



Holy Trinity



St.
Gabriel

The Parish of The Good Shepherd, Ashton-under-Lyne



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

March 2020

Price 50p

Editorial

'Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.'
(Luke 9: 23)

These words of Jesus are spoken at a turning point in the gospel. Jesus challenges the disciples about His identity and their commitment to Him: *'who do the crowds say I am?'* (9:18). It is at this point that He *'resolutely set out for Jerusalem'* (9:51). On our journey through Lent, as we look to events of Good Friday and Easter, what are our priorities as Jesus' disciples to be?

To deny ourselves: this means to saying *No* to ourselves and *Yes* to God, as we humbly submit our will to His. Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane *'not My will but Yours be done.'* (Luke 22:42). It means putting Jesus first in everything: our work, family, ambitions, possessions, marriage, finance and future. We will not be guided by self-interest, but by allowing God to show us how to live in His way.

To take up our cross: this reminds us that the disciple is not immune from suffering, as we follow Jesus along the way of cross. Just as He carried his cross to Golgotha, we cannot avoid experiencing suffering in a fallen world. Every day we are to live in way that demonstrates to everyone that we have died to ourselves, our selfish ways and ambitions, and seek to live for God. It means breaking old selfish habits and ways of thinking, as we allow God to renew us by His Spirit.

In all of this we cannot lose, because like Jesus, it is only through death that we find God's new life. *'He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.'* (Jim Elliot)

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

The views expressed in articles in this magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Parish of The Good Shepherd. The editor reserves the right to amend articles as appropriate, for editorial purposes. 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 in 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.

www.goodshepherdashton.org

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Inclusive Church



For a while, Roger and I have discussed Inclusive Church. In Manchester Diocese, there is a whole Deanery that is officially “Inclusive Church”. But what does it mean? What will be asked of us if we become an “Inclusive Church”?

Maybe we should start with what is “Inclusive Church”?

Inclusive Church started as a grassroots movement within the Anglican church. Here is a quote on the origins from their Inclusive Church website:

“Inclusive Church was initiated in 2003 in response to a particular incident within the life of the Church of England. The Rev’d Dr Jeffrey John had been nominated as Bishop of Reading; this was withdrawn when it became publicly known that Jeffrey John was in a long-term same-sex relationship. The unease felt by so many led to the creation of an online petition, asking individuals and churches to support what became known as the Inclusive Church.”

Although the start with 10,000 signatories was in response to concerns around human sexuality, Inclusive Church is now so much more. During Lent this year, I will be leading six sessions on different areas of Inclusion. These will be:

Ethnicity
Disability

Gender
Sexuality

Poverty
Mental Health

The material for each section contains some small liturgy, Bible readings, testimonies of people affected by exclusion and a short video. All I ask is that those able to come do feel able to ask questions, be challenged and be open to discussion.

I believe that whatever the outcome of the Lent series, we will certainly enter Eastertide with a wider understanding and a keener observation to see how others may feel excluded and how we can make them feel included.

Starting on Wednesday, 4th March, 12pm, St James church. Please bring your own lunch and feel free to stay for the lunchtime Communion at 1.30pm.

Revd Ben Brady



St James' Church

“Welcome as an Inclusive Church”

Please bring your lunch!

Friends of

Ashton Parish Church

Annual Lunch Thursday 28th March

Broadoak Hotel 12-30 for 1-00 pm

Further information and Booking Form available from

Alan Bacon 0161 330 5829

alanfbacon@yahoo.co.uk

Elaine Gaskell 0161 330 5176 elaine.gaskell@yahoo.co.uk

This is our main social event of the year to meet old friends and make new ones. We hope to see as many people as possible.

You don't need to be a member.

The Believe and Achieve Trust & St Gabriel's Community

Charity Quiz Night

Come along and enjoy a Quiz Night with Potato Pie Supper at

St Gabriel's Church at 7.30pm Friday 17th April (doors open at 7pm)

£6 per person (includes Potato Pie Supper), maximum of 6 people in a team.

