

February 2021
Vol.128 No.1562
Price 50p

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, BANNS 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



Vicar's Letter

New Beginnings:

We are one month into the new year and it has already proved to be eventful. We are in another Lockdown, America has seen a riot against the Capitol building and a new Vicar has arrived at All Saints!

To introduce myself, I am Sarah Hancock. I originate from a little village called Hoylake on the Wirral.

All my life I have attended church but it was aged 11 that I made the decision to follow Jesus for myself. I have had the kind of walk with God which has been amazing and also difficult but it has always been an adventure.

An adventure to see where life would take me, such as moving from Hoylake to Watford to do a gap year at a church. To staying in said church for 11 years despite saying I would only stay for a year! It was at this church, Soul Survivor Watford, that I felt called by God to explore being ordained. The next adventure was to move to Cambridge to study at Ridley Hall and then to serve my curacy at St Francis Church, Luton. Then from there the adventure brought me to All Saints!

Through these adventures there has been the need for many new beginnings. To begin in a new church, a new village or town, to make new friends, to find a new coffee shop or how to figure out the heating system in your now, new house.

I draw comfort from our reading this week from the Gospel of Mark where Jesus is baptised. Jesus had to have a new beginning. A beginning like all of us on our journey with God, a baptism. A beginning, a marking of a new start. So this week I mark the beginning of the next chapter in the life of All Saints. I look forward to seeing what adventures God takes us on as a church. Perhaps our new beginning will be to find out more about this God, or perhaps our new beginning will be to talk to God, or to read some of the Bible we haven't read recently or before.

As well as that adventure on the journey I have been on to get to you here, here are some other things about your new vicar. I have a lovely Cockapoo doggy called Maggie. She is named after Dame Maggie Smith the actress which gives a nod to my love of a period drama, especially Downton Abbey. I love coffee and so do let me know which are the good coffee shops in Cheadle Hulme and I will explore them once Lockdown has ended. I look forward to meeting you as and when we can once Lockdown has lifted but for now I will wave from a distance and say hello on Zoom!

Sarah



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

Some Photos From Sarah's Induction



Open Doors welcomes Fiona Bruce as Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion

Fiona Bruce, MP for Congleton, has recently been appointed as the new Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB). Bruce has long been a supporter of the work of Open Doors, including attending the World Watch List parliamentary launch, visiting an Open Doors exhibition highlighting the plight of Yzidi women in Iraq, and regularly raising the issue of persecuted believers to the House of Commons.



She said: “My post will be placed at the service of some of the most vulnerable people across the world.” She listed just some of the “continuing large scale horrors taking place “such as those against Uighur Muslims in China, Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Yazidis in Iraq. She agreed with “the late and much respected former Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks” when he had stated: ‘the persecution of Christians throughout much of the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, and elsewhere, is one of the crimes against humanity of our time. These are some of the most deeply concerning issues of our generation, on which it will be a privilege to engage as Special Envoy, both nationally and internationally.”

Fiona Bruce has been a friend of Open Doors for many years, and is “a real champion for freedom of religion and belief,” says Henrietta Blyth, CEO of Open Doors UK and Ireland.

Celebrating 75 years of the RSV Version

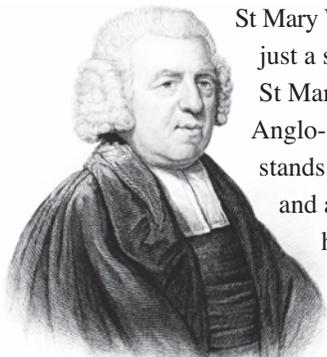
The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published 75 years ago, on 11th February 1946. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.

The RSV Old Testament followed in 1952 and the Apocrypha in 1957. The translation was a revision of the American Standard Version of 1901 and was intended to be a readable and accurate modern English translation. A ceremony to commemorate the publication of the New Testament was held in Columbus, Ohio, with the translation team saying they wanted it to supplement the ASV and not supplant it.

The RSV New Testament was mostly well received, but the Old Testament, which made use of Dead Sea Scrolls material, less so. One objection centred on the translation of a Hebrew word in Isaiah as ‘young woman’ instead of ‘virgin’, which was said to distort a basic Christian truth and encouraged many to go back to the King James Bible.

Some opponents went further, calling it a “master stroke of Satan”. One Southern pastor burned a copy with a blowtorch in his pulpit. The controversy may have paved the way for the now widely used and virginal New International Version, introduced in 1978.

