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ODD RODE PARISH MAGAZINE

ALL SAINTS'



THE GOOD SHEPHERD



ST LUKE'S

March April May 2024

Who's who at Odd Rode

RECTOR

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Mrs Diane Gibson 01270 874281

CHURCHWARDENS AT ALL SAINTS

Vacant

CHURCHWARDENS AT ST LUKE'S

Vacant

CHURCHWARDENS AT THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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www.oddrodeparish.org



FACEBOOK: Odd Rode Parish
Churches



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The garage is located on the A50 Knutsford Road and is 6 min drive from the centre of Alsager, heading towards Knutsford.

Full details are: **ODLUM'S GARAGE, KNUTSFORD ROAD, RODE HEATH, ST7 3QT**

Tel: 01270 876226



At **The Good Shepherd**

On **Saturday 17th May**

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ST GEORGES DAY

At the Good Shepherd

On Friday 26th April

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Contact Margaret Sankey

01270874003

ST GEORGES DAY

**HAPPY
St. Patrick's
DAY**

Come and celebrate

Saint Patrick's Day

At The Good Shepherd

On Friday 15th March 7:00 pm

Delicious Irish Stew

£13.00 per person



Contact Margaret 01270 874003 to book your place

From The Rectory

The Greatest Story Ever Told

Easter is the greatest ever story of hope! Jesus's story is one where his resurrection smashes through the despair of death. It's a story of life overcoming death and goodness triumphing over evil.

We are surrounded by tales of woe - because life is tough. We can't switch off to what's happening round about us – that would be to deny our lived reality. But without hope, we may find ourselves spiralling into despondency.

For the disciples, the crucifixion of Jesus, plunged them into grief and despair. On Holy Saturday it probably felt like there was no way out and no hope. Dreams were shattered; they were at once without direction or purpose. Everything would have felt meaningless. Some even walked away.

It is a huge temptation when life gets tough to abandon our faith and yet that is precisely the time when we need faith the most; the time when we need hope.

But for us, if we are truly resurrection people, we recognise the power of God in our lives and his way of overcoming all things. We know the story of Jesus overcoming even death itself as the one who is Resurrection; of his coming alongside those who were walking away, so that they would return and sing the song of life overcoming death and of God's mighty deeds. We know the narrative that God is working out his purpose in the world and that by the gift of the Holy Spirit in us, we the baptised are participants in Jesus' mission, today and tomorrow and until he comes in glory. Ours is the task of walking with those who stumble in despair at the burdens of life; of walking in the steps of Jesus alongside those who are without hope.

Our churches all have stories of hope because Jesus is in the church. Where Jesus is present we can expect to see the transformation and signs of resurrection. If our work and our projects are 'of God' they will undoubtedly succeed; those things that are just about our own will and ambition, however, will fade and ultimately fail.

All this is bound up in the story of the one who was crucified for us; who rose on Easter Day and who equipped his disciples to sing the song of God's wondrous love for humanity and the world. Today, as disciples of Jesus, we are tasked with the same mandate to serve in his name, to call people back to the Cross of Christ so that all may know the love and life-giving-ness of the Resurrection and by Jesus' love mingled with ours, to show the love of God our creator and redeemer in the world.

This Easter let's all seek out the hope of Christ in fresh and substantial ways so that our hearts are set on fire with love for Him, and as we share this same hope in the communities we love and among the people we serve let us be people of the Resurrection for Christ is Risen and his Spirit is with us always.

Philip.

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN ERITREA

Eritrea has been described as the “North Korea of Africa” and not without reason. According to Human Rights Watch the Eritrean government’s human rights record is among the worst in the world. Since its independence in 1993 the country has been ruled under the iron hand of its president, Isaias Afuwerki. As far as religious rights are concerned, at least in theory, those belonging to the Catholic, Orthodox and Lutheran churches or the Islamic faith are granted freedom of religion. However, the situation on the ground is very different and members of other churches are persecuted relentlessly. Added to this, military service is required of every citizen. By law it should last for 18 months, but in reality it is indefinite. One group to suffer from this requirement to do military service is the Jehovah’s Witnesses, who often refuse to enlist and, as a result, are detained indefinitely.

