



Holy Trinity



St.  
Gabriel

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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

**June 2017**

**Price 50p**

## Editorial

June is the month of Pentecost, and of remembering that world-changing morning long ago in Jerusalem when the disciples were gathered in prayer “and suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind...” (Acts 2:2)

Inspired by God, Peter did not keep the Good News to just the believers. Instead, he immediately addressed the local crowds: this good news was for them too!

“Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38) The ‘Church’ was ‘born’ that morning, and its very first action was to evangelise: the church and mission are inseparable.

No wonder Pentecost is the focus of a major national prayer/mission initiative this year: Thy Kingdom Come.

***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.org](http://www.goodshepherdashton.org) Registered Charity Number 1134826



*All things bright and beautiful - but are they?*

I write this front piece for the June Magazine on a gloriously sunny afternoon in early May.

Out in Yorkshire, a day or so before, as we drove along, the lambs were gambolling - there is no other word better suited to that springy bounce with which they cover the fresh grass looking for mum. The cherry blossom seems more beautiful this year than I have seen it in years! The delicate shade referred to in the paintbox of my childhood as leaf green was evident on the trees. It felt good to be alive and able to enjoy the beauties of God's world all around us.

"God looked at everything he had made and he was very pleased. Evening passed and morning came - that was the sixth day."

But how quickly that euphoria, that sense of peace and enjoyment began to disappear as we listened to the early evening news.

Politicians were slagging each other off as they tried to win our votes for the forthcoming elections. The claims and counter claims of leaders from here and across Europe about the Brexit negotiations were bitter and divisive. More people had been arrested in connection with the recent terrorist investigations in London. A business man had been murdered in his home during a robbery. A friend in America had posted news on Facebook of more gun crime in colleges across two states where young people had been killed and badly injured as a result of the seemingly random actions of their fellow students. On and on it went.

What are we - this human race so lovingly created by God to populate and steward his world - doing? What are we doing to each other? What are we doing to the natural world around us? What sort of a world will there be for our children and grandchildren to inherit?

And why do we - human beings - feel that its acceptable to so

disrespectful to each other, so judgemental of each other, so cruel and hurtful in the words that we use about and towards each other? What are we teaching our children when they hear adults shouting and swearing at each other in the street, ridiculing others and being abusive and aggressive?

And that doesn't begin to cover the atrocities, destruction and carnage being vented on the peoples and countries of our wider world.

I'm desperately saddened by all these things and by the ugliness that they spill into our beautiful world. But how do we change them?

It almost seems too simplistic to say pray and yet that is what we surely must do.

On a visit to Bolton Abbey recently, sitting in the peace and prayerfulness of that beautiful place, I noticed a

red candle glowing in a dark corner. Nosey as ever, I went to see what it was all about. The

words just sprang off the little card by the candle and spoke to my heart.

***"Pray for peace, justice and reconciliation in our disordered world."***

I will pray for that with all my heart. Will you join me, please?



With love, *Pat*  
Revd Pat Lodge

Invitation to:  
**Revd George Reeves' Licensing Service**

12th June at 7.30pm at St Mark's Church  
Levenshulme  
(Broom Lane, M19 3HP)

All are welcome, although numbers would  
be appreciated for catering purposes.

# Our New Curate!

Hello! My name is Ben. The lovely lady next to me in this photo is Bekah, my wife of three years now.



We are both very excited to be joining your community in the Parish of the Good Shepherd in the next month or so. We felt very comfortable walking around Ashton-Under-Lyne and look forward to exploring the area and surrounding region more.

I was born in Scarborough and grew up in York, moving to work for the church in Hull before training for ordination in Durham three years ago. Although my accent does betray my Yorkshire roots, I am keen to make my first move across the Pennines!

I love a great variety of music and play electric and upright bass guitar. Over the years I have played in Classic Rock, Gospel, and Swing bands and am also part of an original band called 'This Resistance.' I'm looking forward to discovering the music scene in a new area but I am most excited to see God at work in the community and discover where I can join in. I hope to bring something to the team and to grow in my own discipleship.

