



Holy Trinity



St.
Gabriel

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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

March 2018

Price 50p

Editorial

‘For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.’ (John 3:16)

This verse has been described as ‘the greatest verse in the Bible’, as it enables us to understand the events of Good Friday and Easter Day.

God’s love is unconditional: God demonstrated the extent of His love by sending His Son into this world, to show us what it looks like: ‘God with skin on’! God graciously loves us, as none of us deserves it. ‘There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.’ (Philip Yancey).

God’s love is sacrificial: The cross is the supreme demonstration of God’s love, as Jesus identifies with a fallen, suffering world. He died for our sins, removing the barrier between us and God, giving access into God’s presence and release from the power of sin and death.

God’s love is accessible: Jesus’ resurrection makes His eternal life available to all who put their trust in Him. It’s an offer of life with purpose, in which we can know God personally, both now and for eternity.

Bobby Moore described receiving the World Cup from the Queen in 1966 as terrifying: ‘I noticed that the Queen was wearing some beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands and they were completely covered with mud’! Although we approach God with dirty and spoilt lives, by the cross and resurrection, we can shake hands with a holy God.

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.

www.goodshepherdashton.org

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We need a dream, God's dream

18 years ago in April 2000, South Africans were stunned by allegations that Hansie Cronje, captain of the national cricket team, had taken bribes to fix matches. The very idea that this national hero and role model would contemplate doing something dishonest and corrupt seemed incomprehensible. When some allegations were confirmed there was a real sense of national mourning. People asked: "If someone like Hansie Cronje can do this what hope is there for the rest of us?"



Cronje's response, when allegations were confirmed, was to blame the devil for making him accept bribes to fix results. South Africans saw this as an attempt by Cronje to evade responsibility for his actions. And they were right.

To say, "The devil made me do it," is to attempt to avoid facing our own internal demons. We are responsible for our own actions.

Just 9 months later in the winter of 2000/1, Ellen MacArthur came to prominence as one of our most outstanding sports-people. It surprised me that it was as long ago as March 2001 that the TV programme about her was shown. I guess that you probably cannot remember it. ... It was the story of her amazing journey round the Antarctic as part of the Vaunday Globe Race. I can remember my sense of disbelief at the stamina and commitment she showed, the difficulties that she faced and the obstacles that she overcame. Do you remember? ... the speed of the yacht, the height of the waves, the sight of her hanging by one arm from the mast 60ft above the deck in the middle of a storm, trying to mend wind-measuring equipment?

At one point, Ellen said that she had a dream which she didn't believe would ever become a reality. Yet, she said, with persistence she realised that dream. For Ellen, the chance to pit herself against the ultimate sailing challenge was the dream. Fulfilling the dream required wholehearted commitment to see it through, remaining true to herself and to the values she had embraced.

Successful people the world over will tell you that pursuing a dream, to be the best, requires commitment, application and stamina. They will tell you of the sheer slog of hard work involved, the guts and determination that it takes to be the best. And they will tell you too that the feeling which comes after success, the joy of holding that gold medal, the status that they achieve - makes all the hard work worthwhile. Their dream, their mission achieved, they have every right to feel proud.

In the Gospels we see Jesus being tempted. He is engaged in the sternest of tests of his commitment to his mission. The account in Mark is short. In Matthew and Luke we get

a much fuller account of the battle he fought. Satan tries, and fails, to turn Jesus away from God's plan. Satan offers Jesus the easy way out. Matthew and Luke talk of three different temptations.

Actually, it is really the same temptation in three different forms. The temptation to set aside God's plan for his life - to put the dream on hold. A temptation that Hansie Cronje could not handle, a temptation that Ellen MacArthur faced and overcame.

Jesus is first tempted to put himself first - to change stones into bread. He is tempted to grasp power for himself rather than bring in God's Kingdom. And Satan also tempts Jesus to look for the easy route to draw people to himself, to seek fame rather than suffering and death. To look for the instant, short-term solution, rather than face real and necessary struggles.



