



Holy Trinity



St. Gabriel



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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

March 2016

Price 50p

Editorial

Our journey through Lent continues for most of this month, as we prepare for Holy Week and Christ's Passion. Lent is a time of reflection and prayer and our theme this year has been Migration and Movement, which has helped us to focus and pray for the thousands we see in the news each day, fleeing from hunger, oppression and war. Revd Roger Farnworth expands on this theme in his lead article, and he stresses that "One of the roles of God's church is to be a place of refuge and safety, to provide an open door to all who come."

At the end of the month, we rejoice and celebrate our Lord's resurrection at Eastertide, and there follows a new beginning for us all, both spiritually and practically as nature bursts into life and we marvel again at God's wonderful creation. Alleluya!

We wish you a happy and joyful Easter

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 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.co.uk

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MIGRATION AND MOVEMENT

Our TV and Radio news and our newspapers have been full of stories about migration and movement, whether it is the free movement of people within the European Union of the refugees moving from the Middle East into Europe or others who are leaving places of persecution to find a place where they are free. There have been debates about whether people are migrants or refugees, about asylum seekers or economic migrants. There have also been articles about access for migrants to benefits in the UK.

Much of the debate seems to have been generated by fear, expressed in sentiments such as, they are coming over here, taking our jobs, getting better access to housing, filling our schools and extending waiting times for us, particularly in the NHS. Some of the concern is justified but most is fed by a media that thrives on the sensational. I don't particularly want to get into this kind of debate in our parish magazine.

We have chosen to focus on the theme of 'Migration and Movement' during Lent this year. In the autumn a number of us were fortunate enough to be part of a Tameside Refugee Day organised by Faiths Utd Tameside and TARA (Tameside African Refugee Association). On that day we heard stories of those who have moved from other countries outside of the



EU to the UK. These were stories to break even the hardest of hearts. Stories of people who love the country that they were born in, whose roots remain where they grew up, but who have been forced to choose to travel for their own safety.

Fr. Jules who until recently led TARA and who has been regularly attending St. James, was one of those who shared his story. Fr. Jules is now serving a curacy in the Church of England at St. Mary, Prestwich. If you encounter him and the opportunity arises, give time to listening to his story.

We often look on our Old Testaments as a source of good stories but a little too violent and, well, if we are honest, superseded by a much better New Testament, but the Old testament was Jesus' Bible and he relied heavily on it. The passages in our New Testaments often have grown out of the truths contained in the Old Testament. We often quote Jesus' manifesto for his ministry from Luke:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the

blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." (Luke 4: 18-19)

But we can forget that he was actually quoting from the Old Testament, from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 61:1-2). It is in the Old Testament that we find various authors speaking on God's behalf to his people. And their message could not be clearer ...

"The Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt ..." (Deuteronomy 10: 17-19)

"The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19:34)

This message is also supported in the New Testament. Why not grab your copy of the bible and have a look at these verses: Matthew 5: 43-44;



Matthew 25: 35, 40; Luke 10:27; Acts 10:34; Romans 12:13; Romans 13: 8 and 10; Colossians 3:11; Hebrews 13: 1; 3 John 1:5.

We are called to welcome the stranger, the bible is not ambiguous, it is very clear. One of the roles of God's church is to be a place of refuge and safety, to provide an open door to all who come. Once we begin to meet with people and hear their stories, we cannot but support them. The refugee and the asylum seeker need to experience a welcome and a place of safety.

I'll finish with one story ...

Zira is one of 16 children found in the Yola refugee camp in Nigeria by an Open Door researcher Isaac. They had all lost their parents to Boko Haram. Zira says:

"I followed the people who were also running away when our village was attacked. I saw how my father was shot. He told me to run and that God will take care of me. I wanted to stay back and die with him but I just found myself running in an unknown direction with other people. I thought my mother was among the crowd, but till today I have not heard anything about her. All my brothers and sisters are nowhere to be found. I am now alone in this camp, just staying with other children. Sometimes we get food but many times we sleep without food or a mat to sleep on. God alone will help me."

