



Holy Trinity



St.
Gabriel

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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

February 2017

Price 50p

Editorial

Valentines' Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply flowers and a card? Jesus says: 'A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). How can we express love in our everyday relationships like Jesus?

Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. How well do we listen to others?

Touching

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in his world, including lepers, the sick and children. A warm handshake can be of real value.

Speaking

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of grace, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern?

Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?

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.

PRAISING GOD “WITH” MARY THE VIRGIN

Let us look at Mary, not through the eyes of theologians, Church Fathers, or even Church councils but in her own eyes through the Song of Mary “The MAGNIFICAT”. In other words, we look at Mary her Spiritual eyes through this beautiful song: The Magnificat.

1. Who is Mary?

Who is this woman who has had Cathedrals, Churches, Schools named for her, poems written about her, and battles fought in her honour? Who is this Mary?

Mary “Myriam” has always divided the church from the beginning: her role, her nature, her miracle conception BUT she has been also honoured and venerated as Mother of God since the first centuries of Christianity. In Anglican Theology, Mary is accorded honour as the mother of God (Theotokos in Greek). As mentioned from the beginning, I am not interested on the debates about Mary.

I want to share with you my personal spirituality and understanding on Mary the Virgin who is the first Christian. I do not pray or ask something of Mary, I pray “With” someone who has benefited from God’s compassion and love. Going back to the Gospel of Luke1,28 “Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you”. The original text in Greek “kekaritomene” full of grace explain everything about Mary. She is “Full of

Grace”. No one else in the Bible has been called “Full of Grace”. She is the only one to be called full of grace from the book of Genesis to Revelation. That why Mary is who she is. Mary should be understood in the light of Jesus. Without Jesus, Mary would be like everybody else, an ordinary person. Jesus made her special “from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me”. (Luke1, 48). One of the reasons I pray with Mary, Praise God with her because she is full of Grace.



2. Magnificat or Song of Mary (Luke 1, 46-55)

And Mary said “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on lowliness of his servant” (Luke1, 46). Mary wasn’t the first to sing the Magnificat. It was a song of praise in the Old Testament. Hannah prayed and said “My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God, My mouth derides my enemies because I rejoice in my victory”(1Samuel2,1-10). As a young Jewish teenager Mary knew this prayer from the Synagogue. Mary expressed her joy and praise through this song the Magnificat inspired from the book of Samuel. Going back to the Gospel of Luke1, 46, Mary never said that she was God.

She called God her saviour and protector (Luke1,46). She knew that she needed God in her life. What happened to her is grace and a gift from God who she called her saviour. So Mary proclaimed the mercy of God toward herself and those who fear Him. Mary magnifies the Lord because He is mighty, holy, and merciful (Luke1,49). I pray with Mary to magnify the Lord because He is my creator who created me in His own image. I am blessed by God the Saviour to be one of His creatures. Amazing.

3. Why praying With Mary not To Mary?

As mentioned so far, Mary is not God. We do not pray or ask something directly to Mary because we have Jesus who died on the Cross for our sins. We can pray With Mary by looking at her life as a human being and for what God has done for her.

- Mary as model of faith: I call her the first Christian who believed in Jesus as God by saying “YES” to God project. We pray With Mary to praise the Lord for what He has done for us. We are not special, we do not deserve to be trusted by God. God loved us before we were created because He is God of love, compassion and mercy. Like Mary, our soul shall magnify the Lord, and our spirits to rejoice in God our Saviour. God wants our faith to affect our behaviour wherever we go, doing all things to God’s glory.

- Mary as model of Thanksgiving : Praying with Mary teaches us that all our life should be “Magnificat”. In other words, praising God as creator, protector. God is the reason of our worship. God created us to worship Him, to praise Him. This is the purpose for which we are called: “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into wonderful light”(1Peter2;9). We were called with Mary for the purpose of praising God, worshipping God. That is one of the job descriptions of a Christian. We should declare that God is worthy, worth more than everything else put together.