In each case, it's God's plan that Jesus chooses to follow - a path of self-denial that will lead through the cross to eventual resurrection. God's plan, God's dream, is the defeat of death and evil. Unlike Hansie Cronje, Jesus follows the dream, no matter the cost, much as Ellen MacArthur did. Jesus remains focussed on his dream, on God's dream.

So what is God's dream? ... What can we commit ourselves to wholeheartedly? ... Here are four clear challenges from the fuller stories of the temptations:

1. **Priorities:** Jesus was tempted to place physical need above spiritual, to live without trusting God, to turn stones into bread. ... We so easily base our security in our jobs, our homes and our money rather than in God. Might we begin again to experience God's provision for us, rather than just living off our own resources? So, here's the first challenge - to be prepared to make sacrifices in our lifestyle, to make serving God our priority.

Perhaps this Lent, rather than giving up chocolate we could do something different, perhaps we could try to engage with what it means to share in the pain and struggle others in our world face every day.

2. **Prayer:** In being tempted to turn stones into bread, Jesus was tempted to turn away from his relationship with God, to become self-reliant. How can we together, begin to show our reliance on God? By praying together and alone, by expressing together, our need of God's help. God can & does provide the resources we need to follow the dream. We need both to rely on God, & to be seen to do so.
3. **Persistence:** In Satan's encouragement to Jesus to throw himself off the temple, Jesus was tempted to look for the instant, the short term solution. To wow people into the kingdom, to impress with magic and illusion. We can so easily fall into the trap of looking for the stop-gap solution, the one that will only require a little effort now, not a long-term commitment. The easy option. ... God's call is to persistence,

to commitment, to seeing things through.



4. **Place God’s kingdom above personal advancement:** Satan tempted Jesus to worship him, and so to gain a position of power and influence. God wanted Jesus to walk the way of the cross. ... It is so easy, isn’t it to want others to see our commitment, our diligence. To want others to praise us. To want to take the lead. Whereas God, in the example of Jesus, is calling us to a path of humility and possibly even suffering, and if we are to be leaders, then it will be a great cost to ourselves.

Ellen MacArthur had a dream - she gave it her wholehearted commitment, she risked everything to achieve it. Hansie Cronje gave in to the temptations around him.

We need a dream, God’s dream, individually, as church communities and as a parish. We need to listen for God’s word, watch out for what God is doing and make that our dream. And if we really commit ourselves to that dream, it too, through God’s power and strength, can become a reality.

Roger

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Bishop’s Bill to put mothers’ names on marriage certificates passes first stage

A move to end the “historic injustice” of excluding mothers’ names from marriage certificates has passed its first parliamentary stage in a Private Members’ Bill brought by the Bishop of St Albans, Dr Alan Smith.

The bill, which also includes provision to modernise registration with electronic registers, received its Second Reading in the House of Lords.

In his speech, the Bishop described the origin of the present practice of naming only the father on marriage certificates as “archaic and unchanged since Victorian times, where children were seen as the father’s property, and little consideration was given to mothers' roles in raising children.”

Dr Smith continued: “As we approach the centenary of the Representation of the People Act, it is only right that we consider how existing legislation excludes or does not recognise the contributions made by women. This Bill allows for this important and symbolic change to be made.

“It’s important to note that this Bill would allow mothers’ names to be included when registering all marriages, not just those that take place in Church of England Churches.”



Ask, Seek and Knock

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it will be opened to you." (Luke 11:9)

Please choose one focus for each week of the month or pray for all of the following issues throughout the month, as you prefer. There is a prayer at the end to draw it all together if you're unsure how to start or finish your prayers.

This month:

- Please pray for our town centre here in Ashton. Pray that the businesses are prosperous and that people can find work to support their families. Pray also that the decision makers in the town make wise decisions with compassion for all.
- Pray that we be filled with joy as we move toward Easter and that God teaches us to follow the example of Jesus, to be worthy of being called one of his people: a Christ-ian. Pray that we live each day as he did, turning hatred to love and conflict to peace.
- Please pray for 5 friends, who are not Christians, to come to know Jesus. Pray for God's blessing to rest upon them. Commit to praying for them on a daily basis.
- Spend a moment to make a list of those that you know who are ill or in need of God's healing touch at this time. Please pray for God to heal them, take away pain, get rid of any illness and to bring them comfort.

