



Holy Trinity



St.  
Gabriel

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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Price 50p**

## Editorial

Sunday 5th September is being designated Climate Sunday, ahead of the UN's climate change conference, COP26, in Glasgow during November. How should we approach the challenge of climate change?

*We have damaged God's creation:* God delights in His creation: '*God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.*' (Genesis 1:31). However, we have damaged this world and impacted people, created in His image. The burning of oil or gas and cutting down forests is increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. The global average temperature could increase by 1.5°C in 2030, resulting in significant damage to our planet. Already, increasing temperatures are melting ice caps, raising sea-levels, changing rainfall patterns and creating extreme climate events. It's the 70% of the world's poorest population who are being impacted most!

*Hope is found in Jesus:* He has an intimate knowledge of the workings of creation. '*For in Him 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. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*' (Colossians 1:16,17). Our hope for the future lies in what Jesus has done and continues to do in the world. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion.

*An invitation to respond:* Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving and changes in our lifestyle and diet to help the planet. We can fix our eyes on Jesus, as we pray for our world for our world leaders, gathering in Glasgow, asking that they may reach a good agreement for the future of our world.

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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](http://www.goodshepherdashton.org)

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# New Beginnings



It doesn't matter how old I get, September still means **new** school term, **new** teachers, **new** classmates, **new** things to learn. Will the school uniform still fit? My school duffle coat lasted 5 years, well past my knees in first year and mini skirt by fifth year, but it was still great at keeping me warm and dry.

A nostalgic memory for me from primary school is daily assembly and singing:

**New** every morning is the love  
our wakening and uprising prove;  
through sleep and darkness safely brought,  
restored to life and power and thought.

**New** mercies, each returning day,  
hover around us while we pray;  
**new** perils past, **new** sins forgiven,  
**new** thoughts of God, **new** hopes of heaven.

A wonderful way to start each **new** day, with the promise of Gods unending and unconditional love, encouraging us in our **new** adventures and challenges. I wonder what **new** things September will bring this year and how can we find **new** energy and enthusiasm to do it all again? Maybe with God's help we will.

We have faced many difficulties in the last 18 months with lockdown, social distancing, hand sanitizing, the loss of loved ones to Covid-19, vaccinations, and zoom church services along with all the usual stuff of life. When and if can we return to normal and was normal ok anyway?

Recent months have shone a light on all that was unjust, unequal, divisive, and drawn attention to widespread poverty, lack of peace and mental

health issues. We continue to live with Coronavirus as part of life and so we begin to establish a '**new normal**' prayerfully addressing the issues with the old normal. Lockdown taught us much about caring for our neighbours, we pray that this will not be a five-minute wonder but part of our **new** normal life.

Jesus shared his mission:

God's Spirit is on me;  
he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor,  
Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and  
recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set the burdened and battered free,  
to announce, "This is God's time to shine!"  
(Luke 4:18-19 The Message)

*Some things within our grasp:*

Returning to face-to-face church services, with singing and full Holy Communion for all, being mindful of the continuing anxieties about the virus and being considerate for each other with masks and space. Finding **new** ways, times, and places to worship. Do you have any thoughts and ideas?

Praying that the school students will be able to return to full education in class with face-to-face teaching and all the experiences of hands-on learning. What will happen to exams for those at secondary school, college, and university: will the **new** method of grading by teachers be adopted permanently?

Restarting of Places of Welcome, The Bread-and-Butter Thing, and all the church activities and community events that can resume in our church buildings. As well as continuing to provide worship at home for those who are still hesitant about coming back into social situations.

Even if we feel like we are doing the same old thing, try looking at it from a different perspective and maybe see and do something **new**? Do you remember when September meant enrolling on evening classes to learn something **new** to help our jobs, or as a **new** hobby. Shining a light into familiar place or situation will reveal **new** things. I love lighthouses as they

remind me that Christ's light shines everywhere and the darkness does not overcome it (John 1:5). As a young friend of mine said *We are Christ's light switch and we shine in the world for everyone* – we are powered by God's love and wisdom.



But how do we cope with the **new** global world – climate change with wildfires, flooding, earthquakes, and droughts. The loss of freedom in Afghanistan with the coup by the Taliban forces, and the injustice in many areas of the world.