How Firm a Foundation



St Mary Woolnoth is a parish church in the City of London, it stands just a stone's throw from the Bank of England. Built in 1727, St Mary's occupies the site of previous churches going back to Anglo-Saxon times. Among the long list of incumbents one name stands out - John Newton, former slave trader turned preacher and author of "Amazing Grace", was Rector from 1779 until his death in 1807. He was a powerful preacher, people came from far and wide to hear him; a gallery had to be installed in the church to accommodate the numbers.

Newton was devoted to his wife, Polly; when she died in 1790 she was buried in the crypt of St Mary's. When he too died in 1807 he was buried beside her and there they rested in peace. But not for long, in 1893 the City and South London Electric Railway Company wanted to gain access to the site, to build stairs and lifts for its Bank station below the church. St Mary's was scheduled for demolition but there was a public outcry and the church was saved. Instead, the railway company bought the crypt; their engineers excavated the ground beneath the church, supporting the structure on steel girders.

The work was completed successfully, the stairs and lifts for the station were installed, while the church stood undisturbed above; it is said there wasn't even a crack in the plaster. St Mary's Woolnoth is still in use for worship today, in the heart of the Square Mile, a witness to faith amongst the steel and stone of commerce.

But what about those who had lain at rest in the crypt? Most were taken and reburied with dignity at Ilford in Essex, outside the city. The remains of John Newton and Polly were exhumed, transported with care to

Olney in Buckinghamshire, and reburied, with a lasting memorial stone, next to the church where John had begun his ministry in 1764. It remains eternally true that "the Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord", but St Mary Woolnoth's earthly foundations are a few steel beams and an Underground station. *Douglas Scarisbrick*



How to handle temptation

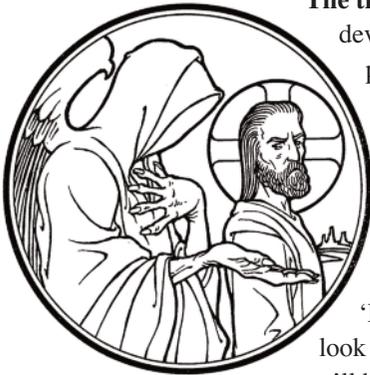
“I can resist everything but temptation” (Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus’ experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when ‘He was led by the Spirit.. to be tempted by the devil.’ (1). Temptation is a test of obedience, whether we do things our way or God’s way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most vulnerable moments, especially during this pandemic.



The first temptation was to turn stones into bread: Jesus’ ministry was not about meeting His own needs, but being nourished

by God’s Word. ‘We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God’ (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we are called to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The second temptation was to put God to the test: Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this is not God’s way! ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson!



The third temptation was to worship Satan: Finally, the devil took Jesus to a mountain to offer Him worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was marked by suffering and honouring God. ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only’ (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is often our experience in living for God. Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, we will find strength in the power of the Spirit and the victory of the Cross. ‘If you look at the world, you’ll be distressed. If you look within, you’ll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you’ll be at rest!’ (Corrie Ten Boom).

The devil wrestles with God, and the field of battle is the human heart.

Fyodor Dostoevski

Repentance is ultimate honesty. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Christ’s deeds and examples are commandments of what we should do. John Wycliffe

Love Is...

As we mark Valentines' Day this month, it's good to ask the question: what does real love look like?

The Apostle Paul says: 'Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking,

it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.'

(1 Corinthians 13: 4-8).



Love is unconditional

At heart, love is not just feelings but action! Paul talks here about unconditional love, using the word agape, which demonstrated in God's love for us: 'We love, because He first loved us.' (1 John 4:19).

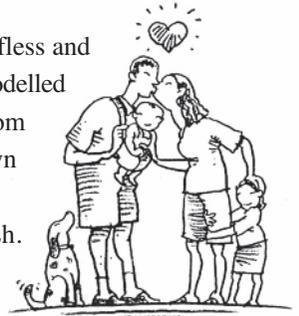
Love is forgiving

According to the film Love Story, 'Love means never having to say you're sorry.' This is rarely true in our experience! According to Paul, love is being ready to forgive others and 'keeping no record of wrongs' (5). We can

only forgive others because we know God forgiveness in our own lives.

