





St. Gabriel

The Parish of The Good Shepherd,



St. James

Ashton-under-Lyne



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

June 2016
Price 50p

Editorial

Our great northern tradition, the Annual Walks of Witness, take place this month — a public declaration of our faith by noisily and joyfully processing through our town centre. Many years ago, the streets would be lined with people cheering and waving, and passing coins to the young children dressed in their new Sunday best. Sadly, these days both the processions and the crowds are smaller. At the same time, our Diocese are launching a conversation on Church for a Different World — challenging us to ask some difficult questions about how the Church needs to adapt and change to remain vibrant and active and make the most of its opportunities to grow in the modern world. If we make the right changes, we can increase the numbers taking part in future Walks of Witness!

Also this month, Holy Trinity School have been having great fun studying the life cycle of frogs; two members of our congregation renewed their wedding vows and there is news from Potters Village in Uganda.

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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"I'm spiritual, but not religious"

Increasingly I meet people who describe themselves as "spiritual, but not religious." It is too easy to dismiss this as wanting to 'pick and choose', or as a way of privatising belief so it becomes purely subjective, but that misses the point. I think it best seen as a sign that people are dissatisfied with what they see around them, including 'traditional' organised religion, but feel there must be more to life than just existing. The down side to it though is that people are left to navigate the spiritual landscape on their own, sorting through not only the misunderstandings that were common across the church, but the ways in which our culture misunderstands spirituality as well.

I'd like to suggest four ways in which – from a Christian perspective — our culture misunderstands spirituality, and how understanding this can help us engage with those who feel no connection with 'traditional' religion. Indeed some of what I suggest below can be found within our churches too.

I. Spirituality as Talisman
A talisman is an object that wards off adversity and ensures good fortune. Many assume that if we are spiritually attuned, we will not suffer, or at least we will not be troubled by suffering. This 'magical'

assumption has attached itself to much spiritual



practice in the churches, including prayer. How often have we assumed that if life is difficult, then we must have failed in some way? The Christian message offers two correctives to this misunderstanding. Firstly, our journey with God is made possible by His grace, not by our efforts or devotions. Secondly, the journey with God sustains us in lives that are inevitably marked by suffering and mortality. Contrary to some caricatures of the Christian faith, it's message is not escapist; it is about a faith that sustains us in cooperating with the work of God's Kingdom, which is breaking into a broken world.

2. Spirituality as Quietism
"If I am spiritual I can elect to
withdraw from the world's needs
and from the obligation to address
those needs." This is fed to some
degree by popular images of spiritual
people as somehow otherworldly.
But this is to misunderstand the
Christian tradition. Withdrawal
from the world is a secondary
meaning of the word "quietism."
The other, and main, definition of
quietism is a withdrawal from one's
selfish desires in favour of attending

to the things of God. Even those living in monasteries, devoting themselves to regular prayer, understand that prayer involves engagement with the needs of the world. In the Middle Ages, for example, monasteries in England were a key driver in a growing economy; prayer and work in balance. Christian spirituality is always and everywhere about an inward journey that requires a journey outward; it is never simply for the benefit of the one who gives themselves to the journey into God.

3. Spirituality as Therapy Many think that to be spiritual is to be emotionally well-adjusted and emotionally well-adjusted people attend to their spiritual lives. In a culture that finds the notion of sin and redemption quaint or quite simply objectionable, it is easier to think of the spiritual life as therapeutic rather than theological. Certainly spirituality may lend itself to a better-adjusted approach to life, but it doesn't necessarily. As I mentioned above, balanced spirituality attends to the outward as well as the inward, and being deeply in touch with the will of God is key to this. A spiritualty that focuses purely on the self is unbalanced.

Spirituality as Lifestyle For some, spirituality is all about lifestyle. "If I can just get the lighting and the mood music in my life attuned, I will be centred and whole." Spot the catch? Yes, this is necessarily self-centred and emphasises the 'me' at the expense of 'us'. There is nothing transcendent here at all. For Christians, spirituality can never be about interior decorating. It is demanding, transformative, and liberating in ways that can be invigorating and frightening at the same time. And it is fundamentally and inescapably about an encounter with God in Christ.

What is striking about all four approaches to spirituality on offer from our culture is that they lack a transcendent dimension. At the same time, however, our culture's desire for spiritual deepening speaks to an existential need that has been missing from our life as a church. Human beings are made to love, know, and desire God, and if the church expects to offer the world a gift that speaks to that longing, it will need to provide guidance that moves beyond the self and leads people toward God.

