



Holy Trinity



St.
Gabriel

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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

January 2018

Price 50p

Editorial

We are all familiar with the Queen's New Year's honours list, celebrating those who have made a significant contribution to public life. In 2017 famous names included Andy Murray, Mo Farah, Ken Dodd, Patricia Routledge, Angela Rippon and Victoria Beckham. However, what would God's New Year's honours list look like? In 1 Sam. 2:30 God says, 'Those who honour me I will honour'. In this New Year, how can we honour God in our lives?

Honouring God means giving Him reverence, submission, and obedience; the complete surrender of our entire lives to His glory and loving service: 'in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.' (Romans 12:1). We might honour God this year in five key areas:

My Time: how can I use my time to glorify God? My Gifts: how am I using my God-given gifts and abilities in His service? My Body: in what ways do I honour God in my body? My Treasure: who is in charge of my finances? My Heart: how do I honour God not just outwardly, but from my heart: 'These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me' (Isaiah 29:13)?

Here's a challenge for 2018: When we wake up each day, let's ask God: 'How can I honour you today? Please help me to honour you with the time, gifts, body, finance, and heart that you have given me.'

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.

'A New Year, A New You?'

'Tis the season of impossible New Year's resolutions, unused gym memberships and dodgy diets (try veganism...)! Adverts on TV, radio and social media tell us the New Year = New You. We are told to be healthy, drink less and do more exercise! But in the dark days, rain, and snow all this can start to wear a bit thin and when we inevitably slip up it can make us feel like failures. The 'new you' seems to be already broken.

Well I've got good news for you.

Christmas may seem like a long time ago but in the Church it is celebrated as the start of something. It is a beginning, the moment when the unfathomable God becomes human. The moment when the God we read about in the Old Testament, the same God of Abraham, Jacob and Isaac who spoke through the prophets, introduces Himself personally to us. Jesus is the invisible God made visible. He experiences the highs and lows of everyday life. He carves out a new way of living that is drenched in love, forgiveness, justice, and peace. He offers a new you- not just for January but for anytime, anywhere!

Jesus talks about this new you in Acts 1 Ch 8. He says that even when he is no longer with the disciples, the Holy Spirit, the living presence of God, will be there to guide them. This is true for us now. We read in Galatians 5:22

about the fruit of this spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. These wonderful things are all available- no detox needed! They are also unending. I know that life can sometimes make me feel like a bucket with a hole in the bottom. I often run low on patience or self-control. But through prayer the new me is topped up with unlimited refills!

We celebrate Christmas as the birthday of Jesus, but it is sort-of a birthday for us too - one we can continue to celebrate long after the decorations have come down. In fact, the Church of England website says that "one of the challenges for Christians is to continue the celebration of Christmas long after the rest of the world turns its attention elsewhere." But how do we do this? How can we carry on the joy of this new birth?

Well I think we should use our new selves! Let's keep it simple and pray:

God may we be filled with the Holy Spirit in 2018. May we use our endlessly new selves to carry on the celebrations of Jesus' birth and keep the Christmas lights up by bringing your love into places of darkness and hurt. Let us be embraced, be loved, be re-filled. Amen.

Ben



Revd Ben Brady in action!



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 around the world who are persecuted for their faith. Pray for a world where everyone can practise their own faith in peace and harmony.
- 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.

Amen

Scouts Please!

3rd Ashton Scout Group are looking for
new members ages 10¹/₂ 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





Commissioning Service

Revd Roger Farnworth will be Commissioned by
Bishop Mark as Borough Dean of Tameside
on **Sunday 11th February at 6.30pm**
at **St Michael's Church**. All are welcome.

St. Michael's Open Days

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



Café Church

*at Costa Coffee, Ashton
3pm - 4pm
Sunday 21st January*



Bible Studies – Fr. Jules

Bible Studies Group resumes on
Thursday 11th January 2018
7.00pm at St Michael's Church

Café Church at St James' Church

*Wednesday 10th January
1.45pm
Everyone is welcome!*

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The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18th to 25th January. The theme of the week this year comes from the churches of the Caribbean, and addresses some of the problems which affect the people there, but also worldwide.