These issues are too big for us to tackle on our own but as Christians we can pray and share Jesus' counter cultural view of the world and his mission. Start small in our own community care for our neighbours, share Jesus good news through word and action, care for the planet by recycling our rubbish, using less water and energy, walking instead of taking the car. What **new** ways can you think of?

As we walk hesitantly into this **new** world revisit the words of the hymn quoted earlier "**New** every morning is the love" and use these words of Jesus a guidance:

"A **new command** I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13: 34 )

Rev'd Sheila Cant

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## St Michael's Open Days

St Michael's historic church will be open for Heritage Weekend on  
Friday September 10th and Saturday 11th September  
Information and guided tours

# September 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.*

<b>14th Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am	St James	Morning Prayer
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	9.30am	St Gabriel	Family Worship
	11.00am	St Peter	Morning Prayer
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday Afternoon
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am	St. James	Family Communion
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St. Michael	Morning Prayer
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday Afternoon

## Thursdays – Holy Trinity 3.30pm

2 <sup>nd</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion
9 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> September	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.

## 3rd Ashton-under-Lyne (St. James') Scout Group News

In March of this year, the Scout Association gave permission for Scout Groups to open and recommence their scout meetings.

The Scout Association recommended that wherever and whenever possible, meetings should take place outdoors in the open air, the Group at St. James' was in a good position in the sense that the group could meet outside on the church lawns, the only drawback being the length of the grass that had grown during the lockdown which wasn't compatible with the scouting programme. However, a section of the south lawn was mown over the Easter weekend and on Monday/Tuesday 12th/13th April the three sections of the 3rd Ashton Scout Group came together and started their scouting programme. **Scouting was back!!**

The Scout Group then decided to take the "bull by the horns" and went and purchased a suitable lawnmower, a strimmer, and an extension lead. Before purchasing the said items, James, one of the scout leaders, had already volunteered to cut the lawns in his own time being aided and abetted by Mark Howarth.

A second more complete mowing of the south-facing lawn was done on the same

evening prior to the group's AGM taking place, and it must be said that not

only did James and Mark mow the lawn but sweated blood doing so, they were profusely thanked at the end of the meeting. Further mowings have taken place with even the **GSL** wielding the strimmer in no uncertain manner and was joined by cubs Amelia and Olivia who cut down the thicker weeds



with secateurs and then cleared up any rubbish which was lying about, they then joined other members of the cub pack and helped clear away a mountain of grass cuttings which they carried to a more convenient spot to hide them from view, it was jolly hard work, certainly in the heat and the cubs efforts were admired by the GSL and Leaders who thanked them, and said they were very proud of them.

Though the Scout Group has purchased the mowing equipment it will be kept in the church, since the Scout Group is cheerfully taking on the task of mowing the church lawns as and when required since they feel they are not only contributing to the wellbeing of the church but also supporting the local community.

There is no doubt about it, with the mown lawns around the church, the ambiance is there for all to see, and projects the church in a much more enlightened way and makes it pleasurable for people and activities to take place inside the church as well as outside on the mown lawns.

**This was a truly Baden Powell moment of helping  
the parish of St. James'.**

*Tina Howarth - Group Scout Leader*





# ***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.

## Our Diocesan mission goals of **Growing, Nurturing and Serving,**

Manchester Diocese has a strong commitment to discipleship and evangelism within the context of nurturing. We recognise that our lay people spend most of their time at work, home or community, as opposed to being in church on Sunday. Therefore, we want to affirm the value of their work beyond church life.

Our aim is to help all of us to grow in confidence as those who follow Jesus in God's world by:

- Forming and equipping lay people to follow Jesus confidently in every sphere of life in ways that demonstrate the Gospel.
- Enabling laity and clergy to minister together, based on their baptismal mutuality, equal in worth and status, complementary in gifting and vocation, mutually accountable in discipleship, and equal partners in mission.

We believe these changes would represent a seismic revolution in the health and vibrancy of our people and our churches. They are important in their own terms, but we also believe they are essential to creating confident Christian communities equipped to live out their faith, from which appropriate faith sharing will develop.