In April 2023 a group of 103 young Eritreans were arrested while trying to record a worship video to share online. “My life is in your hand,” they sang, full knowing that public and private acts of worship outside the parameters of Eritrea’s three permitted denominations put them at severe risk. They were taken to Mai Serwa prison, a place infamous for its unsanitary conditions, overcrowding and inhumane treatment of prisoners. It needs to be stated that prisons in Eritrea are nothing like the prisons we have in the West. For many to be sent to prison means spending months or even years cooped up in a shipping container in the desert. With temperatures reaching nearly 50 degrees during the daytime and plunging to near freezing at night it is hardly surprising that many do not live to tell the tale.

One who did live to tell the tale was the Gospel singer, Helen Berhane. She was imprisoned in the harshest of conditions for 32 months before being released into house arrest. Soon after, through the help of a Christian friend, she was



CANAL RAMBLINGS



We have a large compact fir tree in our garden which attracts a number of different birds, wood pigeons nest in it every year, Blue, Great and Coal tits forage in it for food, Britain's smallest bird the Goldcrest has nested in it and if I am lucky I see it nipping in and out looking for food. Goldfinches and Greenfinches use it for various reasons. Over the winter months we have our own mini Starling murmaration which can range from 20 to 40 Starlings, they gather in a small flock to fly in, do a couple of circles around the tree, fly off again only to return 30 seconds later and repeat the process, this can go on for around 5 minutes until a few birds land in the tree followed quickly by the rest of the small flock to roost for the night. This is when the chattering between the birds starts, I think they tell one another where to find food and water, what they have done during the day, say hello to old friends etc etc.

This tiny murmaration is nothing to what Sue and I witnessed during a visit to R.S.P.B. Ham Wall reserve in October down in Somerset. The night we went an estimated 10,000 starlings joined the murmaration and were swirling around making all sorts of shapes flying over the reed beds, it was a fantastic spectacle to witness. We were brought back down to earth when the warden told us that during the peak murmaration in mid November there can be as many as 800,000 Starlings here, yes you read it right, 800,000 Starlings flying around, can you imagine the sights and sounds of nearly a million pairs of wings flying over your head and then the crescendo of chattering between the birds when they all eventually descend into the reed beds to roost for the night, now that would be a sensation for the senses.

One of my walks takes me through a small wooded valley between Scholar Green and Mount Pleasant, a small stream runs through the middle of this wooded valley. While Monty was paddling in the stream I was standing at the top of the banking watching 2 Treecreepers, with no leaves on the trees at the moment it makes it so much easier to see the wildlife.

While standing there I caught a movement out of the corner of my eye, I turned to see a Fox walking towards me along the path, I was screened by the tree trunks so it could not see me. When it got to around 10 yards from me its head shot into the air, I realised it had obviously picked up my scent, if I had stepped out from behind the tree I would have frightened the poor Fox half to death so I moved my arm slightly, as soon as it saw the movement it trotted off into the undergrowth. The Fox was in excellent condition with a superb large bushy tail, he/she must have a good patch with plenty of food to keep it looking so healthy. This encounter didn't happen at dawn or dusk but in broad daylight so the Fox obviously felt comfortable being out during the day.

The best wildlife encounters happen when least expected. Meanwhile Monty was still paddling around in the stream oblivious to what was happening only 50 yards away.

Until the next time, take care, Colin



Mothers
SUNDAY

ODD RODE MOTHERS' UNION



There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers. Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers- all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name.

This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Editor

Spring 2024

Mothers union continues to be busy and fruitful. The Annual Christmas party finished last year's programme very happily, with the usual delicious meal provided by Beech Tree Caterers, and amusing activities to keep us entertained, with some very thoughtful reading to remind us what Christmas is all about. Trevor was on hand to say grace and Philip was there to see that we behaved ourselves.

