

FOCUS

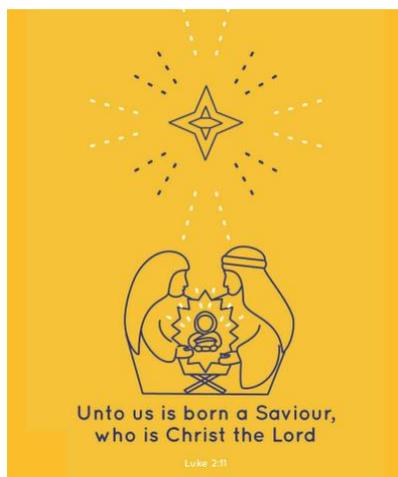


December 2019

FREE: Please take a copy

**The monthly magazine of the Emmanuel
Benefice of Newsome and Armitage
Bridge and South Crosland, Huddersfield**

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds



CONTENTS

This month's services	2-3
Dates for your diary	4
Clergy pages	13-14
Bible Readings	15
Contact Information	16

FOCUS

DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 1 December Advent Sunday

9.15am: Holy Communion @ Armitage Bridge with Junior Church

9.15am : Christingle @ South Crosland

11.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

6.00pm : Advent Carol Service @ Newsome

Wednesday 4 December

10.00am : Holy Communion @ 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Sunday 8 December Advent 2

9.15am: Morning Worship @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Wednesday 11 December

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 43 Delph lane, Netherton

11.30am: Holy Communion @ Garden Court

Sunday 15 December Advent 3

10.00am: Team Service @ Berry Brow Methodist Church

Wednesday 18 December

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Sunday 22 December Advent 4

9.15am: Holy Communion @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11:00am: Morning Worship @ Newsome

Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve

4.00pm: Crib Service @ South Crosland

5.30pm: Nativity/Crib Service @ Armitage Bridge

7.00pm: Carols and Holy Communion for Christmas Eve @ Newsome

11.30pm: Midnight Holy Communion @ South Crosland

Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day

10.00am: Team Service for Christmas @ Armitage Bridge

Sunday 29 December Holy Innocents

10.00am: Holy Communion Team Service @ Newsome



FOCUS

Café Church

December 21 Christmas with the Gospel Choir Berry Brow MC&CC.4.00 to 5.30pm.



Carol Singing 13 December

Carol Singing from 2.00pm at Edale Sheltered housing. The group will then move on to Castle Grange and around Newsome. The afternoon will conclude with treats at Pam and David's home in Hillside Crescent.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 15 Dec : Final day for copy for January Focus

SOUTH CROSLAND WOMEN'S SOCIETY.

10 December . Snowman Drive. Please bring a gift approx. £2.

Joan Sierant



Messy Church Netherton.
11 December 4.00-6.00pm
Messy Church Berry Brow 7 December,
Christmas Activities

Coffee Mornings.

South Crosland will be held on Saturday 14 December at South Crosland Junior School at 10.00 – 11.30.

Newsome will be held on Saturday 21 December at 10.15-11.45 @ Newsome

Church Hall. This will be a Christmas party with music, mince pies and coffee. Instead of a raffle there will be a present swap. You can join in by bringing a gift wrapped Christmas gift of £1 value. Pop your gift in the gift swop basket when you arrive.



Ti-Konki Challenge for Yorkshire Cancer Research Appeal

Many thanks for the contributions of £185 given at Church Services in October to the sponsored cycle ride from London to Rome. The journey being the 65th anniversary of a journey made by a group of students in an ex-army truck in 1954. The target for the appeal set by the two cyclists and their backup driver was £5,000. As at 14 November the sum raised stands at £8,194 excluding Gift Aid. We are pleased to confirm that the Challenge was completed safely and without incident on 27 October, despite unfavourable weather conditions on some of the earlier stages. All the costs of the journey were borne by the participants themselves. Again, a big thank you for your generosity to the Yorkshire Cancer Research Appeal.

Barbara and Alan Roebuck

FOCUS

Remembrance Sunday at Armitage Bridge by Lorraine Trebble

At last the rain stopped as the congregation arrived at St Paul's, Armitage Bridge to hear the bells being rung half muffled for the service of remembrance. The service had us all thinking about what it is to remember, and, Debbie had written a thought provoking song "November", which we all quickly learnt and sang.

The concluding part of the service took place around the war memorial in the churchyard.

All of the names inscribed on the memorial were read out in turn. The wreath was laid by Cpl Matthew Trebble.

After the last post was played out by the bugler the 2 minute silence was observed.

