

January 2020
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SAINTS ALIVE



ALL SAINTS

The Parish Magazine
of All Saints' Parish Church,
Cheadle Hulme

INFORMATION PAGE

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Holy Communion (2nd in month)
10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Evensong

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion

Thursday 10.00am.
Holy Days to be announced.

Matins

Daily at 9.00am.



CONFESSION AND SPIRITUAL COUNSELLING

By arrangement with the Clergy.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BAPTISMS, BANNINGS AND WEDDINGS

All enquiries to Rev'd Janet Bacon (485 3455).

MOTHERS' UNION

Corporate Communion 10.00am on the 2nd Thursday in Church. Details of all meetings are in Saints Alive and weekly notices. See Notice Board.

MENS' SOCIETY

Monthly meetings on the 1st Thursday, September to May, at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room.
Chairman: Mr Bradley Torbitt (486 9387).
Secretary: Mr Mike Parry (485 7886).

FRIDAY CLUB

Fortnightly meetings on Friday evening usually in the Meeting Room at 7.30pm. Open to women of all age groups. Chairman is Lily Mitchelhill (485 5187) Secretary is Julia Ball (440 8647)

JAMES GROUP

The James Group exists to encourage the Church's ministry of healing, and the practice of regular intercession for the sick. The branch meets monthly to say an Office of Intercession: there is also a monthly Corporate Communion. For further information please contact: The Secretary: Pat Yates (485 4546).

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Secretary: Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647).

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Cubs: (7th Cheadle Hulme) Meet on a Friday 6.30pm - 8.00pm at Thorn Grove.
Andrew Thompson
email:andy.thompson@cheadlescouts.org.uk

Beavers: (7th Cheadle Hulme)
Meet on a Friday 6.00pm - 7.15pm in the Parish Rooms. Mrs J. Metcalfe
jacquie.metcalfe@cheadlescouts.org.uk

Brownies: (11th Cheadle Hulme)
Meet on a Monday 6.00pm - 7.15pm at Thorn Grove.
Jo Taylor
brownow11thcheadlehulme@yahoo.com

Rainbows: (2nd Cheadle Hulme)
Meet on a Monday 6.00pm - 7.00pm





Angels

*When the road is steep and rocky
And the way is hard to find,
When your problems all oppress you
And the world seems so unkind,
Just reach out a hand in silence,
Take a moment you can spare,
Soon you'll feel your special angels
All around you everywhere.*

*When the night is dark and stormy
And the stars forget to shine,
When you feel that sleep eludes you
They will bring a peace divine.
When you see the sun awoken
And you sense a bright, new start,
You will know your special angels
Took your hand and touched your heart.*

Iris Hesselden

Happy New Year

Everybody involved in the production of Saints Alive would like to wish you all
a very happy New Year.



**COPY DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY - JANUARY 6TH
ALL COPY TO THE EDITOR PLEASE**

Past, Present and Future



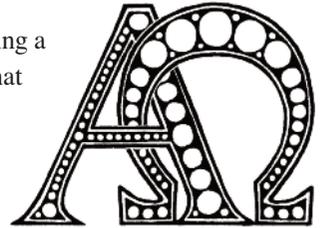
It is a sobering fact that whilst we have every reason to believe that we live in the present, and, as long as our memories can be relied upon, we have a fair idea of what has happened in the past. Like it or not, we cannot see into the future. However, we do have aids to help us prepare, to keep track of certain events which have every likelihood of coming to pass. They are called diaries.

Until now, I have never given a single thought about those who actually produce them. Although their job is to prepare diaries, it would be a misnomer to refer

to such people as “diarists”. “Diarists” tend only to record what has *already* happened. On the other hand, *compilers* of diaries and such-like, aim to give one notice of the date when certain ‘certainties’ are scheduled to occur, like for example, eclipses of the moon. For many people, especially busy people, a diary is essential.

For *really* busy people it may warrant the expense of employing a ‘diary secretary’, that is a person whose job it is to ensure that one is always at the right place at the right time.

Personally, I do not keep a detailed diary. I am highly unlikely to ever be encouraged to write my memoirs. I am sufficient of a realist to recognise that the only person who would cherish and enjoy reading them would be myself. But I must not be complacent. I must be vigilant in *what* I write. I should never lose sight of the possibility that on the Great Day, the Day of Judgement, the day when the “Book of Life” is opened (Revelation 3:5), the account of who I am, and what I am, will be opened and be revealed to at least the One to whom all hearts are opened, and all desires known. *Claud Metson*



A prayer for Love

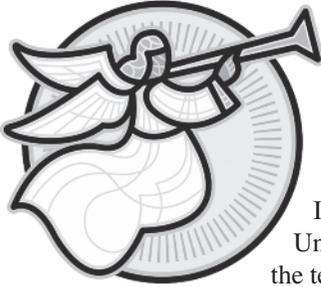
O Lord, you have brought all your faithful people into a single, universal family, stretching across heaven and earth. Bind us together with a spiritual love which is stronger than any human love, that in serving one another we may neither count the cost nor seek reward, but think only of the common good.

From the Mozarabic Sacramentary, 3rd century



THE AFTERLIFE

there's more to it than meets the eye

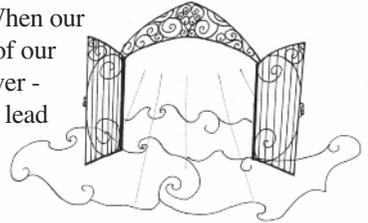


In 2019 the New Scientist magazine published an article titled “Why almost everyone believes in an afterlife – even atheists” (Graham Norton, 20 November). During a recent church Quiet Day, a member of All Saints congregation kindly passed a copy of the news article to me knowing I was thinking about the subject for an Interfaith Group meeting in January.