Love is sacrificial

Paul says that agape love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of other people first. This is modelled by Jesus giving His life for us on the cross. Take the words from 1 Corinthians and instead of the word love, substitute your own name. Now substitute the word Jesus. This is the Jesus who is available to you to make your love for others grow and flourish. Someone once compared love being like a group of porcupines huddling together on a cold night. The closer they get, the more they jab and hurt each other. 'To love at all is to be vulnerable.' (C S Lewis).



It is but right that our hearts should be on God, when the heart of God is so much on us.

Richard Baxter

A man who loves his wife will love her letters and her photographs because they speak to him of her. So, if we love the Lord Jesus, we shall love the Bible because it speaks to us of Him. John R W Stott

Follow a new pilgrim path

In the south of England, a new pilgrim path is emerging. Winding through downland, weald and shoreline for 250 miles, the Old Way from Southampton to Canterbury is derived from the oldest road map of Britain: the Gough Map, c.1360.

Like the Santiago de Compostela in Spain, this ancient route has lain dormant for years. But it has been recently rediscovered by the British Pilgrimage Trust, who have used the map's key anchor waypoints (corresponding to settlements like Southampton, Battle, Chichester, Arundel, Rye etc) to create a new pilgrim route with ancient roots.

In unison with the Old Way's development, the British Pilgrimage Trust are also reintroducing another ancient – and similarly dormant – tradition.

The offering of 'sanctuary' hospitality to pilgrims along a pilgrimage route was, up until the English Reformation of 1534, common practice. Monasteries throughout the country would have had a room or building reserved specifically for travellers, who would rely on these sanctuaries in order to make pilgrimage. When pilgrimage was banned in 1538, and monasteries demolished, these two practices – making pilgrimage, and providing sanctuary – ceased, lying fallow for hundreds of years.

It is natural, then, that with the re-emergence of pilgrimage in the UK, the provision of sanctuary should likewise become common practice again. The BPT has worked with 13 churches along the Old Way, who will offer overnight sanctuary to BPT pilgrims walking the route, in exchange for a donation (between £5-£10 per pilgrim for one night) to their church. In Spring 2021, Covid-19 permitting, the Sanctuary Project will launch. The BPT is looking for more churches, based along this route and in other locations across Britain, to take up this project. This is a fantastic opportunity: not only will the project enable pilgrims on lower incomes to make pilgrimage, but it will also bring a new type of visitor and donation to churches. To find out more about the BPT's Sanctuary Project, visit: britishpilgrimage.org/sanctuary



the Gough Map, c.1360

Describe what love is

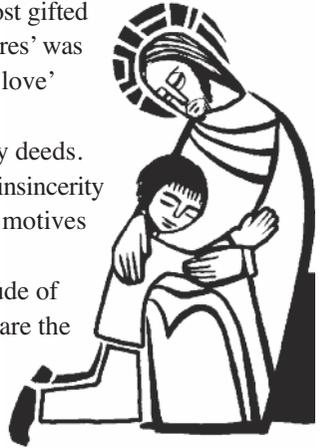
J R Miller (1840-1912) was considered by many to be the most gifted devotional writer of his generation. His book 'In Green Pastures' was much loved. Here is J R Miller's paraphrase of the famous 'love' passage in 1 Corinthians 13:

Love thinks no evil. It does not suspect unkindness in kindly deeds. It does not imagine an enemy in every friend. It does not fear insincerity in sincere professions of esteem. It does not impugn others' motives nor discount their acts.

On the other hand, it overlooks foibles and hides the multitude of faults that belong to every human being, even to those who are the holiest and the best. Love believes in the good that is in people and tries to think of them always at their best, not at their worst.

It looks, too, at the possibilities that are in people, what they may become through divine love and grace, and not merely at what they now are.

It is wonderful how seeing through love's eyes changes the whole face of earthly life, transfiguring it. If the heart be filled with suspicion, distrust, and doubt of people, the world grows very ugly. But love sees brightness, beauty and hope everywhere.



It is not enough to love – you need to be loved

Sometimes we can be inclined to give and give and give to others – without asking anything in return. We may think that this is a sign of generosity – of great strength. But it can also be one of pride – we want to be seen as the one who does not need help. Or it can be a sign of very low self-esteem – we do not think we are worth receiving anything from others.

Whatever the reason, when we keep giving, without also receiving, we put ourselves in danger – we will burn out quickly. It is as important to know when we need to TAKE attention and care, as when we need to give it to others. If you do not pay careful attention to your own needs – whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual – you will not last the distance.