Teams can be arranged on the night if necessary.

Bring your own drinks/snacks.

Tickets available from Sandra Kiy on 07740 766687. Please buy tickets in advance so that we know how many we need to cater for.

News from St Peter's CofE School

Since 2016, we have worked closely with Willow Wood Hospice in Ashton. Each year, some of our Year Five children visit Willow Wood with Mr Wilson to find out more about its important work. The children tour the hospice with Gill, a Willow Wood nurse, work with a patient partner and then give a presentation to the staff, patients and their own parents about what they have learned. They also reflect on why it is important to help with local charities.

In January 2020, we took part in another project. The Year 5 ambassadors were: Keivah, Mu-Minah, Jayden, Megan, Rosie & Artem.



In week 1, Gill took us on a tour of the Hospice. We visited the prayer room, the hydro pool room and looked at the rooms where the inpatients stay. We also visited the cafe and had some reflection time in the aromatherapy room.

During Week 2, the pupils worked with the day patients to create a colourful tile. They also looked around the beautiful gardens and spoke with the staff who organise fundraising for the hospice. In week 3, the pupils chatted with their partner patient about their families and hobbies. They also reflected on the value of love and created their own 'heart maps'

What's On?



**Café Church at
St James' Church**
Weds 11th March 1.45pm
*Informal worship with
tea, coffee and a chat.
Everyone is welcome*



A Place of Welcome

St Gabriel's Church open their doors **every Monday morning from 9.30 till 12.00** to invite people from the community in to our building to enjoy a **free** drink and refreshments. This is not just for church members but for everybody in the neighbourhood who would like to come along.

We hope that people will come along to socialise and just enjoy each other's company. During the morning we aim to provide simple entertainment such as a quiz sheet, some armchair aerobics, bingo, craft activities etc. We are sure that some of you may even have your own skills to share!

However, none of these are obligatory - you may prefer to just sit and chat - and that is perfectly fine! There is no charge for anything – all welcome



St Peter's Church Designated Red Cross Drop-in Centre

For Refugees and Asylum Seekers
Thursdays 10.00am – 2.00pm

The Red Cross will be providing grants to Refugees and Asylum Seekers who meet eligibility requirements. Also providing ESOL classes; a hub for other organisation such as NHS, Action Together etc; and a signposting service to other organisations.
Refreshments available
All are welcome!



Scouts Please!

3rd Ashton Scout Group are looking for new members
10^{1/2} yrs to 14 yrs.

We meet every Tuesday
at 7.15pm to 9.00pm
at St James Church.

For more information contact Tina
Group Scout Leader - 07411773336
or tina@dah.co.uk

The Mindful Bunny

Children's Yoga for 3-9 yr olds at St Gabriel's

This is a children's yoga class starting with breathing techniques and taking your child on a story-themed yoga journey as they go from pose to pose, with fun but relaxing games or mindful colouring to end the session.

Children may come in their pyjamas ready for bed if they wish as this relaxing class is guaranteed to calm them and prepare them for a good night's sleep.

£5 per session (parents may also take part for just £1)

Contact Caron on 07748 541588 to book your place

Rainbows at St Gabriel's Church

16th Ashton Brownies, based at St Gabriel's Church, meet on Mondays 6.30pm until 8.00pm.

Our Rainbows group runs alongside the Brownies from 6.30pm until 7.30pm.

Rainbows is for girls from the age of 5yrs to 7yrs and Brownies is for those from 7yrs to 10yrs.

Anyone who may be interested in joining either of the groups, should please contact Sharon Oldham on 07795 957114.