Roger



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:

- As we travel through Lent, try spending some time quietly in God's presence. Be assured of his love for you in the silence.
- Please pray for our Easter services. Pray that those who come into our churches over the Easter period experience the love and welcome that Jesus showed to us by his sacrifice on the cross.
- Please pray for our town centre businesses and those that travel into our town to work. Pray for Rachel's continued ministry in the town centre. Pray also for those members of our congregations that have volunteered to be chaplains to the businesses, that they have the confidence and commitment to make a difference.
- Please pray for those in our community that are ill or in pain. Pray also for those carers, doctors and nurses who work so diligently in our hospitals, care homes and rehabilitation centres. Pray for God's blessing to be on them.

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

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# Events during Lent



## Lent Groups

We will be using a booklet produced by US Anglican Mission Agency (the old USPG) entitled 'Migration and Movement' and will be scripture and the stories of different people in our world today to help us engage with what is happening around us. Friday Lent talks will follow the same theme.

Monday Lunchtimes    12noon at St James' Church  
Wednesday Evenings    7.00pm at 2a Hutton Avenue, Ashton

## Lent Talks

Friday Lunchtimes    12.15 at St Michael's Church



## Taizé Service



5pm Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March  
St Michael's Church

*Communion with God through prayer, song,  
silence, personal reflection and sharing.*

**St Michael and All Angels Church**  
in the  
Parish of The Good Shepherd

**COME AND SING  
STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION**

*Soloists: John Elliott (Tenor) and Andrew Wickens (Baritone)*  
*Organist: John LeGrove*

**An opportunity to sing 'The Crucifixion'  
under the direction of John Miles,  
organist at St. Michael's**

Rehearsal at 2.30 followed by refreshments and  
performance at 5.00pm. Or just come and listen!

*Limited number of scores available;  
please bring your own if you have one!*

**Cost: £6 for singers or audience**  
For more information contact John Miles 01457 763701

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**St Michael and All Angels,  
Church St, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 6XJ**

**An opportunity to sing 'The Crucifixion'  
under the direction of John Miles,  
organist at St. Michael's**

*Limited number of scores available;  
please bring your own if you have one!*

# Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**St Michael and All Angels,  
Church St, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 6XJ**



*The miracle of Easter, so old yet ever new,  
brings its special blessing of happiness to you.  
And as the coming Springtime  
adds new beauty to each day,  
May God look down and bless you  
in a very special way.*



## ***EASTER – the most joyful day of the year***

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be ‘growing’ in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later..

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise

calculations are complicated and involve something called an ‘ecclesiastical full moon’, which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won’t fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, ‘Easter’? In almost every European language, the festival’s name comes from ‘Pesach’, the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word ‘Easter’, however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in ‘Eostur month’, but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean ‘shining in the east’. So Easter might have meant simply ‘beginning month’ – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it’s easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.



## Church to Church Partnerships

### Guidelines: Serving Each Other

One of the most powerful images of the Church in Scripture is the image of the body; every part has its place and every part has a role. Every bit is needed. This is true of individual church congregations, but it is also true of the worldwide Church. The church in Africa needs us, but equally, we need the African church too – we just don't always recognise the fact.

The media and news reports have conditioned us to think of much of the developing world as needy; somewhere that we have to help. There is real need and desperate poverty in some parts of the world, but our media often ignore the resourcefulness, innovation and community spirit that you find in many places.

When we partner with Christians in other countries, we need to start from a position of respect; seeing others better than ourselves. We have to avoid thinking that it is our place to solve the partner's problems.

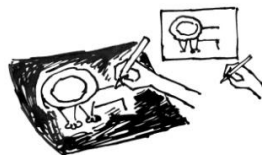
In truth, each partner has something to give, but we also have something to receive. This means that we have to respect our partners as brothers and sisters in Christ and also as people from whom we can learn and who can bless us. This may mean that we need to rethink some of our attitudes, which is never easy, but partnerships will be so much richer if we do.



