



Holy Trinity



St.  
Gabriel

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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

**April 2018**

**Price 50p**

## Editorial

This month starts with Easter, which is a lovely thought. Whatever else, Easter speaks of new life, of fresh starts and the return of hope.

The whole traditional story is about darkness defeated by a light which can never be extinguished. That's why, in our hemisphere, Easter seems to fit in well with the changing season. Fresh flowers in the graveyard match the Easter hymns inside the church: The Lord of life is risen today/ Bring flowers of song to strew his way'.

It's a strange fact that all through the long history of mankind, despite the evidence of our eyes, people have stubbornly refused to believe that death is the end. They buried their dead with food and implements they would need in the next life, whatever name they gave it - Valhalla, the Elysian Fields, Abraham's Bosom or Nirvana. Jesus called it 'the kingdom of heaven' or 'eternal life'. The very idea of heaven is beyond our comprehension, because we can't image a life not lived in our familiar dimensions of space, time and physicality. But God lives beyond time and space, and Jesus said He is 'Spirit'.

It's good that there are some things to believe in which we cannot possibly understand now. Although one day, St Paul said, we shall. Until then we trust, and Easter hymns and flowers are signs of the annual return of hope.

***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.

## ***Hallelujah!***

Hallelujah indeed! It's April! The days are longer, the Spring flowers are nodding gently in a softer breeze, the birds are singing, the sunshine feels just a tad warmer and there is much more optimism in the air. We can actually look forward to the warmer days of summer, getting out in the garden more, planning holidays, cleaning down the barbeque - and I'm sure that people smile just a little more readily!

And, of course, it's Easter! Even for people who don't have a faith, Easter seems to mark a turning point in the year, I think. It may be just that the long, dark, depressing days of winter feel finally over and they can look forward to something better. Or it may be that the summer holidays actually seem to be in touching distance.

It's interesting that so many attractions wait till Easter to open their doors to the public again. In fact, in many of their houses, the National Trust make a feature for their visitors of how



they prepare the rooms and the exhibits for the new season.

Easter sees the fair-weather hill walkers, fell runners and mountain climbers brush off their boots and rucksacks for a new season in our beautiful countryside and garden centres are filled to bursting with outdoor furniture and pots of all shapes and sizes ready for the summer planting.

For Christians, of course, it is a time to rejoice in the Resurrection and the presence of our risen Lord. Our churches are in celebratory dress as they are filled with flowers, and the glow of a newly blessed Paschal candle. Indeed, I remember Easter Sundays when the church I attended as a child put out all their best silverware on the Altar for the Easter morning Eucharist.

The hymns we sing are joyous and uplifting - another happy Easter memory for me is my dad making breakfast on Easter Sunday (his speciality!) singing the hymn "Jesus Christ is risen today" at the top of his voice!

The introspective, soul searching days of Lent are over. We have walked the road to the cross with our Saviour. We have reflected again on the shock and brutality of the Crucifixion and the glorious truth of Easter morning is like a blinding light after all that darkness.

However it speaks to us, Easter should put a spring in our step and a song in our hearts. With joy we should proclaim, with Christians down the ages, that Christ is risen by taking that love and light into the world to share our Good News with all who we meet. We can truly respond to the acclamation, "Christ is risen. Hallelujah" with conviction, delight and wonder as we declare "He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!"

*Love and Easter blessings,  
Pat*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **How passion flowers got their name**

Why is the passion flower known as the passion flower? This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens is not native to the UK, but comes from South America. It was first discovered by Spanish missionaries working there, centuries ago. Drawings were sent back to Europe, and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, otherwise known as the Passion.



He decided that the five petals and five sepals could represent the ten disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned Jesus). The corona could be seen as Jesus' crown of thorns. The stigma could be seen as the cross or nails, and the five stamens could be seen as the number of wounds Jesus received.



# 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.
- Lord of life, we thank you for the life and death of Jesus. Most of all we thank you for His resurrection which changed the world and made it possible for us to know you as our loving, gracious Father. May we open our hearts to your help today; to receive from you the peace and power that we need - and then to share it.
- 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<sup>1/2</sup> yrs to 14 yrs.  
We meet every Tuesday at 7.15pm to 9.00pm  
at St James Church.

