



Holy Trinity



St. Gabriel



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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

April 2016

Price 50p

Editorial

Why not try Prayer Walking? The Archbishop of York has completed a 6-month pilgrimage in which he will have walked and prayed the length and breadth of the Diocese of York, and he offers some tips on how to talk to God whilst on the move. Louisa Fox also says how she often prays on the move, using road signs as prayer pointers and reminds us how fortunate we are to have abundant supplies of clean water, unlike so many in our world today.

Also in our magazine this month, there is news of Bishop Mark's recent visit to St James' School, and a reminder of the victory of young shepherd boy David over the giant Goliath using just 5 smooth stones and a sling – with advice on overcoming our “giants” with five very different stones. And do you need some new ideas for raising money at church fairs? We may just have a few suggestions!

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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Time to Reflect

It is one of the strange things about preparing a magazine article that you write it a number of weeks before it is read. This year I am writing this on the 5th Sunday of Lent. I wonder how Lent is going for you? I am still looking forward to Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day. By the time you read this Easter will have happened so I hope you had a blessed and thought provoking Easter.

I grew up in an Open Brethren Church which didn't have a liturgical calendar. They would say we celebrate our Lord's birth, death and resurrection until he comes again. At Christmas my parents would take us to another Church so we would go to Church on Christmas Day. I can't remember what we did about Easter although I do remember we had Easter Eggs! When we joined the Anglican Church it was one of the things I noticed – the importance of different festivals at different times of the year and the way these festivals came round again year after year.

Holy Week and Easter gives us lots of opportunities to go to different services and to reflect in different ways but reflection doesn't need to stop now that Lent and Easter are over for another year.

Recently Rob and I spent a weekend in Glastonbury with other Ministers in Secular Employment. Part of the weekend was spent thinking about living water. Julie who was leading this part started with thinking about times when our lives can feel like a spiritual desert although she made the point that the desert supports much more life than we would think. She then went on to talk about water in lots of different forms, thinking about streams in the desert, our lives being like a river and about the time when Jesus met the woman at the well and said that he would provide living water. In another session we thought about the living water which Jesus gives us flowing out to other believers and resulting in love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control.

You may be the sort of person who finds it easy to spend time with God and to reflect but I need reminders, things to make me stop and think. These are a couple of things I have tried recently. I decided to think of something that I do every day and then to weave some thoughts and prayers about it. I came up with turning the tap on and off. It's something that we do a number of times of every day whether it is to get a drink, wash ourselves, the pots or our clothes. I also think it is good to remind ourselves to be thankful for the things we take for granted. We are very fortunate to have abundant supplies of clean water in our homes. Water links back to the ideas we explored in Glastonbury reminding me that Jesus provides living water and all that that should lead to.

The second thing I did was when I was driving on my own. I decided that whilst not losing any concentration for driving (very important), I would use the road signs as prayer pointers so when I saw the signs for Hartlepool and Billingham where my Father was born and grew up, I thought about my family. When I saw the signs for Sedgefield I prayed for the Government (Sedgefield was Tony Blair's constituency). When I saw signs for queues and services, I prayed about the Migrant Crisis and when I saw signs for roadworks it reminded me to ask God to repair our broken world.

So as we move away from Easter towards Pentecost I would encourage you to find different ways to reflect on what Jesus has done for you and to think about different ways of praying.

Louisa Fox

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Quiz and Games Night

with Potato Pie Supper

St James Church

Saturday 23rd April 2016 at 7.00pm

£5.00 for all players (includes refreshments)

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 travelled through Lent, we spent some time in our Lent groups contemplating some of the issues faced by refugees fleeing war and persecution. Please pray for those people in our communities that have fled their own homes in search of safety. Pray that they find a welcome in Ashton and have a chance to rebuild their lives.
- Following the outpouring of God's grace to us again this Easter in the remembering of what Jesus did for us all on the cross, spend some time focusing on Jesus on the cross. Thank God that we are forgiven and that we have hope for a future spent with him.
- Please pray for our parish as we enter into a time of transition, with Rachel currently off work ill and George moving on some time over the summer. Pray for people to step forward where they can to fill the gaps.
- 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



News from St James CofE School



On the morning of Tuesday 23rd February, Bishop Mark visited St. James' school. We were a little unsure of what to expect as it was a very long time ago when the Bishop last visited - so long ago that only a few of the long serving staff can remember that occasion. Fatima, Muzammal, Uzair and Simran - School Council members- took Bishop Mark around the school. This was a gentle introduction and they gave an overview some of the activities that we get up to here. This was followed by a series of 'question times' with different audiences.