A very solemn occasion indeed, as the tenor bell was tolled. The congregation made their way back into church where coffee was served. The children were happy to colour in poppies and make remembrance crosses.





It is hard to believe that we are already thinking about Christmas but it's not that far away now!

But before we get to the celebration we need to be prepared and so we are offering a bible study group to help us to think about what Christmas and the birth of Jesus is all about.

I believe that bible study is an essential part of our Christian journey as it helps us to see other points of view when it comes to well loved and well known passages in the bible. It brings us together as brothers and sisters and centres us on God.

We are only having one group this year and it will be on

Tuesday afternoons

at Armitage Bridge

at 2pm

starting on 3rd December.

We will be looking at Matthew, Luke and John as we try to unravel that well known story and see what else we can learn.

Please do consider joining this group as it is good to talk together about our faith, about the world and about what our part is in bringing the Kingdom to earth.

Jesus said "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28: 19-20)

We can only do it with his help and we can better understand what we are to do if we share together.

Come and join us and find fellowship and fun as we journey together towards Christmas.

FOCUS

A Christmas Poem

What do you want for Christmas?
I asked my little son
What do you want for Christmas?
A car, a fort, a gun?
You are too young to realise ,
as you play there with your toys,
that somewhere in this world of ours
guns are killing girls and boys.
I hope and pray that as you grow
you'll forget the warlike games,
and to live in peace and harmony
will soon become your aims.

What do you want for Christmas?
I asked my daughter small.
What do you want for Christmas?
A doll, a bat and ball?
To you it's still like magic,
this happy time of year,
Oh may it always stay this way
and not be spoilt by fear.
I hope your generation
never has to feel the pain,
of loved ones going off to war,
you might not see again.

What do you want for Christmas?
You world of weary men.
What do you want for Christmas?
asks the Babe of Bethlehem.
Do you want peace and brotherhood
and love for all mankind;
or do you still want foolish wars,
that maim and kill and blind?
He can give us wonderous gifts
of tolerance and peace,
but first we have to find a way
to make the fighting cease.



Thursdays 1:30 – 3:30 at St John's Church, Newsome.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 9 January | <i>Craft Workshop with Luke</i> |
| 16 January | <i>Wet felt making workshop with Debbie</i> |
| 23 January | <i>Pottery Workshop part one with Dave</i> |
| 30 January | <i>Natural flower arranging with Byron</i> |
| 6 February | <i>Pottery Workshop part two with Dave</i> |
| 13 February | <i>Silk painting workshop with Lianne</i> |
| 20 February | <i>CLOSED</i> |
| 27 February | <i>“Save Food, Save Money” with Beverley</i> |
| 5 March | <i>Gentle Exercise with Lucy</i> |

Contact Susanna: 07542 771518

aspire@stjohnsbirkby.org.uk



FOCUS

PURGING THE PLASTIC

At our Harvest celebration, our 3 churches agreed to share good practice regarding plastic use. It is so difficult to avoid it - and there are many different plastics, some of which are recyclable in Kirklees and many of which are not.

Well, thanks to all who participated. I have typed up the suggestions made by members of Emmanuel churches and here they are. How many of these do you do? And have you other good ideas for passing on to Focus readers?

Debby

Refusing to accept plastic drinking straws in bars and cafes

Buy a reusable cup for tea or coffee and take it with you when out and about

Carry a refillable water bottle with you

Don't buy plastic products if alternatives exist

Wash and return yogurt pots to Sainsbury's recycling unit, Shove Head

Buy a mesh bag for 30p from Sainsbury's and reuse it every week (3 people did this)

Use paper bags for food and as shopping bags

Buy fruit and vegetables loose in cloth or string bag

Daily doorstep milk delivery - rinse glass bottle and return

Cover food in fridge with plate, not cling film

Use butter/margarine tubs for freezer storage

Where possible, buy clothing made of natural fibres

Use bar soap for wash basins, baths and showers, instead of creams and gels (2 people did this)

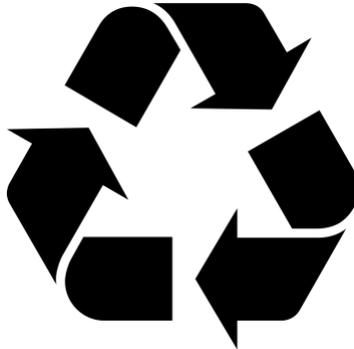
Refill soap dispensers instead of buying new

Use ceramic plant pots not plastic

Visit, and buy at, charity shops

Use cotton pan scrubber instead of foam or plastic

Cut up old towels into cleaning cloths for many uses instead of plastic cloths



FOCUS

PRAYER & PENITENCE

Last month's Prayer Request from the Brothers at the Community of the Resurrection is about the place of penitence in their lives. Much of the second paragraph of what follows resonates with my feelings about "how things are" in the country and the wider world. I thought it might give you "Pause for Thought" in your Advent preparations: "The Gospels have many stories of repentant sinners: the prodigal son says "Father, I have sinned..."; the tax collector says, "Lord have mercy on me..."; the woman from the street says nothing but washes Jesus' feet, weeping; even Peter, not a notable sinner as far as we know, says "depart from me for I am a sinner..."