New Exercise Class at St Gabriel's Church

Sweaty Mama

for pre and post-natal mums

At St Gabriel's Church

every Wednesday

10.30am - 11.30am

Please contact Kim on 07450 525791 for more details

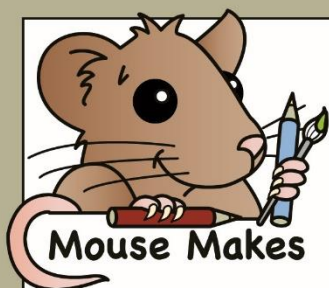
Spanish Classes

St Peter's Church

Each Wednesday at 6pm we are holding a Spanish class at St Peter's. If you would like to learn Spanish contact Moira (07854 536949) to book your place.

There will be a suggested donation of £1 to cover refreshments.

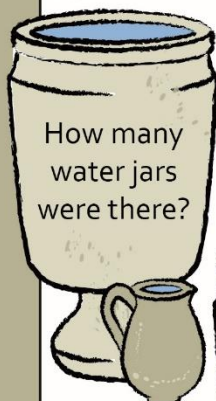




Mouse Makes

Jesus, his disciples and his mother Mary had been invited to a wedding. The wedding was to last a week, but too soon the wine had all been drunk.

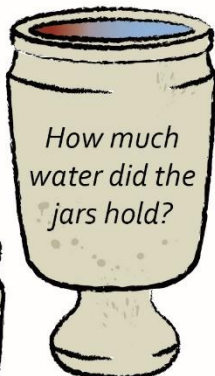
READ *John 2:1-11* to find out what happened.



How many water jars were there?



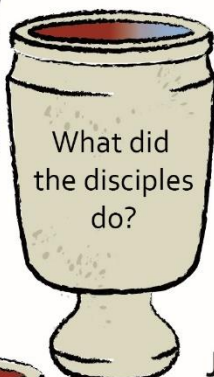
What were the water jars made of?



How much water did the jars hold?



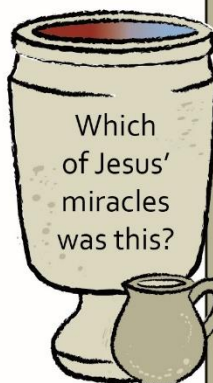
What were the water jars for?



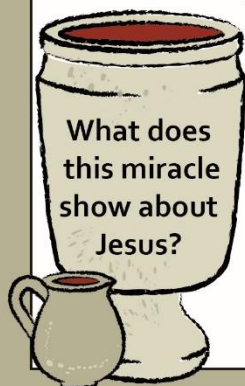
What did the disciples do?

What did the steward tell the bridegroom?

What had happened to the water when it was taken out?



Which of Jesus' miracles was this?



What does this miracle show about Jesus?

J G A L I L E E W A W
J A D I S C I P L E S A
W S E R V A N T S O O D T T
I T S S C A N A X U M D O E
M O U I F I R S T T A I N R
E P S X I T A T T U R N E D
F I L L W I N E X T Y G E T

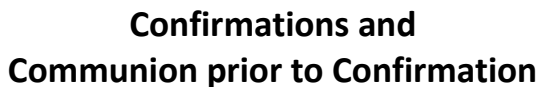
WEDDING • CANA • GALILEE • JESUS • MARY • DISCIPLES
SERVANTS • RAN • OUT • SIX • STONE • WATER • JARS
FILL • TOP • TASTE • TURNED • WINE • FIRST

Church Representation Rules 2020 – note the changes!

There are new rules altering the preparation of the church electoral roll, the conduct of annual parochial church meetings, and the membership and election of PCCs, deanery synods and diocesan synods.

Particular changes to be aware of are as follows:

