

FOCUS



February 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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FEBRUARY SERVICES

Sunday 2 February Presentation of Christ at the Temple

9.15am: Holy Communion @ Armitage Bridge with Junior Church

9.15am : Morning Worship @ South Crosland

11.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Wednesday 5 February

10.00am : Holy Communion @ 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Sunday 9 February 3 before Lent

9.15am: Morning Worship @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Wednesday 12 February

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 43 Delph Lane, Netherton

10.30 am: Holy Communion @ Garden Court

Sunday 16 February 2 before Lent

10.00am: Team Service @ Armitage Bridge

Wednesday 19 February

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 14 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Sunday 23 February Next before Lent

9.15am: Holy Communion @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11:00am: Morning Worship @ Newsome

Wednesday 26 February Ash Wednesday

10.00am: Holy Communion and Ashing @ 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

11.45am: Holy Communion and Ashing @ Newsome

Café Church

15 February @ St John's Church Hall, Newsome. 'The Force and Faith' The Challenges of being a Christian in the Police Service. Paul Coldwell. 4.00 pm to 5.30pm.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sun 16 February :Final day for copy for March Focus

SOUTH CROSLAND WOMEN'S SOCIETY.

25 February . Holiday with Pam and David Kent.

Joan Sierant

Churches Together Events.



Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday 25 February. Lunch and Tea, vegetarian options available at Berry Brow Methodist Church and Community Centre,

29 February Fundraiser .From Russia with Love- Revd David Kent, St John's Church Hall .3.00 pm. with Pie and Peas or vegetarian option. £7.50, children free. Tickets available from Pam Kent or Carol Waters.

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Coffee Mornings.

South Crosland will be held on Saturday 8 February at South Crosland Junior School at 10.00 – 11.30. Newsome will be held on Saturday 15 February at 10.15-11.45 @ Newsome Church Hall.



Fun in February!

Lots of 'hands on' activities at 'Crafty Kids' on Saturday February 1st at Holy Trinity Church ,South Crosland from 10.00am to 11.30am. Everyone welcome!

South Crosland.

A big thankyou.

Thank you for the £65 to Kirkwood Hospice for the share-a-card at Christmas.

Caroline

Spring Harvest



Spring Harvest Skegness 13-17 April 2020 an opportunity to meet with other Christians from across the country and hear from the Christian speakers, authors and hymn writers of today sharing the Good News of Jesus. Spring Harvest's theme this year is Unleashed the Acts Church today. It would be good to unleash more of us from the Emmanuel Benefice on Spring Harvest - if at all interested please talk to Rev Julie.

Lent Bible Study (and what happens after Lent!)



Many of you will know that I would love to start a bible study group and I thought it would be good to start with Lent. The Lent course will run for 5 weeks but then we could continue to meet (for those who are interested) every other week after that.

I believe that studying the bible is an essential part of strengthening our relationship with God and when we do that together we can learn so much more and support one another in our journey.

When I suggest to folk that we have some bible study groups I am often asked the following questions so I thought I would answer them for you here to encourage you to come and join one of our groups this Lent.

Is bible study important to my journey in faith?

The simple answer to that is yes – I believe that bible study helps us to read and understand the bible better and to hear other peoples views on passages we may know well. If we read our bibles on our own then we only have our interpretation of what is being said and it is interesting to hear what others might think and others will be interested in what you have to say too.

Will it be like being at school where someone tells us what it all means and we just listen?

Absolutely not! Bible study is about sharing our views and thoughts and exploring what is being said together!

Will it help me to apply it to my life today?

I would hope so! When we read the bible together and ask the questions about what it means for us today we can help one another to see how we can apply it to daily life.

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Will it make me a better Christian?

That's a hard one! If you apply what you learn from one another to the way you live your life then it will deepen your relationship with God and help you to be a better disciple – following Jesus. The rest is up to you!!

Will I still be a Christian if I don't come to bible study?

Yes of course but you will have missed out on fun and fellowship as you learn about Jesus and how to follow him. I often use the picture of a fire – the coals are all burning brightly together in the fireplace but if you lift one coal out and put it on the hearth then it soon stops glowing and goes cold. We are the coals and we shine more brightly when we do things together so come and join us for our Lent studies and see what it does for you!!

During Lent we will be running several groups across the villages at different times and venues so you should be able to join us at one of them. All the groups will be doing the same material so if you can't make it to your group one week you may be able to go to one of the others. They will start week beginning 2nd March 2020.

Where and when?