To conclude my reflection on the Virgin Mary, I would like many Christians to look at Mary not as god, but as a human being who has benefited from God’s Love and Compassion. This will help most of us to discover our spirituality and understand Mary in our spiritual life. We do not pray to Mary or ask her to bless us but we pray with her through her life and faith. She is an example of faith and commitment. She said Yes to God’s will and project. With Mary, we have to say Yes by being part of God’s plan for the world. May God bless all of you and keep you safe during 2017

In Christo
Fr Jules MAMBU



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 5 church schools. Give thanks for the dedication and skill of our staff. Also pray that the children learn more of the love that God has for them alongside their learning of the other subjects.
- Please pray for our town this new year. Pray for those who struggle to feel part of their community, those who struggle with finances, addictions, relationships or for other reasons.
- Please pray for those in our community who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Pray that the pain is eased by the fond memories that they hold and the peace that God can bring.
- 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



Additional Weekday Eucharist

There will now be a Eucharist Service
at Holy Trinity Church
on the 1st Thursday of each month at 4.00pm

Your Beauty Comes From Inside You

An article written by Amy Sheridan, Warden at St James' Church, and published by SCM on Tuesday, January 3, 2017



We are beautiful, imperfect people – the only resolution we need this year is to nurture this God-given beauty and show Christ to the world. By Amy Sheridan.

I've never been a fan of the 'new year, new you' message that floats around at this time of year. There is nothing wrong with setting goals or targets for yourself, but I believe that truly loving the person you are, the person who God made you to be is the best New Year's resolution that can be made.

I believe it is much harder to learn to love yourself in today's society. We are bombarded by the media, by the vastness of the online world to live a certain way, to look a certain way, and to think a certain way. Marketing up to Christmas tends to be, 'spend as much money as possible and eat as much food as you can before the new year.' Yet as soon as January 1st arrives the message changes to 'get yourself to the gym you overindulgent wretch' and 'lose a million stone before Easter so you can put it all back on in Easter eggs.'

I wrote an essay recently for my MA on the power of consumerism and how it can and does have a debilitating effect on our lives. People are being pulled, but not in the natural seasons such as Spring, but by shopping seasons. We know what time of year it is by what is on the shelves and when the sales have started. Fruit and veg are available all year round, imported from around the world. I saw red tulips on sale recently, a spring flower available here in December. All seasons are becoming one with Earth's resources becoming a 24hour supermarket, a supermarket that isn't even open to all.

It is so difficult to keep a foot on the rich and world-wise Earth that we inhabit. It is so difficult to look in the mirror and love what we see. Yet God looks at us with such unconditional love, we are his creation whom he loves. When Jesus walked a human life it was his deeds, his love, and his words that made him shine as the light of the world. His inner glow radiating out to all those who follow him.

We are beautiful, imperfect people who come to Christ for forgiveness. That forgiveness allows us to start again, to keep moving forward

So this new year, don't focus on changing who you are, focus on finding out who God has made you to be. Ask him through prayer to show, to guide, to encourage, to forgive. Listen and reflect, read and feed your inner self, and love the person you are called to be. Through this prayerful relationship our inner beauty will shine through and everyone will see him through us, through our deeds, through our smiles, and through our words.



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

Jane Austen – well worth her weight in coins and bank-notes!

The much-loved novelist Jane Austen is about to make history. 200 years after her death, she will appear simultaneously on a British coin and a British bank note. That means that only the Queen, who as head of state must be depicted on British currency, will be more prevalent.



The Royal Mint has chosen Jane Austen as the new image for its commemorative £2 coin. About five million will be released into mass circulation sometime this Spring. At about the same time, the Bank of England will release its new, plastic, unrippable £10 note, with Jane Austen replacing Charles Darwin.

Historians cannot recall the last time a figure other than the reigning monarch appeared on both coins and notes at the same time. The release of both coins and notes will be in step with the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death, in the summer of 1817, at the age of just 41.

Her books were:

Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice, Mansfield Park, Emma, Persuasion, Northanger Abbey and Sanditon (unfinished)

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Two Saints for the month

8th - Kew and the wild boar

St Kew has nothing to do with gardens or the 'Q' of James Bond fame. This Kew was a girl who lived in Cornwall in the 5th century, and should be the patron saint of girls with difficult older brothers.



