



Holy Trinity



St.
Gabriel

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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

November 2018

Price 50p

Editorial

This year Remembrance Sunday (11th November) marks the centenary of the end of World War One. Of the 65 million men who were mobilized, 8.5 million were killed and a further 21 million wounded.

How should we celebrate this anniversary? In remembering the armistice, our response should be to desire Micah's vision of universal peace in our world: *'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.'* (Micah 4:3).

However, why keep asking God for peace, when we continue to see such violence and unrest in our world? The Bible makes it clear that peace is not just the absence of war or being untroubled. It means being in a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ, with other people and with wider society.

Of course, Micah's words are looking to end of time when God will make all things new in His universal kingdom. However, these promises also speak to us now. The ministry of Jesus demonstrated the kingdom or reign of God breaking into the everyday, as He healed the sick and brought reconciliation and hope.

The end of the centenary of World War 1 is a time to consider peace. Although the war did not bring a lasting peace to the world, for the Christian there's a deeper lesson: peace begins with the healing of hearts, the restoring of relationships and with a deep, costly commitment to justice.

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.

Sanctify them by the Truth; your word is truth

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

“Praise de Lord, all you nations; exalt Him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise de Lord” (Psalm 117, 1-2).



Sunday 21st October 2018 was the last and final Sunday as a team curate in the Good Shepherd Parish Ashton- Under- Lyne. I had the opportunity to preach one more time to my beloved family of believers at St Michaels Church. In two weeks I will begin my new ministry as Priest in charge at St Lawrence’s in Denton and Assistant curate at St Anne’s Haughton.

I don’t want to say goodbye to you. Goodbyes are never easy; pictures never carry your warmth; memories will always pierce the heart; no words can say it all. I would like to say thank you to all of you for your kindness, patience, attention, forgiveness and love. Please forgive me for my weaknesses as I forgive those who trespassed against me. Together, let us praise the Lord our Redeemer and Saviour.

As I reflected over my last two years and half in the Good Shepherd Parish, I will always remember the good things God have done for us together as His people. In my ministry here, I found my thoughts and emotions running deep. So many connections, so many people I love, so many up and downs, joys and tears, and celebrations. May the Lord be glorified and praised.

In the light of Paul’s example in Acts 20,1 “When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said goodbye and set out for Macedonia”, he gave them one final word of encouragement, I wanted to leave the Parish of the Good Shepherd with one word based on 3 things I have learned:

- God can use anybody: let us open our church to every one without any prejudices. Give chance to people to use their gifts and fulfil their potentials (Parable of the Talents/ Matthew 25:14-30). As

Christians we have a mission that our Lord expects us to accomplish in the here and now.

- Relationships are the secret of life: God teaches us to be positive in our relationships avoiding negativity. In other words, we have to build an environment of trust and mutual respect to make our church a place of joy and happiness.
- The Gospel story must constantly be retold: we are a church in mission, all God's people are called to be part of God's mission. Our mission community is the foundation of all we do.

I am leaving the Parish of the Good Shepherd by saying like Jesus "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me...Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word"(John 17,6).

Alleluia.

Fr Jules MAMBU

*As Fr Jules Mambu leaves us to take up his new post as Priest in Charge at St Lawrence Denton and Curate at St Anne Haughton,
a message from us all to Jules -*

God be With You As You Go

For all that you are,
For the love that you've shown
We give thanks to our God.
Together we have grown,
Wherever you are,
This you will know
You are in our hearts,
God be with you as you go



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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 a 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 prosper 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 those men and women who have died in active service: in Iraq, in Afghanistan and elsewhere, and in particular at this time for those who lost their lives during the First World War. As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in God's future; for He is the source of life and hope, now and for ever.
- 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 10¹/₂yrs to 14yrs.
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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 11TH NOVEMBER 2018

Marking 100years since the ending of World War I



St Gabriel's Church

Service begins at 10.50am

followed by

12.30pm Civic Wreath Laying Ceremony at
Cockbrook War Memorial

St Michael's Church

Service begins 9.45am

Led by Bishop Mark

followed by

11.00pm Civic Wreath Laying Ceremony at
Ashton War Memorial

St Peter's Church

Service begins 10.45am

followed by

11.00pm Act of Remembrance with The Last Post
and one minute silence

St James' Church

Service begins at 10.30am

followed by

procession to the War Memorial
to join in the Act of Remembrance

Diary of Momentous Year

November 1918 – When the Boys Came Home

1918 was the final year of the Great War. This year, Canon David Winter has been looking back on highlights of those critical 11 months, when the very shape of modern world history was being hammered out on the battlefields.

