





St. Gabriel

The Parish of The Good Shepherd, Ashton-under



St. James

Ashton-under-Lyne



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

March 2017
Price 50p

Editorial

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, 'At the bakers I told God that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!' Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in key three areas of His identity: social action, political power, and religious identity (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus looked into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He would be.

We can also think of Lent as an opportunity to hold a mirror up to ourselves and ask the question, 'who am I? It is a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and the world in which we live. How will you keep Lent period of 40 days running up to Easter? Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.

If you would like to submit an article, we would love to hear from you!!

The views expressed in articles in the magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Parish of The Good Shepherd. Please consider writing something for the magazine yourself! And, if you have any comments to make on the Magazine you can contact the editor, Roger Farnworth on 0161 330 2771 or talk to a member of your DCC or PCC who will pass on any comments that are made.

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The Parish Prayer

Father God, whose Son came to bring love and peace to the world, help us to grow n faith and share our hope and joy with all whom we meet, so that we can work together to build your kingdom in Ashton, welcome new people into our churches, and be relevant to those around us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Vocations

Brothers & Sisters in Christ



In January, we heard the passage from

Matthew, when Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James and John to be fishers of men and to follow him. They stopped what they were doing immediately and left their fishing nets and followed Jesus. They had no idea what lied in front of them, but with faith they knew that this was what God had called them to do. They stayed with Jesus during his ministry and after the resurrection continued the work that Jesus had started.

Now fishing in the days of Jesus, was hard work, fishing with sometimes no results at the end of hours and hours of hard work. Jesus was asking these men to give up the family business and follow him, so that they could be fishers of men. What I find interesting about this text is that these guys could have said "we'd rather be fishing thanks." And ignore Jesus call as so many people do today.

So if God calls fishermen, then he can call you and me.

Now Jesus spoke much about our following Him. He uses the word "follow" many times in the Gospels.

- He told the rich young ruler, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." (Matt. 19:21)
- He evangelized Levi the tax-collector with just two words: "Follow Me" (Luke 5:27).

Imagine that these fishermen didn't even take any fish with them when they followed Jesus. They had complete trust in him and He gave them a completely new life. This trust gave them real hope for the future.

I suppose it's all about the Curious, the Convinced and the Committed. These disciples were beyond the curious, they were convinced that this guy was for real and they wanted to become real followers. They fell into the realm of the committed

The difference today is apparent, the curious show up and leave when Jesus

asks for sacrifice and commitment. The Convinced are there faithfully like a bunch of rowdies at a rock concert. When Jesus asks them to make meaningful sacrifices and lasting commitment they don't leave they just don't respond. But the real follower is found in the life of the one who is Committed. Jesus asks for commitment and sacrifice.

So if God calls fishermen, then he can call you and me.

That's right he is calling you do to your part as His disciples in the 21st Century, like he has been calling people for centuries. Today it is our turn. Now God calls men and women to various positions and missions. You don't have to be ordained and become a Vicar like I did, because there are so many jobs or things to do in the Church that don't require ordination.

During March/April in our Lent Lectures, at St Michaels Church, we will be looking at the different vocations on offer in the diocese. I urge you to come and listen to them all.

10th March Lay Reader Ministry – David Barron from Rochdale

17th March Ordained Local Ministry – Rev Pat Lodge

24th March Lay Chaplaincy – Rev Martin Parrott from Halifax

31st March Authorized Lay Ministries – Jamie MacKenzie from Church House

7th April Ordained Ministry – Rev Rachel Battershell

Lectures start at 12.15pm followed by Soup and Bread lunch



The mark of a real disciple is dependence on Jesus and allowing him to lead you where you are going. You may not be called to go overseas for a mission project, you might be called on to be a voice of integrity and influence in your

community. You may end up hearing his call to accept a role of leadership here. You might find him leading you out of one area of ministry and service and into another.

Jesus wants to use you to make his message known to the people of Ashton. Come be a part of the kingdom of God here in Ashton. Jesus calls you to be a real follower, Are you listening? Can you lay down your nets and follow Him?

Rev Rachel



Ask, Seek and Knock

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it will be opened to you." (Luke 11:9)

Please choose one focus for each week of the month or pray for all of the following issues throughout the month, as you prefer. There is a prayer at the end to draw it all together if you're unsure how to start or finish your prayers.