Until then, I, as a person of faith and a theist, had interpreted the term “afterlife” as a speculative concept and one of little interest to atheists. I saw it as meaning a possible existence after death. Thinking in a pseudo-scientific way I hypothesised that it might be a persisting imprint on the human brain, and an imprint to me implied an Imprinter, maybe even a Creator. The idea of a faith-shaped space in the mind that human advancement and rationality has not bred out of our developing cortex was intriguing.

Was the belief in life after death simply based on fear? When our evolution as primates brought humans to consciousness of our individual fragile selves - bodies destined to perish for ever - would the overwhelming thought of that annihilation not lead to a collective sense of futility, an “eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die” attitude?

Well no, not exactly. According to the New Scientist, survival beyond death probably exists as the default position in our thinking, atheists or believers. We evolved with that belief. It's hard to budge. It seems to be necessary. Those who express to you their opinion that we face total extinction at death have to actively make that choice of viewpoint - a leap AWAY from belief in survival, a deliberate rejection of the thought of a comforting afterlife. Hoping and thinking we may survive death comes naturally it seems.



Scientists suggest this does serve an evolutionary purpose. Why otherwise would we persist in wanting to pass on our genes, feeling content to bring forth offspring all doomed to physical decay and nothingness? This scientific research in no way conflicts with the thoughts of religious believers. We are entitled to our own view that each person is unique and therefore precious, and has a mysterious but real future beyond this life.

We Christians have been told a little more than most about the possibilities but, like the scientists and atheists, we view through a glass, darkly. We just have to wait and see. *Gay Saunders*

“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known”. (1 Corinthians 13:12)

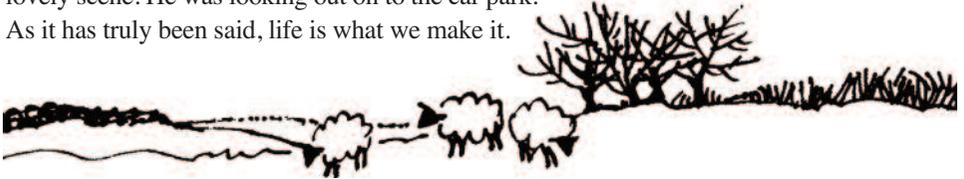
Life is what we make it

There's a story about two men in a hospital ward. One was able to sit up for a short time and look out of the window, while the other had to lie flat on his back.

Every afternoon the man by the window would look outside and describe everything he could see - the park with the lake where there were ducks and swans; the children feeding the ducks and sailing their boats; the stretches of grass and flower beds, and in the distance a bowling green. His descriptions made his friend feel that he could see what was happening outside.

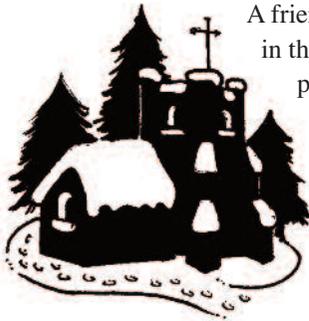
One day, the man by the window went home and the other man asked if he could be moved to the covered place by the window. With difficulty, he stretched his head to view the lovely scene. He was looking out on to the car park.

As it has truly been said, life is what we make it.



Put a smile on

A friend saw this piece of advice on the notice board of a church in the heart of New York: "You are not fully dressed until you put a smile on."



He soon realised the immediate impact that the words had made. For the next half-hour, as he went on his way through the crowded city streets, every second person was smiling back at his happy face.

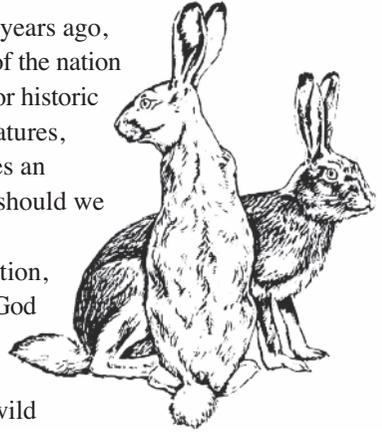
"I had got the message," he said. "And dozens of strangers were now getting it through me!"

*When all the world seems sad and grey
And man-to-man unkind
It's in the hand of friendship
True beauty that you'll find.
With loving thoughts and kindly deeds
They'll many a doubt dispel
Dark shadows flee from out your mind
And suddenly, all is well!*

Caring for God's World

The National Trust was founded in January 1895, 125 years ago, to 'promote the permanent preservation for the benefit of the nation of lands and tenements (including buildings) of beauty or historic interest and as regards lands for their natural aspect features, animal and plant life.' This concern for our world raises an important question at the start of this New Year: Why should we care for our planet?

The first reason is that God told us to care for His creation, as good stewards, not abusing it for selfish ends: 'Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'

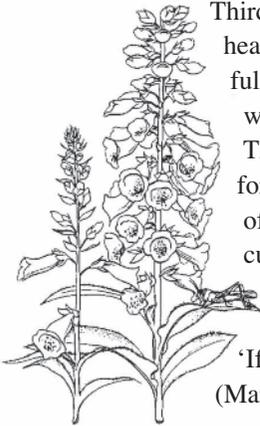


(Genesis 1.28). Secondly, the material world matters to God, for He made it 'very good'(Genesis 1:31) and sustains it all the time: 'in Him all things hold together'(Colossians 1:17).

To neglect or spoil the environment is damaging what is precious to God.