Revd Rob Fox

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 those young people in our communities that are currently doing exams. Pray for them to be calm and to achieve their best.
- Please pray for those countries around the world where people still get persecuted because of their faith. Pray for God's peace to descend and for people to live peacefully next to their neighbours.
- Please pray for those who are arriving in Tameside having left their own homes as a result fleeing situations that are dangerous. Pray for them to find a welcome and friendship during their time here.
- 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

Walks of Witness

Sunday 19th June

Theme: We come together in the presence of The Lord
St James' Church meet at 1.15pm
St Peter's Church meet at 1.3ppm
St Gabriel's Church meet at 1.3ppm
Churches will then process to St Michael's Church
Open air service in St Michael's grounds at 2.3ppm
led by Revd George Reeves and Angela Rayner MP will attend.
Following the service, we will process around Ashton
then process back to our churches
Contributions towards the cost of our bands would be most welcome

Holy Wells - Buxton in Derbyshire

Derbyshire is the English county celebrated around the world for its wells. The annual tradition followed in many villages of decorating the village wells, or 'well dressing', attracts sight-seers from miles away. Tissington is at the heart of Well Dressing country, and Ascension Day is when the largest crowds gather to see the wells blessed. After a service in the church, a procession wends its way around the village and at each well a hymn is sung and a prayer of blessing given.

By ancient, centuries old tradition, five wells are decorated. Boards are set up around each one which is then covered in clay. The clay is then impressed with thousands of colourful flower petals to create pictures and tableaux. Often the stories illustrated are from the Bible. It is thought the practice may date back to the 14th century and may have started as an act of thanksgiving when the community escaped the devastation of the Black Death. Over the years, and before piped water became available, it also became an act of thanksgiving for the village's supply of clean, clear water.

Today Tissington is one of over 100 villages to follow the tradition. The season extends all through the summer and while some communities decorate a single well others dress several in amazing and elaborate designs. Many have a Biblical theme, but often topical references to royal occasions or



sporting events provide inspiration.

Generally the Derbyshire wells are not considered holy, or named after saints with miraculous cures attributed to them. Most were just the original village water tap. However, the Derbyshire town of Buxton not only enjoys a well dressing festival but also has a celebrated holy well where people regularly line up to collect its special waters.

Buxton mineral water is bottled and available in supermarkets, but in the town itself, at St Anne's well, it is free. Through medieval times there was a chapel on the spot and pilgrims came seeking cures and to leave offerings. Henry VIII put an end to the practice, but later the town became a spa and patients heard of the therapeutic reputation of the waters and came to bathe and drink, much as the ancient Romans had done in pre-Christian times. Today the free Buxton water emerges from a pipe set in a modern plinth containing a statuette of St Anne, the mother of Mary and Jesus's grandmother.

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



at Costa Coffee, Ashton No event in June!





Celebrate The Queen's 90th Birthday

6.00pm Saturday 11th June

Civic Service to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday at St Michael's Church

Sunday 12th June

Come and Celebrate the Queen's
90th Birthday at St Gabriels'!
Afternoon Tea and a Good Old
Sing Song - plus Bingo
and a Beetle Drive
Tickets £10 for a family of 4
or £4 Adult and £2 Child
The fun starts at 1pm



Mad Hatter's Tea Party Saturday 25th June 2.00pm – 4.00pm St James' Church

hosting this "Posh Afternoon Tea", with tea, coffee and cakes.

There will be a little entertainment provided by the Brownies and Rainbows!

Tickets: £8.00 adult, £3.00 child

Brownies and Rainbows are



Wednesday 8th June at 1.45pm Everyone is welcome to join us for informal worship, coffee, cake & a chat

Tadpoles, frogs & froglets in Year 2 at Holy Trinity School

On Tuesday 22nd of March, Year 2 got some frog spawn from Miss Fisher. We made a habitat for our frog spawn so we could learn about the life-cycle of a frog.

After two weeks the tadpoles hatched. It was very hard work for them and they had to have lots of rest! At the side of the tadpoles' cheeks, we could



see some feathery gills which help them to breathe underwater.

In week three we noticed the tadpoles had changed because they had a grown a spiracle. A spiracle is a hole that helps them to breath.

When we came back after the holidays, the tadpoles had become very different because they had grown back legs! They also had a mouth and webbed feet.