If you want to remain a joyful giver for years to come, you need also to be a joyful taker and accept God's love, given to you through other people.



Remembering John Keats



It was 200 years ago, on 23rd February 1821, that John Keats, the Romantic poet, died in Rome of tuberculosis, aged 25.

Keats was a generous, likeable and hard-working man who had much experience of suffering in his short life. He also had a love of civil and religious liberty. Most of his best work was done during the year 1819, when he was already sickening after an exhausting walking tour of the Lakes and Scotland the previous summer.

In that same year he had also been nursing his brother Tom through tuberculosis – the disease that killed their mother. But in 1819, after Tom's death,

he moved to Hampstead and fell in love with a neighbour, Fanny Brawne, who was 18. By this time Keats was devoting himself to poetry, having originally trained as a surgeon following his mother's early death. He is most famous for his Odes, all of which (except the one to Autumn) were composed between March and June 1819. All of them ponder the clash between eternal ideals and the transience of the physical world.

His most famous lines: "Beauty is truth, truth beauty, – that is all / Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know."



*...between you and me, it's the
only way I can remember my PIN number!*

The British Church in 2021

The fourth edition of UK Church Statistics, No 4, 2021 Edition, has now been published. Although this is a pre-Covid-19 assessment, the findings will still be of interest. The book looks at the 228 denominations in the UK. Although 39% of the denominations (which are responsible for 82% of the total membership) are declining, still some 50% of all the denominations were showing some, if small, growth.

That so many groups of Christian churches are growing amidst general decline is significant.

What is helping that growth? It was found to have been caused by the enormous numbers of immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, students coming into the country. Some of these come from countries with Christian traditions or backgrounds. These 'Diaspora churches' include Iranian Latvian, Romanian, Syrian, Sri Lankan and Turkish churches, made up of immigrants to the UK.



Have you done something which haunts you?

Do you ever worry that your past failings mean that God will not accept you now? Some of us have done many things which we regret, things that have caused us, or others, great pain.

We've given our children short shrift, we've betrayed our marriage partners, we've been dishonest at work, we've been ruthlessly greedy and ambitious, no matter what the cost to anyone else. And now the memory of the wrong we've done lingers, and makes us ashamed. Our past failings make us very reluctant to turn to God. Why should He forgive the damage we have done?

If you think this way, then you have a big surprise waiting for you: God isn't like that. You haven't yet encountered His GRACE. God knows all about you, and most of all He knows you need His help. Jesus said that He came into the world to reach sinners, to help anyone who turns to Him in true repentance to find forgiveness, and a new start. You can't do anything to turn yourself into a good person. But you don't have to.

All that God asks of you is that you turn to Jesus in prayer, and say you are sorry, and ask Him to forgive you, and to put His Spirit within you. Then you find His GRACE – which means His loving-kindness, beginning in YOUR life. Just try it.

Today let God begin to set you free from the past!



Truth Encounter

(Luke 4:1-14, John 17:17, James 4:7)

*Led by the Spirit
And tempted by the devil
He wandered in the wilderness,
Hungry
And focussed on God,
And the truth and power of His Word.
Truth and power enough
To resist His enemy and ours.
To go on – armed with the Spirit –
To give His life,
To give us life.*

*A lesson in tactics then:
Know the truth,
Submit to God,
Resist the devil
And our wildernesses will blossom.
We will bear fruit,
Fruit to be known by
As His.*

Daphne Kitching



The Water of Life

She came to the well around midday,
To avoid all the gossip she came alone,
She met a Man there who told her all things
Five husbands she had and not one her own.

He asked for a drink and they started to talk,
A Samaritan woman there with a Jew
Breaking all barriers to meet her need
He told her how she could be made new.

The water of life that He would give
Would mean that she never would thirst
again
This transforming draught He offers to all
Once tasted you never will be the same.

At Cana He turned the water to wine
A miracle no-one but He could do
Just as the water was wondrously changed
If you drink from this Fount it can happen
to you.