### **'Colouring-in' books**

*Did you enjoy colouring-in books when you were a child? Do you like them now? If so, you are not alone - as of a few months ago, the top 20% of Amazon's best-sellers were colouring books for adults!*

*Now Christian publishers have joined in on the latest craze. One Christian publishing house (Willow House Books) has released a Scripture colouring book with designs and texts, while another even offer a Pope Francis colouring book, with designs supplementing his words.*



## Hedgehogs in need



Only a few weeks to go, and hedgehogs will be waking up from their winter sleep. Keep an eye out for them this Spring, and do try and offer food to any that you see. For hedgehogs are in trouble: numbers have more than halved in rural Britain in the last 15 years, where intensive farming and poor hedgerow management have destroyed their habitats. In the city it can be just as bad: fenced off gardens and lawns laid to concrete can mean death to a starving hedgehog.

There are now believed to be less than a million hedgehogs left in the entire UK, according to the 'State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2015' report. So here's how to help your local hedgehog:

Cut a five-inch square hole in the bottom of your garden fence, or remove a brick or two from the base of a wall, to let hedgehogs get through. Where possible, replace fences or walls with hedges. Don't pave over your garden. Encourage insects with nectar-rich plants. Leave out meaty cat or dog food. Avoid treating your lawn with herbicide. Pile up logs to create a habitat for hedgehogs. Take care when clearing piles of leaves, in case you disturb one. And finally, please avoid using slug pellets! (Advice from Hedgehog Street)

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## ***Miscellaneous observations on daily life!***



- \*A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.
- \*Based on my calculations, I can retire five years after I die.
- \*Birthday cake is the only food you can blow on and spit on and still everybody rushes to get a piece.
- \*Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

# HOLY WEEK SERVICES

|                                            |            |                                                             |                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Palm Sunday<br>20 <sup>th</sup> March      | 9:30 am    | St. James’                                                  | Holy Communion                                             |
|                                            | 11:00 am   | St. Gabriel’s                                               | Holy Communion                                             |
|                                            | 11:00 am   | St. Peter’s                                                 | Holy Communion                                             |
|                                            | 11:00 am   | St. Michael’s                                               | Holy Communion                                             |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> March                     | 7:30 pm    | St. Peter’s                                                 | Agape Meal                                                 |
| Tuesday<br>22 <sup>nd</sup> March          | 12:15 pm   | St. Peter’s                                                 | Holy Communion<br>followed by Bring and Share Lunch        |
|                                            | 6:00 pm    | Court Building                                              | Stations of the Cross<br>in the Town Centre                |
|                                            | 7.30 pm    | Albion URC                                                  | Meditation                                                 |
| Wednesday<br>23 <sup>rd</sup> March        | 9.30 am    | St. Michael’s                                               | Parochial School Service                                   |
|                                            | 1:30 pm    | St. James                                                   | Holy Communion and<br>Stations of the Cross                |
|                                            | 7:30 pm    | St. Peter’s                                                 | Compline                                                   |
| Maundy Thursday<br>24 <sup>th</sup> March  | 9.30 am    | St. Peter’s                                                 | St Peter’s School Service                                  |
|                                            | 9.30 am    | St. James’                                                  | St. James’ School Service                                  |
|                                            | 11.00 am   | St. Michael’s                                               | Holy Communion and<br>Stations of The Cross                |
|                                            | 2.00pm     | St. James’                                                  | Hurst Knoll School Service                                 |
|                                            | 4:00 pm    | Holy Trinity                                                | Holy Communion                                             |
|                                            | 7:30 pm    | St. James’                                                  | Holy Communion with<br>Washing Feet & Vigil until 11.00pm. |
| Good Friday<br>25 <sup>th</sup> March      | 10:00 am   | St. James                                                   | Family Worship                                             |
|                                            | 12:00 noon | St. Gabriel’s                                               | Liturgy of the Passion –<br>At the Foot of the Cross       |
| Holy Saturday – Easter Eve                 |            |                                                             |                                                            |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> March                     | 7.30 pm    | St. Michael’s                                               | The Easter Liturgy                                         |
| Easter Day                                 |            |                                                             |                                                            |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> March                     | 8.00am     | Breakfast at St James’ Church<br>followed by Holy Communion |                                                            |
| Services in other churches at usual times. |            |                                                             |                                                            |