In January the usual pie and peas lunch followed by apple sponge and custard, plus other treats was cooked for us by Janet and Jacky, M.U. members from another branch. This meal was very tasty, followed by the annual Beetle Drive- still popular and entertaining. All prizes were donated by Jean Bowers and are given each year Thank You Jean, for your generosity. Our listed speaker for February was unwell, so unable to attend. However, at short notice, Rev Anne Freestone, from Macclesfield Deanery agreed to step in. Anne has been to Odd Rode before, some while ago. She inspired us then as she did this time. Her topic was theology and Art,, which has followed on nicely from an evening we had in the Autumn, high-lighting art and crafts and stressing imagination and creativity. The talk was again inspirational. We are indebted to Anne for fitting us in and look forward to another visit in the future.

On March 4th

We will welcome Mrs Pauline Minshall and son Stephen, who will present a slide-show of the surrounding area, choosing places and facts of particular interest, starting with Holmes Chapel and circling round to Sandbach. Pauline (ex-Mayor of Sandbach) has visited us a few years ago with a different topic. She is a very amusing speaker and we look forward to a very absorbing afternoon. The meeting starts at 2.0pm Scholar Green Village Hall .

April 8th

At 2.00pm will see the enrolment of four new members; Hilda Harrison, Pat Challinor, Muriel Timewell and Barbra Beard at service of Dedication at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Odd Rode. Rev. Philip Atkinson will officiate and the service will include Holy Communion, Refreshments will be served. Please join us if you would like to do so. We also look forward to the next meeting on 13th May 2.00pm, Village Hall Scholar Green when Mr Charles Neeson will talk to us about his work as a Blood Biker, delivering blood to different hospitals.

June 6th

We embark on our day out, destination to be decided.
You are welcome to book a place on the coach, information later.
Best wishes

Barbara Jones
Branch Leader



NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS'

Snowdrop Walks 2024 at All Saints' Church

Rode Hall and All Saints' Church opened to visitors on Saturday 2nd February for the annual Snowdrop Walks.

The Church was decorated with seasonal flowers and candles by our talented team of flower arrangers, it looked tranquil and peaceful. Tables were arranged at the back of the church for our visitors to sit and enjoy the delicious tea and cakes served by our team every day. There were also gifts and cards for sale and visitors were welcomed into Church by our very friendly meet and greet team.

Money raised from the refreshments and stalls will go towards the upkeep of All Saints' this year.

Snowdrop walks are supported and enjoyed by visitors from across Cheshire, Staffordshire and nearby areas. Finally, we would like to say thank you to the many volunteers who have helped in so many ways to make the Snowdrop Walks a great success again this year.

John & Grace

CHISTINGLE SERVICE

On Christmas Eve the CHISTINGLE SERVICE at All Saints' was a wonderful Service. Again over 200 excited children, parents, grandparents and friends filled the church. They come every year for this most happy family service.

The children bring the nativity figures to the Rector as he tells the Christmas story. We sing the lovely Christmas song. At the end of the service the children collect an orange with a candle that is lit when the lights are turned off (just an occasional light is left on for safety) and everyone sings Away in a Manager. It's a service that should not be missed.

Grace Lowe

Ladies an UPDATE on "UPLIFT"

Thank you for all the bras you have donated over the past 18 months. We have collected around 1000 which is a great achievement, but carry on we need more. Your donations have made a huge difference to ladies in Africa as well as saving bras from going to landfill. For those who do not know why we collect them, the bras help to keep ladies safe by wearing a bra they are considered to be respectable and are not subjected to abuse. We are continuing to collect them so please pass the word to friends and family. Size, colour, style or condition does not matter just pop them in a bag and drop them off in church or at 28 Margery Avenue, Scholar Green, ST7 3HU

Thanks again
Sandra and Linda

Angela J Hurst DipCFHP MPSPract

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Golden Charter
Funeral Plans





ASHTON ON MERSEY SHOW BAND

(www.aomshowband.co.uk)

toured Europe & the USA, playing classical, musicals, jazz & pop music;
now presents a concert on

Saturday 19 Oct. starting 7 30pm
at the Civic Centre Alsager (ST7 2AE)

Tickets £15, available from local Church of England churches
and the Home Coffee Shop, Alsager, including refreshments.
A raffle will also be held.

