, nothing like it is used today and it had to be specially made. This week work will start on the inside of the tower to put up mesh to keep the weather and rooks out. The rooks have previously nested inside and left much debris. The hatch at the top of the tower also needs securing as the high winds have broken it. Inspecting the roof and clearing the gutters has also been completed in January. All necessary and costly work that is almost unseen except when not done and the rain gets in.

Alison Coates

Art Exhibition at The Reclamation Room (Lee Street, Uppermill, OL3 6AE) by Donald Craven during June

Donald will donate the proceeds of any art sold to 'Save Saddleworth Church'.

Please visit and enjoy the exhibition.

(Many thanks to Donald for his kindness.)

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

Contacts

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	Debbie McCabe		07779 120346

The Environment and Ecology (continued)

(continued from Page 21)

How do we help sustain God's creation?

- † Eat less meat;
- † Eat more vegetables;
- † Create compost heaps;
- † Eat locally-sourced, organic, seasonal food;
- † Invest in sustainable clothing;
- † Walk, cycle or use public transport;
- † Consider an electric car;
- † Use renewable energy.



Traidcraft also points out that organic food growing methods are not only better for the soil but they are better for the workers in the fields where chemical fertilisers and pesticides can be harmful to their health.

The Ecology of the soil depends upon microbes which get destroyed by the use of chemicals. Organic methods may produce less in the short term but are essential for the health of living organisms including ourselves.

Richard Darlington

St Chad Saddleworth - Parish Centre

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week runs from 10th to 16th May.

This year's theme is...

Together we **stop** this climate crisis.



Please support this year's work which will help millions of people in Kenya who are struggling to survive the drought which has become a national emergency.

Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Rose and her family, and millions of people in Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. People like Rose need every last drop to survive the drought.

Last year Christian Aid gave over 58,000 people access to well-built health clinics and trained 64,000 people in hygiene practices. They set up savings groups which enabled 13,000 women to pay for things like transport to their nearest clinic.



On Saturday 2nd May, 10:00am to 11:30am, we will be holding a Coffee Morning in aid of Christian Aid.

Prayer Walk Preparations

The children of St Chad's school have had an exciting few weeks working alongside the parishioners of the Parish Centre. Preparations are in full swing for the forthcoming local prayer walk, planned for Easter.



Embracing the theme of nature, both children and adults have been developing new skills in needle felting and woodwork. The children are excited about displaying their needlework in church and positioning the bird boxes, made by the children and parishioners, along the path of the prayer walk.



As part of this exciting new project within the parish, members of St Chad's school prayer group are busy writing prayers to share with members of the community during the Easter festival.

Oshandi AIDS Trust in Namibia

In April our 'Away Giving' supports Oshandi AIDS Trust in Namibia (OATIN)



If like me you watch 'Breakfast' on BBC1, you may have seen presenter Louise Minchin trekking across the beautiful Namibian desert fundraising for 'Sport Relief'. In spite of the hardship, the gruelling heat, Louise and the team were well supported, and made it to Walvis Bay and 'civilisation'.

Project achieved, funds raised... Well done!

However, it made me reflect on the less well-known face of Namibia. The impoverished northern regions where OATIN works with nineteen rural villages who, for the past two years, have suffered the long term effects of severe droughts, poor harvests, and increasing rural poverty.

For twenty years, the Trust has supported these villages:

- † providing support and basic food for people living with HIV/AIDS;
- † encouraging economic development;
- † and promoting educational/cultural links with local schools here in Saddleworth.



Please do come to the Coffee Morning at the Parish Centre on Saturday 4th April from 10:00am to 11:30am and please remember the Oshandi AIDS Trust in Namibia in your 'Away Giving'.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 5th April, 9:30am
Palm Sunday Procession
from Parish Centre.

Friday 10th April, 9:30am to 11:30am
Good Friday Children's Workshop
at Christ Church Friezland Church Hall
(See Page 4 for details).

Coffee Mornings

Every other Saturday (more or less) between 10:00am and 11:30am.
Admission £1.



Saturday 4th April
in aid of Oshandi AIDS Trust in Namibia.

Saturday 18th April
in aid of Save Saddleworth Church.

Saturday 2nd May
in aid of Christian Aid.

Saturday 16th May
in aid of Save Saddleworth Church.

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

Contacts

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

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Knees-up?

Once a year the clergy and members of the seven PCCs have a social evening. This provides the clergy with the opportunity to show another side to their personality and members of the PCCs have a chance to meet in a relaxed environment. Thank you to Susan for organising the event. *(Pictures hidden by Editor on Page 35.)*

St Chad Saddleworth - Kilngreen

Praying through Art

When I became an ALM in Worship just over three years ago, I had no idea that my art was going to become a big part of my ministry.

It all began when Jackie Calow was a Minister here. She asked me if I would decorate the Parish Centre on the theme of Easter for the newly-formed Café Church. I have always loved material and colour and I created an Easter banner.

