

FOCUS

FEBRUARY 2022

FREE: Please take me home.

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

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Leeds



Sigmund unsplash

FOCUS

Church services.

Sunday Services for February

6th February 9.15am Worship team at South Crosland with Christingles

6th February 11.15am Holy Communion at Berry Brow

13th February 9.15am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge

13th February 11.15am Morning Worship at Berry Brow

20th February 9.15am Holy Communion at South Crosland

20th February 11.15am Morning Worship at Berry Brow

27th February 9.15am Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge

27th February 10am Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church.

Mid Week Worship

Mid Week Communion, at 10.00am on the following dates

Wednesday 2 February 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Wednesday 9 February 14 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Wednesday 16 February 43 Delph Lane, Netherton

Wednesday 23 February 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Ramblings from the Rectory

Well it's hard to believe that we are in February already and Christmas is just a distant memory. Even the visit of the wise men at Epiphany seems like a long time ago. The celebrations have come to an end for now and we need to find something new to celebrate but that's not easy in February!

Of course there is St Valentine's day for those of you who have a loved one to spoil but for some of us it will be just another day!

The weather doesn't help with grey days, wind and rain and all around the ground is brown and dreary. There aren't many signs of new life around and we all begin to feel sad and lethargic.

But the good news is that there is something to look forward to and I saw the evidence of it with my own eyes this week as I delivered my sermon to some of our flock who are not able to get to church.

As I approached one house, I had to look down to see where I was going and there in front of me poking through the soil were the tips of crocus' and beyond that the lovely white bells of the snowdrops were blowing gently in the breeze. On closer inspection there were signs of daffodils too and other plants showing green leaves which all confirmed to me that spring is on its way and with spring comes new life and new hope and a cause for celebration. We have had so much to deal with over the last 2 years that we need to know that there is hope for the future.

Isaiah 43:18-19 says "But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."

And let's be honest we are definitely in need of rivers of hope in the dryness of this world!

And it is coming – Spring is on its way!

FOCUS

So now is the time for all of us to think about what that means for us. What can we do that will help us to feel better and fill us with hope and joy. Are there projects we have been putting off because of Covid or things left unfinished because we have been feeling a bit down. Now is the time to start thinking about them.

But it is not just about practical things we also need to consider our spiritual needs. How can we renew our relationship with God or at least strengthen it? We need to talk to God and just allow him to talk to us. Let this be the spring in your spiritual life too and let God help you to grow and flourish.

Philippians 4:6-7 say “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Many years ago someone gave me some great advice and I would like to share that with you now. They said that if you thought about life like a jigsaw puzzle you wouldn't go far wrong. So here is that advice:-



1. Don't force a fit---if something doesn't fit properly it is because it is in the wrong place. Look at what you've got and find the place where it does fit.
2. When things aren't going so well, take a break. Everything

will look different when you return. It's no good getting frustrate with it just take time out and reflect.

3. Be sure to look at the big picture. The individual pieces are all important and necessary but they are not much good on their own. You need to have all the little pieces in the right order to see what it is you are looking at!

4. Perseverance pays off. Never give up! Every important puzzle went together bit by bit, piece by piece.

5. When one spot stops working, move to another. Don't get bogged down. But be sure to come back later (see #4).

6. The creator of the puzzle gave you the picture as a guidebook. Always remember that God knows exactly what the big picture looks like and he has all the pieces to make it happen you just have to keep asking him to show you.

7. Variety is the spice of life. It's the different colours and patterns that make the puzzle interesting.

8. Working together with friends and family makes any task fun.

9. Establish the border first. Boundaries give a sense of security and order.

10. Don't be afraid to try different combinations. Some matches are surprising.

11. Take time often to celebrate your successes (even little ones).

FOCUS

12. Anything worth doing takes time and effort. A great puzzle can't be rushed.

13. When you finally reach the last piece, don't be sad. Rejoice in the masterpiece you've made and enjoy a well-deserved rest... before moving on to the next one!!

I pray that your jigsaw is coming together nicely.

Julie

Coffee Morning

Holy Trinity Church holds a coffee morning on the second Saturday of each month at South Crosland Junior School, Moor Lane, Netherton.

Why don't you join us there? It would be great to see you.

We are delighted to say that we raised £185.80 in December and £118.20 in January.

Here are the dates for the coffee mornings.

12 February 2022

12 March 2022

9 April 2022

14 May 2022

11 June 2022

9 July 2022

August No coffee morning

FEBRUARY 2022

Christingle Service

Sunday 6 February 2022

Holy Trinity, South Crosland at 9.15



Celebrating Candlemas and Jesus' presentation at the Temple.

Please join us as we thank God for sending Jesus to be light of the world!



If you would like to donate you can do so by scanning this QR code with your smart phone. Thank you.