The next week, when we came in, Mrs Dale and some of us saw the tadpoles, but they weren't tadpoles anymore they were froglets! Now they are froglets they can breathe air and they have grown front legs. Their tails



have also shrunk. There were 16 froglets lying on the rocks because they were so tired.

Soon the froglets will turn into frogs and so it is time for us to send them back to the pond.

We hope you have enjoyed learning about the life-cycle of frogs.

By Mahmood Nahyan and Darya



Sweets

I gave my four-year-old grand-daughter money for sweets and the church collection plate. Later, seeing her enormous pile of sweets, I got suspicious and asked if she hadn't also given some money to God in church that morning. "No," she replied sweetly, "He wasn't there."

Remember the Battle of the Somme

Communities across the UK are to hold vigils to mark the centenary of World War I's terrible Battle of the Somme, in which a total of 1.5 million men died. The Government and the Royal British Legion are inviting villages, towns and cities to organise their own remembrance events alongside national and international commemorations.

It is hoped that evening vigils will be held on 30 June or on 1 July. There were more than 600,000 British and French casualties in the battle. The Somme Offensive of July to November 1916 was meant to be a decisive allied breakthrough, but turned into a horrendous stalemate that became a byword for indiscriminate slaughter. By the end of just the first day, 1st July, the British had suffered 60,000 casualties, of whom 20,000 were dead.

Bishop Nigel McCulloch, Head of Remembrance at the Royal British Legion has been speaking about the event. The following links may be of interest. http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-

35963387 http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/658112/Battle-of-Sommecentenary-appeal-to-British-communities

SOMME - 'GET INVOLVED' 9th & 10th July 2016



St John's Church, Hurst, Ashton-u-Lyne, will be remembering this tragic yet momentous event in British history with a community project called 'Somme - Get Involved'.

Local schools, shops, businesses, pubs and clubs are being encouraged to participate in the weeks leading up to the

weekend's events - making poppies, WWI trenches, building an army of soldiers, re creating 'dog tags', the small metal identification discs which every combat soldier had to wear. Some local people, whose families were touched by this event, have written poetry. Do you have a family member who fought in this battle – would you like to take part in some way?

With the help of local shops and businesses we shall be re-creating the 'Little Train of the Somme' which carried combat troops to and from the trenches on the western front, and still runs today, taking visitors to pay their respects to more than 57, 000 troops killed on the first day of battle.

The culmination of all of these projects will be an exhibition in St John's Church, , on the weekend of 9th & 10th July. **Exhibition will be open 11am - 4pm on Saturday 9**th **and 12pm-4pm on Sunday 10th.** Come and visit the Poppy Wall, add your

footprint to the trenches, see the army of soldiers and view models of Allied Troops and German Trenches, together with a working model of the 'Little Train of the Somme' - all constructed by local people.

There will be a special community event at 6pm on Sunday 10th July at St John's Church, when children from local schools, local organisations, musicians, dancers and singers, combined choirs together with the Willow Wood Community Choir will re-enact the powerful story of the Somme through the eyes of an ordinary family.

This promises to be a vibrant and uplifting event, telling this sensitive story including music from contemporary writers - Michael Jackson, Paul Simon, Karl Jenkins and John Lennon - as well as some old favourites - Jerusalem, Pack up your Troubles, It's a long way to Tipperary & I vow to thee my country. Something for everyone.

Community Event at 6pm Sunday 10th July, at St John's Church, with refreshments afterwards

For more information or to get involved contact Jan Ratcliffe 0773 469 5117

Or you will find contact numbers at: www.stjchurch-hurst.co.uk.

St John's Church, Kings Road, Hurst, Ashton OL6 8EZ



Congratulations to Edmund and Margaret Hancott who married at St. James on 13th May 1986 and who renewed their wedding vows on Saturday 14th May 2016. They were both wearing the same outfit as they wore when they married 30 years ago!

Saint of the month

William of York - victim of injustice

Have you ever been the victim of someone else's malice and ambition? Then William of York (d 1154) is the saint for you. William Fitzherbert was born into a noble family, with royal connections. He was also smart - appointed treasurer of York at a young age, and also as a chaplain to King Stephen. But none went to his head - he was loved for his kind, amiable and easy-going personality.