Thirdly, at the end of time the cosmos will be re-created the 'new heavens and new earth' (Revelation 21:1). This will establish the fullness of life that God intended for His whole creation; when He will dwell with His people and all creation will worship Him.

There are lots of simple ways in which we set about caring for our world this year eg. walking to church, switching the TV off stand-by, insulating our homes, driving a smaller car or cutting down of eating meat. The hope of a renewed Creation doesn't mean abandoning such simple actions today.



'If I knew Jesus would return tomorrow, I would plant a tree today.'
(Martin Luther).



Heavenly Father, You have taught us, through your servant St Francis, that all creation is your handiwork. Grant us your grace that we may exercise wise stewardship of this Earth; tread lightly upon it; and cherish its resources; that our children may enjoy its riches, throughout all generations, And your name be glorified through all that you have made. Amen.

Enjoy each day as it comes



Is your diary for 2020 already filling up?

That is fine, but also bear in mind what has been called ‘the sacrament of the present moment.’

That is what the 17th century French Jesuit and spiritual writer Pere Jean-Pierre de Caussade called it.

He wrote: The present moment holds infinite riches, but you will only enjoy them to the extent of your faith and love.

The will of God is manifest in each moment, an immense ocean which the heart only athoms in so far as it overflows with faith, trust and love.”

So this year, try and live your life a day at a time. You can’t change the past, yesterday is history; and you can’t live in the future, tomorrow is mystery. The present is really all you have. When Jesus spoke about God, He always spoke about Him being where we are, in the here and now. He is our Father, our vine, our Shepherd, and His Spirit wants to walk with us each day.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp. One of the disturbing questions that arises from the horrors of the Holocaust is ‘where was God when the six million died?’

In his moving memoir, ‘Night,’ Eli Wiesel tells the story of an execution that the prisoners were forced to witness. Two men and a boy were made to stand on chairs with nooses around their necks. At the guards’ signal, the chairs were kicked from beneath their feet. The men died instantly as the fall broke their necks, but the boy, flailed about, gasping for breath. Wiesel heard someone cry out, ‘For God’s sake, where is God?’ In that moment, he heard a voice inside: ‘Where is He? This is where: hanging here from this gallows’.

As we think of this boy dying on the gallows, we are reminded of another Jew, who suffered and died on a cross. As the crowd gathered around the cross, it was Jesus who posed the same question: ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ (Matt 27:46). Jesus became a human being, because God wanted to identify with His lost and suffering world. He willingly took upon Himself God’s judgment for the sin of the world, as God turned away from the Son he loved: ‘God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God’ (2 Cor. 5:21).

So where was God when the six million died? The truth is that God is present in our suffering, to identify and suffer with us and to provide help, hope and meaning to those who suffer. Whatever we go through this New Year, let’s not forget this truth!

Janet's Leaving Day

Here are a few pictures from Janet's leaving day. The photo with the puppets is introducing the new puppy puppet, which Janet and Peter left for the Parish.



Mary Slessor of Calabar (11th January)

Courage, vision and leadership are found in the most unlikely of places.

Mary Slessor was born in December 1848 into a wretchedly poor family. Her father was an alcoholic who lost his job as a shoemaker. Mary was the second of seven children, and in 1859 they moved from Aberdeen into the fetid slums of Dundee. Her father and mother worked in the mills, and Mary joined them there when she turned 11. When Mary's father and brothers died of pneumonia, Mary's mother struggled on to keep Mary and her two sisters alive. By the time Mary was 14 she was doing a 12-hour day as a jute maker. But life was not all drudgery. Mary's mother was a devout Christian who read the family Bible to her daughters, and also the *Missionary Record*, a monthly publication from the United Presbyterian Church. The stories of the missionaries captivated Mary. When she heard that David Livingstone, the great missionary explorer, had died, she decided that she would follow in his footsteps. She wanted to devote her life to taking the gospel to Africa. She was 25.

In August 1876 the Presbyterians sent her out to Calabar, Nigeria, an area where no European had ever yet set foot. With her red hair and blue eyes, Mary grabbed attention wherever she went, but despite recurring illness and constant danger, Mary settled happily among the tribes. She learned their traditions, quickly becoming fluent in their language, Efik. Soon she won the confidence of their tribal leaders. She taught their children and was soon determined to put an end to some of their barbaric practises, such as the killing of twins (whom they thought were evil). Over the years Mary put an end to many witchcraft practises, and she adopted every twin child she found abandoned. And she talked endlessly about Jesus Christ, the passion of her life.

Mary was tough – she made long trips through the jungles and took canoes up remote rivers. When her shoes gave out, she went barefoot. Her great passion was to go to 'the regions beyond' with the Gospel. She thrived in places and among people who would have terrified most women in her day.

When in 1901 Southern Nigeria became a British Protectorate, Mary was appointed the first ever female Magistrate in the British Empire. She became a skilful diplomatic emissary. She was known for saying: "It is not Mary Slessor, but God and our united prayers that have brought the blessings to Calabar. Christ shall have all the honour and glory for the multitudes saved." When she finally died of fever in January 1915 the native Christian girls and women wept bitterly: "Our mother is dead. Everybody's mother has left us."

Mary Slessor once wrote to a friend who had long prayed for her: "I have always said that I have no idea how or why God has carried me over so many funny and hard places, and made these hordes of people submit to me, or why the Government should have given me the privilege of a Magistrate among them, except in answer to prayer made at home for me. It is all beyond my comprehension."

Record numbers of visitors and worshippers flock to England's cathedrals

In 2018 England's cathedrals witnessed their highest Easter congregation numbers in recent years, while visitor numbers increased by a million on the previous year, according to recently published statistics.