My banner-making has now become a really important part of my worship and prayer and I find I can share this with others through the medium of art. I have led two workshops in the last year with the Foundation for Ministry Course, helping the course members to create their own banners.

Creating Art as an Expression of Prayer

We often think of prayer as something we read, say, or listen to. But prayer can also be a visual experience; it is oft said that *"a picture is worth a thousand words"*. Images and all forms of visual arts can often bring meaning that cannot be put into words. This is what I feel I have been doing with my banners. I pray on a particular theme, find an image that reflects what I want to say, alongside a line or two from scripture, or the whole image and idea forms in my head. Creating the banners brings this "prayer" to others and hopefully inspires and helps them to come closer to God.

Last summer, whilst I was doing some painting at Dobcross School for the School Leavers end of term production, I was asked if I would be interested in coming into school and doing some artwork with the children around themes in the Bible. As a result of this request I have been working with both KS1 and KS2 children in the last few months on two Bible themes: 'Women in the Bible' and 'The Last Supper'.

KS1 children have found out about Mary and for the visual part of this work I drew a large stained glass window, which the children created in tissue stuck to tracing paper squares attached to clear plastic sheeting. This has been mounted in the Library with battery lights behind. I am now working with KS2 children on "The Last Supper" by Leonardo Da Vinci and hope to share the finished work in the next issue of The Grapevine.

Janet Iles

Family Service

Kilngreen Family Service in February was led by Sarah Barlow. It was Candlemas. The presentation of Jesus at the Temple was acted out by the young and not so young. We talked about Simeon describing Jesus as a light to the world and discussed different uses of light, to light our way, to celebrate, as a comfort and as a warning.

We sang lots of light-related hymns and we all lit a candle for ourselves whilst asking for God's blessing on us all.

At the end of the service Howard Sutcliffe read the Nunc Dimittis to us all. We had mentioned that it was a favourite of our beloved and much-missed Revd Duncan Rhodes.

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word:

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel."

(Luke 2 v.29-32)



St Chad's All Stars won an award

The St Chad's All Stars were nominated for three awards by the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) for their production of the pantomime, 'Ali Baba and the Four Tea Thieves', performed last November at Kilngreen.

These included accolades for the best female comedy performance, by Hilary Edgerton, and best ensemble in the best pantomime categories.

They won a trophy in the Best Technical section for the pantomime's ultraviolet scene produced by David Millett, the show's technical director, and his team.

The NODA North West representative, Claire Ashworth, said the All Stars ultraviolet scenes were technically the best she had ever seen. We are very proud to win the award; it was a real team effort.

The St Chad's All Stars always welcomes new members for performing on stage, back stage or front of house. For more information contact our chair, Kate Millett, by email at kejrad@outlook.com.

The pantomime this year will be 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs', full of fun for all the family. Performances are between:

- † Wednesday 25th November and
- † Saturday 28th November.

Diggle Diamonds

This friendly group for older people in Diggle meets in the Hanging Gate on a Saturday morning once a month from 10:30am for coffee and friendship plus a raffle. The group also enjoys a summer outing and a Christmas Party in December.

All older members of the community are welcome, for more details contact Ken McWatt on 01457 829641 or 07923 904273.

Dates for your diary:

Coffee Mornings: 18th April, 16th May,
13th June, 11th July;

Annual Summer Trip: Tuesday 2nd June;

Christmas Party: Saturday 5th December.

Maundy Thursday Supper



A Parish-wide supper, with informal Holy Communion, will be held on Maundy Thursday 9th April starting at 7:00pm at Kilngreen Church.

Please sign up in advance as it will help us to cater for you. All are welcome!

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

Contacts

Grapevine Coordinator	Sarah Barlow	sarah.barlow@talk21.com	07775 613787
Assistant Wardens	Lynda Barlow		01457 878338
Kilngreen Lettings	Suzanne Bradshaw		07733 335784



Eco Church and Climate Change

Tuesday 21st April at 7:30pm at St Mary's Church, Greenfield

We are holding an open meeting to discuss how the church should react to the **climate emergency**.

Speakers include representatives from Oldham Council, Saddleworth Hydro, and Extinction Rebellion.

There will be an opportunity to share the ideas and good practice of our churches which will help us to coordinate our response to the challenges our planet faces.

*"I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."
(Genesis 9 v.13)*





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or contact Sue at The Roebuck Inn, Strinesdale on 07855 471018

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The simple answer was **“Yes! We can...”**

A couple of hours later the gentleman arrived with his handwritten draft and asked for my opinion. I suggested adding some information and rewording some of the information that he had written.

When we were happy with the wording, I handed it to my colleague for her to type whilst we carried on chatting. It was printed on his company paper. However, it then needed to be emailed as an attachment over to his client. The only problem for him was that he wasn't very computer savvy, and didn't know how to send it!