100% OF THE PROFIT WILL GO TO THE CHRISTIE CHARITY,
including The Christie at Macclesfield, which serves
South Cheshire & parts of North Staffs.

Supporting



Look out for forth coming summer events



Paul Walker & Karen Pfeiffer

An entertaining evening
of original songs and folk favourites
Saturday 11th May 7.00pm
Scholar Green Village Hall
Cheese and wine with Cabaret.

Wetley Rocks Male Voice Choir

In Concert at

All Saints' Parish Church
Scholar Green.

On

15th June 2024

Commencing at 7.30pm

For further information from Parish Magazine Editor

NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

PIE NIGHT

The November Pie Night which took place after the magazine editor's deadline made a total of £446. Our thanks to all who prepared, cooked, or ate.

CHRISTMAS BINGO

This event raised £408.40 and we would like to thank everyone who donated prizes, came along to help, or play, and especially our caller and the village hall ladies who sold tickets for us. It is very much appreciated. Thank you all.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT AND TOY SERVICE

Christmas began in earnest with our Carols by candlelight service with all the gifts brought along for the toy service as a backdrop. AND....

What a fabulous collection of gifts this year. Through your generosity we were able to deliver 133 gifts to Major Violet Cummings at The Salvation Army for their appeal. These gifts helped to ensure that many children had a better Christmas this year. Thank you.



Normal Pattern for Worship

Monthly Services at Odd Rode

First Sunday

*9am Eucharist at The Good Shepherd, Rode Heath
10.30am Eucharist at All Saints, Odd Rode*

Second Sunday

*9am Eucharist at The Good Shepherd, Rode Heath
10.30am Eucharist at All Saints, Odd Rode*
10.30am Family Service (lay-led) at St Luke's, Mow Cop*

Third Sunday

*9am Eucharist at The Good Shepherd, Rode Heath
10.30am Eucharist at All Saints, Odd Rode*

Fourth Sunday

*9am Eucharist at The Good Shepherd, Rode Heath
10.30am Eucharist at All Saints, Odd Rode
10.30am Family Service with Eucharist at St Luke's, Mow Cop*

Fifth Sunday

10.30am Parish Eucharist at one of the three churches. Ring the Rector or Churchwardens for details.

Every Wednesday there is a Eucharist at The Good Shepherd, Rode Heath at 11am

** This service may be Mattins instead of a Eucharist*

*For up to date information check the parish website
www.oddropdeparish.org*



Parish Diary Dates for 2024

March

10th mothering Sunday 10-30am sung Eucharist @ All Saints'

15th St Patrick's day Celebration The Good Shepherd (Contact Margaret)

24th Palm Sunday 10.30 sung Eucharist@ All Saints'

The Agape at the Good Shepherd will be held on the 28th March 2024.

Fellowship and Prayers with communal food shared between us.

If you would like to attend please contact Glen Gallimore at gallimoreglenys@gmail.com....or 07883407436 for further details.

Limited numbers and Time 6.30pm..... TBC.

29th Good Friday services will be held @All Saints' , The Good Shepherd, St Luke's

31st Easter Day Parish sung Eucharist @ All Saints' 10-30

April

26th St Georges Day meal The Good Shepherd (contact Margaret)

May

17th Italia meal The Good Shepherd (contact Margaret)

1st Monday in month Mothers Union @ Village Hall 2.pm

Choir Practice each Friday 2pm @ All Saints'

Choir Practice each Tuesday 7pm @St Luke's

Warm Wednesdays 12.00-5.00pm @ The Good Shepherd .