By Autumn 1918 it was obvious that the war was coming to an end, Germany was clearly beaten, but no one had actually won. The front line was more or less as it had been for years, but after Amiens the Germans knew that this was a conflict they could never win. High level discussions took place, while in Britain the public mood was surprisingly optimistic. 'There's a silver lining', the songs said. 'Keep the home fires burning till the boys come home'. When an 'Armistice' was announced, there was euphoria. No more killing, the guns silenced. Peace at last!

'Armistice' was a new word for most people – not a peace treaty or settlement (that would follow a conference in Paris the following January), but simply a laying down of arms, but for many that was enough for now. 'No more killing', they declared. Most of the boys did come home, but tens of thousands didn't. We have tended to judge the first World War by the numbers involved – and they are appalling, but each

casualty was also someone's personal loss, as I learnt in my first parish.

It was a rural village near Oxford. Each month I took Communion to an elderly woman known to everyone as Kim. She was in her nineties and had been a teenager during the Great War. Her two brothers were serving on the Western Front. A few days before the Armistice the post office motor-cyclist delivered the telegram they had been dreading, one of the boys had been killed in action. A week or so later, after the fighting had stopped, the same messenger returned, with the same message about her other brother. As she told me of it, 70 years after the event, her eyes filled with tears. That was the true price of war, and when I share the silence on Remembrance Day it is her and those two young men I think of, not the million others from many nations who fell in that terrible conflict.

My father enlisted to join in 'the war to end all wars'. It didn't, of course. Twenty-one years later it all started again. War doesn't end wars. True peace does.

News from St James' CofE School

Angela Rayner's visit to St James'



On Friday 12th October, the School Council guided our MP Angela Rayner on a tour of the school and then submitted her to a Question and Answer session with tea and biscuits thrown in.

The newly elected School Council had prepared the tour around the school working in pairs. The tour included a very windy visit to the Secret Garden, outdoor areas, the school library, hall, infant area and FSU building and gardening area. The pupils explained key features of the areas they visited and Angela asked the children lots of questions. She learned about our Golden Values, the tremendous music provision in school, our links with Action Aid in Uganda, and all the beautiful work displays.

The children were absolutely delighted when Angela joined in with the nursery and reception children to sing 'heads, shoulders, knees and toes!'

No visit to the school could miss our pride and joy - the allotment and poly tunnels where we grow fruit, vegetables and flowers. Of course, we had to tell her about our fantastic success in winning 'Best Primary School' at the Royal Tatton Garden Show this July!



The children then sat with Angela in the staffroom and asked her lots of questions. The questions had come from all the different classes in school and ranged from topics such as her role as MP for Ashton, to her likes and dislikes as a child at school and her views on schools as Shadow Secretary for Education.



The visit was a great success. The School Council had been very nervous and excited about their first job as school council members. They did an excellent job and this was in large part thanks to Angela Rayner who was wonderful - friendly, informative and she made them all feel very special and proud.

We would like to give her a big 'thank you' for the visit and for making the children feel so special. She has made lots of friends at St James and we hope to welcome her back in the future.

Shelagh Walton, Chair of Governors

What's On?

Café Church at St James' Church

Wednesday 14th November

1.45pm

*Informal worship with
tea, coffee and a chat.
Everyone is welcome*



St Michael's Church

Book of Common Prayer

Choral Evensong

6.30pm Sunday 25th November

with augmented choir

Refreshments after the service



St Gabriel's Church

Fancy Dress Fit and

Fun Aerobathon

Sunday 18th November

Come along and join us for some fun
exercise to music and a snack!



Laurel & Hardy Evening

St James' Church

7.00pm Friday 23rd November

3rd Ashton (St James) Scout Group
presents

An Evening of Family

Entertainment

With Laurel and Hardy

A film Extravaganza!

7.00pm Friday 23rd November

Adults £3.00 Children £2.00

(Children under 14 must be
accompanied by an adult)

Refreshments + raffle on sale

See Tina for more details

07411773336

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*

Parish Christmas Fairs

St James' Church

Saturday 17th November 2018

Great family fun day with games, stalls, prizes and refreshments.



