



Holy Trinity



St.
Gabriel

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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels



NOVEMBER 2021

Price 50p

Editorial

This month sees the eagerly anticipated COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. As Christians, we need to hold together two key insights, if we are to engage with the challenge of climate change: *The world is not ours:*

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! If we understand this, we will rediscover the responsibility of our calling to care for God's world: *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'* (Genesis 2:15). This challenges our consumer mindset, that says the resources of the earth are both limitless and exist for our pleasure. As well as caring for the planet, we also need to care for its people, for it's the poorest who will suffer the most from climate change. According to the World Bank, 100 million could fall into poverty by 2030. We cannot properly address the climate crisis until we re-learn our place in God's world!

We belong to Christ:

We also belong to the one in whom: *'all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.'* (Colossians 1:16). We can look forward to the climax of history when God will restore the broken world and make everything new. We are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth, as we share in this hope. We are called to love God and neighbour, and care for the planet by living simply, recycling, conserving energy and choosing reusable options.

However great the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage in it with faith and not with fatalism!

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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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Alleluia! Alleluia!



No sun - no moon!
No morn - no noon
No dawn - no dusk - no proper time
of day.
No warmth, no cheerfulness, no
healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member
No shade, no shine, no butterflies,
no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no
birds!
November

Poor November! If we took
Thomas Hood's poem at face value,
it might well feel like a bit of a
nothing month!

Perhaps William How was thinking
about how miserable November can
sometimes feel when he gave us
that most wonderful and gloriously
uplifting hymn, "For All the Saints",
which we sing to celebrate All
Saints Day on the 1st of November,
the day when we honour all the
Saints and martyrs who dedicated
their lives to Christianity.

William Walsham How (1823 - 1897)
was the son of a solicitor and he
attended Wadham College in
Oxford. He was ordained into the
Church of England in 1846, serving
as a Curate in Kidderminster, then

in Shrewsbury.
He later became
the Rector at
Whittingham near the Welsh
border and, in 1879, he was
appointed the suffragan Bishop of
London. In 1889 he became the
Bishop of Wakefield. He was
chiefly known for his work with the
poor and with industrial workers and
was called "the children's bishop"
for his work with children. During
his ministry he also found time to
write over 50 hymns, most of them
whilst he was serving in the Parish
of Whittington, which is not that
far from Telford where Roger and
Jo will be moving to in December.
His skill as a prolific and talented
hymn writer was recognised when he
was invited to compose the text for
a hymn to celebrate the Diamond
Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

"For all the Saints" was first
published in Horatio Nelson's
"Hymns for Saints' Days and other
Hymns". The phrase "A Cloud of
Witnesses" was used as its title in
the hymnal. Interestingly, this
phrase is from Saint Paul's letter to
the Hebrews in which Paul
described "a great cloud of
witnesses" which surrounds us as we
"run the race that is set before us",

the theme that Bishop Nigel used for his perambulation round Manchester Diocese during his time with us.

The hymn was specifically written as a processional hymn. There is a strong and definite beat to the music, which was written by the classical English composer Ralph Vaughn Williams. There were eleven verses, with the rousing call of "Alleluia! Alleluia!" at the end of each one. Sadly (I think), hymn books today only include 5 verses.

Vaughan Williams called his tune "Sine Nomine", the Latin for "without a name", which links to the lectionary reading for the Feast of All Saints". The reading, which in many ways looks ahead to Remembrance Sunday on November 11th, says "And there were some who have no memorial, who have perished as though they had not lived; they have become as though they had not been born, and so have their children after them" (Ecclesiasticus 44).

The words of "For all the Saints" is a vision of the Church Militant and the Church Triumphant. It certainly paints a vivid picture in our minds as we sing it! We begin by celebrating the Saints, triumphant from their toil, in

Heaven. We are reassured that God is our "Rock", our "fortress", our "Captain" and our "one true light" in all that we face as Christians and, finally, we come to the Church militant as the magnificent vision of the "countless host" , of which we will be a part, streaming in to Heaven through "gates of pearl", to join with the singing of the Saints to our triune majesty that is God.