This month:

- Please pray for our parish as we start to enter another period of transition. Pray for Rachel as she prepares to take over the Parish of Dearnley, Wardle and Smallbridge in the Rochdale Deanery. Pray in faith, knowing that God has plans for our parish and will never let go of us.
- As we enter the Lenten period, pray that we can use this period of reflection to draw closer to God, to understand better his will for and call on our lives
- Please pray for 5 family or friends who don't know the love of God in their lives. Pray that God gives you the opportunity to share some of your experiences of Him with them.
- Spend a moment to make a list of those that you know who are ill or in need of God's healing touch at this time. Please pray for God to heal them, take away pain, get rid of any illness and to bring them comfort

Lord, we offer you our prayers. Hear us as we bring our concerns to you and help us to place them into your hands in confidence that you will hear us.

Amen ********************** Wise Words

Jesus is the bread of life, not the cake for special occasions. Anon What we worship determines what we become. Harvey F Ammerman We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.

Duane Hulse

Sand Dollars

Portland Basin Museum recently held the Collector's World Exhibition, looking at what and why we collect. Amongst the exhibits was a Sand Dollar, donated to the museum by Alfred Bradbury on his death. Alfred was born in Dukinfield in 1923 and attended Globe Lane School in Dukinfield and then Poplar Street School in Audenshaw. He later took up an apprenticeship in Ashton, then served during World War II in the Royal Engineers. After the war, Alfred became a teacher in Dukinfield and pursued many hobbies including collecting shells. He died in 1998 and all his collection was donated to the museum.



The sand dollar is flat-looking burrowing sea urchin belonging to the order *Clypeasteroida*. It lives on the floor of shallow sandy waters along the coasts of ocean waters in the Northern Hemisphere. The molluscs are washed up on Oregon Coast beaches regularly.

After the urchin is washed up on the beach and bleached by the sun, it looks like a large silver coin, such as the old Spanish or American dollar- hence its simple American name. In other places it is known as the sea biscuit** or pansy shell.

It was not long, however, before a legend rich in Catholic symbolism developed about the poorly named sand dollar. This was the story:

On the top part of the shell you can clearly see in the centre a star, which represents the Star of Bethlehem that led the Wise Men to the manger when Christ was born. Around it is the outline of the Easter lily, a sign of Our Lord's Resurrection.

At the edges of the star are four holes and in the centre another one. These remind us of the four Sacred Wounds of Our Lord on His Hands and Feet that He bore after being nailed to the Cross. A centre hole, the fifth, represents the pierce Wound to His Sacred Heart made by the spear of Longinus.

If you turn the sand dollar over, you will find an outline of the Poinsettia, the Christmas flower.



Finally, if you break open the sand dollar, five "doves" emerge – the doves of the Peace and Joy of Christmas. There are always five doves every time you open one.

Many poems have been written about the legend of the sand dollar. Here is one from an unknown author:

The legend of the Sand dollar That I would like to tell Of the birth and death of Jesus Christ Found in this lowly shell.

If you will examine closely, You'll see that you find here Four nail holes and a fifth one Made by a Roman's spear.

On one side the Easter Lily, It's centre is the star That appeared unto the shepherds And led them from afar. The Christmas Poinsettia Etched on the other side Reminds us of His birthday, Our joyous Christmas tide.

Now break the centre open And here you will release The five white doves awaiting To spread good will and peace.

This simple little symbol, Christ left for you and me. To help to spread His Message Through all eternity.

**Editor: I wondered where the name of the famous racehorse came from!

Smile Line

Car park: the place where you take your car to have little dents put in the bumpers.

Anon



Friends of Ashton Parish Church

Why not become a Friend of Grade 1 listed Ashton Parish Church, and be part of this beautiful Church?

Join us on our summer outings and other places of interest. We have an annual lunch, and you are welcome to join in the Friends actives during Heritage Weekend, if you so wish. You would receive three newsletters during the year informing you of our news and also what is happening in the Church. There is an annual

For further details please contact: Elaine Gaskell (Secretary) on 330 5176

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Favourite Names for Cats and Dogs

It seems we now prefer baby names to the more traditional names for our pets.

Thus, if you have a dog, you are more likely to call it Ben or Poppy, rather than Prince or Blackie. And if you have a cat, you are more likely to favour Bob or Bella, rather than Smudge or Mittens. You can't go wrong with Charlie, Poppy and Sam - they now appear in the top ten names for both dogs and cats.

Meanwhile, Jeremy Corbyn admits he has not given his cat any name at all. Instead, he greets it each day with a simple 'Buenos dias, El Gato'. (El Gato is Spanish for 'The Cat'.) The cat's views on this are not known.