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St Peter's Church

Saturday 24th November 11am to 2pm

Enjoy browsing our stalls, support your local crafters and unformed groups, plus enjoy our hot and cold refreshments.

St Gabriel's Church

Sunday 2nd December 12noon - 2.30pm

Lots of stalls and games, enjoy a festive lunch and a glass of mulled wine. Singing and dancing to enjoy and a visit by a special man if we are lucky!



Carols by Candlelight

Nine Lessons and Carols

6.30pm Sunday 16th December 2018

St Michael's Church

With refreshments afterwards

Saint for the Month - 22nd November

St Cecilia

If you are going to any concerts before Christmas, spare a thought for St Cecilia – the patron saint of musicians.

Cecilia is one of the most famous of the Roman martyrs of the 2nd century. As far as is known, she was born a noble lady of Rome who, despite her vow of virginity, was forced to marry an older pagan nobleman named Valerian. During the wedding, as the musicians played, Cecilia sat apart singing to God in her heart, and for that she was later declared the saint of musicians.

When the time came for her marriage to be consummated, Cecilia told Valerian that watching over her was an angel of the Lord, who would punish him if he sexually violated her but would love him if he respected her virginity. Understandably startled by this, Valerian then asked to see the angel for himself.

Cecilia replied that to do so, he must go to the third milestone on the Via Appia and be baptised by the Bishop of Rome. Valerian seems to have been a good-natured husband, because the story goes that he followed her suggestion, was baptised a Christian, and sure enough, saw the angel protecting his wife.



Being a Christian in those days was dangerous, and when the next wave of Roman persecutions began, Valerian and Cecilia were among those arrested. It is said that they died at the hands of the Roman prefect Turcius Almachius, perhaps in Sicily sometime between 176 and 180 AD.

One story goes that Cecilia was struck on the neck with a sword, and as she lay dying, asked that her house be converted into a church. Certainly an early Roman Christian church, Santa Cecilia, was founded in the fourth century in the Trastevere section of Rome, reputedly on the site of the house in which she lived.

In the centuries since then, a number of musical compositions have been dedicated to her, and her feast day has become the occasion for many concerts and musical festivals.

St Cecilia is frequently depicted playing a viola, a small organ, or other musical instrument.

“Modernise the church – or close down” says Judge

Parish church buildings must modernise or risk being closed, according to a Church of England judge.

Chancellor June Rodgers was warning traditionalists and heritage groups that church buildings must stay relevant to the needs of their communities.

In a ruling published earlier this month, she said: “If people disagree with sensible and necessary re-ordering of an existing church building to keep it in use, then they should think what

redundant churches have been turned into: a supermarket, climbing walls, dance studios, or even demolition.”

Thus, she has recently ruled that a Grade II listed Mariners’ Church in Gloucester could install a kitchen, new lighting system, sound system and monitors, and remove pews, as part of an overhaul to help it accommodate a growing congregation. ‘The church needs people (and money) to survive unless it is to become an empty unused shell.’

Her comments came as the bishop in charge of cathedrals recently warned that parish churches were becoming “mausoleums” which were no longer at the centre of communities.

Dr John Inge, the Bishop of Worcester, told the national cathedrals conference in Manchester: ‘Far too many churches remain locked, despite the advice of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company that they should remain open, and stand like mausoleums except when they open for worship, and have

become increasingly marginal to the life of the communities they exist to serve.

‘Traditionally, churches have been at the heart of the communities in which they stand, in both a human and

geographical sense. It is well known that in the medieval period much of what we would now term secular activity would have taken place within churches and cathedrals.

‘Over the years, particularly during Victorian periods, a piety crept in which tended to exclude everything but public worship from them, all other activities being transferred to other places, halls and community centres.’





Remembering Enid Blyton

Enid Blyton, one of the most successful children's writers of the 20th century, died 50 years ago this month, on 28th November 1968. She wrote more than 760 books.

She was born in 1897 and as a baby nearly died of whooping cough. Although best known for her *Noddy* books and the *Famous Five* series, she also wrote poetry and longer stories and articles of various kinds.

A trained teacher, she felt she had to provide readers with a strong moral framework, though her own family relationships were not straightforward. She cut off contact with her parents and divorced her first husband, and one of her daughters wrote harshly of her as a mother.