- Names are now only removed from the electoral roll at the annual revision, although they can be need to be added throughout the year;
- The electoral roll, when published (either as a hard copy or in electronic format), must include every name but no other personal data e.g. addresses;
- Annual parochial church meetings (APCMs) must now take place between 1 January and 31 May in each year, rather than 30 April;
- A person who is elected to serve as a lay member of a deanery synod is limited to two successive terms of office. After which the person is ineligible for election for the next three-year term unless the annual meeting has passed a resolution disapplying the limit;
- Sidespeople will now be appointed by the PCC rather than the APCM;
- Lay people must form a majority of a PCC and, as was previously the case, any readers licensed to the parish will only be members of a PCC if they are named on the electoral roll and the annual meeting decides accordingly;
- Where the chair of the PCC decides that particular business can properly be conducted in that way, PCCs may conduct business by correspondence (paper or email) rather than at a meeting;
- PCCs are required to hold a sufficient number of meetings to enable the efficient transaction of its business rather than there being a required minimum number;
- Electronic voting methods may now be used for elections to diocesan synods and to the General Synod; and
- There is no need to obtain consent from individuals for processing their personal data for the purposes of the rules. This will be processed on the basis that doing so 'is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation' and because it reveals a person's religious beliefs, that the processing is carried out internally in the course of the Church of England's legitimate activities. These changes also affect the forms used in preparing for the APCM i.e. the application for enrolment on the electoral roll, nomination forms and the notice of the annual meeting etc. The new forms can be viewed using this link - [Forms](#) or downloaded from the [Parish resources](#) website.



Confirmations and Communion prior to Confirmation

Preparation for taking Communion prior to Confirmation will be during Lent.

Preparation for Confirmation will take place after Easter.

Please contact Roger if you are interested and he will arrange dates/times with those who respond.



Book Review



**By Brian Draper and Howard Green,
Canterbury Press, £14.99**

In our busy, pressured world, the natural world can be a powerful counter-balance, offering wisdom for the challenges, pain and dislocations of life as well as for beauty, wonder and healing.

Soulful Nature encourages you to get outside and make deeper connections with creation and its creator. The authors chart walking journeys through rural landscapes and town streets over the course of a year, showing how the natural cycle of the changing seasons can awaken us to the rhythms of our own lives.



Each chapter explores a different landscape, zooming in on the small details of the natural world as well as panning out to the wide-screen beauty of time and place. Simple and practical spiritual exercises are provided throughout.



The 5th Mark of Mission

***To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation,
and sustain and renew the life of the earth***



Garden trends for 2020



What plans do you have for your garden this year? Probably you will slow down on the digging, and maybe try making some mud pies by your new bee hotel instead. These are among the predictions of The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

The RHS reports a growing desire among gardeners to keep their soil healthy by adopting a 'no dig' philosophy, which limits damage to soil structure and wildlife.

As for mud pies, the RHS hopes that more parents will tempt their children into the garden to enjoy themselves with simple fun, and also to enjoy the benefits of soil bacteria on their immune system.

And bee hotels? They are just one of many ways in which we can take positive steps towards helping nature. Gardens need to be a bit less tidy, with seed heads left for the birds to eat, fallen logs left for the hedgehogs and beetles to sleep in, and piles of dead grass and weeds for our woodlice and other small crawlies. Gardens also need simple ponds, and plants for pollinators. Clipped shrubs, manicured lawns and pesticides do not help nature at all.



As Guy Barter, RHS chief horticulturalist says: "There's a rising tide of concern about the environment.... In the garden at least we can have some control. Now we are all wildlife gardeners, helping songbirds, helping beetles and woodlice."

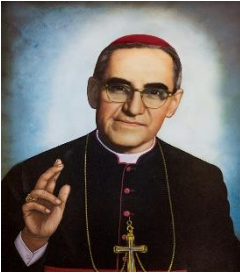
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me - Barry Bowden

*"Guide us O though great Jehovah, guide us through this barren land.
We are weak, but thou art mighty, hold us with thy powerful hand."*

God guides us, Jesus the Living Word sustains us, the Holy Spirit empowers us. As we continue to walk by faith and not by sight, we must remain faithful unto God, all our days.

Pray each day for everyone and trust God to do what only God can do.

God Bless us all, everyone. Amen



The courage of Oscar Romero

An Archbishop was presiding at Mass when a hired gunman shot him in the back. That was

40 years ago this month. Archbishop Oscar Romero was the Roman Catholic primate of San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador: a small, populous country in South America with a history of political intrigue, violence and corruption.