Rida in Year 3 asked the first question of the day: 'When and why was it decided that woman could become Bishops?'

During the morning he was asked many questions which included finding out: whether Bishops could influence government; what was the meaning behind his clothes; how much he got paid; why the resurrection is described by Christians as the 'victory of Jesus' and whether he cleans his teeth! He shared with us some personal life stories about when he decided to become a priest, about his mum and dad and the kindness of his best friend. He told us about the importance of prayer to him and how he had prayed for our school that morning before his visit.

After telling us that research has found that 75% of us will stay in touch with each other after we leave school and 12% of us will marry someone we met at school. He left us with two very special thoughts:

Friends are very important; they help you through the ups and downs of life.

Jesus loves us all so much, whoever we are and wherever we come from, whatever we do - he loves us.



Café Church at St James' Church

Wednesday 13th April at 1.45pm

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

What's happening?

St. Michael's Open Days

St. Michael's is 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 17th April
at 3.00pm
All Welcome!

LUCY COBB Fashion Show

St Gabriel's Church
Beaufort Road, Ashton
OL6 6RB Opp San Rocco

Friday 6th May

Doors open at 7.00pm
Show begins 7.30pm

Tickets £4
For booking info contact
Sandra Kiy 07740
766687

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

Prayer Walking around your community

On 22nd May, Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, will have completed a 6-month pilgrimage in which he will have walked and prayed the length and breadth of the Diocese of York. He offers these tips...

Prayer walking is as simple as it sounds - praying as you walk. When we prayer walk we are stepping out as God's children to bless people and places in Jesus' name.

The core of prayer walking is conversing with God; ask Him to show you what He sees; to know His heart for your community.

Agree a place and time to start prayer walking and talking to God together. Explain why you've gathered to pray, and how you are going to do it. If splitting into smaller groups, then agree a place and time to end together.

You can plan ahead to ensure that you pray for specific places, or simply ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time - just make sure you don't get lost! Know the places and people that make up your local community. What jobs do people do? Are there particular needs?

As you prayer walk, be aware of your surroundings: what you see, smell, hear and touch. But also be aware of what God is saying to you as you move around your community; if any Bible verses pop into your head or if you have any

pictures, visions or words of knowledge. Turn these into prayer. The point of prayer walking isn't about being seen praying; it's about seeing and praying. You can pray quietly together or in silence if it makes you feel more comfortable.

As you prayer walk, the focus is on those who are living in your community so be intentional about praying for God's blessings on what you see and feel. Even in difficult areas, try to pray positively. Focus on God's plans and purposes for the place and people that live there.

"Your Kingdom come, your will be done..." is an excellent start.

If you've prayed in different places, meet up at the end to share what you've prayed and heard from

God. Write down what you share so that you can keep track of how to pray for your area.

After your prayer walk, keep praying for your community. You might like to arrange specific prayer meetings or further prayer walks for your area. As you keep praying, continue to ask for God's blessing in your area; praying for God's kingdom to come and His Will to be done in your area. If you feel that God is highlighting specific needs or challenges, think about how to take action; how could you and your Church be part of God's solution practically, as well as prayerfully?





David and Goliath - Five Smooth Stones !

The story about Goliath’s defeat by David (1 Samuel 17), is one of the best known in the Bible. Goliath was nine feet tall, dressed in bronze armour and carrying a sword and spear. However, David was a young shepherd, whose only weapon was a sling and five smooth stones. We won’t face somebody like Goliath, but will face other giants in our lives (fear, insecurity, loneliness, failure etc). What five stones can help overcome the giants that we face?

- **Courage:** David was unafraid of Goliath, ‘Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.’ (32). We need courage to face the giants in our lives.
- **Confidence:** David’s experience as a shepherd gave him confidence in facing Goliath. ‘The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.’ (37). We also can be confident in God’s help to overcome our problems.
- **Preparation:** ‘Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.’ (40). Like David, are we using the gifts and experience that God has given us in the fight?
- **Trust:** David didn’t trust in his own abilities, ‘You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty’ (45) Will we put our trust in God alone?
- **Victory:** ‘for the battle is the Lord’s’ (47). When we turn our battles over to God, He will give us victory!

That little stone took Goliath by surprise; such a thing had never entered his head before!!’



oo



What am I?