Monday 7.30pm with Pam Kent at The Roebucks

Tuesday 2pm with Debby Plummer at Armitage Bridge Church

Wednesday 7pm with Julie Anderson and David Kent at The Rectory

Thursday 10.30am with Julie Anderson and David Kent at Holy Trinity South Crosland

Sign up sheets will be at the back of church and we can arrange lifts for anyone who wants to attend so please put your name down for the group that suits you best.

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.**

Lay Training Team

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Prayer guide for the care of creation

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

The Big Schools Birdwatch is running until 21 February. Every year, educators from every corner of the UK take part, turning their classes into conservation scientists and helping the RSPB track the ups and downs of birds across the country.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/schools-birdwatch/>

Monday, January 20:

Big Energy Saving Week starts today. It is a national campaign to help people cut their energy bills and get all the financial support they are entitled to. We all have power to save energy, money and the environment through everyday actions. The campaign raises public awareness of how simple changes such as switching energy supplier or tariff, accessing discounts or grants, and making homes more energy efficient can make a big difference.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/our-campaigns/all-our-current-campaigns/besw/>

Sunday, January 26:

Lord, you have given us this beautiful world, yet in our greed we are robbing future generations, poisoning your world and destroying many of your creatures. Help us, Lord to come to our senses, to realise that we interfere with your world at our peril, for it is your hand, not ours, that rules the world, for you created the universe and we are here as your stewards.

Jeremy Plummer

Clergy Pages

Today, once Davy had had his walk and Jeremy and I had said Morning Prayer together, I spent the morning on the allotment weeding and digging over one of the beds that I hadn't prepared in November. It was a totally absorbing activity and the weather was beautiful. Cold and bright and breezy, with the sun low in the sky so that shadows were sharp and the light golden.

It often strikes me that gardening is a kind of prayer. St Benedict, often called the Father of Western Monasticism, taught his monks that "to work is to pray". I think he meant two things - first that the labour itself is an offering to God and then that focussing fully on a practical task sets the mind free to contemplate or freewheel and gives God a chance to guide our thoughts in new directions or to help us make connections between thoughts.

So gardening is a mindful or contemplative activity. It requires patience and commitment, it changes the gardener and bears good fruit. I am reading a book called "Wilding" by Isabella Tree, a gift from an old friend of ours at Christmas, which is both inspiring and quite a challenging read at times. It brought me up short yesterday evening with this quote:

"Upon this handful of soil our survival depends. Cherish it and it will grow our food, our fuel and our shelter, and surround us with beauty. Abuse it and the soil will collapse and die, taking humanity with it"

and this quote: "The Nation that destroys its soil destroys itself".

The first was written around 1200BC in a Hindu scripture, the Atharva Veda!

The second was written in 1937 by President Franklin D Roosevelt. Over 3000 years apart!

But basically they say the same and since 1937, soil has become seriously degraded in my lifetime. In response, the Soil Association promotes organic growing - which is what happens on our allotments and is a vital step towards restoring the soil to health again.

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About 5 years ago, the writer Satish Kumar wrote a book called “Soil, Soul and Society”. His premise was that in the same way as we look after our soil, we each need to look after our soul and together to look after society. Patiently, with commitment, open to change and bearing good fruit. If we do, we can make a rich and valuable contribution to society.

As churches, we have a 5-fold responsibility to reach out in mission to the society in which we are set. The 5 marks of mission are:

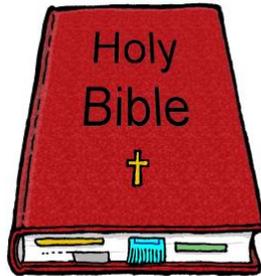
- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

And there is no better month to begin that process than February 2020! Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 25th. There is a choice of two celebrations of Holy Communion with - at 10am at Holy Trinity, South Crosland and at 11.45am at St John’s Newsome. There are bible study groups to belong to and Sunday themes which present a challenge to us all.

So welcome to the springtime of the church year! Time for soul gardening!

Debby





Bible Readings in February

2 February Presentation of Christ at the Temple

Hebrews 2: 14 - end

Luke 2:22-40

9 February 3 Before Lent

1 Corinthians 2: 1-12

Luke 5:1-11

16 February 2 Before Lent

Romans 8: 18-25

Matthew 6: 25-end

23 February Next Before Lent

2 Peter 1: 16-end

Matthew 17:1-9

26 February Ash Wednesday

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6: 10

John 8:1-11

CONTACTS

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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.”