Lord, we offer you our prayers. Hear us as we bring our concerns to you and help us to place them into your hands in confidence that you will hear us. Amen

Scouts Please!

3rd Ashton Scout Group are looking for
new members ages 10^{1/2}yrs 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



Events during Lent

Following the course "Live Lent – Let Your Light Shine"

12noon Mondays, St James Ashton - Lunch followed by discussion group

11.00am Tuesdays, St John Hurst - discussion group

4.30pm Wednesdays, Christ Church Ashton - Evensong



Friends of Ashton Parish Church Annual Lunch Thursday 22nd March

The Friends invite you to join them for this social event to be held at the
Broadoak Hotel, Broadoak Road, Ashton-under-Lyne
from 12-30pm for 1-00pm

Menu and Booking Form available from

Alan Bacon 0161 330 5829 or alanfbacon@yahoo.co.uk

Alan Bacon
Treasurer

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 on Thursdays



Bible Studies

Fr Jules' Bible Studies Group
meets every Thursday
7.00pm at St Michael's Church



Café Church at St James' Church

Wednesday 14th March
1.45pm

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



‘Spread the Word’ - an exciting new project!

You may recall that in last month’s magazine there was an article about the oldest bible returning to these shores for an exhibition in Sept of this year.

Written in Latin, the specifications of this bible are amazing..... Skins of 515 sheep; Weighing 35 kilos; 12 inches thick; 1030 pages. You wouldn’t want to take that off a library shelf and flick through it!

The Christian Bible is made up of a series of writings. 39 ‘books’ make up what we call the Old Testament and there are 27 in the New Testament. There were many, many contributors and, indeed, some books that were named as ‘gospels’ were not included in the bible we know today.

Lightening the Load - sharing it out (no fork lift truck needed!)

The community of John’s Hurst, together with other churches in the Ashton area, are embarking on a unique journey to re-discover the Bible - not asking people to read it all, but to share it out! If 39 people each sign up to, read and comment on one book in the Old Testament, then we can cover it! If this sounds dull and dry, you only need to ask some of the contributors to the project so far – their enthusiasm is amazing.

As someone commented, “I didn’t know anything about the books of the Old Testament really, so I was nervous about getting involved. What could I possibly be able to offer to someone picking up the book of Job and wanting to know what it contained? But I signed up for ‘Job’ and was issued with a book cover and an A4 sheet to record my comments on what I found - rather like doing a book review. I was asked to note 3 things:

Key facts:

My favourite bits:

Parts I found difficult:

What I discovered was that there are no right and wrong answers (and it didn’t take me very long) - I simply had to be brief and honest about what I read and share my findings which in turn might help others take that step. “



There will also be an exhibition of bibles, old and new - kindly lent by members of the congregation and community - different versions and some in their original languages of Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament). Have you got a version that could be displayed? It could be an heirloom, a bible picked up in a car boot sale or one with a moving story or history.



Please do get involved. If this first stage of the project is not for you, keep an eye on it as it develops. In time there will be something for everyone.....

If you would like more information, please contact me.

Wendy Diamond wendydiamond20@aol.com 07711370871

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Jeans instead of vestments?

Have you noticed any local clergy dressing more informally in recent months?

If so, there is a good reason for it: C of E clergy were given the go-ahead last year to choose whether or not to disregard their robes, and dress down for services, after a vote by General Synod.



That means that if the vicar wants to wear jeans when leading a service, the Church of England will no longer object. It is believed by some that such a change can help the Church by 'reflecting the way society has gone in the way of informality', according to one vicar.

Forsaken? Psalm 22

From Ash Wednesday, a new sculpture, ‘Forsaken? Psalm 22’ will be on exhibit in the Jesus Chapel of Manchester Cathedral.