The assassin, a professional hitman who has never been caught, was working for an extreme right-wing junta and its supporters, who felt threatened by Romero's sermons and his hugely popular radio broadcasts.

Oscar Romero was not a natural agitator. The emphasis of his ministry had been on personal holiness and he had been slow to draw attention to the unscrupulousness which pervaded his country, but when a socially active priest-friend was murdered, he felt he had to follow the same path. He highlighted the torture of prisoners, the censorship of the press, closure of schools and the plight of the poor.

In 1980 he criticised the United States for their support of the junta. In a sermon on 23rd March 1980 he ordered the army to stop killing people: "In the name of God,

and in the name of this suffering people whose cries rise to heaven more loudly each day, I beg you, I implore you, I order you, in the name of God, stop the repression!" That was his death warrant.

The next evening, at Mass in a hospital chapel, Romero had finished his sermon and moved to the altar when a car stopped outside the open door. A gunman got out, aimed his rifle and fired. Romero died instantly. He had said, "As a Christian I do not believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me, I shall arise in the Salvadoran people."

Oscar Romero is commemorated as one of 10 Christian martyrs whose statues adorn the West front of Westminster Abbey. The day of his martyrdom, 30th March is remembered annually in the Anglican Lectionary, and by the United Nations because of its significance for human rights. In 1997 the Roman Catholic Church made him a Saint.

Did Oscar Romero mix religion with politics? He said, "I want to reaffirm that my sermons are not political. Naturally, they touch on politics, and they touch on the reality of the people, but their aim is to shed light and to tell you what it is that God wants."

Ven John Barton

A Bucket of Tadpoles:

Springtime, curiosity, and the Theology of Science



When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are then swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old. They refuse to stop asking questions.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, that we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a theology of science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two year-old comes and knocks them over.

Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz

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March Parish Sunday Services



Lent 1	9.30am St James	Holy Communion + Baptism
Sunday 1 st March	9.30am St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am St Peter	Baptism and Service of the Word
	11.00am St Michael	Holy Communion + Baptism
Lent 2	9.30am St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th 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
Lent 3	9.30am St James	Family Communion
Sunday 15 th March	9.30am St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am St Michael	Morning Prayer
Lent 4	9.30am St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd March	9.30am St Gabriel	All Age Service of the Word
Mothering Sunday	11.00am St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am St Michael	Holy Communion
	4.00pm St James	St James on Sunday Afternoon
Lent 5	9.30am St James	Holy Communion
Passiontide begins	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 2 nd Wed of the month, which is Café Church at 1.45pm)
Thursday:	11.00am St. Michael	Holy Communion
	4.00pm Holy Trinity	Evening Prayer * see above
* (This will be a Eucharist Service on the 1 st Thursday of the month)		

Parish Notices

From the February registers:

Baptisms:

We give thanks with the families of Panashe and Tumelo Chirikure

There were no weddings in February

Funeral:

We pray with the family and friends of Betty Mayers

+++++

Prayer for those in flooded areas



Compassionate God, source of all comfort,
We pray for the people whose lives have been devastated by rain
and flood.
Bring them comfort in these dreadful conditions.
Protect the vulnerable. Strengthen the weak. Heal the broken-hearted.
Support and strengthen all those working to rescue the stranded and those
helping to mend broken buildings and supplies.
And may our response to their suffering be generous and bring you praise.
For we ask it in Jesus' name,
Amen.

+++++



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CONTACT DETAILS

CLERGY:	(*usual day off)	
Revd Roger Farnworth, Team Rector (*Tues.)		
The Vicarage, Westbury Street, Ashton OL6 9NL		330 2771
Revd Ben Brady, Team Curate (*Fri)		400 1556

Items for the Magazine: Please give items for the next magazine to Revd Roger Farnworth by the 15th March for inclusion in the next Magazine - address and telephone number on page 18.



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Fairly Traded Tea and Coffee and to work for justice for the world's poor