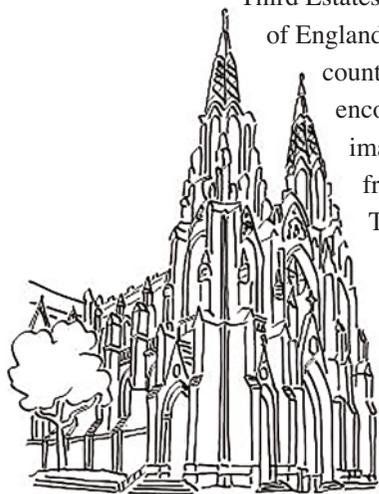
Cathedrals reported nearly ten million visitors in 2018, an increase of over 10% on the previous year. There were additionally over a million visitors to Westminster Abbey. The major Christian festivals remain at the heart of congregational growth, with 58,000 people attending a cathedral at Easter and 95,000 during Holy Week – the highest numbers recorded for a decade, with Easter attendance up nearly 10,000 since 2008. Meanwhile numbers at Christmas and Advent services rose 5% on the previous year, to reach 750,000 in 2018. There were 133,000 people worshipping in cathedrals on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day – second only to the previous year's record high. Cathedrals reported a total of 37,000 people worshipping each week in the year 2018, marking an increase of around 14% over the past ten years. Around one in five cathedral worshippers was under the age of 16, also an increase on the previous year.

Attendance at midweek services, including choral evensong, grew 34% in the ten years to 2018, with nearly 19,000 attending each week. More people attended midweek services than on Sunday for only the second time since records began.

Music in Cathedrals continues to flourish, with 2,000 full-time choristers and 1,800 voluntary choir members. Cathedrals also welcomed the highest ever number of children and young people for educational events. In 2018, 340,000 young people from nursery through to 18+ attended events at cathedrals and at Westminster Abbey.

Third Estates Commissioner, Dr Eve Poole, who leads the Church of England's Cathedrals Support Group, said: "We know from countless anecdotes that many who visit as tourists encounter something deeper, and cathedrals have been imaginative in creating more opportunities for people from all walks of life to cross their thresholds.

This year, 2020, will see new pilgrimage routes opened-up as part of Year Cathedrals; Year of Pilgrimage, a project in collaboration between the British Pilgrimage Trust and the Association of English Cathedrals. The initiative will ensure there is a one-day pilgrimage route for every Church of England Cathedral, in addition to a group of six new trails in the north east.





The Lord's Prayer and you in 2020

I cannot pray 'our' if I am not in communion with fellow Christians.

I cannot pray 'Father' if I do not treat Him as such, on a daily basis.

I cannot pray 'Who are in Heaven' if all my interests are on earthly things.

I cannot pray 'hallowed by thy name' if I am not striving, with God's help, to be holy myself.

I cannot pray 'Thy Kingdom come' if I don't live as if I am within His kingdom now.

I cannot pray 'Thy Will be Done' if I am disobedient to His commands.

I cannot pray 'on earth as it is in Heaven' unless I am truly ready to give my life to God's service here and now.

I cannot pray 'give us this day our daily bread' if I am not also willing to work for it, and to share with my neighbour in need.

I cannot pray 'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us' if I harbour a grudge against anyone.

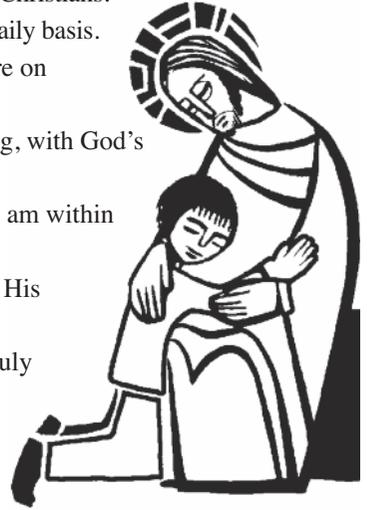
I cannot pray 'lead us not into temptation' if I deliberately remain somewhere where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot pray 'Thine is the Kingdom' if I live as if the world is my kingdom.

I cannot pray 'Thine is the power and the glory' if I am seeking power for myself and my own glory.

I cannot pray 'forever and ever' if all my attention is on daily affairs.

I cannot pray 'Amen', unless I honestly say, 'Cost what it may, this is my prayer.'



A waking prayer

Living Lord, you have watched over me, and put your hand on my head, during the long, dark hours of night. Your holy angels have protected me from all harm and pain. To you, Lord, I owe life itself. Continue to watch over me and bless me during the hours of day.

By Jacob Boehme (1575 – 1624)

Never stop trying to do your best

Young Laura is quite a philosopher in her own way and she was wondering one day what it would be like to meet the perfect man. “It might be a let-down,” she mused. “The perfect man might prove to be surprisingly boring!”

We were discussing an article she had read in which the writer, Frederick Forsyth, had given a description of an ideal man. He should show “strength without brutality, honesty without priggishness, courage without recklessness, humour without frivolity, humanity without sentimentality, intelligence without deviousness, scepticism without cynicism.”

“A wonderful description,” I commented, “but apart from one man who lived more than 2000 years ago, impossible to attain.”

“Ah, yes,” came the reply, “yet there’s nothing to stop us trying to attain it - it’s a great example to follow.” How true; we should never stop trying to do our best.



*When all the world seems sad and grey
And man-to-man unkind,
It's in the hand of friendship
True beauty that you'll find.
With loving thoughts and kindly deeds
They'll many a trouble dispel
Dark shadows flee from out your mind
And suddenly, all is well!*

Jenny Chaplin



...Joshua says he's very sorry - but it's something to do with the recent weapons procurement review...