Thus, as abuses of human rights are found across the region, the week will challenge us to consider our manner of welcoming the stranger into our midst. Human trafficking and modern-day slavery continue to be huge issues. Addiction to pornography and drugs continue to be serious challenges to all societies. The debt crisis has a negative impact upon the nations and upon individuals – the economies of the nations and people have become precarious. Family life continues to be challenged by the economic restrictions which lead to migration, domestic abuse and violence.

What are Christians to do, in the face of such vast problems? The Caribbean Churches work together to heal the wounds in people's lives, but also know that reconciliation demands repentance, reparation and the healing of memories. The whole Church is called to be both a sign and an active agent of this reconciliation.

The Good Samaritans

A true story, as told to me by my Christian neighbour

Man No.1 - no arms, living on the streets.

Man No.2 - Good Samaritan

Man No.1 - being tormented by some teenage boys.

Man No.2 - Intervened and boys ran away. Then he bought something to eat and drink for Man No.1. He continued with this kind gesture, every day for quite some time until he didn't appear for 3 or 4 days. Then two of his friends came to Man No.1 to explain why. He had lost his sight after an operation (both eyes).

Man No.1 - Donated one of his eyes for his friend.

Man No.1 - Good Samaritan.

Such love, courage and gratitude in return for a wonderful friendship which began under terrible circumstances. God bless them both.

Holocaust Memorial Day – Saturday 27th January

This month we remember the horrors of the mass slaughter of Jews during the Second World War. Here are some facts and figures on the holocaust:

When was it?

It has been defined as the period that Hitler was Chancellor of Germany: 30th January 1933 to 8th May 1945.

How many Jews were murdered during this time?

It is impossible to reach an exact figure, but more than 5,860,000. Six million is the round figure accepted by most authorities.

How many Jews were murdered in each country?

Just a selection from many countries: Austria, 50,000; Poland, 3 million; Soviet Union, 1,100,000; Germany, 141,500; France, 77,320; Hungary, 569,000.

How many death camps were there?

There were six death camps specially equipped for mass murder of the Jewish people: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, Treblinka. All were located in Poland.

Sadly, Jews still feel under threat, as anti-Semitism continues in various places around the world. Even in America last year, there were 67 bomb threats against Jewish Community Centres, in 27 States around the county.



The Peace of God

*When war did cease upon the earth,
The stars looked out, the heavens rang,
The small Lord Jesus came to birth,
A lilt of peace His Mother sang.*

*A lilt of peace 'mid snow-clad sheen,
Goodness-peace, forgiveness of sin,
Confession-peace, penitent-clean,
Peace with God and the peace within.*

*Peace with God and goodwill to men,
The peace of triumph on the Tree,
The rising peace that followed then,
The peace of God for you and me.*

*The peace of God, lake-waters by,
The peace of God, mist o'er the sea,
The peace of God, ascending high,
The peace of God, unceasingly.*

From Poems of the Western Highlanders

The Manchester Rainbow Prayer (Adapted by Gail, a Methodist Minister).

The original was written in the aftermath of the Manchester Arena explosion.

The red of the rainbow is for outward good. Lord we pray that everyone in the whole world has a good life that is full blooded and vital. We need help today to have the strength to go out, to give hope and spread our faith to anyone who needs it. Lord give us that strength to share our faith.

Orange is for mercy. Lord have mercy on us. Give us the strength and wisdom to go out and be companions to others. Give us the compassion we need to go out and be compassionate and care for others' concerns.

Yellow is for grace. God you are full of grace. Please fill us with the grace that we need to have bright and positive thoughts. We need a humble mind Lord. Everyone on this earth is the same, we are all your special creations. Lord give us the strength to pray for all people, the good and bad, even if we don't have any words.