Her work became controversial from the 1950s, being banned by some libraries and schools and the BBC because of a perceived lack of

literary merit - as well as accusations of elitism, sexism and racism. But they continue to be best-sellers: Blyton herself said she was not interested in the views of any critics over the age of 12.

She wrote *The Children's Life of Christ* and *The Land of Far-Beyond*, an adaptation for children of John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

There have been several adaptations of her books for stage, screen and television.

REQUEST FOR HELP!

St Michael's Church needs both a Treasurer and a Secretary for its DCC.

Please could people from the other churches in our

Parish consider whether they could offer their help to take on these roles for us - we would be extremely grateful. If you think you could help please could you contact Father Jules as soon as possible or, if Father Jules has already moved to his new Parish by the time that you have decided, please could you tell Roger.

We are praying hard that someone can help us.

Thank you!



Book Review - Love the World

By David Adam, SPCK, £9.99

Writing from lived experience as much as knowledge, David Adam conveys a delight in the mystery of being that is deeply attractive.

Love the World opens by looking at the beginning of the universe, then moves on to the earth's atmosphere, the miracle of water and things that we often take for granted but are essential for our health and happiness. It focuses on our relationship with the world and encourages us to reflect on what really matters:

'In our most fragile moments we know that we are of dust and to dust we shall return, but in our depths, we know there is more. We are not created out of nothing but out of love. The very source of your being is love.'

The Revd Canon David Adam is one of the best-loved figures in Celtic spirituality. The author of many successful books, he was for 13 years Vicar of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne.

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Cats & teenagers

- Neither teenagers nor cats turn their heads when you call them by name.
- No matter how much you do for them, it is never enough.
- Cats rarely deign to walk with you when outside, and the same is true of teenagers.
- No cat or teenager shares your taste in music.
- Cats and teenagers can suddenly get 'hissy', without any known cause.
- Cats and teenagers can lie on the living-room sofa for hours on end without moving, barely breathing.
- Cats have nine lives. Teenagers live as if they did.
- Cats and teenagers yawn in exactly the same manner, communicating that ultimate human ecstasy - utter boredom.
- Cats and teenagers are known to creep home at all hours of the night. Neither will tell you where they've been.



So, if you must raise teenagers, it is a good idea to follow instructions as for cats. Remember, above all else, to put out the food at regular intervals and do not make any sudden moves in their direction. When they make up their minds, they will finally come to you for some affection and comfort, and it will be a triumphant moment for all concerned.

November 2018 - Parish Sunday Services

4th Sunday before Advent	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion + Baptism
All Saints	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
Sunday 4 th November	11.00am	St Peter	Baptism & Service of the Word
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion + Baptism
3rd Sunday before Advent	10.30am	St James	Service of Remembrance
Remembrance Sunday	10.50am	St. Gabriel	Service of Remembrance
Sunday 11 th November	9.45am	St Michael	Service of Remembrance with Bishop Mark
	10.45am	St Peter	Service of Remembrance
	4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday Afternoon
2nd Sunday before Advent	9.30am	St. James	Family Communion
Sunday 18 th November	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
Sunday before Advent	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Christ the King	9.30am	St Gabriel	All Age Service of The Word
Sunday 25 th November	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

From the October registers:



Baptisms:

We give thanks with the families of:

Logan Oliver Elliot Howorth

Sarayah Adina Matthie

Funerals:

We pray with the family of:

Dorothy Seddon

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Smile Lines!



What bishops do

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, 'Does anyone know what the bishop does?'

There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: 'He's the one you can move diagonally.'

Vacuum cleaner

My sister has the courage, but not always the skills, to tackle any home repair project. For example, in her garage are twisted pieces of a lawn mower she once tried to fix. So, I wasn't surprised the day I found her attacking her vacuum cleaner with a screwdriver. 'I can't get this thing to cooperate,' she growled. I suggested mildly: 'Why don't you drag it out to the garage and show it what happened to the lawn mower?'

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CONTACT DETAILS

CLERGY:	(*usual day off)	
Revd Roger Farnworth, Team Rector (*Tues.)		
The Vicarage, Westbury Street, Ashton OL6 9NL		330 2771
Revd Ben Brady, Team Curate (*Fri)		285 1382

Items for the Magazine:

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

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