





St. Gabriel

The Parish of The Good Shepherd, Ashton-under



St. James

Ashton-under-Lyne



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

August 2017
Price 50p

Editorial

August is a month to focus on summertime: family time and barbeques; the beach and ice cream; long days with no school! It is time to wind down from the frenetic pace of our normal routines. However, while summer is a season, it is also a state of mind. How can we walk by faith in the summers or good times of our spiritual lives?

Summer Distractions: Our normal routine revolves around clocks and calendars, but we can easily get distracted when we break these disciplined routines. In the spiritual summer seasons of life, there is a temptation to miss out on our regular times with God in Bible reading and prayer! Things that make summer seasons enjoyable can also become big distractions.

Summer Directives: How can we make the most of this summer season and keep focused on God? We need to maintain a gratitude attitude: thankful to God for all His blessings to us. So, let's stay close and stay grateful to God in this summer season of life!

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 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.

"HOW CAN WE WELCOME REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS?"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

This article is the continuation of my previous one on the Church in the modern World. In other words, how the Church can be relevant today in a globalised world. In this new article, I am delighted to reflect on "Migration in the Bible". In other words, how can we welcome strangers as people of God. The article will open our eyes and hearts to understand that Migration is not a new phenomenon in Human history. I would like to open space for reflection and meditation within our community of Faith.

Migration in the Bible

People have always migrated from one place to another for good and bad reasons. Think of the wise men coming from the east to see the King of Kings as a baby in his manger. On the other hand, think of Cain, forced to move after killing his brother, Abel. Throughout the Bible we read stories of people on the move. Abraham started a long journey out of Ur; Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt; the disciples scattered around the Roman Empire; Paul took off on various missionary journeys; and the Bible ends with a book by John while he was living in exile.

The story of God's people is definitely one of movement. And perhaps the most famous refugee of them all was Jesus. In what is frequently a forgotten side note in his story, Jesus and his family were forced to flee to Egypt to avoid the infant massacres of King Herod. While some people will fully choose to move to follow God, many others move involuntarily as a result of war, famine, or some other massive or inescapable problem in their home country. When reading the Bible one comes across many important themes. The Bible is the story of the uprooted People of God seeking safety, sanctuary and refuge and the living God giving directions for welcoming the stranger. From Adam and Eve, to Noah, Abraham, Moses to Jesus, Joseph and Mary, all found themselves on the move, migrating, looking for a better life." Migration is a central theme of the Bible because it is so central to the human experience. In fact I would say that we humans are a migratory species. Very few people live their entire lives in one place. Many of us move many times during our lifetime. We move for positive reasons, such as to go to school, or to begin a new and better job. And we move for negative reasons such as to escape poverty or oppression.

The Bible says one who accepts a stranger accepts the Lord: 'I was a stranger and you made me welcome' (Mt. 25:35). I dare to say, migration is a divine vocation; a vocation for reevangelization of the world.

The migration story is a key to Biblical ancestry. The Lord said to Abraham: 'Leave your country, your relatives, and your father's home, and go to a land that I am going to show you. I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing.' Genesis 12: 1-2

That was the starting point of the migration of the 'God chosen' man; a true vocation by the God Himself. Abraham recognised this divine call and migrated to Canaan; an alien land.

Abraham's second migration was from Canaan to Egypt to survive from the famine in Canaan. In Genesis 15, God tells Abram his role in this 'migration story'. The Lord said to him, 'your descendants will be strangers in a foreign they will be slaves there and they will be treated cruelly for four hundred years' (Genesis15:13).

Migration of Jesus

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, to which his parents travelled because of the census and taxation. We know that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph settled for about two years in Bethlehem,

until after the Wise Men's appearance.

Once the three kings left, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him. Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son." (Matthew 1:13-15)

So, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph became 'asylum seekers' in Egypt. Without travel documents, they cross the border, looking for safety and sanctuary. Someone takes them in. Someone welcomes them and protects them.

What can we do as a church to welcome Refugees and Asylum Seekers?