FRIDAY CLUB

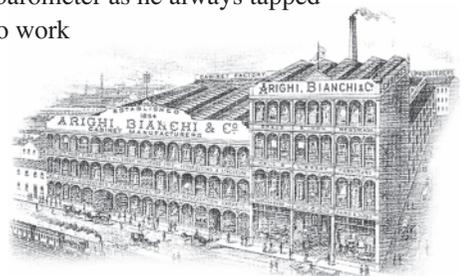
Friday 18th October 2019 - "The History of Arighi Bianchi" Nick Bianchi

We had prayers and then we welcomed Nick Bianchi to Friday Club and we were happy also to welcome his charming father Paul. Both men were very impressed with our secretary Julia's preparations as she put up traffic cones on Hill Top Avenue so Paul didn't have a long way to walk to our meeting and had a good place to park. Between the two of them we had an interesting talk and we appreciated that for the Arighi Bianchi firm the customer still comes first. Nick began his talk with the beginning of the firm 164 years ago. The small town of Casnate, near Lake Como, was noted for its silk weaving but at this time Italy as such did not exist and Antonio Arighi didn't



wish to be conscripted into the Austrian army. Antonio set off on foot, with only his passport papers, over the Alps, away from civil war, en route for Macclesfield which was also noted for silk weaving and in fact was the biggest producer of finished silk cloth in the world. There were 74 silk mills. It took Antonio four and a half weeks on foot to arrive in Macclesfield. He was a cabinet maker and, helped by a family specialising in barometers and clocks he borrowed a horse and cart and knocked on the doors of various farmers and offered them a barometer on a "try before you buy" basis, which is still the policy of the Arighi Bianchi firm today. His method was a little more subtle than this for he said "please keep the barometer for me for a few weeks until I come back this way so I don't have to carry it back with me." Invariably after a few weeks the farmer wished to keep the barometer for it was a better weather guide than looking at the sky. Early in our marriage I bought my husband a barometer as he always tapped his family's one. Every morning that he went to work he tapped the barometer until he retired at sixty five. He loved his barometer as did the Macclesfield farmers.

Antonio Arighi's business grew and so did the range of goods he supplied. Besides clocks and barometers he went on to picture framing then to cupboards, cabinets and bookcases.





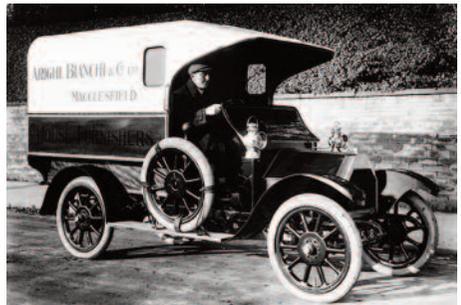
By 1868 Antonio Bianchi, also a cabinet maker, had married the niece of Antonio Arighi and moved to Macclesfield to join the firm. Now the firm of Arighi Bianchi was born. The firm operated out of a terraced house from the beginning. Orders came from the Potteries, Buxton and Manchester. Both of them were very impressed and inspired by Joseph Paxton's

famous Crystal Palace and when they needed new premises they briefed a local builder to renovate the old Silk Mill they had bought and build a new four storey building featuring large Italianate plate glass windows in ornamental arched cast iron frames. The building cost under £300. It lacked foundations like many Victorian buildings so the heaviest furniture was put near the walls. The new stores opened in 1892 and was an instant success and is still in use today.

At the turn of the century, Francis Arighi from Chicago, became a partner in the firm, which was established as a limited company. Horse drawn vans and carts were replaced by motorised vans. Later the firm pioneered mail order with close attention to prompt customer service. They produced quality goods for all classes. Both Antonios decided to anglicise their christian names to Anthony.



The business expanded and even royalty placed orders. Princess Alexandra ordered a pair of carved oak candlesticks and a few years later she ordered another two pairs when she became Queen. In between the wars Enrico, Antonio Bianchi's eldest son, specialised in fabulous fabrics which overshadowed the furniture business. The Second World War put an end to the fabric division as a torpedo



destroyed one consignment on a ship heading for South America in the South Atlantic. After the war life was hard but after the austerity the store once again enjoyed growth and prosperity. In the 60's everything changed and they obtained more furniture. In later years Greta, a Danish au pair met Paul and they were married in 1968. In 1970, problems came. The building was to be compulsory purchased as it stood in the way of the North-South Macclesfield Ring Road. Fortunately the celebrated poet Sir John Betjeman, a keen defender of Britain's architectural heritage, The Architectural Review, The Victorian Society, the family and a local petition, managed to obtain a grade 2 listing for the building at the last minute. *(Continued on page 14)*

(Continued from page 13) In 1988 Paul saw a furniture store in Chicago with a coffee shop and he decided to have a go and the coffee shop has flourished at Arighi Bianchi's since. The family keep a close eye on the business. Paul still helps in the coffee shop and in one Trip Advisor review a customer said that the service was marvellous and that the waiter with the grey hair deserved a pay rise. That was Paul. The family all give help wherever it is needed. Today Arighi Bianchi employ a staff of 161 among whom are three housekeepers. They now have a website and the 20-30 year age group tend to buy from them on-line.

The founder of the firm returned to Italy for the warmer climate and Nick went to Casnate some years ago to see if any of the Arighi's were still there. To his surprise descendants of Antonio were still very aware of the life of Antonio and the firm Arighi Bianchi. So now Nick keeps in touch.

The firm supports the East Cheshire Hospice and Ambassadors, which creates a hospice experience in the home. We thanked Nick and Paul then enjoyed tea, coffee and cake as we were celebrating June's 90th birthday. We sung "Happy Birthday" to her and thanked her for the cake.