Psalm 34:8

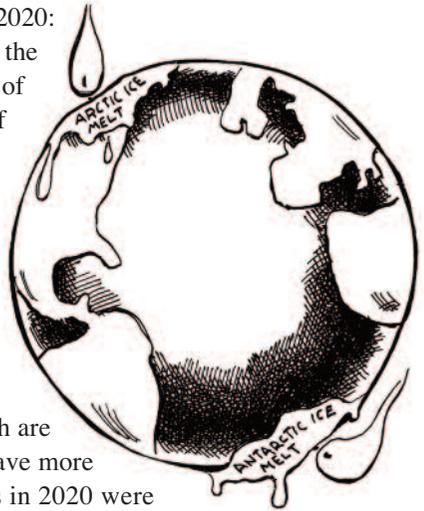
‘O taste and see that the LORD is good’

Megan Carter



Christian Aid report on climate breakdown

A new report by Christian Aid, *Counting the cost 2020*: a year of climate breakdown, has identified 15 of the most destructive climate disasters of the year. Ten of those events cost \$1.5 billion or more, with nine of them causing damage worth at least \$5 billion. Most of these estimates are based only on insured losses, meaning the true financial costs are likely to be higher. Among them is Storm Ciara which struck the UK, Ireland and across Europe during February costing \$2.7 billion and killing 14. In total the UK's Environment Agency issued 251 flood warnings.



While the report focuses on financial costs, which are usually higher in richer countries because they have more valuable property, some extreme weather events in 2020 were devastating in poorer countries, even though the price tag was lower. South Sudan, for example, experienced one of its worst floods on record, which killed 138 people and destroyed the year's crops. Some of the disasters hit fast, like Cyclone Amphan, which struck the Bay of Bengal in May and caused losses valued at \$13 billion in just a few days. Other events unfolded over months, like floods in China and India, which had an estimated cost of \$32 billion and \$10 billion respectively.

Six of the ten most costly events took place in Asia, five of them associated with an unusually rainy monsoon. And in Africa, huge locust swarms ravaged crops and vegetation across several countries, causing damages estimated at \$8.5 billion. The outbreak has been linked to wet conditions brought about by unusual rains fuelled by climate change. But the impact of extreme weather was felt all over the world. In Europe, two extra-tropical cyclones, Ciara and Alex, had a combined cost of almost \$6 billion. And the US suffered from both a record-breaking hurricane season and a record-breaking fire season adding up to more than \$60 billion in damages.

Some less populated places also suffered the consequences of a warming world. In Siberia, a heat wave during the first half of the year set a record in the city of Verkhoyansk, with temperatures reaching 38°C. A few months later, on the other side of the world, heat and drought drove the fires in Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil. While there were no human casualties reported from these events, the destruction of these areas has a great impact on biodiversity and the planet's capacity to respond to a warmer world.

Christian Aid says that: "These extreme events highlight the need for urgent climate action. The Paris Agreement, which set the goal of keeping temperature rise 'well below' 2°C, and ideally 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels, has just turned five years old. It is critical that countries commit to bold new targets ahead of the next climate conference, which will take place in Glasgow, in November 2021."

Candlemas

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first ‘public appearance’. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to ‘present Him to the Lord’. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was ‘purified’. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year’s supply of candles for the church on this day – hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon’s great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

Ash Wednesday - My Memory of Passover in Jerusalem

Ash Wednesday introduces the Christian preparation for Easter, which normally coincides with Passover, the major Jewish celebration of the year. It’s near Easter because Jesus was crucified at Passover, having just shared this very meal with His disciples.

Passover celebrates and recalls the Israelites’ escape from slavery in Egypt. Led by Moses they crossed the Red Sea and 40 days later entered the ‘Promised Land.’ They shared the Passover meal at their last night in Egypt and have kept it all for nearly the past three thousand years or so that have followed.

Many years ago, when I was in Jerusalem to produce a radio programme, I was invited to join a Jewish family for their Passover meal. It was a great occasion, very like our Christmas, a family event with deep religious significance for those who seek it.

At the meal in Jerusalem, we ate modest lentils and unleavened bread – Matzos as we now call it. We also drank plenty of wine but not from the cup at the end of the table. That is ‘Elijah’s cup’, only to be drunk from when the prophet comes to announce the arrival of the Messiah. At the last supper Jesus instructed His disciples to drink from that cup after supper, which may have shocked them at the time. The Messiah had come!

David Winter

Fra Angelico - Patron of Artists (18th Feb)

If you enjoy drawing or painting, Fra Angelico is the patron saint for you. This devout Dominican priest of the Early Renaissance (1387-1455) used his superlative talent to the glory of God to such an extent that even six centuries later we are inspired and blessed by his art.