Then in 1140 Thurston, the archbishop of York, died. The canons of York knew whom they wanted, and with royal support William was made Thurston's successor. Yet all was not well: a disappointed minority hated him and had the support of powerful men. William was accused of simony, and of being unchaste. The row brought in the Pope and several bishops, and William was cleared. Yet still - all was not well. That Pope died, and the new Pope was a Cistercian, who preferred the enemies of William. And so he was deposed.

Yet William seems to have taken all this malice and power-grabbing in his stride. He simply retired to Winchester to live as a devout monk until 1153. Then that year several of his key enemies died, and he was restored as archbishop to York. At last all looked good for him - and he made a triumphant return to York in 1154. But then - disaster struck again: a few day later William was dead - poison was strongly suspected. He was buried in his cathedral, miracles were reported at his tomb. He was regarded as both the victim of grave injustice and as a saint. In 1421 the famous St William window was made; depicting his life and miracles and death in 62 scenes.

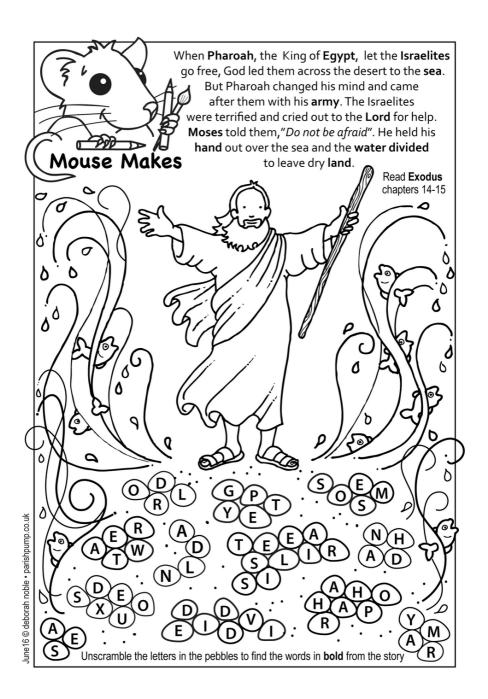


Brain Teaser



I am small as an ant and big as a whale I can soar through the air like a bird with a tail I can be seen by day and not by night I can be seen with a big flash of light I follow whoever controls me by the sun But I fade away when ark falls like a ton.

(Answer on page 13) What am I?



News from Potter's Village

The Potter's Village is a Child Crisis and Medical Centre in Kisoro, South West Uganda. Abandoned and orphaned babies find care and new hope in the Crisis Centre. Potter's Village has a health care facility for all children up to the age of 12 and a Special Care Baby Unit to care for premature babies, alongside facilities to help the recovery of acutely malnourished children.

This is one item featured in their latest newsletter:



The new Truck

The old Potter's Village Truck, was donated by Jenny many years ago. It has done really well and has been a great asset to the project, but for a number of years it has undergone continual repairs

The staff at PV have been praying to receive a new one and finally God answered our prayers through a very generous donation from All Saints Church, Marple.

Thank you to everybody.

A suitable truck was found and staff from the Diocese arranged for it to be collected from Kampala. We had a small handover celebration, with Bishop Cranmer proudly handing over the keys to Director Sue.



48th Annual Pet Service 2.30pm Sunday 17th July

All are welcome to join us with their pets at our annual pet service. Come and enjoy the GAP Puppets and discover God's delight in his creation.

St Peter's Church, Manchester Road, Ashton

Answer to Brainteaser on pg 11 - A Shadow



Evelyn Underhill – mystical writer of the 20th century

For anyone interested in Christian mysticism, Evelyn Underhill may be a good

place to begin. She died 75 years ago this month (10th June 1941) after a life full of remarkable achievements: author of more than 30 books that explored the intersection between the spiritual and the physical, the first woman ever to lecture to the CofE clergy, the first woman to conduct spiritual retreats for the Church, the first woman to establish ecumenical links between churches, and one of the first woman theologians to lecture in English universities. Evelyn was also an award-winning bookbinder.

Born in 1875, the daughter of a barrister from Wolverhampton, and then wife to a childhood friend, also a barrister, Evelyn moved in cultured, educated circles, and travelled widely each summer along the Mediterranean – both her father and husband were keen yachting enthusiasts.

Evelyn's inner, spiritual journey was more complex: from agnosticism to theism, on to Neoplatonism and then Roman Catholicism she went, until in 1921 she became an Anglican - with a later fascination for the Greek Orthodox church. Her daily life was one of reading, writing, and doing various forms of religious work, from visiting the poor to counselling people in trouble.