I'm not old. I woke up, I lifted my arms, I moved my knees, I turned my neck. Everything made the same noise: Crrrrrrraaaaaaccckkkkk! So I've come to the conclusion that I'm not old, I'm crispy!



The Queen is 'very grateful' for the nation's prayers

In a strong statement of faith, the Queen has said that she is 'very grateful' to the nation for its prayers for her and that she has felt God's 'faithfulness' during 64 years on the throne.

The comments – rare insights into the Queen's personal thoughts and Christian faith – came in the forward to a new book, *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves*, published by Bible Society, HOPE and LICC.

Her Majesty said, 'I have been – and remain – very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for His steadfast love. I have indeed seen His faithfulness.'

The book was published to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. In her comments, the Queen referred to the changes she has seen in her life, which has made her the longest-reigning monarch in British history.

'The extent and pace of change has

been truly remarkable,' she said. 'We have witnessed triumphs and tragedies.' And she alluded to the current problems in the Middle East saying that the world is now experiencing 'terrible suffering on an unprecedented scale'.

The Queen's Christian faith is well-known. In recent years, Her Majesty has referred to her beliefs in public statements, including Christmas broadcasts.

The Servant Queen and the King She Serves highlights the Queen's faith and how it has shaped her personal life and service to the nation. A 12-page schools version has been published by Scripture Union.

Copies of *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves* are available in packs of 10 at £1 a copy (plus p&p).

Visit www.hopetogether.org.uk/thequeen to order copies and for ideas on how to hold a street party and Thanksgiving service.



Worry

I have so many problems that if a new one comes along today, it will be at least two weeks before I can worry about it!



Do it

Here's a sure-fire way to cross off every item on your To-Do list: Do the chores first, then write them down and then cross them off!



COLOURS IN CHURCH

Have you noticed that, from time to time, the colour of things in church changes? No, I don't mean the minister goes a funny colour or someone paints the walls, but the special robes that the priest wears, and the front of altar among other things, change from time to time. Each season of the Church's year has its own distinctive colour and these are called liturgical colours.

GREEN is the colour we have more than others. Green, the ordinary colour of nature, is used during the seasons of Epiphany (after Christmas) and Trinity (between Whitsun or Pentecost and Advent). Trinity lasts for about half the year so green is the colour we see most.

The next change of colour is to **PURPLE**. Purple, the colour of penitence and preparation, is used for Lent (the 40 days before Easter) and Advent (the 4 weeks before Christmas).

Then comes **WHITE** and **GOLD**, which are used for all the joyful

festivals - Easter, Ascension and Christmas.

RED, the colour of fire and blood, is used at Pentecost to remind us of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples like tongues of flame (Acts 2:11). It is also used on the festivals of martyrs to remind us of their sacrifice.

COLOUR QUIZ

Complete each of these with a colour, for example cordial would be LIME cordial. Each colour is only used once.

1. admiral
2. Christmas
3. marmalade
4. quick
5. sky
6. Royal
7. ribbons
8. glass
9. submarine
10. elephants



What is yellow and black and has red spots?

A leopard with the measles.

Define the word 'information'.

How the Red Arrows fly.



ANSWERS: 1.red 2.white 3.orange 4.silver
5.blue 6.Navy 7.scarlet 8.wine
9.yellow 10.pink



Fund Raising Ideas for Church Fetes!

There are lots of ideas 'out there' which can be adapted or used as you wish. Some are more suitable for small events, others for larger ones, but hopefully any you use will help raise money for your church.

1. Water into Wine

Ask for donations of bottles of wine and also collect empty wine bottles with screw tops (you will need four empty bottles for every full one). Fill the empty bottles with water. Wrap all the bottles up in fancy paper. Fill your stall with bottles and charge £1 to try to find a bottle of wine. Please note, you do have to ensure you don't give wine to those under the legal age to consume alcohol so this may be good for an 'adults only' stall. You could perhaps have a similar stall for children.

2. Fill a Jar

During the year ask people to save their smaller sized jars (with lids) and to fill these jars with a variety of things, e.g. cotton wool balls, paper clips, sweets, elastic bands (this year Loom Bands were very popular with the children), crayons. Then decorate the lids of the full jars with bows to make them look attractive. You can then use them as a jam jar tombola stall.

3. Pot Luck

Plastic or paper cups are needed for this one, plus a sieve and an empty receptacle to catch the sand. Into some of the cups put a coin as a prize – the amount can be whatever you decide – then cover the coin with sand up to around a third of the way up the cup to make sure the cup is stable. People buy

a cup and then tip the contents out into the sieve to see if they have won a prize. (The sand drops through the sieve into the receptacle below and you need to make sure the holes in the sieve aren't too large!)