Monastic life has always been seen as a penitential life. Some traditions have customs of strict fasting to express this; others understand the life to be one lived in penitence for the sins of the world. In recent years this understanding of the life has been largely lost. People do not like to talk about sin. They say: The world is good; people are good; we shouldn't talk about sin because it makes people depressed. Yet we only need to look around us at the financial scandals, the child abuse scandals, the confusion of governments, the violence in the Middle East to realise that really bad things are still happening. There is a great deal of sin in the world and we need repentance.

Jesus also promises us life: "I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly..." (Jn 10:10); and joy: "...your hearts will rejoice and no one will take your joy from you." (Jn 16:22) In religious life we must hold penitence and joy together if we are going to be true to the Gospel of Christ."

Wishing you a blessed and peaceful Christmas-time.

Jeremy

Clergy Pages

Dear Friends

After the month of remembering comes the month of Advent. The word means “coming” or “arrival”, and brings a mix of emotions, ranging from anxiety to excitement.

30 years ago, while I was team Deacon in Northolt in west London, I went to an elderly parishioner’s flat to collect her for the pensioners’ Christmas dinner. I was concerned that there was no answer to my knock on the door and worried that she might have had a fall or been ill. But eventually the door opened. She was in her dressing gown and slippers and surprised to see me. “I didn’t think anyone would come” she said.

That has always seemed like the message of Advent to me. We profess belief in Christ yesterday, today and forever the same. There are 3 comings of Christ we celebrate in Advent - the coming to the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Christchild born at Bethlehem, the individual coming of Jesus Christ to each of us throughout our lives through prayer and worship - especially Holy Communion - and the “Second Coming” of Christ at the end of time. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

That’s the theory - but it may not be your experience or my experience. Often we may feel like the old lady who didn’t think anyone would come. Advent is a chance to sharpen up our expectancy, a characteristic which strengthens our capacity for hope and faith and love - the 3 things St Paul said “last for ever”.

This year, as well as our usual Sunday morning services, Advent includes a special Advent Carol Service on December 1st at St John’s Newsome at 6pm. And 3 gospel study sessions, looking at the

FOCUS

different accounts of the coming of Jesus Christ into the world, on Tuesday afternoons at St Paul's Armitage Bridge from 2-3.30pm, beginning with Matthew's account.

Beyond that, we have our pre-Christmas traditions! Family ones, Church ones, community ones..... And this year a General Election to slot in too! See the calendar in this Focus for times and details.

My prayer for you and for myself is that we will be like midwives this Advent, birthing the story of Jesus' birth afresh this year for those who know it, for those who have forgotten it and for those who have never known it for themselves. And not least for ourselves.

An expectant Advent and a blessed Christmas for all of you

Debby





Bible Readings in December

1 December Advent Sunday

Isaiah 52:1-5

Matthew 24: 36-44

8 December Advent 2

Romans 15 :4-13

Matthew 3 : 1-12

15 December Advent 3

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

22 December Advent 4

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1:18-end

24 December Christmas Eve

Isaiah 52 : 7-10

John 1: 1-14

CONTACTS

Webpage: www.theemanuelteam.org.uk

This magazine may be read in full colour on our webpage!

Ministers and Readers

Rector:	Revd Julie Anderson	962184
	julie_anderson51@yahoo.co.uk	
	42 Beaumont Park Road, Huddersfield, HD4 5JS	
Assistant Clergy:	Revd David Kent	324049
	Canon Debby Plummer	07762236986
	Revd Ann Sykes	603894
Lay Reader	Jeremy Plummer	667661

Churchwardens

Newsome:	June Richardson	665537
Armitage Bridge:	Pamela Thomas	359270
South Crosland:	Martyn Dean	666325
	Julie Dean	666325

Webpage and Magazine Contact

Rena Souten renasouten@theemanuelteam.org.uk

THE EMMANUEL BENEFICE HUDDERSFIELD

"Offering love and service to our communities in Christ's name."