For more information contact Tina  
Group Scout Leader - 0741 1773336 or [tina@dah.co.uk](mailto:tina@dah.co.uk)



# **‘What were you doing on Saturday evening?’**

## ***The Blessings and Challenges of being a Street Pastor***

Perhaps you were out celebrating a special occasion, enjoying a meal out, at the cinema, supporting a charity event, at the gym, visiting friends/family or just having a cosy night in during the spell of cold weather. Street Pastors are likely to be doing just the same until 9.30pm but then take on a different role until 3.00 am! Perhaps you have met some of the team if you’ve been out in Stalybridge on a Saturday evening.

As a Street Pastor of almost 6 years, I can honestly say that every ‘duty’ night is different and it’s impossible to predict what kind of night (and early morning)

it’s going to turn out to be. Although we know that anything can happen (and does) we still get surprises (both good and bad).

We prepare by praying before we venture out, for example, asking God to protect the team and the people we meet and praying for guidance and wisdom - that we will be led to the places where there is a need and that the Holy Spirit will give us the words/actions needed. Prayer Pastors pray in their homes during the time that we are out – we could

not do what we do without the back-up of prayer. If we encounter a difficult situation we can text the Prayer Pastor who will pray for the situation. Sometimes we encounter circumstances or incidents where there is very little we can do practically so we may just stop in the street or pray as we are walking along, bringing the situation/person before God.



There are, however, many situations where we can ‘make a difference’ there and then e.g. by giving out flip flops, water, sweets, space blankets, hand-

warmers etc; by giving directions; by sweeping up glass; by helping someone to a taxi; by calling CCTV or an ambulance; by being a calming influence in a potentially aggressive situation; by buying chips or a hot drink for someone; by listening; by giving just a word of encouragement/support – in all these situations we show God’s love, show that we care and most of all don’t judge.

We can learn a lot ourselves from people we meet and often feel very

blessed and humbled. We receive lots of positive feedback from people just walking past who shout ‘thank you for what you do and for being there.’ Some stop to tell us of times when they or their friends have been helped by a Street Pastor. Some tell us that Street Pastors saved their lives; some that they ‘turned a corner’ or felt that there was some hope when they were in despair. Many ask why we do it – of course that can be different for each member of the team.

For me personally, I feel that it is important as a Christian not just to talk about Jesus’ love and the sacrifice he made for each and every one of us, but also to show and reflect that love where possible.

Being a Street Pastor gives me the opportunity to thank God for what he has done for me and also gives me the privilege to show God’s love to others in a practical way.

It can of course also be challenging, particularly when it’s cold and wet or we’re feeling tired or ‘under the weather’ but once we are out God gives us the strength to continue and there is almost always something that happens that makes us feel very blessed. It’s a very humbling experience.

Your prayers for the team and for new recruits would be appreciated.

If you would like to learn more about being a Street Pastor or a Prayer

Pastor, or feel you could just support the team in prayer as a ‘one-off’, there is an event on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>

March 9.30 – 11.30 at St. Matthew’s, Dean Street, Stalybridge – Breakfast with the Stalybridge Street Pastors (which includes bacon butties!).

For more general information about street pastors go to [www.streetpastors.org.uk](http://www.streetpastors.org.uk) or feel free to contact me.

**Maureen Leigh (0161 330 9377)**  
**St. Peter’s Church**



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## **On the first day of the week, in the evening**

(John 20: 19-23)

Locked in, afraid,  
Uncertain, even after Mary's story,  
even after that  
behind closed doors seemed safest,  
on the first day of the week,  
in the evening.

And then, the world changed.  
He was with us!  
Suddenly and wonderfully with us.  
Jesus, our Lord,  
alive and with us  
in a new and completing way,  
to bless us with His Peace,  
to send us out to witness  
in the power of His own Spirit  
breathed into us.

What a day!  
The day of our risen Lord.  
The first day of the week,  
In the evening,  
Hallelujah!

*By Daphne Kitching*

# St James' pupils help Tameside to celebrate International Women's Day

The event to mark International Women's Day, is a global day that celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women and calls for action to accelerate gender parity. It brought people together at Ashton Market Place, from 11am to 12.30pm, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March as the nation honoured 100 years of women's suffrage – when some women gained the right to vote.