You may have realised by now that this is probably my favourite hymn. I really believe that hymns should be meaningful as part of our faith journey and this hymn certainly does that for me. Hymns should speak to us about what we believe and reinforce our relationship with God - the words of hymns can infiltrate our thoughts when we are struggling and they can give us strength and they can help us recognise and express the joy that we can find in our faith. They are an important part of our personal liturgy, there to draw on whenever we need that reassurance and hope that we turn to God to find.

Whether it's your favourite hymn or not, I hope that, like me, you're marching around the house, singing it at the top of your voices right now!

Revd Pat Lodge

THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR

In 2020 a centenary slipped by, which commemorated the laying to rest of the unidentified soldier known as the UNKNOWN WARRIOR by King George V on 11th November 1920 in Westminster Abbey. A congregation of one million people gathered to pay their respects to this member of the armed forces.

The grave of the unknown warrior lies just inside the west entrance of Westminster Abbey and can be viewed as you enter the Abbey, always worth a visit if you are visiting London. The epitaph on the Unknown Warrior's grave is shown below and is very apt for remembering the fallen on this year's Remembrance Sunday.

Beneath this Stone rest the body
of a British Warrior
Unknown by name or rank
Brought from France to lie among
the most illustrious of the land
And buried here on Armistice Day
11 Nov 1920 in the presence of
His Majesty King George V
His Ministers of State
The Chiefs of his forces
And a vast concourse of the Nation
Thus are commemorated the many
Multitudes who during the Great
War of 1914-1918 gave their most that
Man can give, Life itself
for God
For King and Country
For loved ones Home and Empire
For the sacred cause of justice and
The Freedom of the World
They buried Him among Kings
Because he had done Good
Toward God and Toward
His house.

Derek Casey – 3rd Ashton Scouts

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
14TH NOVEMBER 2021



St Michael's Church

Service begins 9.45am

Led by Revd Daniel Ramble

Area Dean of Oldham & Ashton

followed by

**11.00pm Civic Wreath Laying
Ceremony at**

Ashton War Memorial

St Gabriel's Church

Service begins at 10.15am

followed by

**11.00am Civic Wreath Laying
Ceremony at**

Cockbrook War Memorial

St Peter's Church

Service begins 10.45am

followed by

**11.00pm Act of Remembrance
with The Last Post by members of
the Brigade and a cascade of
Poppy Petals to commence our
one minute silence**

St James' Church

Service begins at 10.30am

**including an Act of Remembrance
at 11.00am**

**4.00pm St James on Sunday
Afternoon**

including an Act of Remembrance

November Services

We are still asking people to wear masks and to maintain social distancing and all government safety advice. It may be necessary to change or cancel any of these services at short notice should government or local guidance change.

Please check our weekly sheets or with your wardens for up-to-date information.

Please note that those who are extremely clinically vulnerable/shielding, or who have symptoms of a continuous cough or a high temperature or loss of or change to sense of smell or taste, should not attend church.

3rd Sunday before Advent	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 7 th November	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion
2nd Sunday before Advent	9.45am	St Michael	Service of Remembrance
Sunday 14 th November	10.15am	St Gabriel	Service of Remembrance
Remembrance Sunday	10.30am	St James	Service of Remembrance
** See page 6	10.45am	St Peter	Service of Remembrance
	4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday Afternoon with Act of Remembrance
Sunday before Advent	9.30am	St. James	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st November	9.30am	St Gabriel	Morning Prayer
Christ the King	11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St. Michael	Morning Prayer
Advent Sunday	9.30am	St James	Morning Prayer
Sunday 28 th November	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Morning Prayer
	4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday Afternoon

Thursdays – Holy Trinity 3.30pm

4 th and 18 th November	Holy Communion
11 th and 25 th November	Evening Prayer

Please be aware of the need to maintain social distancing and wear your mask in church unless you are exempt from doing so.

We shall continue to send out, either by post or email, a weekly sheet containing prayers and readings for each Sunday and the readings for the following week.

Should we have faith in science?



Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

How do you feel about science after more than 18 months of pandemic: tired or interested, impressed or cynical – or a bit of everything? The response to COVID-19 has demonstrated how ideology or worldview are hugely influential in our interpretation and use of scientific data – and at times in the process of experimentation itself. Should we trial a vaccine in Spain or South Africa? Is this treatment safe enough to administer to the general public? Should vaccination be made compulsory? The data don't tell us what to do.