Revd Ben Brady



**Friends of Ashton Parish Church  
St. Michael and All Angels**

**OPEN DAY**

**Saturday 24th June 2017**

Church Open 10-00am to 4-00pm

Guided Tours 10-30am and 2-00pm

Souvenirs, Refreshments, Children's Corner



# 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 our country as we continue to go through the General Election process. Pray for this to be an honest and open campaign and for our country to come together after the Election for the mutual benefit of all people.
- This Pentecost time, 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*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Take a nap - and be happy!

If you want to be happy and smarter, grab a 30-minute nap during the day. Recent research has found that a nap of that length is ideal for boosting your performance and your personal feeling of happiness. 'No-nappers' can struggle through the day, and 'long' nappers risk some health problems, but a nap of up to 30 minutes in length seems to be the perfect 'down-time' your body needs to get up and running again. (University of Hertfordshire)



## News from St. James' Church of England Primary School

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, the elected junior class members of the School Council assembled early at Ashton train station to travel to London for a workshop at the Houses of Parliament with excitement and food in abundance. They arrived in London at 10.20am and experienced the joys of travelling on the very busy underground tube.

They started their workshop with a tour of the Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament) which included a visit to the House of Commons, the House of Lords, the Queen's Robing room, the Princes' Chambers and the Members' Lobby to name a few. They were all amazed and in awe of the grandeur and beauty of the building. Did you know that there are three fully working post offices in the Houses of Parliament?

The workshop explored the relationship between the Crown and Parliament through the ages, starting with King John and the Magna Carta and ending with Queen Elizabeth II. They considered the importance of the democratic process and the act of voting.

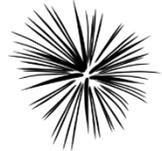
After more food, ice cream and a visit to see Downing Street, the Horse Guards Parade and the Cenotaph they braved the London underground again; and it was so hot down there!

In our school archives there is an old photograph taken between 1930 and 1940 of St James' outside the Houses of Parliament. It can be viewed on our school website.

[www.st-james-ash.tameside.sch.uk](http://www.st-james-ash.tameside.sch.uk)



# BLAST!



*Events to commemorate 100 years since the munitions explosion that occurred on June 13th 1917 in Ashton-under-Lyne*

100 years ago on June the 13th there was a munitions explosion at the Hooley Hill Ammunition factory. The factory was based near Portland Basin and had been a dye factory before the war. At 4.20pm, just as children were going home from school, a vat of chemicals overheated and, as the walls and floors of the factory were made of wood, the factory set on fire. One of the factory owners helped to get all the women out and, with other brave men, tried to put the fire out but unfortunately the fire reached the chemicals and causing the explosion.

There is a brass plaque in the entrance of St Peter's School with the names of the 7 children who died on their way home. Many more people died and were injured as a result of the explosion.

Ten years ago on the 90th anniversary the children wrote 7 songs to tell the story of the explosion - since then they have written more songs and are in the process of putting the songs into a performance.

## **Tuesday 13th June 2017 at 4:20pm**

St Peter's children will be performing a song cycle in Ashton Town centre to mark exactly 100 years since the tragic event

## **Thursday 22nd June at 6:30pm**

Following a buffet at 5.30pm, St Peter's Church will be hosting an evening where the children from St Peter's school will perform the song cycle - with all donations given to The Royal British Legion

## **Wednesday 19th July & Thursday 20th July at 6:00pm**

St Peter's Year 6 children's end-of-year production '**BLAST!**' (a musical written by the children) to be held at St Peter's CE Primary School – tickets available from the school -£3.00 each. Half of the money raised from ticket sales will be donated to the British Legion.

All these performances are open to us all, and it would be lovely if relatives of people who were involved could attend.

Year 6 children from St Peters school are also working with an artist to produce a piece of art that will be a memorial to the people who lost their lives and will be in Ashton library.

*BLAST has being supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.*

*Thanks to National Lottery players we have been able to buy equipment and fund the church event.*

# Whit Sunday – Pentecost



Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His apostles that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for his apostles – but He knew they could not do the work themselves – they would need His help.

And so the apostles and disciples waited in Jerusalem, praying together for several days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many

tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the apostles and disciples of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, he could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.