The event took place near the steps where some of the most famous suffragettes gave speeches, including Ashton's Hannah Mitchell who was a key worker for women's rights.

Tameside Council Leader Cllr Brenda Warrington, Tameside

Civic Mayor Cllr Joyce Bowerman and Ashton MP Angela Rayner all gave speeches.

Entertainment included a song and dance by young women from Tameside College, 2 songs by a group of our pupils and a performance from soloist Sarah Kinsey.

Participants were wearing purple sashes and badges and Tameside Youth Council gave pebbles painted in suffragette colours to people to write messages on.

There were excerpts read from "The Hard Way Up - the Autobiography of Hannah Mitchell, Suffragette and Rebel" and the speeches Emmeline Pankhurst made from the town hall steps. The Representation of the People Act 1918 gave women the vote provided they were over 30 and owned property or were married to a property-owner.

## School Council Report

There were stalls selling ribbons and wristbands, and the Mayor of Tameside and other inspirational people were giving speeches to the crowds.  
*/contd.....*



A group of pupils from St James' Primary School sang two songs on the stage. One of the songs was from a play we previously performed in school, and was about women fighting for the right to vote. The audience laughed and cheered at the part in the song when the girls were demanding the vote and the boys were telling them NO!



The audience loved our performance and were clapping and cheering. We all really enjoyed the performance and felt very proud listening to all the great feedback from the audience. Mrs Marsh, Miss Allan and Mrs Walton were overwhelmed by the great feedback from everyone watching and felt very proud of us.

After the singing, three of our school council (Sienna, Harvey and Olivia) interviewed some of the dignitaries and organisers of the event. They wanted to find information about the event, and the reasons behind the celebration of the role of women in Tameside.

The Mayor said, “100 years ago women got the right to vote and everyone should be treated equally. Today is about spreading the word of women and young

people”. When asked what needs to be done in Tameside to support women she responded, “There should be more campaign work, women should receive the same pay as men for the same jobs and the men should support the women more”.

Others said:

“It’s a special day celebrating the achievements of women and particularly about them getting the vote.”

“We want to empower and support all women.”

It was a great day with a very important message where women were sharing their voices to make equality heard!

*By Harvey, Sienna and Olivia*  
School Council Members

# Services during Holy Week

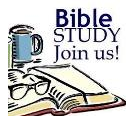


Palm Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	9:30 am	St. James'	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	St. Gabriel's	Service of The Word
	11:00 am	St. Peter's	Holy Communion
	11:00 am	St. Michael's	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	St Michael's	The Cross of Christ Devotion for congregation and choir
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30 am	Cathedral	Chrism Eucharist
	6:30 pm	St John's Hurst	Passover Meal
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	12:15 pm	St. Peter's	Morning Prayer followed by Bring and Share Lunch
	6:00 pm	Christ Church	Taizé Service
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	1:30 pm	St. James'	Holy Communion and Stations of the Cross
	7:30 pm	St. Gabriel's	Compline
Maundy Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	11:00 am	St. Michael's	Holy Communion and Stations of The Cross
	4:00 pm	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
	7:30 pm	St. James	Holy Communion with Washing of Feet & Vigil until 11.00pm.
Good Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	10:00 am	St. James'	Family Worship
	12:00 noon	St. Peter's	Liturgy of the Passion – At the Foot of the Cross
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Holy Saturday – Easter Eve</b>		
	7.30 pm	St Michael's	The Easter Liturgy
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	<b>Easter Day</b>		
	8.00am	St James'	Breakfast Bacon and Sausage Rolls followed by Holy Communion

Services in other churches at usual times.

**Please note -There will be no mid-week services between 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> April**

# What's On?



## Bible Studies

Fr Jules' Bible Studies Group  
meets every Thursday  
7.00pm at St Michael's Church  
(resumes 12<sup>th</sup> April)

***Café Church at  
St James' Church***

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
1.45pm

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

## 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



# The Cross of Christ

A Palm Sunday devotion  
For congregation and augmented choir  
**6.30pm Palm Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
at St Michael and All Angels Church  
Church Street  
Ashton-u-Lyne



## Phonecall

In the days before WW2, phone calls cost two pence. 'Can you lend me tuppence to ring a friend?' a widely disliked MP once asked Winston Churchill. The great man scoured his pockets. 'Here's four pence,' he said. 'Ring them all.'