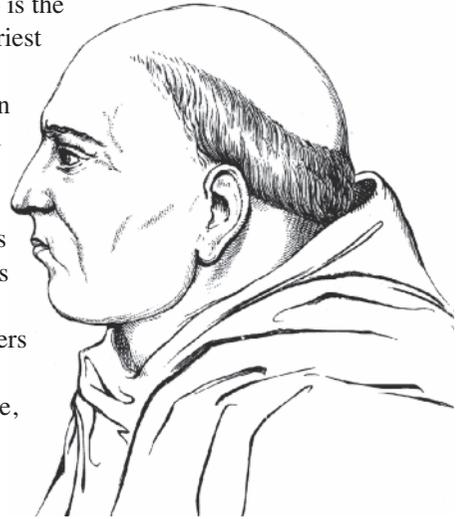
For while you may not be familiar with his name, but you'll know his work: Fra Angelico's The Annunciation or Adoration of the Magi has adorned many classical Christmas cards. He is reckoned to be one of the greatest Italian painters of the 15th century.

Fra Angelico was born at Vicchio near Florence, and as a young friar worked at illuminating manuscripts such as the Dominican Diurnal.

Ordained priest at Fiesole in 1418, he continued painting, spending the 1430s decorating the interior of the friary of San Marco, Florence with his masterpieces. Work at the Vatican followed, especially his paintings of Stephen and Laurence in the chapel of the artistic pope Nicholas V.

Fra Angelico's work is sublime, revealing a marvellous command of colour, light and perspective. It radiates spiritual serenity, and a dedication to God that is matched by few others. Experts have said that "it is impossible to bestow too much praise on this holy father, who was so humble and modest in all that he did and said."

From 1449 to 1452 Fra Angelico was prior of Fiesole. Then he moved to Rome, where three years later he died. He was beatified in 1960 and declared patron of artists in 1984.



Do your days rush by at a hectic pace?

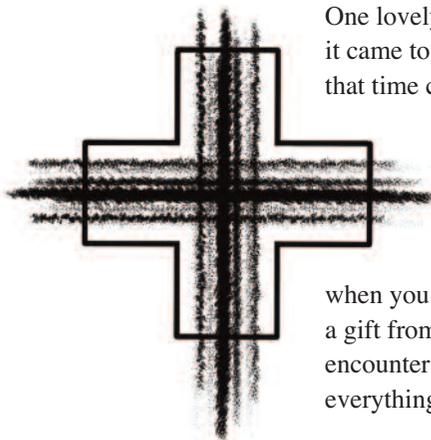
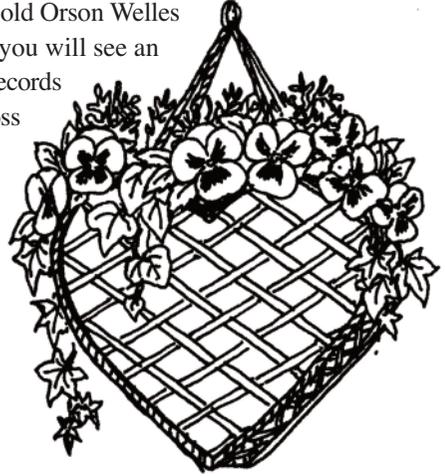
Have you ever stopped to think that your mobile phone and emails have not given you more time? Just more things to do in the same amount of time.

We leave our messages in one place while we take our bodies elsewhere. Instead of doing one thing after another, we shoot out a variety of tasks, and then swoop down on them later, needing to deal with them all at once.

In a four-minute clip from a street scene from an old Orson Welles film and a similar clip from a more recent film, you will see an amazing difference. In the early film, the camera records ‘real time’ – people get out of their cars, walk across streets, wait for lights, speak to other people, enter a bank. In the more recent film, a similar sequence was reduced to a half a dozen quick cuts. Transition time was eliminated.

Modern life teaches us that ‘down time’ is wasted. Time is money. So mobile phones, emails, etc, enable us to ‘waste’ less time. The tempo of cultural life picks up, the heartbeat of daily life races, and our own body rhythms respond with adrenaline, cramped muscles and heart attacks.

To take time out for daily prayer, for a quiet walk that is not to the next meeting, for daydreaming or for Bible study becomes a cross-cultural act. Following Christ, waiting on Him, is a countercultural act.



One lovely biblical phrase is ‘in the fullness of time, it came to pass’. This suggests four things: that time crests like a wave; that there is a right moment for things to happen; that it’s not ours to plan that moment, but to recognise it; and that we are not the primary agents of what happens in the world.