We are experiencing migration never before equalled in the history of the world. The Church is facing a challenge in the 21st century. As members of the church, ministers of the Gospel, we have to think about these complex issues and develop appropriate responses. The church must see massive migration as an avenue for evangelism, a chance. When the Church neglects holistic ministry and chooses to address only

the spiritual needs of the people, the Church may be repeating the same error that Israel committed. The Church is the body, the bride, and the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 1:18-23; 4:7-13; 5:32), unlike Israel, who was just a shadow of the coming king. This means that whatever Israel was called to do, we are called to do in even greater fashion!

God has compassion for the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed. He calls the Church to

All physical suffering is a product of living in a sin-filled world. The Church has an answer that the so-called "secular" relief organizations do not have. We know how to deal with sin, and consequently, meet the physical as well as the spiritual needs of people. The Church should preach the whole gospel to the whole person. The Church has been

reach out to such people with his

love.

preaching salvation to save the "soul" of the sinner. However, in addition to "soul salvation," the Church needs to be involved in teaching about economic development and social justice to both its members and the community around. Jesus' last message to his disciples was a migration/immigration message. It is a statement that not only calls for migration, but also insists on it. Matthew 28:18-19 is the great commission, in which Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Fr Jules MAMBU

Scouts and Dragons!

3rd Ashton Scout Group (St James Church) came second in the Annual District Scout Dragon Boat Race.

This photo is of some of our Scouts with their Leader Sarah



St Peter's School News!

By Moira Wilson, Chair of Governors

It has been a busy half term for Year 6 and the school choir.

On the 13th June at 4.20pm, 100 years exactly from the Hooley Hill explosion that took place in Ashton and where 7 children from St. Peter's perished, the choir stood on Ashton market ground and sang the original seven songs that the school had written ten years ago to commemorate the 90th anniversary in 2007. On the same market ground where thousands stood at the funerals of the people who had died a hundred years ago. Tameside mayor loyce Bowman and Tameside councillors were there to hear the children sing so beautifully.



On 22nd of June the children again sang the songs at St Peter's Church, this was very poignant as above the children a PowerPoint was played showing images to reflect the words

of the songs. There was also a display up in church explaining how the Munitions explosion happened. Money raised on the night (£195.10) went to The Royal British Legion.

On Wednesday the 19th July and Thursday the 20th July year 6 children performed Blast the musical, the children had written more songs telling the story from the point of view of Katie Drayfus (Sylvan Drayfus's daughter who was 4 when he died). Some of the information for this came from Katie herself when she visited the school ten years ago.

On Thursday night the BBC filmed the show for a TV programme that they are doing about women in the first World War. The children sang with such emotion that it was very difficult to not shed a tear. Well done to St Peter's School for all the hard work and research that you have put in to keeping the memories of the explosion alive and what a fitting tribute for the people who suffered in the explosion.

There is also a piece of year 6 children's art work in Ashton Library to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the explosion.



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 town centre here in Ashton. Pray that the
 businesses are prosperous and that people can find work to support
 their families. Pray also that the decision makers in the town make
 wise decisions with compassion for all.
- Please pray for all those people who are homeless and seeking refuge from war, hunger and oppression. Help us to reach out to them, offering love and sanctuary, preaching the whole gospel and being involved in teaching all in our communities about economic development and social justice.
- Please pray for 5 friends, who are not Christians, to come to know Jesus. Pray for God's blessing to rest upon them. Commit to praying for them on a daily basis.
- 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.

Help from above

The temporary Sunday School teacher was struggling to open a combination lock on the supply cabinet. She had been told the combination, but couldn't quite remember it. Finally she went to the minister's study and asked for help.

The minister came into the room and began to turn the dial. After the first two numbers, he paused and stared blankly for a moment. Finally, he looked serenely heavenward and his lips moved silently. Then he looked back at the lock, and quickly turned to the final number, and opened the lock.

The teacher was amazed. "I'm in awe at your faith, pastor," she said.

"It's really nothing," he answered. "The number is on a piece of tape on the ceiling."