## Facebook for Seniors!

For those of my generation who simply do not comprehend why Facebook exists, I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook, while applying the same principles.

Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I am doing now, what I will be doing later, and with whom, and where I am going next, and then I invite them to follow me and watch me be important.

Then I give them pictures of my family, my dog, a selfie of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks to show I've been there and done that, washing the car, even driving around town, eating lunch, getting a haircut and doing basically what anybody and everybody does every day.

I also listen to their conversations, give them a "thumbs up" and tell them I like them and will be friends with them.

It all works just like Facebook....only I do it face to face, not on a little glass screen.

It works! - already I have four people following me - two policemen, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

*Ron and Jean Fletcher*



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*A member of the National Association of Funeral Directors*

## The Royal British Legion launches THE SILENT SOLDIER

The Royal British Legion has announced the launch of its SILENT SOLDIER campaign. The Silent Soldier is the near life-size silhouette of a First World War 'Tommy' which can be fixed to a wall or attached to an upright pole in public or private spaces.

It is anticipated that the Silent Soldier will be displayed across the UK by businesses, Churches and local authorities as a reminder of the sacrifices made by men and women of the armed forces during the First World War.

Churches are being invited to endorse the Silent Soldier concept and to sponsor and display one or more silhouettes throughout the period from September 2017 to late 2018 when the nation will be commemorating the Armistice and the end of hostilities.

The Silent Soldier silhouettes have at their base the words "1914-1918 Lest We Forget". Silent Soldier silhouettes are cut from black cut dibond and are tough and weatherproof: they are supplied with bolts and with angle iron posts for free-standing display.

## Would you be hungry if you had walked 250 miles?

How far do you walk each day? 15 minutes to and from work or the bus stop? As a parent how far do you ask your child to walk?

For families now fleeing South Sudan for Uganda, the distance is very different: they have a 250-mile trip on foot, taking with them only what they can carry. That is like walking from London to the Isle of Man. And when they arrive, they are given only a bag of rice, some very basic supplies to make a shelter, and a plot of land which they are to farm. Provisions are given out only monthly. How long would you last in that situation?

This is why Feed the Hungry are running a desperately needed feeding programme in Uganda, and the good news is that it takes only £24 to provide meals for six children for a month.

Feed the Hungry is a well-respected and established charity which has already delivered more than £200 millions of relief supplies to people in over 92 nations worldwide. They work closely with government agencies and local pastors and churches to ensure that the food reaches those who need it most. Currently, more than 150,000 children are being fed by the charity's 'Every Child, Every Day' programme. If you would like to help, please visit: <https://feedthehungry.org.uk/>



# Thank you Certificate

This certificate acknowledges the 2017 Parish Share contribution of £43,744 made by The Good Shepherd, Ashton-under-Lyne (Team). This was 100% of the total asked for.

## A message from the Bishop of Manchester

I thank God for all you give to your church, both in time and money. Your generosity, in being able to pay your parish share means that the mission and ministry of God's church can happen in every community in this Diocese.

It is my prayer that you will be able to continue to support your church. Your giving has a vital role, and it does make a difference to your community.

Yours in Christ,

+ David

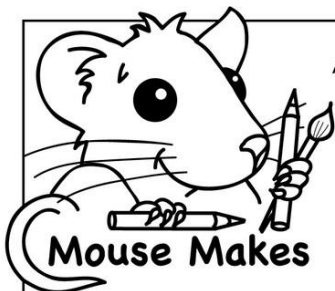
The Rt Revd David Walker

*"For this service you perform not only meets the needs of God's people, but also produces an outpouring of gratitude to God."*