This is the work of Manchester artist, Philip Wharton, who has recently had his sculpture, ‘sapling’ accepted for permanent display in St. Mary's College, home of the Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts, at the University of St Andrews, in Scotland. Philip’s work has won the hearts of visitors and worshippers at Manchester Cathedral since his work ‘faith on tap’ was exhibited here a few years ago.

Do come and see ‘Forsaken? Psalm 22’ and discover the meaning it has for you.



Mrs Cheryl Burke retires
after 27 years of service

Holy Trinity Primary School would like to announce that Mrs Cheryl Burke will be retiring at the end of February after 27 years of service to the school.

Mrs Burke was appointed by former Headteacher Ken Lee in 1991 to the position of School Bursar. She has seen her role change dramatically during that time but has taken it all in her stride. One thing that has not changed over the years, is her commitment to the staff, pupils and parents of Holy Trinity School.

She was invaluable to me when I started in 2010 and I know that she will be missed by the whole Holy Trinity family.



What is General Synod?

The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England. It came into being in 1970 under the Synodical Government Measure 1969, replacing an earlier body known as the Church Assembly.

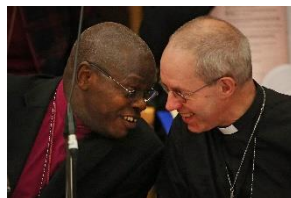
The General Synod considers and approves legislation affecting the whole of the Church of England, formulates new forms of worship, debates matters of national and international importance, and approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level.

Houses of the General Synod

There are 483 members of General Synod. Members are arranged into 3 Houses:

The House of Bishops

Diocesan Bishops, along with a few Suffragan or Assistant Bishops, make up the House of Bishops. The House also regularly meets separately from the Synod to discuss issues of episcopal ministry, mission and national issues affecting the Church of England.



The House of Clergy

The House of Clergy is made up of 2 Houses - the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury and the Lower House of the Convocation of York joined into one House. It consists of clergy (other than bishops) who have been elected, appointed or chosen in accordance with Canon H 2 and the rules made under it (including deans, proctors from the dioceses, forces and university constituencies, and clerical members of religious communities) together with ex officio members and up to five co-opted members.

Joint Chairs of the House of Clergy

The Revd Canon Simon Butler (Southwark) - *Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of Canterbury*

The Ven Cherry Vann (Manchester) - *Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of York*

The House of Laity

The House of Laity consists of members from each diocese of the two Provinces (Canterbury and York) elected by lay members of the deanery synods (or annual meetings of the chaplaincies in the case of the Diocese in Europe) or chosen by and from the lay members of religious communities, together with ex officio members.

Saint for the month - 17th March

St Patrick – beloved apostle to Ireland

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.



Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh, and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

What the teacher says and what the teacher means....

If you have ever wondered what the teachers really think of your child, you may enjoy these snippets from real reports....and the thought behind them!



James has a remarkable ability in gathering needed information from his classmates. (He was caught cheating on an exam.)

Fantastic imagination! (He's one of the biggest liars I have ever met.)

Margie exhibits a relaxed attitude to school, indicating that high expectations don't intimidate her. (The lazy thing hasn't done one assignment all term.)

Sue is a real athlete, with superior hand-eye coordination. (She stung me with a rubber band from 15 feet away.)

Nick thrives on interaction with his peers. (Your son never shuts up.)

Nancy's greatest asset is demonstrative public discussions. (Every time I give an assignment, she responds by sparking a classroom argument over it.)

John enjoys the thrill of engaging challenges with his peers. (He's an incorrigible bully.)

Jane is an adventurous nature lover, who rarely misses opportunities to explore new territory. (Your daughter skipped class and nearly drowned trying to catch wriggly things in the school pond.)