On the joys of exchanging parishes for the summer

From: The Rectory, St. John the Faster, Waterhouses-on-Sea

My dear Nephew Darren

You will see that I write to you this month from the Norfolk coast, where I am spending August, on an annual exchange of parishes with a clerical colleague. You may have had two weeks in July sunning yourself on an exotic beach on a Pacific island, but I am content with a bracing east wind, punctuated by heavy showers.

Come the happy day when you are an incumbent and have to arrange parish exchanges as a way of getting a holiday, let me give you some advice. First, always exchange with someone who is a worse preacher than you are and whose sermons are at least twice as long; you are then sure to be welcomed back with open arms. Secondly, since it is normally assumed that you will take care of one another's gardens during the month, make sure that the incumbent you exchange with has an insignificant plot. My colleague should now be largely occupied for most of the month mowing several acres of lawn. The only gardening I intend to do will be in the last week, so I can return with a car full of plums from his trees

An exchange also gives one an opportunity to undertake helpful improvements in another's home. I have discovered that my colleague's

library is carefully organised with books according to subject and then author. On his return he will find a new system in operation: they will be ordered according to size and colour. The poor man also naively thought I would never discover his stock of claret in the cellars; it will be much depleted on his return - although I shall naturally leave a note thanking him profusely for laying on such a splendid present for my visit.

Ministering to someone else's congregation can create another opportunity. For one month in the year, you are able to say exactly what you want. Upsetting organists, choristers, vergers, flower arrangers and anyone else who happens to cross your path can be bracingly therapeutic when you do not have to face the consequences.

You may have returned from sunnier climes relaxed and tanned, but I shall arrive at September refreshed from knowing I leave behind a trail of devastation and chaos, which will ensure that my host will also be welcomed back by a relieved congregation. Remember the golden rule of parishioners: every new incumbent is worse than his predecessor.

Your loving Uncle, Eustace

Book Review



Pilgrim Journeys -Pilgrimage for walkers and armchair travellers

By Sally Welch, BRF, £7.99

Why do pilgrims walk so much? What do they learn? What lasting good does it do?

In Pilgrim Journeys, experienced pilgrim and writer Sally Welch explores the less-travelled pilgrim routes of the UK and beyond, through the eyes of the pilgrims who walk them. Each chapter explores a different aspect of pilgrimage, offering reflections and indicating some of the spiritual lessons to be learned that may be practised at home.

This absorbing book shows how insights gained on the journey can be incorporated into the spiritual life of every day, bringing new ways of relationship with God and with our fellow Christians, offering support and encouragement as we face the joys and challenges of life.

This very practical guide includes the following routes: St Columba's'Way (Iona to St Andrews); Via Ingles (Ferrol to Santiago de Compostela); Pilgrim's'Way (Winchester to Canterbury); St David's'Way (Holywell to Bardsey Island) and St Olav's'Way (Stiklestad to Trondheim).

Café Church at St James' Church

None during August. Next event Wed'sday 13th Sept 1.45pm

Café Church at Costa Coffee Ashton

Sunday 20th August 3pm – 4pm All Welcome!!

CASH BOX

credit union

Cash Box Credit Union is a community savings and loan cooperative, where members pool their savings to lend to one another and help run the credit union.

You can join Cash Box if you live or work in Tameside; this is our 'common bond'. Cash Box offers a safe place to save your money and somewhere to borrow at low rates of interest.

Find us at www.cashbox.org.uk

Friends of Ashton Parish Church

(St Michael and All Angels)



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 subscription of $\pounds 5.00$.

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

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A Mystery in St Michael's Churchyard

On the south side of the parish churchyard is this inscription:

Here was interred the
Body of
Augustin Leonard
A Black Man
A native of the island of
Martinique who died in this
Town April 2nd 1793/8 aged 42
He was a faithful servant
Sincere Friend
And cheerful companion

Although rather worn, the inscription is still partly readable – although the date of his death, in particular, is uncertain. Was he a servant of the Lord of the Manor or of the Rector? How did he come to be in Ashton? Any suggestions welcome.