Choral Evensong St Michael's Church 6.30pm Sunday 19th March

The history of Evensong

English language service. Evensong dates back to the time of the Reformation, using elements of the old monastic Offices of Vespers and Compline. The liturgy (a fixed set of words and ceremonial features) that the Church uses to this day was laid out in Archbishop Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer, the first version of which appeared in 1549. The music took shape a few decades later, in the reign Elizabeth I, with great of Queen composers like William Byrd and Thomas Tallis developing exquisite polyphonic choral music specifically for this new service, and in subsequent generation new composers have continued to add great music to the repertoire of Evensong. This has inspired a unique 500-year-old unbroken tradition of choir school foundations across Britain and Ireland that has been responsible for the very high standard of choral singing maintained to this day.

Cranmer created the liturgy of Evensong with the general public in mind, motivated by the fact that it would condense more services than people could be expected to attend into one short service; the people of his day were not well-versed in Scripture; the public services were in Latin; and they were too elaborate for people to follow.

long evolution means that one has a powerful sense of connecting present with past, of tapping into something much greater than ourselves. As we come together in a church at the end of the day we join a vast community enduring both through time and in the same place, by acting in the same way as countless people have done before us for over a thousand years. Cranmer's Evensong starts with the chanting of the Old Testament Psalms. Their mantra-like repetition helps create a peaceful atmosphere, but that is soon one interrupted by the exuberant burst of the 'Magnificat' - the song of a young woman, Mary, rejoicing at the prospect of the birth of her child. Jesus - and then solemn by the Testament's 'Nunc Dimittis' - the song of an old man, Simeon, gently facing his death, eye-to-eye, now his life has been fulfilled by meeting Jesus. A major aspect of the genius of the service is the female balance between male, young and old, and Old and New Testament in these 'Canticles'. An anthem follows that fits the mood of the day, and the service finishes after a second hymn. Afterwards the church resonates with the playing of the organ,

The fact that Evensong has had such a

often one of the great organ works of Bach.

The interspersing of these varied musical forms amongst passages of beautiful spoken liturgy and moments of contemplative
Silence lends a balance, completeness and complex psychology to the form of the service.

The high proportion of music in the Evensong service is arguably what distinguishes

is arguably what distinguishes it from other church services. And music is very good at carrying us beyond the limitations of human words towards those things we cannot articulate. The Magnificat is a joyful song, the Nunc Dimittis a sung plea, the Psalms pure praise. Music's communication of these



The man who brought us Thomas the Tank Engine

A reluctant author who created characters loved by millions of children died 20 years ago this month, on 21st March 1997, aged 85.

feelings is immediate.

The Rev Wilbert V Awdry is best known as the writer of Thomas the Tank Engine and 25 other railway books.

He invented the stories initially to tell his son Christopher when he was ill with measles, and had to be persuaded by his wife Margaret to get them published.

Mr Awdry, who was made an OBE shortly before his death, was a clergyman who ministered in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Birmingham and Cambridgeshire. He was also a pacifist who once lost his curacy as a result. He was always interested in railways, having been fascinated as a child in Wiltshire by listening to steam trains ascending the grade into the nearby Box Tunnel.

The Fat Controller in the stories is sometimes thought to be a God-like figure, but he was intended as a satire on bureaucracy. For Mr Awdry, the morality of the stories was clearly Christian, and analogies between the Christian faith and the ways of the railway were obvious: the engines are meant to stay on the right track, and they pay the price if they go off the rails. But they are always forgiven, and never scrapped.

Asked how he hoped to be remembered, he said he would like his epitaph to say that "he helped people see God in the ordinary things of life, and he made children laugh"

News from St Peter's School

Munitions Explosion in Ashton – June 1917

During the First World War, Ashton was rocked by a huge explosion in a local ammunition factory.

On June 13th 1917, the explosion occurred at the factory of Hooley Hill Rubber and Chemical Works on William Street in Ashton's West End. The factory was producing TNT for bombs. 43 people lost their lives in the explosion and hundreds more were injured.

The blast happened at 4.20pm when many schoolchildren were on their way home. One of those who died was a child swimming when glass in the roof of the Swimming Baths was blown in.

The blast blew out windows as far away as Dukinfield and Hurst. Hundreds of people living near the works were made temporarily homeless and were accommodated in nearby schools.