So, feel free to accept God’s offer of rest when you are weary; receive each moment of your life as a gift from God’s hand; pray to discern what each new encounter you make requires of you, and freely entrust everything else to God’s care.

Life is too short for us to do everything we want to do; but it is long enough for us to do everything God wants us to do.

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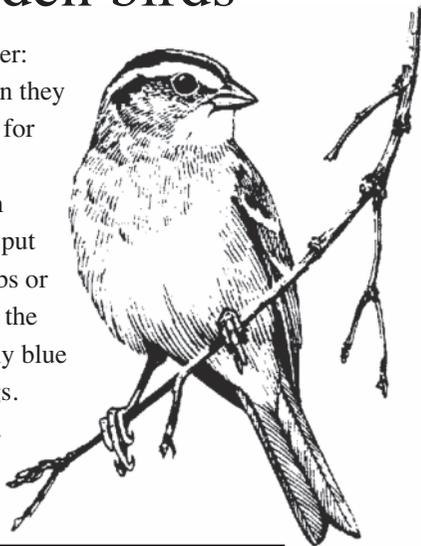
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National Nestbox Week – time to help your garden birds

Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder: parks, gardens and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building.

National Nestbox Week, which is celebrated from 14th February each year, aims to encourage us to put up more nestboxes, and to consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a wide variety of ideas for building and placing nestboxes. Go to: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>



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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 when meetings begin again.**

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

**Saturday Coffee Mornings have been postponed
for the immediate future.**

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.

Due to the implementation of measures to combat the Coronavirus pandemic all meetings have been cancelled. Further details will be posted when available.

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)

Truth at risk of being auctioned to the highest bidder – Archbishop

Truth is becoming a commodity, up for auction to the highest bidder, says Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell in a recent article published in Radio Times.

Lamenting the decline of truth in public life, the Archbishop explains “The echo chambers of social media and the fake news that often goes with it have led us to mistrust and cynicism.

“In other parts of the world, even news channels seem to be mouthpieces of certain political parties or vested interests.”

Commenting on the US Presidential election, Archbishop Cottrell says “Look at how divided and mistrustful of each other the people of that nation have become. Most alarming of all, there seems to be no common understanding of what is true or who can be trusted. Truth itself seems to have become a commodity, bought by the highest bidder.”

The Archbishop’s words echo those of former President Barack Obama, who told the BBC that the US was more sharply divided now than when Donald Trump won election four years ago.

Using the term ‘truth decay’ to describe a rise in conspiracy theories and disinformation in the US, Barack Obama said, “I think at some point it’s going to require a combination of regulation and standards within industries to get us back to the point where we at least recognise a common set of facts before we start arguing about what we should do about those facts.”

The Archbishop of York, who took up the post last July, is warning that the divisions in the US could come to the UK. He believes that the BBC and other UK ‘public service broadcasting’ channels like Channel 4 have a vital role in holding the country together. He says “I know that there are many across the country who feel that during this terrible pandemic year, others have been favoured at their expense. The vision of the united but diverse nation that we see on TV programmes such as ‘Gogglebox’ is not always what we see around us.”

The Archbishop is worried that the rise and spending power of US broadcasting giants Netflix and Amazon places “our British way of doing broadcasting under threat. A voracious, unchecked market may just sweep it away. Even some of our own politicians don’t always see this. Along with the NHS, and even the Church of England, the BBC and other public service broadcasters are a precious part of our cultural ecology. They help us to see ourselves clearly. They can be trusted.”

Meanwhile, a project running in the CofE’s St Albans diocese has brought together journalists, scientists, representatives of Big Tech and authors with people from a range of faiths to consider how the rising tide of disinformation and fake news can be stemmed. Grove Books has published ‘Responding to Post Truth’, showing how churches and Christians could fight back against fake news and disinformation. You can order a copy at: www.grovebooks.co.uk/products/e-197-responding-to-post-truth



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Launch of Rural Teaching Partnership

The Church of England, the education charity Teach First, and the Chartered College of Teaching have recently launched the new Rural Teaching Partnership.



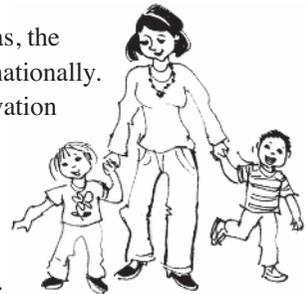
The partnership will run in ten pilot regions across England, and will see trainee teachers, trained by Teach First, start two-year placements with Church of England primary schools by September 2021

By coming together, these three organisations hope to tackle teacher recruitment challenges currently faced by schools in poorer rural areas, with evidence showing that

rural school leaders face greater difficulties with staff recruitment and retention compared to urban schools.