**Prayer guide
for the care
of creation**

Here are three sections from Cat Turner's prayer '*No more hot air Lord*' which I have taken from a recent copy of the Green Christian prayer notes. I hope you will find them both stimulating and helpful:

Loving God,
We thank you for this world which you have created,
For its abundant riches, resources and complex ecologies
Both those which are useful to us, providing food, clean water, clean
air and so much more;
And those which are beautiful and inspiring, and which help us
connect with You.
We have not cared for them well.
You have given, and keep giving, so much to us;
Your love and grace, and nature's abundance, but also our own free
will and the means to use it.
We have not used it well.
And with that free will comes consequences; consequences which
affect others as well as ourselves.
Consequences which often fall hardest on the poorest,
And hurt not only those who live now, but those who are not yet
born and cannot speak out for themselves.

Loving God,
Forgive us, please, for our folly.
Help us to use this time of turmoil, and the pauses which pandemics
and more have brought to our busy-ness....
To stop. To stop, and to reflect on our way of life.
To consider what we are losing, when we behave so acquisitively;
What we are destroying when we make things, and build things, and

buy things, for the sake of profits or greed alone.

To ask ourselves what You would want.

Help us to reflect on what we truly need; on what is “enough”;
and on how we have squandered the world’s natural riches,
and wasted the resources which our children and grandchildren will
so desperately need.

Give us courage to speak for the environment, for the unborn, for the
vulnerable

Give us grace to change our lives so as to live within our reasonable
means

Give us strength to act, selflessly and bravely, and soon.

Loving God,

We have not loved Your planet, and its inhabitants, well.

We have praised Your creation, but if we do not care for it, our praise
is just “hot air”.

Give us wisdom.

Inspire our leaders.

Blow away our hot air,

And fill our hearts with the cooling, invigorating breath of Your Spirit,
So that we may be moved to show our love for You, by truly loving all
You have created.

Amen.

Jeremy

If you would like to receive the prayer diary each month by email
(free), please email: prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk

A Date for Your Diary

Zoom Quiz.

The fund-raising Zoom quiz by Steve Gledhill returns on Sunday 27 February at 7.00pm. So please put the date in your diary, invite your friends and get ready to party and quiz.

The donation is £3 for an individual or £5 for a team.



Contact Rena Souten on rsouten@gmail.com or 07799895350 for the QR code or pay by BACS.

Account name South Crosland PCC

Sort Code 050348

Account Number 30282888

Café Church

There will be no Cafe Church in February, but Cafe Church will return on March 19th to be held at Berry Brow Church from 4 pm to 5.30. Rev Debby Plummer will be having 'A Carbon Conversation'. As always the conversation will be followed by refreshments. Come and share in fellowship, friendship and food! Bring a friend.

Armitage Bridge Ringers

Sunday November 21st witnessed the christening of Martha Erin Austin at St. Pauls, Armitage Bridge, daughter to local ringers Sally and Oliver, granddaughter to Ann and Graeme and Susan and Graham.



Family and friends attended the occasion travelling in from Liverpool, East Yorkshire and Norfolk. The service was conducted by David Kent in a relaxed, and child friendly atmosphere, this was not lost on the attendees who commented on the wonderful service. We were lucky enough to have a guest organist in the form of Oliver's brother Sam.

As both Sally and Oliver's family are ringers we had no shortage of willing volunteers to ring the bells before the service, concluding afterwards with a 240 of Grandsire Doubles by Martha's family.

- 1 Oliver Austin (dad)
- 2 Sian E Austin (auntie)
- 3 Guy W Morton (great uncle)
- 4 C Sally Austin (mum)
- 5 Samuel M Austin (uncle) conductor
- 6 Graham K Austin (grandad)

Retiring on to the cricket club for a beer, buffet and a catch up – a good day was had by all.

FOCUS

February Readings and prayers

Sunday 30th January – Candlemas – Hebrews 2: 14-end & Luke 2: 22-40

Prayer for the Day – God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 31st Psalm 57, Genesis 18.1-15, Matthew 27.11-26

Lord, we worship you, the God of peace, again and again through the servants of your grace you touch our troubled world.

Tuesday 1st Psalm 5, Genesis 18.16-end, Matthew 27.27-44

Lord, when we least expect it you show us the way to renewal, hope and peace.

Wednesday 2nd Psalm 119.1-32, Genesis 19.1-3, 12-29, Matthew 27.45-56

Lord, we praise you, the God of peace, through your word you promised peace that would outstrip the totality of our understanding.

Thursday 3rd Psalm 15, Genesis 21.1-21, Matthew 27.57-end

Lord, in Jesus you have made possible a new relationship with you which is always the ultimate source of renewal, hope and peace.

Friday 4th Psalm 19, Genesis 22.1-19, Matthew 28.1-15

Lord, we praise you, the God of peace, the peace that you give comes with the touch of your grace.

Saturday 5th Psalm 23, Genesis 23, Matthew 28.16-end

Lord we are cleansed at the foot of the cross, your peace poured out freely through the power of the Spirit.

Sunday 6th February – 4th Sunday before Lent – 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 & Luke 5: 1-11

Prayer for the Day

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 7th Psalm 30, Leviticus 19.1-18 & 30-end, 1 Timothy 1.1-17

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we do not know how to worship God with all our heart and mind

Tuesday 8th Psalm 36, Leviticus 23.1-22, 1 Timothy 1.18-end of ch2

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we do not know how to pray with commitment and passion.

