

FOCUS

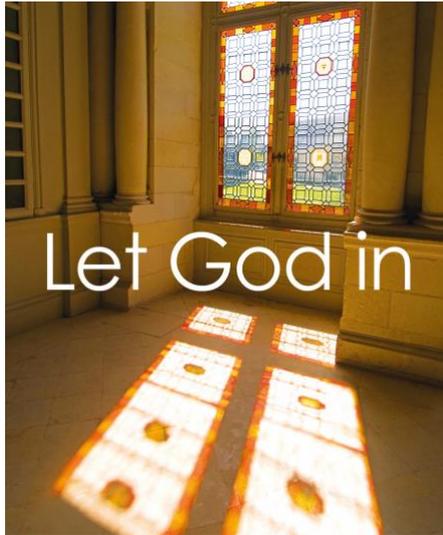


January 2020

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



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FOCUS

JANUARY SERVICES

Wednesday 1 January

10.00am : Holy Communion @ 14 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Sunday 5 January Epiphany

9.15am: Holy Communion@ Armitage Bridge with Junior Church

9.15am : Morning Worship @ South Crosland

11.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Wednesday 8 January

10.00am : Holy Communion @ 43 Delph Lane, Netherton

11.30 am: Holy Communion @ Garden Court

Sunday 12 January Baptism of Christ

9.15am: Morning Worship @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Wednesday 15 January

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Sunday 19 January Epiphany 2

10.00am: Team Service @ Netherton Methodist Chapel, Covenant Service

Wednesday 22 January

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 14 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Sunday 26 January Epiphany 3

9.15am: Holy Communion @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11:00am: Morning Worship @ Newsome

Wednesday 29 January

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 14 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Café Church

18 January @ St Pauls , Armitage
Bridge.Councillor Nell Griffiths.Visit to the
West Bank.4.00 to 5.30pm.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sun 19 January :Final day for copy for February
Focus

SOUTH CROSLAND WOMEN'S SOCIETY.

21 January . Welcome Centre Food Bank

Joan Sierant



Messy Church Netherton.
8 January 4.00-6.00pm

Coffee Mornings.

South Crosland will be held on Saturday
11 January at South Crosland Junior
School at 10.00 – 11.30.Newsome will be
held on Saturday 18 January at 10.15-
11.45 @ Newsome Church Hall.



Emergency . . . Emergency

We have had a couple of Café Church meetings which concentrated on Climate Change. I found them more encouraging than I expected. Gideon in particular talked about how Science is already pointing to many ways to solve the dilemma - but at a price, of course. A price in £££, but also in how we change our individual life-styles - how we travel, what we eat, how we shop, and so on.

I have just been sent a copy of an article submitted to a Church magazine in Scotland which I thought might give you "Pause for Thought" - both reviewing what we ARE doing already, and also what might be the next 'right step' for each of us. Here it is:

Climate Change, Global Warming, Plastic Pollution, Zero Carbon Economy, Environmental Degradation worried? confused?

Last year (October 2018) the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a stark warning that by 2030 it will be too late to limit warming to 1.5 degrees – the level scientists believe will result in many natural systems crossing dangerous points of no return, triggering lasting changes and transforming life as we know it. ¹

In 2017 David Attenborough's Blue Planet 2 highlighted the issue of plastic pollution, showing footage of albatross parents feeding their chicks plastic waste – and other creatures like turtles and dolphins being harmed by the plastic we throw away.

Are we, as some have argued, on the precipice of a mass extinction event?

"The nature of changes in climate and environment that we are living with threaten not only the wellbeing but also the being of our species on this planet in the long term – and in the middle term they threaten some of the most vulnerable populations on Earth," Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, March 2019 ²

Shouldn't we as Christians be deeply concerned about the desecration of the world which God created?

In Genesis we read God created humankind in his image, ... God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” (Genesis 1, v. 27-28).

If we have dominion over animals, surely it is to protect and care for them? Throughout the Genesis story of creation we are reminded that God saw that it was good.

Climate change and environmental degradation will affect the poor and vulnerable disproportionately. Surely the Gospel message is full of admonition to help the poor and vulnerable.

So, what action can we take both as individuals and perhaps collectively?

Could we recycle, reuse, repair?

Do we take full advantage of the doorstep recycling? Are there other items we could collect and take to a recycling point? Recycling by buying from charity shops not only gives new life to old, unwanted items, but also helps the charity. Some individuals or groups organise clothes swapping events – the textile industry is the second most polluting industry in the world. Some schools and voluntary groups collect and send items for recycling through Terracycle (<https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/>) raising funds at the same time.

We live in a throw-away culture, it can be difficult to get items repaired, to get spare parts, but increasingly there are community groups springing up that offer skills workshops. As demand grows, repairing rather than discarding is becoming more popular – and we as consumers have some power.

Do you know of shops that sells dried foods (refill your container), washing and cleaning refills and a range of toiletries. A number of dairies offer doorstep milk deliveries in glass bottles. Some smaller shops sell loose fruit and veg, and we can encourage supermarkets to reduce their use of plastic by only buying loose fruit & veg – and by writing asking them to stock these.

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Some people have taken part in protests. Last year millions of young people around the world participated in school strikes. Other non-violent direct action has been led by Extinction Rebellion. For some these protests are a step too far but they have received support from groups like Christian Climate Action (<https://christianclimateaction.org>) and in his March 2019 statement Rowan Williams also voiced support “It is not surprising people in this urgent situation feel they have to take non-violent direct action – they have got to find a way of putting the case for the human race before those in power. That is what Extinction Rebellion [is] doing, that is what the Friday [school] strikes are doing.”²

Are there things we could do collectively as a church? I’d love to hear from others ... watch this space.