With more than half of its 4,644 schools situated in rural areas, the Church of England is the majority provider of rural schools nationally. Within ten pilot regions, schools serving areas of rural deprivation will be selected for placements either in Church of England schools, or non-Church of England schools which are part of a Church of England federation or multi academy trust.

The pilot dioceses are Leeds, York, Truro, Salisbury, Oxford, Chelmsford, Norwich, Hereford, Derby, and Bath-and-Wells.



The woe of war

Christ, why do you allow wars and massacres on earth? By what mysterious judgement do you allow innocent people to be cruelly slaughtered? I cannot know. I can only find assurance in the promise that Your people will find peace in heaven, where no one makes war. As gold is purified by fire, so You purify souls by these bodily tribulations, making them ready to be received about the stars in Your heavenly home.

Alcuin of York, c. 735–804, who later became abbot of Tours





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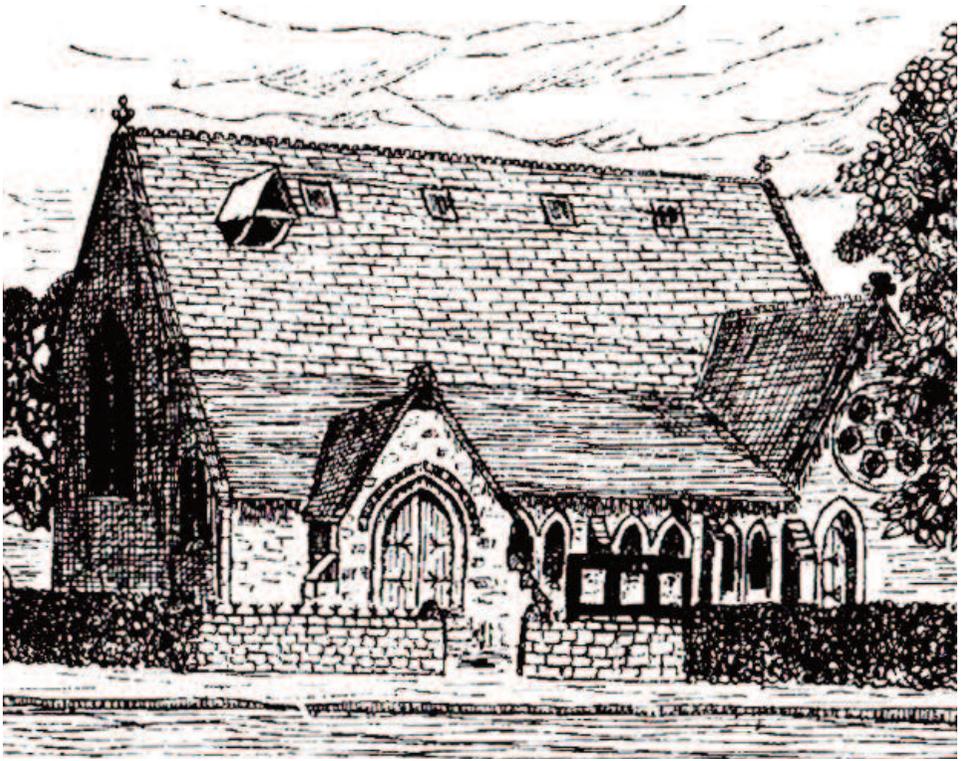
Our building is closed. We are still worshipping.

It has been lovely this week to hear of the many ways our congregation have been worshipping together but apart using our service. I know it is a HUGE change from what we are used to and it can feel strange getting in to a new groove of prayer and worship. Thank you for your understanding. Please be assured of my prayers for you and the church.

We understand that for many this lockdown is a difficult situation. If you would like prayers or simply a conversation please contact me - Rev Sarah on 0161 485 3455 or vicar@allsaintsheadleholme.org.uk or our Churchwardens Janet Ashman 0161 485 7969 and John Ackerley 0161 486 1419.

Stay safe and God bless
Rev Sarah Hancock





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 Sarah Hancock, All Saints Vicarage, 27 Church Road SK8 7JL (485 3455)
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)
*Mr 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