2 Corinthians 9:12 TEV

R17215



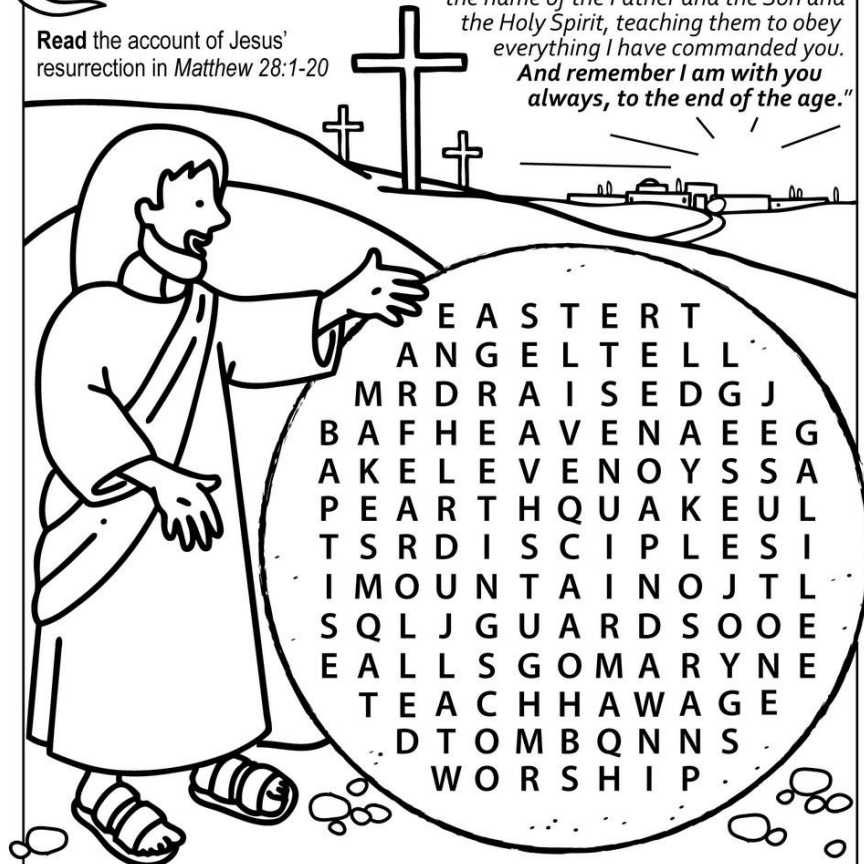


## JESUS IS ALIVE!

After Jesus had been raised from the dead He met Mary and Mary Magdalene "Greetings," He said, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee. They will see me there."

When the disciples met Jesus in Galilee He said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age.**"

Read the account of Jesus' resurrection in *Matthew 28:1-20*



Can you find these words from the story in the word search above? EASTER • DAWN DAY • MARY • TOMB • EARTHQUAKE • ANGEL • HEAVEN • ROLLED • STONE • GUARDS JESUS • RAISED • FEAR • JOY • RAN • GREETINGS • TELL • DISCIPLES • SEE • ELEVEN GALILEE • MOUNTAIN • WORSHIP • ALL • GO • MAKE • BAPTISE • TEACH • END • AGE

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# April 2018 - Parish Sunday Services

<b>Easter Day</b>	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion + Baptism
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion + Baptism
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	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
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	9.30am	St. James	Family Communion
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion+Junior Church
	11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	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
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	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

## Regular Weekday Services

**There will be no mid-week services between 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April**

<b>Tuesday:</b>	12.15pm	St Peter's	Morning Prayer/Holy Communion (followed by optional bring and share lunch)
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1.30pm	St. James	Holy Communion (except 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month, which is Café Church)
<b>Thursday:</b>	11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	Holy Trinity	Evening Prayer *

\* (This will be a Eucharist Service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month)



# Parish Notices

From the February / March registers



## Baptisms:

*We give thanks with the family of:*

Daniel Booth-Redfearn

Grace Dale

Jack Dillon Siddall.

Jessica Dale

## Weddings:

*There were no weddings in March*

## Funerals:

*We pray for the families of:*

Andrew John Loughlin

Derek Bennett

Christine Anne Gorham.

+++++

## One of Billy Graham's Notable Quotes:

Someone asked me recently if I didn't think God was unfair, allowing me to have Parkinson's and other medical problems when I have tried to serve Him faithfully. I replied that I did not see it that way at all. Suffering is part of the human condition, and it comes to us all. The key is how we react to it, either turning away from God in anger and bitterness or growing closer to Him in trust and confidence.

+++++



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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 15<sup>th</sup> April for inclusion in the next Magazine - address and telephone number on page 18.



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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