Lily Mitchelhill

Friday 1st November 2019 - Halloween Party 1.00pm

We were a little late celebrating Halloween but we had a lovely time with a delicious lunch and a fabulous entertainer. We started lunch with a choice of four soups with four kinds of bread with butter. Marjorie made Watercress soup, Margaret made Leek and Potato, Lynn made Broccoli and Stilton and I made my usual Cock-a-Leekie. This was followed by various cheeses and biscuits and then was concluded with apple pie and squirty cream. The room and tables were decorated with creepy chocolates, spooky serviettes and various creepy crawlies thanks to Dorothy, Ann and Hazel.

Now it was time for the entertainer, Mr Paul Hazelby to present his unforgettable magic. It was a wonderful performance and I enjoyed it tremendously, so much so, that in fact I made no notes! I was completely mesmerised. We had close-up magic and none of us were sure how he did it. After the magic we pushed our already full stomachs to accommodate a slice of parkin and a cup of tea or coffee.

We thanked our magician, our soup makers, Ann, Elva, Hazel and Dorothy and went home. We would like to wish our members and all at All Saints a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dates for your Diary

Dec 13th Christmas Party

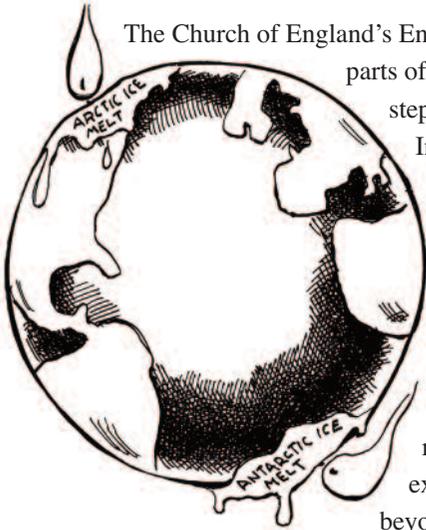
Jan 10th "Straight from the Old Wife's Mouth" Mr Brian Hallworth 2.00pm
ALL WELCOME

Jan 23rd Corporate Communion for Friday Club at 10.00am. ALL WELCOME

Jan 24th New Year Lunch at the Millington 12.00pm for 12.30pm



C of E's Environment Group calls for greater church action on Climate Change



The Church of England's Environmental Advisory Group has called for all parts of the Church to recognise the Climate Crisis and step up its action to safeguard God's creation.

In guidance sent to bishops, dioceses and church leadership teams, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) points to the ambitious programme of action required, covering everything from the Church's buildings to its investment assets.

The paper also highlights future mission challenges including a need for churches to be ready to provide sanctuary for those affected by extreme weather events in this country and beyond as the impact of climate change accelerates.

With work already underway to develop a carbon footprint tool and local energy audits for churches, schools and houses, the EWG says the assessment of our carbon footprint must extend to all areas within the overall Church of England portfolio such as investment holdings in farming and forestry.

Several areas of focus for 2020 have been identified, including a Lent Campaign on the Environment backed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and plans for events surrounding COP 26, the UN climate change summit, in Glasgow. Climate change and the environment will also be a central part of the Lambeth2020 Conference which brings together bishops from the global Anglican Communion.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

'Unusual kindness' is the unusual name for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th to 25th January). The materials for the week have been prepared by the Christian churches in Malta and Gozo (Christians Together in Malta).

'Unusual kindness' is found in the book of Acts. The phrase refers to the warm welcome that the people of Malta gave to Paul and his companions when they were shipwrecked on the island. In return, Paul shared the gospel with them, and thus founded the church in Malta. Something that the Christians in Malta thank God for!

More details at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2020/>

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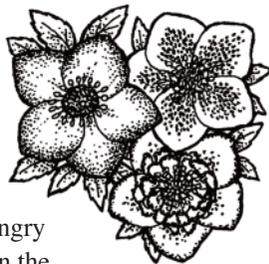
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What are you supposed to be doing?

Is there something that God may be asking of you?

Gladys Aylward was just a simple woman who did what she believed God called her to do. The old movie, 'The Inn of the Sixth Happiness' tells her life story. In 1920 she sailed to China, where eventually she opened a home for orphaned children, who'd been left to starve or wander the streets. She'd read the words in Isaiah: '...if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.



The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs.' (Isaiah 58:10,11)

When the Japanese invaded China, Gladys was forced to flee. She ended up on the island of Formosa with more than 100 children to care for. Despite hardship and danger, she devoted herself to looking after them. Years later, when she was honoured for her work, she said: "I did not choose this. I was led into it by God. I'm not really more interested in children than I am in other people. But God gave me to understand that this is what He wanted me to do – so I did it!"

So, have you discovered yet what God has called you to do? Are you making plans towards it – this year?

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ALL SAINTS CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2.30pm in the Church Meeting Room. We learn new skills and practise old ones. Tea/coffee, biscuits and good company are always on offer. Please join us. All are welcome. For further details please contact Frances Pickett on 0161 439 8890.



All Saints' Website and Facebook



Keep up to date with news and events on the All Saints' website. Find out about our charity work, community groups and listen to recent sermons.



Please contact Sarah Ball on: comms@allsaintsheadleholme.org.uk with any stories and updates.

Find All Saints' on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsCH/> and "Like" us to get notifications about our news and events.



Church Open

There are no second Saturday coffee mornings in January and February, the next one will be on March 14th.