# What's happening?

## **St. Michael's Open Days**

*St. Michael's is now open  
every Thursday from  
10.30am to 3.00pm*

*The Eucharist will take  
place as usual at 11.00am  
on Thursdays*

***Café Church***  
**at Costa Coffee, Ashton**  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March**  
**at 3.00pm**

## ***Café Church*** **at St James Church**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>  
March at 1.45pm**

Everyone is  
welcome to join us  
for informal  
worship, coffee,  
cake and a chat

## **Collection for the Homeless**

St Michael's Church wants  
to build a supply of goods  
that can be given to the  
homeless when they call:-

*Underwear / Longjohns*  
*Sleeping Bags / Socks*  
*Toothpaste / Tooth brushes*  
*/ Deodorant*  
*Liquid Hand Soap*  
*Hats / Gloves*  
*Clothes, inc Coats*

If you have any items that  
you would like to contribute,  
please contact Revd Rachel

# Friends of Ashton Parish Church



**Friends Lunch Thursday 10th March.  
Heroes of Waterloo 12-30 for 1-00pm**

Once again we are going to the Heroes for our Annual Lunch. For those who are not members Booking Forms are available at the back of church and must be returned no later than **Sunday 6th March**. Cheques should be made payable to **The Friends Of Ashton Parish Church** c/o Mr A. F. Bacon 17, St. Christopher's Avenue, Ashton-under-lyne OL6 9DT Tel 0161 330 5829. Please join us for this annual event to meet old friends and make new ones at this enjoyable Lunch.

Alan F. Bacon - Treasurer



## Ladies Pamper Evening

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

**7.30pm - 10.30pm**

**St Gabriel's Church**

Come along and be pampered!

Manicures, gels and overlays, massage, Reiki,  
eyebrow shaping, make-up consultations etc.

Wine, tea and coffee available and  
stalls of beauty products, jewellery, cards and gifts.

Tickets £3 each

This is a very popular event with limited numbers,  
so reserve your tickets early from Sandra Kiy 07740 766687

## Cleaning Services

We have available a number of local, reliable, hard-working domestic Cleaners. £11.00 per hour. Minimum 2 hours per week. You will receive the same dedicated Cleaner each week who is fully referenced checked.

Tel Angela Robbins (Christ Church choir)  
07713 921676 Well



## Church Publishes 2014 Attendance Statistics

**New** Church of England statistics show that just under one million people attend services each week. The survey, carried out over four weeks in October 2014, found 980,000 people attending church each week, with 830,000 adults and 150,000 children.

The statistics also show that 2.4 million attended a Church of England Church at Christmas in 2014 and 1.3 million people attended a service at Easter.

Additionally, 2.2 million people attended special Advent services for the congregation and local community, whilst 2.6 million attended special Advent services for civic organisations and schools.

The statistics also highlight the other services carried out by the Church of England on a regular basis. In 2014 the Church carried out just under 1,000 weddings, 2,000 baptisms, and almost 3,000 funerals every week of the year. Some 12% of births during 2014 were marked by a Church of England infant baptism or thanksgiving service whilst 31% of deaths were marked by a Church of England funeral.

The figures represent a continuing trend which has shown a 12% decrease in attendance over the past decade, with an average decline of just over 1% a year.

## Archbishops of Rwanda and Uganda back the Raising Families Campaign

The Archbishops of Rwanda and Uganda have backed the Raising Families initiative being run by Samaritans Purse in both their countries.