Meals served each Friday 2.00pm @ St Luke's

Parish Magazine schedule for 2024

Issue	Deadline to Editor	Distribution
June, July, August	12th May	June
September, October, November	11th August	September
December, January, February	17th November	December

MEMORY TREE

Donations given in memory of loved ones we miss at Christmas raised £300 for children's charities. The chosen charities this year were :- The GINGERBREAD

CHARITY (Normacot Branch), BECOME (A charity dedicated to keeping siblings in touch when they have been placed in different parts of the country), ACTION FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN and ALSAGER FOODBANK (to be used specifically for the provision of babymilk formula and essential baby products).

We would like to thank Liz and Frank Withington for providing the large Christmas Tree outside in memory of Liz's mother Audrey Earnshaw, and to Peter Gibson for erecting it.

We would also like to thank Barbara Merry and Wendy Moreton for providing and decorating the tree inside the church in memory of their parents.

BURN'S NIGHT – WOW

What can we say? We increased our numbers sitting down for this popular event and it resulted in a total of £805 being raised on the night before expenses. After the event those who provided the food and raffle prizes did not claim any money back so that this wonderful amount remained the same. Our thanks go to everyone involved particularly Colin Mair who once again gave us a superb rendition of the "Selkirk Grace" and "Address to the Haggis". It gave the evening an authentic Scottish feel.

*The Murder Mystery Quiz night took place after the editor's deadline for this edition.



St Luke's Church and Community Group



NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Friday 15th March – St Patrick's Night – Irish Stew £13

Thursday 28th March – Agape Meal for Maundy Thursday 6.30

Saturday 6th April – Bingo Afternoon at Rode Heath Village Hall. 1.30 for 2pm start £1 entrance fee to include tea and biscuit at the interval.

Friday 26th April – St George's Day celebration – Traditional British meal

Friday 17th May – Italian Night – Pasta and bolognaise /garlic bread/ tiramisu.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join us.

A very busy few months for both St Luke's Church and the Community Group. Our established pattern of worship continues and a number of families now attend both the services held on the second and fourth Sunday's of the month. Some pupils from Woodcocks' Well School help to lead our worship supported by Mrs Beckett, the headteacher, and staff who lead the craft activities.

Alison's Friday Lunch Club continues to thrive and a Christmas Meal was enjoyed by over sixty people. They were entertained by pupils in the school choir, Mr Beckett on saxophone and Frank providing bingo. In addition they received a present and were treated to a scrumptious banquet of food. Alison received grants and donations of goods from Asda, Tesco and Morrisons supermarkets and individuals in our community. We would like to express our warm thanks to anyone who helped to make this event so successful. The Food Bank continues to provide food and toiletries for those in need.

Mum's and Toddlers continues to meet every Thursday but now meets in the Village because their facilities help us to offer a wider range of activities. We are grateful to the Hall Committee for letting us use the hall at an economic rate and for providing storage space for all our equipment. Santa came to visit our Christmas Party and gave all our children a book. He knew what every child wanted and remembered all of their parents and grandparents and told the children which ones had been on the good list! Mrs Beckett continues to support our group and has enabled us to use the Forest School Site aided by a member of the school staff. The group is run by a dedicated group of volunteers who give their time, skills and a variety of treats to enable us to provide the facility.

The choir still meets every Tuesday and grows and grows in numbers. They provide a much needed service in the Community and so much joy. It is impossible to list all of the concerts they have given but over the Christmas Period because they visited a large number of care homes to entertain the residents, sang in supermarkets and church halls in addition to the concert and Carol service in our own church. Their love of music, each other and their audience is obvious to all. Emma is an outstanding leader with a compassionate vision of caring for the Community and we are grateful for her dedication and service.

Thanks to everyone who has helped us to grow and we look forward to your continued support and prayers. So much love from St Luke's Congregation and members of the Community Group.

God Bless Pam