Her spiritual search began in childhood, after a number of "abrupt experiences of the peaceful, undifferentiated plane of reality—like the 'still desert' of the mystic—in which there was no multiplicity nor need of explanation".

Trying to understand these mystical experiences sparked her passion and lifelong quest.

Evelyn became one of the most widely read writers on mysticism in the fist half of the 20th century. Her greatest book, Mysticism: A Study of the Nature and Development of Man's Spiritual Consciousness, was published in 1911, and is romantic, engaged, and theoretical rather than historical or scientific. While writing it she came into contact with Baron Friedrich von Hugel, who became her spiritual mentor for many years. He gradually steered her away mysticism and towards a more Christocentric view of reality.

During World War I Evelyn worked in naval intelligence, but in later years became a Christian pacifist.

Shrine at Holy Sepulchre to be rebuilt

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem has started some major repairs and renovation. The work will cost nearly



£2.5million, but will see the shrine at the centre of the church, which dates back to 1810, completely rebuilt. The Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches will each pay a third of the cost.

Source: Christian Today. For further details:

http://www.christiantoday.com/article/why.jerusalems.church.of.the.holy....

Dates for your Diary



Wednesday	8 th June	1.45pm	Café Church at St James' Church
Saturday	11 th June	6.00pm	Civic Service to celebrate the Queen's 90 th Birthday at St Michael's Church
Sunday	12 th June	1.00pm	Party at St Gabriel's Church to celebrate the Queen's 90 th Birthday
Sunday	19 th June		Walks of Witness in Ashton Town Centre
Saturday	25 th June	2pm – 4pm	Mad Hatter's Tea Party at St James'Church
Saturday	2 nd July		Summer Fete at St James' Church
Sunday	17 th July	2.30pm	Annual Pet Service at St Peter's Church

Referendum Prayer

On Thursday 23rd June 2016 the UK will vote either to remain in or leave the **European Union**.

God of truth, give us grace to debate the issues in this referendum with honesty and openness.
Give generosity to those who seek to form opinion and discernment to those who vote, that our nation may prosper and that with all the peoples of Europe we may work for peace and the common good; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Our next hymn

A visiting minister, seeing the list of hymns chosen for the Sunday service, sent a message to the organist to say that the last hymn (519) did not suit his sermon, and so he wanted it replaced by 213. The organist's message replied: 'In this church the organist chooses the hymns and I will play 519.' The minister shot back: 'At this service I announce the hymns and I shall announce 213.'

Parish Notices



Baptisms:

We give thanks with the families and friends of:

Olly Jay Cooper Elliot Harry Tweedale Cooper Michael Reding Ivy Helen Williams

Weddings:

There were no weddings in May

Funerals:

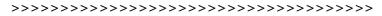
We pray with the family and friends of:

Freda Proud Kathleen Smith Phoebe Tyrer Kathleen Wyatt Baby Abigail



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June 2016 - Parish Sunday Services

2nd Sunday after Trinity 9.30am St James Holy Communion + Baptism Sunday 5th June 11.00am St Peter Morning Prayer + Baptism Holy Communion+Junior Church 11.00am St Gabriel 11.00am St Michael Holy Communion + Baptism 3rd Sunday after Trinity 9.30am St James **Holy Communion** Sunday 12th June **Holy Communion** 11.00am St. Peter All Age Service of the Word 11.00am St. Gabriel 11.00am St. Michael **Holy Communion** St James on Sunday Afternoon 4.00pm St James 4th Sunday after Trinity 9.30am St. James **Family Communion** Sunday 19th June 11.00am St. Peter **Holy Communion** 11.00am St. Gabriel Holy Communion+Junior Church 11.00am St. Michael **Holy Communion** 5th Sunday after Trinity 9.30am St James Family Communion Sunday 26th June 11.00am St. Peter **Holy Communion** All Age Service of the Word 11.00am St. Gabriel 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 2nd Wed of the month)

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:

Parish Warden Warden Emeritus: Chair of PCC: PCC Vice-Chair	Deborah Brindle		07702 137596 308 2795 330 2771 339 1021
PCC Secretary: Child Protection PCC Treasurer: Parish Magazine:	Louisa Fox Julie Collins Roger Farnwort	36 Norman Road, Stalybridge h The Vicarage, Union St, Ashton	338 8481 330 2771