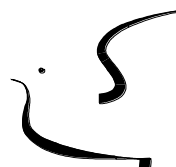
Raising Families has been run in Rwanda since early 2013, helping more than 11,000 families in need. The initiative has also resulted in 2,562 Rwandans becoming Christians. Over the next two years, Samaritan's Purse aims to help another 9,600 families in Northern Uganda, who are also in food poverty.

The Raising Families initiative works by equipping local churches to set up Local Church Action Groups. These train families in conservation farming to improve agricultural practices, and also income generating activities, to enable families to better provide for themselves. Details at: [www.raisingfamilies.org.uk](http://www.raisingfamilies.org.uk)





# Parish Notices



## Baptisms:

*We give thanks with the families and friends of:*

Maryam Hejab

Fatemah Hejab

## Weddings:

*There were no weddings in February*

## Funerals:

*We pray with the family and friends of:*

Jack Davis

Julie Jackson

## Dates for your Diary

### March

|             |                  |         |                                                                    |
|-------------|------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday      | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 12.15pm | Lent Talk at St Michael's Church                                   |
| Sunday      | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 5.00pm  | Taizé Service at St Michael's Church                               |
| Monday      | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 12noon  | Lent Group at St James' Church                                     |
| Wednesday   | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 1.45pm  | Café Church at St James' Church                                    |
|             |                  | 7.00pm  | Lent Group at 2A Hutton Avenue Ashton                              |
| Thursday    | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 12.30pm | Friends of Ashton Parish Church<br>Lunch at the Heroes of Waterloo |
| Friday      | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 12.15pm | Lent Talk at St Michael's Church                                   |
|             |                  | 7.30pm  | Ladies Pamper Evening at St Gabriel's Church                       |
| Monday      | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 12noon  | Lent Group at St James' Church                                     |
| Wednesday   | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 7.00pm  | Lent Group at 2A Hutton Avenue Ashton                              |
| Friday      | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 12.15pm | Lent Talk at St Michael's Church                                   |
| Palm Sunday | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 3.00pm  | Café Church at Costa Coffee, Ashton                                |
|             |                  | 5.00pm  | Performance of Stainer's Crucifixion<br>at St Michael's Church     |

*Details of services during Holy Week are on page 11*



# March 2016 - Parish Sunday Services

## **Mothering Sunday**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March

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

Church

11.00am St Michael Holy Communion + Baptism

## **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Passiontide begins

9.30am St James Holy Communion  
11.00am St. Peter Holy Communion  
11.00am St. Gabriel All Age Service of the Word  
11.00am St. Michael Holy Communion  
4.00pm St James St James on Sunday Afternoon

## **Palm Sunday**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am St. James Family Communion  
11.00am St. Peter Holy Communion  
11.00am St. Gabriel Holy Communion + Junior

Church

11.00am St. Michael Holy Communion

## **Easter Day**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am St James Family Communion  
11.00am St. Peter Holy Communion  
11.00am St. Gabriel All Age Service of the Word  
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<sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month)

### **Thursday:**

11.00am St. Michael Holy Communion  
4.00pm Holy Trinity Evening Prayer

## CONTACT DETAILS

**CLERGY:** (\*usual day off)

|                                              |          |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|
| Revd Roger Farnworth, Team Rector (*Tues.)   |          |
| The Vicarage, Union Street, Ashton OL6 9NQ   | 330 2771 |
| Revd Rachel Battershell, Team Vicar (*Mon)   |          |
| 2a Hutton Avenue, Ashton OL6 6QY             | 292 3224 |
| Revd Rob Fox, Minister in Secular Employment |          |
| 36 Norman Road, Stalybridge, SK15 1LY        | 338 8481 |
| Revd George Reeves, Team Curate (*Fri)       |          |
| 1 Windmill Lane, Denton M34 3RN              | 336 1850 |

### Items for the Magazine:

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





**The Parish of the Good Shepherd, Ashton-under-Lyne  
is a Fair Trade Parish. Our churches have promised to serve only  
Fairly Traded Tea and Coffee and to work for justice for the world's poor.**