Alan Bacon. Church Archivist

Our Page Moses

Have you seen the
Disney film, 'The Prince of Egypt'? It
tells a story from the Bible about
Moses whose mother and sister left him
in a basket on the bank of the River
Nile

Pharaoh's sister found him and a little Hebrew boy was brought up as an Egyptian prince. As Moses grew older he became more and more angry at the way the Hebrew slaves were treated.

Moses ran away to the land of Midian where he settled down. But God called to him - and kept on calling. For every excuse that Moses had, God had an answer (Exodus, chapter 4).

Finally, Moses went to Pharaoh but it wasn't until awful things happened that Pharaoh listened and agreed to let the Hebrew slaves go free.



Pharaohs were all powerful in Egypt, but Moses was following a much greater power. The Pharaohs of Egypt left dead monuments of stone but Moses brought together a whole living people, God's people.

TOO MANY GODS

The ancient Egyptians had a different god for just about everything. Can you tell which of these were worshipped in the time of the Pharaohs and which ones I have made up? Answers at the bottom of the page.

GEB was the god of the earth and is shown in art as a man with a goose on his head.

KHARPET was a goddess of the homes, especially floors. She is shown wearing a feathered hat.

HATHOR was the goddess of love and joy and shown as a cow.

PHYLM was the god of artists and craftsmen. He is shown in pictures with 2 pairs of arms. Small figures of this god are often found in boxes called khameeras.

TAWARET was a goddess who protected women during pregnancy and childbirth. She is shown as having the head of a hippopotamus with the arms and legs of a lion, the back and tail of a crocodile, and the front of a pregnant woman.

THOTH was the god of writing and knowledge. He is shown in art as a baboon. What is the earliest mention of pharmacy in the Bible? When Moses was given 2 tablets.

Answers: I made up Kharpet and Phylm. Well, you put carpet on the floor and film in cameras (say them aloud), don't you?

What's happening?

St. Michael's Open Days

St. Michael's is open every Thursday from 10.30am to 3.00pm The Eucharist will take place as usual at 11.00am on Thursdays





Café Church at
Friends of Ashton Parish Church

Heritage Open Days Friday September 8th and Saturday September 9th

St Michael's Church will be open on both days between 10.00am and 4.00pm with Guided Tours at 10.30am and 2.00pm on both days There will be the usual attractions, souvenirs, refreshments and children's corner.

On Saturday there will be an Organ Recital at 1.00pm

St James' Church There is no St James' Café Church during August

Heritage Open Day
St James' Church will be open
Saturday 9th September
11.00pm - 3.00pm
Displays and information,
plus refreshments available
throughout the day

Heritage Open Day
St Peter's Church will be open
Friday 8th - 10am to 4pm
Saturday 9th - 10am to 4pm
Sunday 10th - 12.30pm to 2.30pm



Journeys to Faith

Earlier this year, I attended a service of Baptism and Confirmation. Everyone received a booklet, giving details of the Candidates' Testimonies of Faith – the stories of their journeys to Christ. Here are some of their stories – do they remind you of your own journey?

Barry Bowden

Shokoufeh

I grew up in Iran. I first heard about Jesus from my husband and also from his friend and another lady at a time when I was having lots of problems.

I began to read the Bible and discovered that I could know God. This was amazing and I committed my life to Jesus. I am looking forward to being baptised and confirmed. I now want to be like Jesus – to be kind and loving and merciful with others as e has been to me and to help others in any way I can.

Since becoming a Christian, I have found peace in my life and I am growing in my knowledge and relationship with Jesus. God has blessed me and, though I have lost many things because of my journey to faith, I now have much better treasures in my life.

Kian

I was born and grew up in Iran. I first heard about Jesus from my dad and through reading the Bible.

I wanted to find out more about Jesus. As I learned more, I found that Jesus was the only way to peace and I committed my life to him. I am looking forward to being baptised and confirmed. Being a Christian means being committed to God's kingdom, rather than the things of this world. It is about becoming a new person in Jesus.

I have found peace in Jesus and he is changing my life and the way I behave.

Gemma

I attended church when I was younger and was baptised as a baby and confirmed as a young adult. I also attended a Church of England secondary school, so I knew quite a lot about Jesus.