## **Thy Kingdom Come - An Invitation to Pray**

*Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christian around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus.*

*What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.*

*We are all invited to spend the period between Ascension Day on 25<sup>th</sup> May and Pentecost on 4<sup>th</sup> June with a focus on praying.*

*Each day there is a suggested theme for you to think about in the presence of God, as well as a suggestion of praying for five people throughout the period who you would love to get to know Jesus better.*

*Booklets are available at the back of church with suggested prayers for each day.*



### **Sending Prayer**

*Heavenly Father, Thank you that you are a sending God. From your divine community of Father, Son and Spirit, you sent Jesus to live as one of us, to die, rise and ascend for us. You then graciously sent your Spirit to live in us to equip us for our own sending.*

*Help us Lord, to hear your voice, to respond to your empowered sending, to be witnesses of your love and reality and relevance in our troubled world. Help us each to be willing to say, "Here am I, send me!" And then to go. In Jesus name, Amen.*

*by Daphne Kitching*

REF:ParishShare2016

March 2017

The Revd R Farrworth  
St James' Vicarage  
Union Street  
Ashton-under-Lyne  
OL6 9NQ

The Venerable Cherry Vann  
Archdeacon of Rochdale

ArchRochdale@manchester.anglican.org

Tel: 0161 678 1454  
Fax: 0161 678 1455

Dear Revd Farrworth,

---

**Parish Share 2016**

I am delighted to see that The Good Shepherd has contributed 100% of the parish share that was requested.

Please pass on my thanks to all members of the PCC and to the congregation for all that you have done to enable this to happen in what are challenging times for all of our churches. I am conscious that this contribution involves you in hard work and sacrificial giving at a time of continuing economic difficulty.

The Directors and Trustees of the Board of Finance are committed to ensuring that we exercise good stewardship in the way that the parish share is used, with the money collected going towards supporting and resourcing mission and ministry across the diocese in as effective a way as possible.

This year will see an exciting development taking place in your Deanery as you join the other pilot Deaneries of Deane, North Manchester and Salford in rolling out our Fit for Mission strategy at local level. You and they are very much in my prayers.

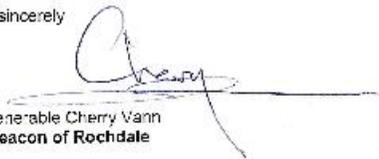
Please do pray for the other parishes in Ashton Deanery as we embark on this process together, asking that God will guide and equip us to be as effective as possible in his service.

Be assured of my prayers and ongoing support for all that you are doing to ensure that you are a worshipping, growing and transforming Christian presence in your particular community.

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With all good wishes for this Lenten season,

Yours sincerely

  
The Venerable Cherry Vann  
Archdeacon of Rochdale





## Barnabas – Paul’s first missionary companion

Are you going to Cyprus on holiday this year? If so, spare a thought for the Cypriot who played such a key role in the New Testament.

He was Joseph, a Jewish Cypriot and a Levite, who is first mentioned in Acts 4:36, when the early church was sharing a communal lifestyle. Joseph sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. His support so touched them that they gave him the nickname of Barnabas, ‘Son of Encouragement’.

Barnabas has two great claims to fame. Firstly, it was Barnabas who made the journey to go and fetch the converted Paul out of Tarsus, and persuade him to go with him to Antioch, where there were many new believers with no one to help them. For a year the two men ministered there, establishing a church. It was here that the believers were first called Christians.

It was also in Antioch (Acts 13) that the Holy Spirit led the church to ‘set aside’ Barnabas and Paul, and send them out on the church’s first ever ‘missionary journey’. The Bible tells us that they went to Cyprus, and travelled throughout the island. It was at Lystra that the locals mistook Barnabas for Zeus and Paul for Hermes, much to their dismay.

Much later, back in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul decided to part company. While Paul travelled on to Syria, Barnabas did what he could do best: return to Cyprus and continue to evangelise it. So if you go to Cyprus and see churches, remember that Christianity on that beautiful island goes right back to Acts 13, when Barnabas and Paul first arrived.

In England there are 13 ancient church dedications and not a few modern ones. Barnabas the generous, the encourager, the apostle who loved his own people – no wonder he should be remembered with love.