So, when we are encouraged to 'trust the science' in our ongoing response to the pandemic, or in the run-up to the COP26 UN climate change conference, how can the Church respond? The whole biblical story affirms that God is the only one in whom we can have complete faith. On the other hand, I do put a certain amount of trust in other things. I can have faith in a plane, a body of knowledge, or a person. This trust is within limits because I know that air travel involves hazards, a body of knowledge will contain some mistakes, and every ordinary human is fallible.

I trust science to some extent because it involves careful observation and measurement, collecting different kinds of evidence. Data is interpreted, and competing interpretations are tried out. We summarise our findings in general principles or mathematical equations. Scientists keep each other accountable by looking critically at each other's work. Our knowledge is always provisional. You can't prove anything scientifically because we only deal in evidence, not proof.

On the other hand, there must always be the potential to disprove a theory or it's not science. Our aim is to keep getting nearer to the truth about the way the world is. Overall, I believe this method is reliable and worth supporting, but that only God is completely trustworthy.

Psalm Eight reminds us both of the splendour of God's creation, and that He has placed us in a position of responsibility over it. Scientific knowledge can be part of what helps us to rule well. The process of doing science can be a bit like a blurry image coming into focus. The more we learn, the better we can usually see what's going on, and hopefully the easier it is to decide on a course of action. So in answer to the question 'Should we have faith in science?' I would say yes, when used wisely and within its proper limits.

Remembrance

Have you seen the film *'Saving Private Ryan'*? The first 20 minutes of the film is a powerful account of war, portraying the first landing crafts arriving at the Normandy beaches on D Day. The film successfully brings to life the events of that day, as a vivid act of remembrance.

From a biblical perspective, the word *remembrance* means making present a past reality, so that we can benefit from it today. On Remembrance Sunday we think about those who have given their lives in wars over the years, as well as those who continue to grieve over their lost loved ones. We want to make their sacrifice in past conflicts real for us today, so that we can engage with the horror of war and those enduring suffering today.

It involves dealing with the *why* question in the face of relentless tragedies and injustices: *why does God allow such suffering to take place?* One of the great themes of the Scriptures is that God identifies with the suffering. But the Christian faith goes beyond this! It affirms that in Jesus, God's Son, divinity became involved in suffering and death on the cross. It is at Calvary that we



see how God Himself knows what it is to lose a loved one in an unprovoked attack. *'I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the Cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?'* (John Stott).

Although we don't fully understand the reason why God allows evil and suffering to continue, we do know what the reason isn't! It can't be that He doesn't love us! God so loved us and hates suffering that He was willing to come down and get involved in our hurting world. This can be a source of real strength on such an occasion.

However, how can we ensure that those who have given their lives are truly honoured, not forgetting those who are risking their lives in conflicts today? An appropriate response is to actively work and pray for justice in our world, especially where there is inequality and conflict. In a divided world we are also called to renew our efforts to work for peace.

We need to be serious about being peacemakers, especially where it involves those close to us. As Jesus said, *'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God'* (Matt 5:9).



Choral Evensong
6.30pm Sunday 7th November
St Michael's Church



St Gabriel's
Christmas Market



Sunday 21st November
11.30 – 2.00

- ❄ Lots of stalls to get ahead with your Christmas shopping
- ❄ Home-cooked food and drinks
- ❄ Raffle with amazing prizes

Everybody Welcome!



Working together to keep each other Covid-safe
 St Gabriel's Church, Beaufort Rd, Ashton
 (opposite San Rocco Restaurant)



*Stalls are £12 - Please call Sandra ASAP if you would like one
 to see if there are any still available*

St James Church

Christmas Fair

Saturday 13th November

Lots of stalls, prizes, hot food & drinks and fun!



Christingle Service
 8th December 7.00pm

Brass Band Concert
 10th December 7.00pm
 Tickets on sale November



Look what's on at St Gabriel's Church!

Mondays 9.30am-12.00

Place of Welcome

We meet every week for tea & coffee, toast and cake and the chance to chat. With activities such as bingo, beetle drives, word puzzles, hand massage and yoga/meditation there is something for anybody who may be feeling lonely or socially isolated.