I found things very difficult when my mum died and I drifted away from church. When my son was born, I felt that I had been given a gift from God and had a growing desire to come back to church. I attended the Alpha course last autumn and now feel that I want to reaffirm my faith.

Being a Christian means that I know God is always with me and I seek to put my faith and trust in him and to do the things he was me to. This is not always easy!

I feel more confident and assured in life now knowing that God is guiding me and always looking out for me.

Mohammad

I grew up in Iran and first heard about Christianity from a friend who was a Christian. As I learned about Jesus I decided I wanted to invite him into my life and I would like to be baptised and confirmed.

Jesus has brought peace, love, kindness and patience in the way I live.

John Bunyan – the man who wrote Pilgrim's Progress

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than one hundred languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic.

Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiantfor-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians, From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than fifty books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became
a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in

the world.

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the Pilgrim's Progress covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31 August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ had received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says, 'My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder.' ... So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side...

Dates for Your Diary



Sunday 20th August 3.00pm Café Church at Costa Coffee, Ashton

Fri, Sat, Sun 8^{th_,} 10th September Heritage Open Days - see page 12

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Smile Lines

Spelling

Teacher: Donald, how do you spell crocodile?

Donald: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L Teacher: No, that's incorrect.

Donald: Maybe it is, but you asked me how I spell it

Say again?

The foreign student fell in love, and wanted to say: 'I am bent on seeing you...' but he wrote: 'the sight of you doubles me up.'

Can't count

It's easy to identify people who can't count to ten. They're in front of you in the supermarket express lane.

Music appreciation

The music critic enthused: "Here is Tchaikovsky at his best. Music so beautiful, it has to be heard to be appreciated."

A lot of music is like that!

How True!

There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast.





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Parish Notices



Baptisms:

We give thanks with the family of: Renee Chiebonam Garuba Laura Jane Johnson

Lily May Coward Freddie Anthony Aitken

Weddings:

We rejoice with the families of:
Alexander Mark Nelson and Samantha Rhoda Swindells
John Nuttall and Pauline Cole

Funerals:

We pray for the family of: Nellie Hadfield

"Colours" Fashion Show

Lots of High Street Fashions at very cheap prices Come along and see what's on offer and get yourselves a bargain! Bring friends and make an evening of it – wine, beer, tea & coffee available.

St Gabriel's Church Friday 24th November 2017 @ 7.30pm

Tickets £5 from Sandra Kiy 07740 766687





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United Parish Services during August

10.30am Sundays

30 th July	St James' Church
6 th August	St Michael's Church
13 th August	St Peter's Church
20 th August	St Gabriel's Church
27 th August	Holy Trinity Church

Sunday Afternoons

30 th July	4.00pm	St James on Sunday Afternoon
13 th August	4.00pm	St James on Sunday Afternoon
20 th August	3.00pm	Café Church at Costa Coffee Ashton
27 th August	4.00pm	St James on Sunday Afternoon

Midweek

St Peter	Tuesdays 8 th and 22 nd August at 12.15pm
St Michael	Thursdays at 11.00am throughout the summer
Holy Trinity	Thursdays at 4.00pm throughout the summer

Sunday 3rd September 12th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	St James	Holy Communion + Baptism
9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion + Junior Church
11.00am	St Peter	Morning Prayer + Baptism
11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion + Baptism

Helpful signs

Sign on a door: Push. If that doesn't work. Pull. If that doesn't work, we're closed.

In front of a church: Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case.

In the grounds of a private school: No trespassing without permission.

Outside a photographer's studio: Out to lunch: if not back by 5pm, out for dinner also

Notice in health food shop window: Closed due to illness. On a plumber's van: We repair what your husband fixed

CONTACT DETAILS

CLERGY: (*usual day off)

Revd Roger Farnworth, Team Rector (*Tues.)

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

Fr Jules Mambu, Team Curate (*Mon)

35 Palace Road, Ashton OL6 8HJ 07897 697503

Revd Ben Brady, Team Curate (*Fri) 285 1382

2 Ryecroft Street, Ashton OL7 OBL

Items for the Magazine:

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



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