Inside St Peter's Primary School is a brass plaque commemorating the 7 pupils from that school who died in the explosion whilst on their way home from school. The town was devastated by this tragic event.

A sculpture in memory of all those who died in the explosion has been erected in Henry Square, near the old swimming baths. It is a stainless steel work by sculptor Paul Margett – pictured below.

Funding has been secured from the AGMA Arts Officers Grant for a project to commemorate the event. Harriet Hall of Interference Art has been commissioned work with St Peters Primary School to co-create a piece of artwork for the Atrium at the Local Studies and Archives Centre. From the beginning of March, children from St Peter's school will be attending a number of workshops at Local Studies and Archives and at St Peters School, developing, designing and installing the artwork. It will be unveiled in June 2017 and will remain in place for a minimum of six months.

St Peter's children will perform a series of songs in front of Ashton Town Hall at the exact time of the explosion, 4.20pm on 13th June.

There will also be an end of school production at St Peter's School which will include "The Blast" musical performance, with funds raised going to the Royal British Legion.



Services and Events in Lent 2017

We have a delightfully large range of things available to people who wish to mark the days and weeks of Lent with a spiritual discipline. We are working alongside our sister parishes of Christ Church, Ashton and St. John the Evangelist, Hurst this year in Lent. You will be made very welcome at any of the events outlined below:

Ash Wednesday - services at 1.30pm at St. James and 7.30pm at St. Peter's

Mondays in Lent

12.00noon – Churches Together Lent Study – "Christian Encounters with Other Faiths'. Lunch at 12noon followed by study group. St. James' Church, Ashton.

Tuesdays in Lent

- 12.15pm Eucharist or Lunch-time Prayer St. Peter's, Ashton (followed by a bring and share lunch).
- 7.00pm Eucharist St. John, Hurst
- 7.30pm Stations of the Cross St. John, Hurst.

Wednesdays in Lent

- 10.00am Eucharist Christ Church, Ashton
- 10.00am Lent Course (Stephen Cottrell The Things He Did) St. John, Hurst
- 12.00noon Angelus and Stations of the Cross St. John, Hurst
- 1.30pm Eucharist at St. James, Ashton (except on March 8th Café Church)
- 4.00pm Evening Prayer Christ Church, Ashton
- 7.00pm Churches Together Lent Study "Christian Encounters with Other Faiths'. Hutton Avenue Vicarage, Ashton.

Thursdays in Lent

- 10.00am Eucharist St. John the Evangelist, Hurst
- 11.00am Eucharist St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Ashton.
- 4.00pm Evening Prayer Holy Trinity, Ashton (Eucharist on first Thursday of the month)

Fridays in Lent

12.15pm – Vocations to Ministry – short talk followed by Soup and Roll Lunch at St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Ashton

Sundays in Lent

- 9:30am St. Gabriel's, Ashton
- 9.30am St. James', Ashton
- 10.00am St. John the Evangelist, Hurst
- 10.30am Christ Church, Ashton
- 11.00am St. Michael and All Angels', Ashton
- 11.00am St. Peter's Ashton
- 4.00pm Christ Church, Ashton Healing Service
- 4.00pm St. James on Sunday Afternoon (March 12th and 26th, April 9th).

There

In the glimmer of a smile on a care-worn face *In the fountain fresh hope of a first* embrace.

There When sun sparkles on the dancing foam And laughter splashes like the hearts of home.

There *In the pain and confusion and tears* The muffled screams and nameless fears.

The eye brighter than the gleaming crown The servant on the throne

The heart softer than the purple gown The king who would be known For no reason, except to give In every season that we might live.

There *In the scuttling panic of a wind*whipped leaf *In the brimming ache of endless* grief.

There In the emptiness of alone *In the grey barren of chilled stone.*

There Always there.

Submitted by Amy Sheridan

St John's Church Wednesday Welcome



9.30am-12.30am every Wednesday

A Place of Welcome to all in our community offering fellowship, activities, listening, conversation and basic local information. plus free refreshments.

Drop in – whether you want a chat and a cuppa or would like to help as a volunteer!

Part of "Places of Welcome" - where people can feel safe to belong, connect and contribute.

Kings Road, Hurst, A-u-L OL6 8EZ

The Gospel Story by Colours

Black: stands for our sin. No-one has, or can live,

the perfect life God requires.

Romans 3: 23

Red: is for Jesus' blood. Jesus on the cross to rescue you and to restore your broken relationship with God. His blood washes your sins away.