Wednesday 9th Psalm 34, Leviticus 23.23-end, 1 Timothy 3

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we cannot understand God's word to us.

Thursday 10th Psalm 37, Leviticus 24.1-9, 1 Timothy 4

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we cannot love ourselves and each other.

Friday 11th Psalm 31, Leviticus 25.1-24, 1 Timothy 5.1-16

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we do know how to work for the Kingdom.

Saturday 12th Psalm 42, Numbers 6.1-5 & 21-end, 1 Timothy 5.17-end

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: so that our churches and everyone who is part of them may become more like you.

Sunday 13th February – 3 before Lent – 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20 & Luke 6: 17-26

Prayer for the Day

Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love, in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are transformed into the image of Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 14th Psalm 44, Genesis 24.1-28, 1 Timothy 6.1-10

Lord, we thank you for those people who are willing to stand out; to be different; to be faithful-no matter the cost.

Tuesday 15th Psalm 48, Genesis 24.29-end, 1 Timothy 6.11-end

Lord, we thank you for those who, like Elijah, we determined to be obedient to you as they stand firm against all the wrong things that are being said and done.

Wednesday 16th Psalm 119.57-80, Genesis 25.7-11 & 19-end, 2 Timothy 1.1-14

Lord, we thank you for those who refuse to be silent but speak up for the poor and for those with no voice.

FOCUS

Thursday 17th Psalm 57, Genesis 26.34-27.40, 2 Timothy 1.15-2.13

Lord, we thank you for those who will not close their eyes to the way we are living and the damage it is causing your good earth.

Friday 18th Psalm 51, Genesis 27.41-end of ch28, 2 Timothy 2.14-end

Lord, we thank you for those who will not shut their ears to refugee's daily cry of despair but seek to open our minds to the pain and suffering of those with no home.

Saturday 19th Psalm 68, Genesis 29.1-30, 2 Timothy 3

Lord, we thank you for all who speak the truth openly and honestly in the power of your name.

Sunday 20th February – 2 before Lent – Revelation 4 & Luke 8: 22-25

Prayer for the Day

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 21st Psalm 71, Genesis 29.31-30.24, 2 Timothy 4.1-8

Lord, we pray for your world. When you made it, it was good, beautiful and perfect. We are sorry for the ways each day we spoil your world by the things we do and say.

Tuesday 22nd Psalm 73, Genesis 31.1-24, 2 Timothy 4.9-end

Lord, we pray for people, for those who feel lost and afraid, for those who are lonely even in a crowd, for those who have lost their way in life and do not know how to find their way to hope, joy, peace and love.

Wednesday 23rd Psalm 77, Genesis 31.25-32.2, Titus 1

Lord, we pray for those who are struggling, for little children and young people who are forced to live on the streets of big cities, for those with nowhere to go, and who sit and beg for help from those who are rich.

Thursday 24th Psalm 78.1-39, Genesis 32.3-30, Titus 2

Lord, we pray for the leaders of nations, for those with power to change things and for those who long to see good things happening, those who can make a real difference for the poor nations of the world, and for those who can act and cancel the debts of hungry nations.

Friday 25th Psalm 55, Genesis 33.1-17, Titus 3

Lord, we pray for those whose future seems bleak, with no hope and little chance to learn new things or to discover the wonder of your world, for those who will always be poor, deprived of life's good things.

Saturday 26th Psalm 76, Genesis 35, Philemon

Lord, we pray for young and the old who are at risk because of their age, for those who feel left out, unwanted and unnecessary, for those whose hopes and dreams are spoilt by the actions of others, and for those who long to be loved and to know that they matter.

Sunday 27th February – Sunday before Lent – 2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4:2 & Luke 9: 28-36

Prayer for the Day

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 28th Psalm 80, Genesis 37.1-11, Galatians 1

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we do not know how to worship God with all our heart and mind

Tuesday 1st March Psalm 89.1-18, Genesis 37.12-end, Galatians 2.1-10

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we do not know how to pray with commitment and passion.

Wednesday 2nd Ash Wednesday - Psalm 38, Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19, 1 Timothy 6.6-19

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we cannot understand God's word to us.

Thursday 3rd Psalm 77, Genesis 39, Galatians 2.11-end

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we cannot love ourselves and each other.

Friday 4th Psalm 3, Genesis 40, Galatians 3.1-14

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: without you we do not know how to work for the Kingdom.

Saturday 5th Psalm 71, Genesis 41.1-24, Galatians 3.15-22

Come and teach us, Lord Jesus: so that our churches and everyone who is part of them may become more like you.

FOCUS

CONTACTS

Webpage: www.theemmanuelteam.org.uk

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

Ministers and Readers

Rector and Area Dean: 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

Lay Reader Jeremy Plummer 667661

Churchwardens

Newsome: June Richardson 665537

Armitage Bridge: Pamela Thomas 359270

Tony Crawshaw 07738068557

South Crosland: Allan Greaves 662659

Paul Coldwell 340180

Webpage and Magazine Contact

Rena Souten rsouten@gmail.com

THE EMMANUEL BENEFICE HUDDERSFIELD

“Offering love and service to our communities in Christ’s name.”