MEN'S SOCIETY

Monthly meetings on the first Thursday, September to May, at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room (unless otherwise stated). After the talk there is a short question and answer session followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

The upcoming programme includes:

January 2020 Date

Date and venue to be announced

Thursday 6 February

John Barbirolli and the Hallé - talk by Geoff Scargill

Although this group is attended by men, if you are interested in hearing any of the speakers you will be most welcome to come along.

Chairman: Bradley Torbitt (0161 486 9387)

Secretary: Mike Parry (0161 485 7886)

Former asylum seeker ordained

A former asylum seeker who escaped the clutches of Islamic extremists has recently been ordained as a Church of Scotland minister.

Raheel Arif was inducted into Denny Old Parish Church linked with Haggs Parish Church and will become its first full-time spiritual leader for five and a half years.

The 47-year-old said he was very excited about taking up the “wonderful and priceless ministry” in the Falkirk Council district.

Mr Arif and his wife Humaira and their children, Rhea and Roshaan, fled to Scotland from Pakistan in September, 2011 after extremists threatened their lives because of their faith. At the time he was the vice-principal of a secondary school in Peshawar, partly run by the state, and the only Christian out of a staff of 52. Jealousy and suspicion was rife, and then a plot was mounted against him, to have him arrested for blasphemy. Fortunately, it failed.

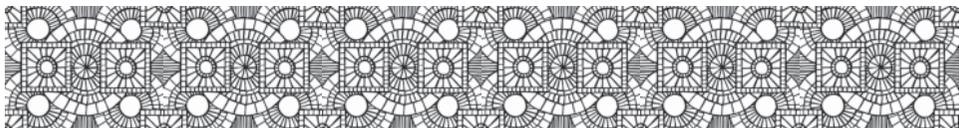
Mr Arif took his wife and children to Grangemouth to visit his cousin Rev Aftab Gohar, minister of Abbotsgrange Parish Church, in the summer of 2011 to lie low until things got back to normal. But when they returned to Peshawar two months later it quickly became clear that his persecutors would never leave them in peace, and so they decided to return to Scotland and seek asylum.

Mr Arif, who grew up in a Christian family and was very active in his local church in Pakistan and involved in mission work, said: “We were living a good life in Peshawar, but extremists kept threatening us. It was a terrifying, horrible situation and I was very scared. At first the threats were only directed at me and I thought things would calm down in time. “But when people came to my house and threatened my family, I knew that we had to leave. I had heard the stories of how non-Muslims were killed by extremists – butchered with their bodies put in sacks and thrown in fields.”

Mr Arif said the family applied for asylum the day they arrived in Glasgow and 18 months later they were granted refugee status and leave to remain for five years which has been extended to indefinite leave to remain.

He enrolled in Highland Theological College in Dingwall in 2015 to study theology as a distance learning student and graduated last year. Mr Arif, who has a Masters degree in botany and a Bachelor’s degree in education, carried out his 15 month probation at Zetland Parish Church in Grangemouth under the tutelage of Rev Alison Meikle.

“I have been on an amazing journey and my ordination is affirmation for that call and God’s plan for my life,” he said. “When we came to Scotland the circumstances were very difficult, but God’s hand and grace was upon us which further increased my faith and trust in Him.





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Telephone: 0161 485 2596



Musica Nova return to serenade All Saints' audiences in January

Musica Nova return to All Saints' Church on Saturday 25th January with a programme of serenades by Elgar, Bruch and Dvorak. The concert includes **Elgar's** beautiful **Serenade for Strings, Op. 20**, one of the most performed works of all time.

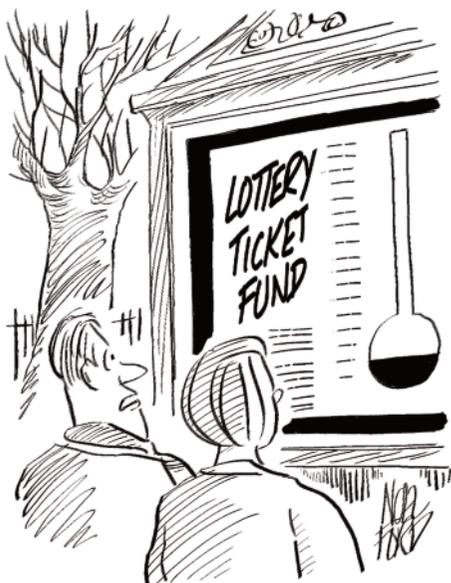
Musica Nova's strings will also perform **Bruch's** melodic and colourful **Serenade on Swedish Melodies**, a work in five movements that's full of contrast.

Wind instruments take centre stage for **Dvorak's Serenade for Wind Instruments Op.44**, which the composer was inspired to write after hearing a performance of Mozart's Serenade in B flat for Winds. Dvorak's Serenade is filled with the spirit of Czech folk music.

The concert takes place at **All Saints' Church** on **Saturday 25th January** at **7:30pm**.

Tickets are £12 full price, £10 concessions and accompanied children under 16 are free. Tickets are available on the door, or to reserve in advance please call **07583 165175**, email **musicanova@rocketmail.com** or ask at the church.

For more information about Musica Nova please visit **www.musicanova.co.uk**



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Parish Calendar and Registers

JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 8.00am Holy Communion
(2nd in month)
- 10.00am The Parish Communion.
We welcome children and encourage them to bring their parents. There is a supervised creche in Church for the under 5's.
On the second Sunday of each month this will be our Family Communion and Parade Service. We serve coffee in Church after the service - please come and join us.
- 6.30pm Evensong.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion:

Thursdays at 10.00am
Holy Days as announced

Matins: Mondays, Wednesdays,
Thursdays and Fridays at 9.00am

See the weekly news sheet for further details.