### **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](http://www.cashbox.org.uk)

*Extracts and Quotes* . . . . . sent by Barry Bowden

**Edith Louisa Cavell** (*/ˈkævəl/*; 4 December 1865 – 12 October 1915) was a British nurse. She is celebrated for saving the lives of soldiers from both sides without discrimination and in helping some 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium during the First World War, for which she was arrested. She was accused of treason, found guilty by a court-martial and sentenced to death. Despite international pressure for mercy, she was shot by a German firing squad. Her execution received worldwide condemnation and extensive press coverage.

She is well known for her statement that "patriotism is not enough". Her strong Anglican beliefs propelled her to help all those who needed it, both German and Allied soldiers. She was quoted as saying, "I can't stop while there are lives to be saved." The Church of England commemorates her in their Calendar of Saints on 12 October.

Edith Cavell, who was 49 at the time of her execution, was already notable as a pioneer of modern nursing in Belgium.

On the night before her execution, Edith Cavell said:

*"Standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough.*

*I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."*

.....

*Above all else, guard your heart, because all issues of life flow from it.*

A man should look for what is, and not for what he thinks should be.

.....

**Lesson in Lying** 

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

**Preaching** 

The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mike, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mike cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again.

After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

## Safeguarding Update

The Church of England's National Safeguarding Team has published a progress report, one year on from the Elliott Review, which recommended a range of safeguarding proposals for the Church, particularly in the areas of handling disclosures and accountability.

The independent review, by safeguarding consultant Ian Elliott, was commissioned in 2015, to look at lessons learnt in the case of 'Joe', a survivor of clerical sexual abuse. The Church has issued an unreserved apology to Joe and on publication of the report last year, said it was fully committed to implementing the recommendations.

The responses to these include: Strengthening of the training for handling disclosures with a bespoke module for bishops and senior church staff; an independent audit of safeguarding in all dioceses, due to be completed at the end of the year; further plans to work more closely with survivors to learn from their experience. The full recommendations and responses can be read at <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/3955684/elliott-review-one-year-on.pdf>

The Diocese of Manchester are currently undergoing their independent audit. During the last 3 years, the Diocese has taken action to create updated safeguarding policies, standards and guidelines in every parish, managed by Parish Safeguarding Coordinators. Church noticeboards now display information on what to do if you suspect that a child or adult at risk is suffering abuse in any way, along with key contact names and numbers.

We must remember that Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all and be vigilant.

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## Friends of Ashton Parish Church

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

Join us on our summer outings and other places of interest. We have an annual lunch, and you are welcome to join in the Friends activities 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 £5.00.



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



# Parish Notices



## **Baptisms:**

*There were no baptisms in May*

## **Weddings:**

*We rejoice with the families of:*

Steven Gary Rodgers and Natalie Danielle Beswick

## **Funerals:**

*We pray for the family of:*

Jim Shelmerdine

Lyly Williams

.....

## **Smile Lines .....**

*Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes? Come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller!*

*I accidentally went grocery shopping on an empty stomach, and am now the proud owner of Aisle 4.*

*Why are buildings called buildings when they are finished? Shouldn't they be called built?*

*If your supermarket is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?*

.....



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# June 2017 - Parish Sunday Services

<b>Pentecost – Whit Sunday</b> Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	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

<b>Trinity Sunday</b> Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	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

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30am	St. James	Family Communion
	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	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

<b>Tuesday:</b>	12.15pm	St Peter's	Morning Prayer/Holy Communion (followed by optional bring and share lunch)
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1.30pm	St. James	Holy Communion (except 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month, which is Café Church)
<b>Thursday:</b>	11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Holy Trinity	Evening Prayer *

\* (This will be a Eucharist Service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month)

## CONTACT DETAILS

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

Revd Roger Farnworth, Team Rector (\*Tues.)

The Vicarage, Westbury Street, Ashton OL6 9NL

330 2771

Fr Jules Mambu Team Curate (\*Mon)

35 Palace Road, Ashton

07897 697503

### **Items for the Magazine:**

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

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# Lillian Hough

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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