4. Pop the Balloon

This one needs some organisation beforehand, and some space for the balloons, or extras on standby somewhere close at hand. Pop a piece of paper with a prize on it (some small, and a few large, plus some 'better luck next time' ones) inside a balloon before blowing it up. Blow up the balloons and get people to pop them. Kids love this one, but you'll need someone who doesn't mind balloons going 'pop' to run this stall, or provide them with ear-plugs.

5. Lucky Lollipops

All you do is paint the bottom third of some of the lolly sticks a different colour. You then display them with the sticks hidden. You could do this in a strip of Styrofoam, a piece of wood with small holes drilled in it or perhaps in a tray of sand. People then buy a lolly but if they find a 'lucky' lolly stick they win a prize. You could have a few golden sticks with larger prizes or a range of prizes for different coloured sticks – it's up to you – but everyone will go away with at least a lolly.

Save the date - Godparents' Sunday May 1st

The first ever Sunday to celebrate the unique role of Godparents will take place on May 1st 2016. An initiative of the Archbishops' Council Projects and Development Team, the dedicated day is a response to research looking at parent's real experiences and expectations around the baptism of their child. Churches throughout the Church of England are invited to use this date to celebrate all that godparents contribute to the amazing journey of faith.



This is a great opportunity to invite recent baptism families to come along with godparents to a special service, but is also a chance to get all those in the congregation who are godparents or godchildren to pray for one another. Special invitations will be available online from Monday March 7. And there's a whole host of other materials to help make the day stand out. There will be downloadable prayers and liturgies specifically written for the day all available shortly from www.churchsupporthub.org.



Shakespeare - the Bard of Avon

William Shakespeare, universally recognised as the world's greatest playwright, died on 23rd April 1616. The 400th anniversary of that event is being widely marked – the BBC is broadcasting every one of his plays, for instance.

Even people who have never read any of them are familiar with bits of their speeches: 'To be or not to be?' and 'Neither a borrower nor a lender be' (Hamlet); 'Out, out damned spot!' (Macbeth); 'Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears!' (Julius Caesar); 'If music be the food of love, play on' (Twelfth Night); 'Beware the green-eyed monster' (Othello) and scores more. 'Now is the Winter of our discontent' (Richard the Third) has plagued my life!

We probably endured studying his plays as teen-agers and if not then, then perhaps later found how wonderfully he tuned his words to the human spirit.

He was a jobbing actor, a script writer, a master of the sonnet as well as being a truly great dramatist. He lifted the English language to new heights. Let's celebrate him this month!



Saint for the Month

23 St George of the Golden Legend



The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. He was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23 April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

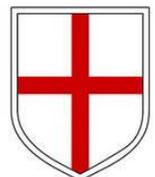
In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs :

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. The Saint charged, and drove his spear into the gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.



Parish Notices



Baptisms:

We give thanks with the families and friends of:

Harriet Olivia Bradbury

Weddings:

We celebrate with the families and friends of:

Sarah Leigh and Decline O'Connor

Funerals:

We pray with the family and friends of:

Walter Booth

Joan Ardern

Roy Whittaker

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday	13 th April	1.45pm	Café Church at St James' Church
Sunday	17 th April	3.00pm	Café Church at Costa Coffee, Ashton
Saturday	23 rd April	7.00pm	Quiz and Games Night with Potato Pie Supper at St James' Church
Sunday	24 th April	6.00pm	Songs of Praise at St Michael's Church to celebrate the Queen's 90 th Birthday
Friday	6 th May	7.00pm	Fashion Show at St Gabriel's Church
Tuesday	10 th May		Friends of Ashton Parish Church trip to Whitby
Saturday	14 th May	10am-3pm	Art Exhibition at St James' Church
Sat-Mon	21-23 May	10am-4pm	Flower Festival at St Michael's Church
Monday	30 th May		Car Boot Sale at St Michael's Church
Saturday	11 th June	6.00pm	Civic Service at St Michael's Church to celebrate the Queen's 90 th Birthday

April 2016 - Parish Sunday Services

2nd Sunday of Easter Sunday 3 rd April	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
3rd Sunday of Easter Sunday 10 th April	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
4th Sunday of Easter Sunday 17 th April	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
5th Sunday of Easter Sunday 24 th April	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: (except 2 nd Wed of the month)	1.30pm	St. James	Holy Communion
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



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.