ALTAR FLOWER ROTA JANUARY 2020

- 5th -
12th Mrs D. Eyre
19th Mrs A. Smith
26th Mrs S. Akroyd

If you wish to discuss any aspect of church flowers including wedding flowers please contact Frances Pickett (0161 439 8890)

VACANT DATES ON ALTAR ROTA 2020

The following dates are now available for those who would like to contribute to the Altar Flowers:

Permanent

- January 5
February 16th & 23rd
May 17th
July 19th & 26th
November 29th
December 20th

For one year only

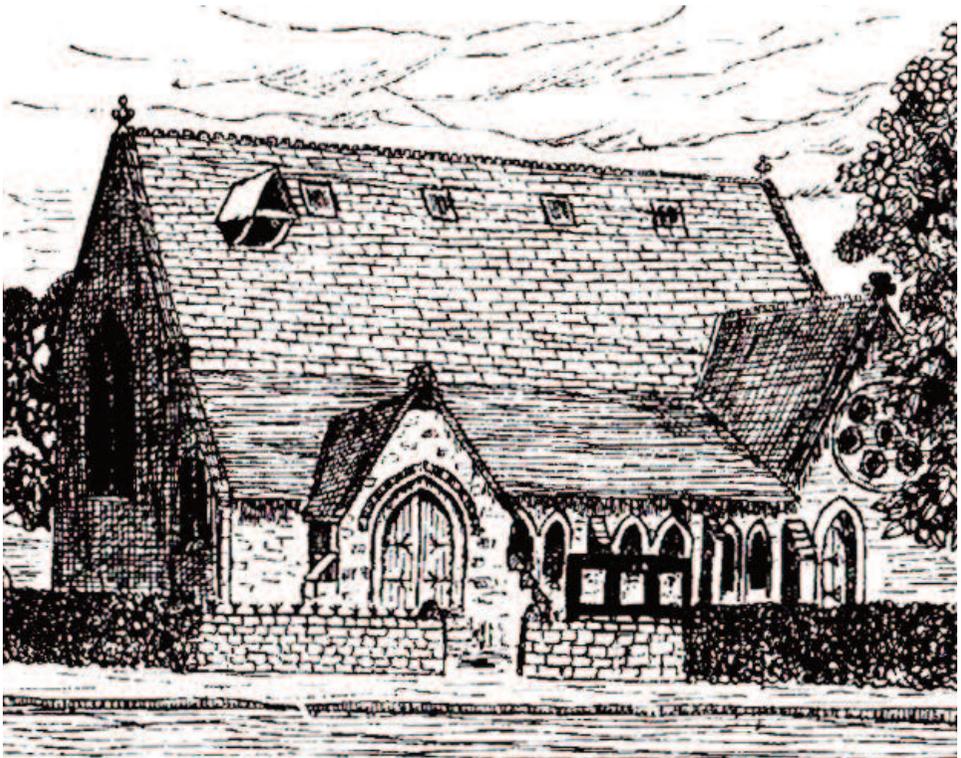
- May 27th
November 1st

If you would like to adopt any of these dates please contact **Frances Pickett** on **0161 439 8890**.

There is also a list on the back-of-church notice board for those who wish to contribute to the Chancel Pedestal Flowers. Please put your name in the space next to your date of choice and contact the person on duty that month or Frances Pickett.

URGENT APPEAL!

The number of flower arrangers at All Saints' has declined radically over the years. If you enjoy flower arranging and would like to help flower arrange in church or would like to learn how to flower arrange contact Frances Pickett or any member of the Flower Group.



Christian Stewardship

The Parish practises the principles of Christian Stewardship in its giving for the work of God. If you are interested to learn more about it please contact the Recorder, Kate Hughes (485 1010), the Vicar or the Churchwardens. The giving of time and talents is encouraged, If you wish to help in some capacity in the Church services or organisations, in improving or maintaining the Church fabric or grounds, or in visiting and helping the sick or housebound, please speak to the Clergy or the Churchwardens.



All Saints Cheadle Hulme

PARISH DIRECTORY

Clergy: The Rev'd Janet Owens (Retired) (312 4683)

Readers: Mrs Pat Yates (485 4546)

*Mr Michael Aiers (439 7692)

Church Wardens: *Mrs Janet Ashman (485 7969)

*John Ackerley (486 1419)

Deputy Wardens: *Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647)

*Ms Sarah Ball (07966 146746)

Organist: *Miss Trevlyn Thomas (485 8026)

Sacristan: *Mrs Janet Valentine (439 8203)

P.C.C. Vice Chairman and Treasurer: *Mr Jeremy Valentine (439 8203)

P.C.C. Secretary: *Mrs Linda Ackerley (486 1419)

Planned Giving and Gift Aid Secretary: *Mrs Kate Hughes (485 1010)

Mainly Music Co-ordinator and Child Protection Officer: *Mrs Clare Russell (486 9304)

Church Room Bookings: Mr Neville Ashman (485 7969)

Parish Rooms Bookings: Ms Joanna Parsons, Parish Room Cottage, Church Road, SK8 7JB
(485 2596)

Electoral Roll Officer: Dr David Jones (01625 850997)

Parish Magazine Editor: Mr Rhys Davenport (485 6772) Email: seed.design@mail.com

Website and Social Media: *Ms Sarah Ball Email: comms@allsaintsheadleulme.org.uk

Parish Magazine Secretary and Treasurer:

Mrs Chris Spencer (485 8282)

Deanery Synod Representatives: *Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647)

*Miss Irene Walton (439 6096)

P.C.C. Members are marked* Other members

Mesdames: L. Bacon, M. Epps, C. Jones, L. Karuku, F. Pickett, S. Stone