To achieve these aims, we are:

- Working with a national initiative called Setting God's People Free. In Manchester we are calling this **#MoreThanSunday**, building on the work that has already been developed in our **Year of Discipleship**. There are ten pilot projects (eight parishes, one chaplaincy and a school) looking at how they can develop Seven Shifts in their lives that can change their culture. **Learning from the pilots** will be cascaded across the diocese.
- Working closely with our colleagues in Education so that our work dovetails with the Growing Faith initiative.
- Developing a relational approach to evangelism, not focused on programmes or missions, but growing naturally from a deeper understanding and confidence in whole life discipleship. We are also creating a toolbox of evangelism resources such as Alpha, Pilgrim, etc.

- Devising a new Mission & Evangelism course as part of our lay training. Continuing to develop lay ministry, in particular the Foundations for Ministry course and the vocation of Authorised Lay Ministry.
- Creating discipleship resources for congregations, building on experience of #MoreThanSunday.
- Supporting and growing the essential ministry of Readers and the work of the Vocations Team.



## Forgiveness

Man 1 - a British Officer

Man 2 - a Japanese Officer

The film, *The Railway Man*, is about the harsh and cruel treatment in the Japanese POW camps, including building a railroad.

A few years later, Man 1 visited the camp, now a war museum. Man 2 was a tourist guide. Man 1 was very angry with Man 2, who was now genuinely sorry for what had happened.

A few months later, Man 1 received an invitation to meet again. Without anger, they talked about man's inhumanity to man, resulting in crying and hugging each other - Man 2 still genuinely sorry and Man 1 saying it was time to forgive.

For the rest of their lives they corresponded and saw each other occasionally, becoming the best of friends until they died within a few months of each other.

God bless us all

Barry Bowden

PS: It is not impossible to forgive, but when we cannot, we have to let God do so for us.

## 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 07411773336

## 29<sup>th</sup> September: Michael and All Angels



St Michael is an archangel, whose name means ‘who is like unto God?’ He makes various appearances throughout the Bible, from the book of Daniel to the Book of Revelation. In Daniel, he is ‘one of the princes’ of the heavenly host, and the special guardian of Israel. In Revelation, he is the principal fighter of the heavenly battle against the devil.

From early times, St Michael’s cult was strong in the British Isles. Churches at Malmesbury (Wiltshire), Clive (Gloucestershire) and Stanmer (East Sussex) were dedicated to him. Bede mentions him. St Michael’s Mount in Cornwall was believed to commemorate a vision there in the 8th century. By the end of the Middle Ages, St Michael had 686 English churches dedicated to him.

In art St Michael is often depicted as slaying the dragon, as in the 14th century East Anglican Psalters, or in Epstein’s famous sculpture at Coventry cathedral. Or he is found (in medieval art) as weighing souls, as at Chaldon (Surrey), Swalcliffe (Oxon.), Eaton Bishop (Hereford and Worcester), and Martham in Suffolk. St Michael’s most famous shrine in western Europe is Mont-Saint-Michel, where a Benedictine abbey was founded in the 10th century.

The ‘All Angels’ bit of this feast-day was added in 1969 when Gabriel and Raphael were included in with St Michael.

## ***The Parable of the Sower***

This month we are looking at the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-20). It's the story of a farmer who sowed his seed in different type of soils. These represent the different responses of the heart to God's Word (v15-20):

1) *The hard heart: 'like seed along the path...as soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.'* (15). Some people, when they hear the message, get distracted eg social media, work or relationships. Personal priorities prevent them from hearing God.

2) *The shallow heart: 'like seed sown on rocky places...since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.'* (16,17). These are the people whose heart isn't open to the message. When things become uncomfortable or discouraging, they are ready to quit.

3) *The crowded heart: 'like seed sown among thorns...but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.'* (18,19). This soil is most relevant for us today. People crave status, comfort, security and personal desires alongside the things of God. It's a heart that is worried about life getting out of control!

4) *The open heart: 'like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop – some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was own.'* (20).

This represents the open heart that listens and accepts Jesus's word, and is ready to follow Him however difficult things become.

What kind of soil is our heart? Are we hard, shallow, crowded or open? Do we have a heart of faith to follow Jesus in every aspect of our lives?



# Parish Notices

From the August registers:

## Baptisms

We rejoice with the family and friends of:  
Rory Michael Horridge      Louis James Cheetham      Olivia Rose Duffy

## Funerals

We pray for the family and friends of:  
Amanda Elizabeth Selby

*There were no weddings in August*

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## Free national phoneline bringing worship and prayer

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, recently launched a free national phoneline 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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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