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/08/global-warming-must-not-exceed-15c-warns-landmark-un-report>

2. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/10/rowan-williams-school-pupil-climate-protests>

Sharing Your Faith

Can I encourage you to sign up for the course on Sharing your Faith which will be held at St Paul’s in February. The Diocese are holding this right on our doorstep so it would be wonderful if there was a good attendance from our Benefice. If you wonder how to share your faith with others then this will help you. If you wonder whether sharing your faith with others is important then this will help you too. We are planning a few events next year where having confidence in sharing your faith will be really helpful so come and join us and see how you can serve the Lord better!

Thanks

Julie

Sharing Faith Naturally

Building confidence to talk to family,
friends, and neighbours about faith

Monday 10th February 2020
7.00-9.00pm



St Paul's Church
Armitage Road,
Armitage Bridge,
Huddersfield,
HD4 7PD

How to Book

Email: carol.stenner@leeds.anglican.org

Phone 0113 353 0281

Online: learning.leeds.anglican.org/courses

**Do you wish you felt more confident to talk about your faith?
Come and explore with others how to do this more naturally.**

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The Robin Sang

The robin sang, the flowers bloomed all nature played its part,
The only discord in this scene was man's reluctant heart.
The Creator's manual he ignored so a path of pain he trod,
Thinking that he knew the best man turned away from God.

The mess we're in has been self-made, all answers lie with Him,
A world of beauty now laid waste, infected with man's sin.
But knowing that these things would be God had another plan,
Though undeserved and full of grace in love He reached to man.

His Son His own Beloved One came down upon this earth,
He died, He rose, He ever lives to give to man rebirth
Heaven and earth will pass away, a new Creation formed,
Where birds will sing, the flowers bloom and all will be reborn.

By Megan Carter



Clergy Pages

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year!

It's hard to believe it is January already and the celebrations and festivities of Christmas are over. All those hours spent shopping, cooking, wrapping presents and putting up decorations have faded into the background and thoughts of New Year resolutions pervade our thoughts. Whether it's trying to lose weight, promising to go to the gym more often or telling ourselves we will do that thing we have been putting off for years, these resolutions only last as long as our determination stays strong. We have to remember every day that we have made a resolution and we are going to keep it.

There is something else special about the New Year too and that is being able to complete our nativity story. You see whilst our televisions and supermarkets would have us believe that Christmas ends on 25 December, the Christmas season in the church really only begins on the 25th and then over the coming weeks the readings look at different aspects of the story. The characters of the Nativity story may be familiar to most of us, but what many do not realise is that the Magi (the wise men) are not remembered at Christmas but on a separate festival which falls 12 days after Christmas Day – the Feast of Epiphany. The season of Epiphany then continues until early February so despite the tree being down and the tinsel being put back in the loft, so January is a perfectly appropriate time to be thinking about these Nativity characters. Not much is known about them, but in Matthew's Gospel they are described as wise men from the East who came to Jerusalem. It says that 'when they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts. In the Bible, the three gifts of the Magi are named but nowhere does it actually say there were only three wise men! But over the years, tradition has it that there are three and commonly named as Melchior, Caspar, Balthazar. There have been various things written about them, and very famously T S Eliot wrote a poem called The Journey of the Magi, a reflection written

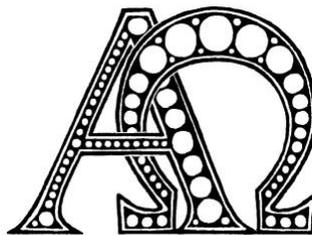
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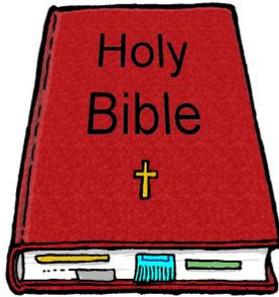
from their perspective. South Crosland will be using this poem in their Morning Worship Service on 5th January. These travellers are perhaps remembered above all for the gifts they offered to Jesus. These weren't random gifts but were deeply symbolic and full of meaning. They offered gold which was associated with kings, showing that Jesus is the king of the world. They brought frankincense which was used in temples, a sign of Jesus' divinity. The last gift was myrrh which was used in burials and was a gift foreshadowing Jesus' death.

As we remember these gifts during the Epiphany season, it is a good opportunity for us to think generally about the idea of gifts. What makes a good gift? We often narrow our understanding of gifts to physical things – things we want or need, or things others want or need. We all have gifts: things which we are good at, talents, traits in our personalities, things that come naturally to us. This might be being a talented sports person; it might be being very good at art or music. It might be that we are someone who encourages others. It may be our kindness, our sense of humour, our organisational skills, our ability to empathise. These are gifts that we have to offer to those around us: our family, our friends, our neighbours. Gifts which can contribute to our communities and help build and strengthen relationships. I am going to be looking for those of you with gifts this coming year to help me as we start a mid-week worship in South Crosland School and a discipleship course to help us all to strengthen our relationship with Jesus. So this season of Epiphany, I'd like to challenge us to think about how we can offer our gifts to others, remembering always the greatest gift we have – the gift of love and hope found in the baby whom the Magi visited that very first Epiphany.

Happy New Year

Julie





Bible Readings in January

5 January Epiphany

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

12 January Baptism of Christ

Acts 10: 34-43

Matthew 3 : 13-end

19 January Epiphany 2

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1: 29-42

26 January Epiphany 3

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

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

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THE EMMANUEL BENEFICE HUDDERSFIELD

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