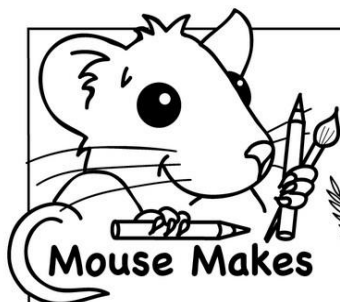


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A Palm Sunday devotion  
for congregation and augmented choir

6.30pm Palm Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March  
at St Michael's and All Angels Church  
Church Street, Ashton-u-Lyne



## Journey to the Cross

Read the Bible - find the answers



**READ Matthew 21:1-11**

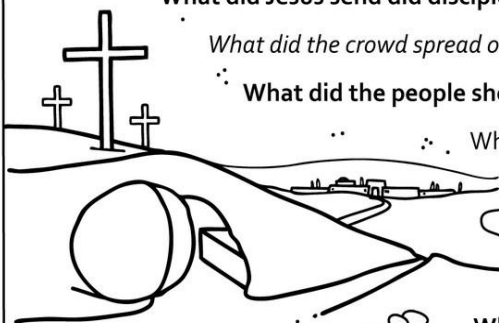
Where did Jesus stop on his journey? vs 1

What did Jesus send his disciples to get? vs 2

What did the crowd spread on the road in front of Jesus? vs 8

What did the people shout? vs 9

What city was Jesus going to? vs 10



**READ Matthew 26:17-75**

What festival did the disciples celebrate? vs 17

Which disciple denied Jesus? vs 34

Which disciple betrayed Jesus? vs 47

**READ Matthew 27**

When Jesus was taken to be crucified, what did the soldiers put on him? vs 28-29

What time did Jesus die? vs 45

Whose tomb was Jesus buried in? vs 57

**READ Matthew 28**

On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb? vs 2

What had happened to Jesus? vs 6,7



## Book Review - Paul: A Biography

By Tom Wright, SPCK, £13.99

One of the world's leading New Testament scholars here tells the story behind the story, the story of the Apostle Paul, whose letters have shaped so much of world history. Tom Wright has drawn on his own decades of acquaintance with Paul, as well as on other Pauline scholarship.

This really excellent book not only brings Paul to life, but then places that life in the complex and overlapping array of Jewish and non-Jewish communities, all set within the Roman empire. The result provides such a helpful picture, both of Paul and of the early Christian communities of which he was so significant a founder and shaper.



### So you think English is easy? Read on....

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 4) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 5) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 6) A sea bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 7) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 8) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 9) Going out after having done some sewing, a sewer fell into a sewer.
- 10) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.

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March 2018 - Parish Sunday Services

3rd Sunday of Lent Sunday 4 th March	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion + Baptism
	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am	St Peter	Morning Prayer + Baptism
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion + Baptism

4th Sunday of Lent Sunday 11 th March Mothering Sunday	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St. Gabriel	All Age Service of The Word
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday Afternoon

5th Sunday of Lent Sunday 18 th March	9.30am	St. James	Family Communion
	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion

Palm Sunday Sunday 25 th March	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Gabriel	All Age Service of The Word
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday Afternoon

Regular Weekday Services

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 February registers



Baptisms:

We give thanks with the family of:

Reian Ballaboni

Malvina Ballaboni

Klea Ballaboni

Weddings:

There were no weddings in February:

Funerals:

There were no funerals in February.

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A prayer by St Patrick against the temptations of the world

I rise today with :

The power of God to guide me,
The might of God to uphold me,
The wisdom of God to teach me,
The eye of God to watch over me,
The ear of God to hear me,

The word of God to give me speech,
The hand of God to protect me,
The path of God to lie before me,
The shield of God to shelter me,
The host of God to defend Me.

Against the snares of the devil and the temptations of the world,
Against every man who meditates injury to me,
Whether far or near.

+++++



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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

Fr Jules Mambu, Team Curate (*Mon)
35 Palace Road, Ashton OL6 8HJ 07897 697503

Revd Ben Brady, Team Curate (*Fri)
2 Ryecroft Street, Ashton OL7 0BL 285 1382

Items for the Magazine:

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



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The Parish of the Good Shepherd, Ashton-under-Lyne
is a Fair Trade Parish. Our churches have promised to serve only
Fairly Traded Tea and Coffee and to work for justice for the world's poor