I John 1:7

Blue: is for Faith. God gives eternal life to all who trust in Jesus as their Saviour. *Galations* 2:16

White: means you are clean and forgiven. God wants you to receive his gifts of pardon and peace, thanking Him for His rescue in Jesus. *Psalm 51:7*

Green: reminds us to grow in grace. We do that, becoming more like Jesus, as we read the Bible, study it together with others, and share God's love in word and actions.

1 Corinthians 3:6

Yellow: is for Heaven. God wants you to enjoy a perfect, endless life with Him. He promises that you will live with Him for ever.

John 14: 2-3

Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved Acts 16:31

Barry Bowden

Iris Mary Knowles

Aged 90, formerly of Ashton-under-Lyne, passed away peacefully on Tuesday 7th February 2017 at The Marbrook Centre in Cambridgeshire. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Her funeral will take place at Cambridge Crematorium, East Chapel, on Monday 27th February at 11.30am.

Donations to Alzheimers Research UK can be sent to: The Cooperative Funeralcare, I Huntingdon St, St Neots, Cambs PEI9 IBG





Wednesday	8 th March	1.45pm	Café Church at St James' Church
Friday	10 th March	12.15pm	Lent Lecture at St Michael's Church*
Friday	17 th March	12.15pm	Lent Lecture at St Michael's Church*
Saturday	18 th March	10.30am	Coffee Morning at St Michael's Church
Sunday	19 th March	3.00pm	Café Church at Costa Coffee Ashton
		6.30pm	Choral Evensong at St Michael's Church
Friday	24 th March	12.15pm	Lent Lecture at St Michael's Church*
Friday	31st March	12.15pm	Lent Lecture at St Michael's Church*
Friday	7 th April	12.15pm	Lent Lecture at St Michael's Church*
Monday	29 th May		Car Boot Sale St Michael's Church

*Followed by Soup and Bread Lunch



Do join us!



Café Church at St James' Church Weds 8th March at 1.45pm Everyone is welcome!

Café Church at Costa Coffee Ashton Sunday 19th March 3pm – 4pm All Welcome!!



Vernon Shipley

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^^^^^^

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Parish Notices



Baptisms:

We give thanks with the family and friends of:

Elodie Chapman Arlo Marcus Hadfield

Weddings:

There were no weddings in February

Funerals:

We pray with the family and friends of:

Brian Kennerley Joanne Gargiulo

Dorothy Allsopp

Lost in Translation

(Seen in a Korean hotel in Seoul) Measles not included in room charge.
(Qatar hotel welcome notes) Please do not use the lift when it is not working.
(French hotel in Paris) Please leave your values at the front desk.
(Indonesian hotel menu in Bali) Toes with butter and jam.
(Street sign in Japan) Waiting will be prosecuted
(Private school in Nairobi, Kenya) No trespassing without permission
(Road sign in Malaysia) Caution: Water on road during rain
(Luggage trolley at Singapore airport) Not to be removed from Crewe Station
(German hotel cloakroom) Please hang yourself here



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March 2017 - Parish Sunday Services

1st Sunday of Lent	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion + Baptism
Sunday 5 th March	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am	St Peter	Morning Prayer + Baptism
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion + Baptism
2 nd Sunday of Lent	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th March	9.30am	St. Gabriel	All Age Service of The Word
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday Afternoon
3 rd Sunday of Lent	9.30am	St. James	Family Communion
Sunday 19 th March	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
Mothering Sunday	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th March	9.30am	St Gabriel	All Age Service of The Word
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday Afternoon

Regular Weekday Services

Tuesday: 12.15pm St Peter's Morning Prayer/Holy Communion

(followed by optional bring and share lunch)

Wednesday: 1.30pm St. James Holy Communion

(except 2nd Wed of the month, which is Café Church)

Thursday: 11.00am St. Michael Holy Communion

4.00pm Holy Trinity Evening Prayer *

* (This will be a Eucharist Service on the 1st Thursday of the month)

CONTACT DETAILS

CLERGY: (*usual day off)

Revd Roger Farnworth, Team Rector (*Tues.)

The Vicarage, Westbury Street, Ashton OL6 9NL 330 2771

Revd Rachel Battershell, Team Vicar (*Mon)

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Revd George Reeves, Team Curate (*Fri)

1 Windmill Lane, Denton M34 3RN 336 1850

Fr Jules Mambu Team Curate (*Mon)

35 Palace Road, Ashton 07897697503