There was a simple solution; I opened his email provider on my computer, logged in and he entered his password and I sent the email with a message and the attached Business Profile.

A delighted client; *“would definitely use your services in the future and would recommend you”*.

He paid us and gave us a tip too. I wish we had more clients like him... 😊 😊

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Who are the Samaritans and what exactly do they do?

Most people have heard of the Samaritans but there may be some who are not too sure what we do. So...

For those in distress, despair, those who feel isolated or have suicidal thoughts, we will listen without judgment, giving callers a safe space to explore their feelings. We are available 24 hours a day 365 days a year to offer confidential support by phone or email.

Our vision is that fewer people die by suicide. There were **6,859 suicides in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2018 – that's 18 per day!** Of these, 759 (aged 15 to 24) were young people.

Suicide is not inevitable; it is preventable.

We know that the sooner you talk to someone about your suicidal thoughts and feelings, the sooner these feelings are alleviated and thoughts can be explored.

Not all callers, however, have suicidal thoughts. Our callers tell us about all kinds of issues: relationships, family, abuse, mental health, bereavement, work, study, bullying, isolation, etc; the list is endless. We give people the time and space to talk and, most importantly, we listen for however long it takes, no advice given.



At Rochdale, Oldham & District Samaritans, in addition to being there to support our callers by phone, email and face-to-face, we also manage to squeeze a few more things in too:

- ◆ we support Listeners, who are prisoners we have trained, at Buckley Hall Prison;
- ◆ we reach out into the community at local events and festivals;
- ◆ we fundraise and talk to people at supermarkets, football and rugby matches;
- ◆ we are often on station platforms during one of the campaigns which are run jointly with Network Rail;
- ◆ we give talks in schools and to groups;
- ◆ we attend local suicide prevention group meetings;
- ◆ we recruit new volunteers, both listening and support;
- ◆ we train our new Samaritans;
- ◆ we keep up-to-date with new initiatives;
- ◆ we self-support our own volunteers;
- ◆ we maintain our premises;
- ◆ and we also manage to have fun too!

Volunteer

We know that we help people, because they tell us, and it is indeed a privilege to volunteer as a Samaritan. We're just ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Perhaps you're thinking you may like to join us. Please go to

<https://www.samaritans.org/support-us/volunteer> .



SCAN ME

Donate

Our branch has to fund itself through fundraising activities and donations.

If you would like to make a donation, please go to

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/Rochdale,OldhamandDistrictSamaritans>.



SCAN ME

Registered Charity No.: 219432

Please remember...
you can call us for free on 116123
or email us at jo@samaritans.org

Samaritans SHUSH listening tips

Show you care
 Have patience
 Use open questions
 Say it back
 Have courage

- #1 Show you care**
Focus on the other person, make eye contact, put away your phone
- #2 Have patience**
It may take time and several attempts before a person is ready to open up
- #3 Use open questions**
That need more than a yes/no answer, and follow up eg 'Tell me more'
- #4 Say it back**
To check you've understood, but don't interrupt or offer a solution
- #5 Have courage**
Don't be put off by a negative response and, most importantly, don't feel you have to fill a silence

Church of England in Saddleworth Who's Who

Saddleworth Ministerial Team

Team Rector	Revd Canon Sharon Jones sharonjones@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07738 966271
Team Vicar	Revd John Rosedale jrrosedale@gmail.com	01457 874209
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Associate Priest	Revd Dr Michael Donmall michaeldonmall@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07779 225063
Associate Priest	Revd Pat Gillian patgillian@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 870162
Associate Priest	Revd Philip Williamson philipwilliamson@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	07736 416126
Missioner for Discipleship	Revd Hilary Edgerton hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk	01457 871704
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

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Churchwarden	Vacant		
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Treasurer	Janet Powell		01457 878828

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Holy Trinity Dobcross - PCC Officers

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Churchwarden	Denis Cavanagh		01457 874343
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Treasurer	Peter Whiffin	treasurer@holytrinitydobcross.org.uk	01457 872386

Christ Church Friezland - PCC Officers

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Secretary	Vacant		
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Treasurer	Al Gillian	patandalgillian@btinternet.com	01457 870162

St Anne Lydgate - PCC Officers

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Treasurer	Al Gillian	patandalgillian@btinternet.com	01457 870162

St Chad Saddleworth - PCC Officers

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Secretary	Liz Rooke	lizzierooke@gmail.com	01457 810666
Treasurer	Chris Chard	chard.chris@gmail.com	01457 874165

'Follow Me' The Gospel of Luke



Six Wednesday evenings

29th April,

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th May

7:45pm for 8:00pm

at

St Anne's Church Lydgate

Discussions on the Gospel of Luke with DVD clips

For details contact Hilary Edgerton 01457 871704

hilaryedgerton@cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk

or Val Stocker valstocker61@gmail.com



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