For more information please contact:

Sandra on 07740 766687 or Sheila on 07880 936411

Monday 6.30pm-8.00pm

16th Ashton Brownies and Rainbows

Please contact Sharon Oldham on 07795 957114 for details



Tuesday 8.00pm-9.00pm

Belly-Dancing Class

For ladies of any age, fun and great exercise!

Contact Linda Revill on 0161 339 6063 for more details

Wednesday 10.30am-11.30am

Sweaty Mama

A post-natal exercise class for mums and their babies.

Contact Kim for more details on 07450 525791



Wednesday 6.00pm-7.15pm Exercise and Fitness Class

All round workout to music for all ability levels

For more info please call Julia on 07922 756844

Thursdays and Saturdays - various times

Baker School of Dance

Dance classes for children of all ages.

Please call Christine on 07795 032249 for more details

St Gabriel's Church Hall is available for private hire at only £10 per hour and includes kitchen, accessible toilet facilities, tables, chairs and other equipment as required - please contact Sandra on 07740 766687 for details and availability.

Prison Ministry



Do you have a heart for prison ministry or would like to find out more about this life-changing work?

Prison Fellowship (PF) is a volunteer-driven Christian Charity. We, through our 3000+ volunteers, have a mission to show Christ's love to prisoners by coming alongside them to change. Prison Fellowship values the support of local churches. Without the partnership of the local church standing with us in prayer, practical action and financial support, we could not reach and change the lives of so many prisoners. There are a staggering 84,000+ prisoners in England and Wales, and Prison Fellowship aims to have a meaningful presence in every prison.

PF will offer free training and reasonable travel expenses. Would you be willing to share with your community/Congregation this need and ask that if anyone is interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity to contact me. We offer free training and support and you would be connected to a local group and will be working as part of a team.

Stephen Hawkins

stephenhawkins@prisonfellowship.org.uk

Beavers Are Back!

3rd Ashton Beavers at St James' Church - Mondays 6.00pm to 7.00pm

6 years to 8 years old. If you would like more information

please contact Tina on 0741 1773336

Life in Outer Space

“I do not know if there is life on other planets, but I'm a person who hopes there is life on other planets. As a person of faith, I think God has a huge amount of creativity. What we know is we are so far from understanding everything about the universe that the possibilities are endless.”

The Revd Pamela Conrad, astro-biologist for NASA and priest in the Episcopal Church, based in Maryland, talking to Church Times.

Fate or God's Will?

So many good and bad things happen in our lives, be it our fault or not. All our behaviour is circumstantial – hungry, thirsty, tired, weary – we eat, drink, sleep, rest etc. So basically we are all on auto-pilot.

Which is why it can be so difficult to deny ourselves and follow Jesus. Yes, he was a human being but he was also divine, God's only Son.

We will never be completely Christ-like because Jesus is sinless, we are sinful. So, basically, all we can do is try to be as sinless as we possibly can be each day and be more Christ-like to some degree, removing as much dross as we can – the dross being our sinful nature.



The more we self-improve, the more God can use us.

God bless us all.

Barry Bowden



Smile Lines

Stewardship

Our church launched a new Stewardship Campaign, which instead of holding a series of events, decided to focus entirely on one big fund-raising event. The evening became known as "putting all our begs into one askit."

Ketchup

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the bottle. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her four-year old daughter to answer it.

"It's the minister, Mum," the child said to her mother. Then she told her caller: "Mummy can't come to the phone right now. She's hitting the bottle."

Hold her hand

While out in the town, I saw an elderly couple holding hands while they were walking. As they approached, I commented on how romantic it was. The man replied, "We have been holding hands when we go out in public for over 30 years. I have to. If I let go, she shops."

Parish Notices

From the October registers:

Wedding

We rejoice with the family and friends of:
Leam Cave and Rachel Edwards

Funerals

We pray for the family and friends of:
Andrew Ryan

There were no baptisms in October

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Free national phonenumber bringing worship and prayer

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, recently launched a free national phonenumber to bring worship and prayer into the homes of those without access to the internet.

Daily Hope, which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England.



CONTACT DETAILS

CLERGY: (*usual day off)

Revd Roger Farnworth, Team Rector (*Tues.)

The Vicarage, Westbury Street, Ashton OL6 9NL

330 2771

Revd Sheila Cant, Associate Priest

336 1566

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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