Green is for life. God you gave us everlasting life with you. Everlasting like the evergreen trees and foliage. Lord please help us to grow in our usefulness. Help us to use our gifts with courage to help and give faith to the world around us. Lord, thank you for our gifts.

Blue is for truth. Lord reveal to us the insight that is gained through the experience of goodness. We all need to be truthful. To ourselves and to others. Please let us see our true selves and see the truth in others, as you do in us.

Indigo is for wisdom as mutual care. Lord please give us the inspiration that we may be active in wholeness and harmony. This world needs us to live in perfect harmony and sometimes we can't stop the harmony from being broken. But Lord please help us to pray and be wholesome in situations of disharmony. For we can't help stop the pain but we can help with the healing.

Violet is for peace, innocence and love. Lord help us to live a peaceful life. Sometimes we need to remember the innocence we had as children. And Lord help us to love. But most importantly to love everyone. No matter who they are.

God, you are amazing. Please be with us in every step of our lives. Holding us together, keeping us safe and keeping us true to ourselves. Amen

Christian Aid South Asia Floods Appeal

Following our collection during Harvest, Christian Aid sent this letter to our Parish:



"Many thanks for your kind donation of £55.20 towards the work of Christian Aid. Your response to our emergency appeal is greatly appreciated.

It is wonderful that you have been able to support our South Asia Floods Appeal. Recent torrential monsoon rains have caused widespread flooding across India, Bangladesh and Nepal. The situation has been worsening since mid-August, with over 40 million people affected, including an estimated 1,200 deaths caused by floods and landslides. Christian Aid has already released funds to our partners, and they were immediately able to respond to some of the most vulnerable people affected. Your support will enable us to scale up these efforts.

Across the affected region our partners are providing support to meet people's immediate needs. In Nepal our response includes providing families with access to essential hygiene materials and access to safe drinking water through water purification solutions. In Bangladesh, emergency funding has been allocated with the plan to reach 1000 households with hygiene material and over 10,000 with clean water through chlorination and hygiene promotion. Meanwhile in India our work includes providing some of the most vulnerable households with shelter, non-food items, including tarpaulin and ground sheeting, and essential hygiene materials.

Once again, thank you so much for your continued support of our work with and for the poorest communities on earth. With your continued help we can make a difference."



Our Harvest collections in churches and schools for the **Rukungiri Orphan Partnership – Kyegegwa Borehole Project** raised a total of **£1122.53!**

Thank you to everyone who donated

Where did the Wise Men come from?

Magi from the East – it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew's gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia.



Certainly, in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She of course had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew's gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba's story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly, there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon's Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.

January 2018 - Parish Sunday Services

Epiphany	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion + Baptism
Sunday 7 th January	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am	St Peter	Morning Prayer + Baptism
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion + Baptism

2nd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th January	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

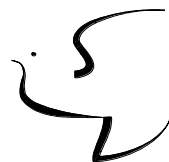
3rd Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am	St. James	Family Communion
Sunday 21 st January	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion

4th Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Candlemas	9.30am	St Gabriel	All Age Service of The Word
Sunday 28 th January	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)
Thursday:	11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Holy Trinity	Evening Prayer *
* (This will be a Eucharist Service on the 1 st Thursday of the month)			

Parish Notices



There were no Baptisms, Weddings
or Funerals in December

Prayer changes things



The little girl had been so naughty during the Christmas break that her mother decided to give her the worst kind of punishment. She told her she couldn't go on the New Year's Day family outing. But when the day finally came, her mother felt she had been too harsh. When she told her daughter that she could go after all, but the child's reaction was one of gloom and dismay. "What's the matter? I thought you'd be glad to go," her mother said.

"But it's too late now!" the little girl protested. "I've already prayed for rain."

Quotes to ponder.....

God can do wonders with a broken heart if you give Him all the pieces.

God made you as you are in order to use you as He planned.

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.

The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything.

No matter how bad prose is, it might be verse.

A recession is a period when people do without the things their parents never had.



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CONTACT DETAILS

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Items for the Magazine:

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



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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