Kew's older brother was a hermit who felt his younger sister was not worthy to even visit his cell. But big brothers often underestimate their younger sisters, and he was no exception. One day Big Brother saw a wild boar charge out of the woods towards his sister. Kew spoke to it kindly in tones of such purity and sweetness that it immediately slowed down to a peaceful walk.

Big Brother was so shaken by this that he repented of his superior attitude. When he then bothered to spend time talking with young Kew, Big Brother discovered her nature to be of "rare virtue and holiness". Other people thought so too, and after her death they decided Kew had been a saint, and should have the parish church named after her.

10th Scholastica - the persuasive sister

Scholastica (d.c. 543) should be the patron saint of any woman who can bend her brother to do her will - no matter how 'powerful' that brother might seem to other people.



For Scholastica's brother was no less than the great monk Benedict, who founded the famous Benedictine order and lived at Monte Cassino. In no way over-awed, Scholastica simply became the first ever Benedictine nun, with a nunnery five miles down the road – at Plombariola.

Now Scholastica greatly enjoyed her annual meetings with her brother at a house nearby, but the time passed too quickly. One year she begged him to stay longer, to discuss "the joys of heaven", but he refused. So Scholastica took swift action: she prayed up such a mighty thunderstorm that her brother was forced to spend the rest of the night talking to her. Or maybe – she talked and he listened? No one knows for sure.

In any case, Scholastica died happy three days later, and was buried in the tomb Benedict had prepared for himself. She became the patron of Benedictine nunneries.

Candlemas

February snowdrops we
welcome you!
Candlemas Bells

Silent Night

by Amy Sheridan

A prayer from lips that
make no sound



Ponder this.....

from Barry Bowden



Let everyone you meet see the love of God in you, in words and deeds.

A God of love, understanding, mercy and forgiveness.

Whatever we do one to another, we do unto God.

A bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.

Sin - Humanity's problem

Salvation - God's solution



Café Church at St James' Church

Wednesday 8th February at 1.45pm

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

***Café Church at
Costa Coffee Ashton
Sunday 19th February 3pm – 4pm
All Welcome!!***



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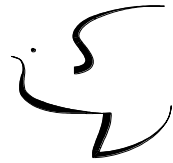
Tel: 0161-339-0696 • Fax: 0161-339-0599

Email: frlvshipley@funeralservicesltd

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Parish Notices



Baptisms:

We give thanks with the family and friends of:

Zahra Honarmandi

Morteza Taghinezhad

Weddings:

There were no weddings in January

Funerals:

We pray with the family and friends of:

Connie Buckley

Les Stevens

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Off to the vet

In his younger days our golden retriever Catcher often ran away when he had the chance. The vet's surgery was about a mile down the road, and Catcher would usually go there. The nursing staff knew him and would call me to come pick him up. One day I called the vet to make an appointment for Catcher's yearly vaccine. "Will you bring him," asked the receptionist, "or will he come on his own?"



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February 2017 - Parish Sunday Services

4th Sunday before Lent	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion + Baptism
Sunday 5 th February	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am	St Peter	Morning Prayer + Baptism
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion + Baptism

3rd Sunday before Lent	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th February	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

2nd Sunday before Lent	9.30am	St. James	Family Communion
Sunday 19 th February	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion

Sunday before Lent	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 th February	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

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)			

CONTACT DETAILS

CLERGY: (*usual day off)

Revd Roger Farnworth, Team Rector (*Tues.)	
The Vicarage, Westbury Street, Ashton OL6 9NL	330 2771
Revd Rachel Battershell, Team Vicar (*Mon)	
2a Hutton Avenue, Ashton OL6 6QY	292 3224
Revd George Reeves, Team Curate (*Fri)	
1 Windmill Lane, Denton M34 3RN	336 1850
Fr Jules Mambu Team Curate (*Mon)	
35 Palace Road, Ashton	07897697503

Items for the Magazine:

Please give items for the next magazine to Revd Roger Farnworth by the 15th February 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**

