

# FOCUS



October 2017

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**The monthly magazine of the Emmanuel  
Team, Huddersfield:** *St. Paul, Armitage Bridge,  
St. John, Newsome and Holy Trinity, South Crosland.*

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Leeds



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## SERVICES IN OCTOBER

### **Sunday 1 October**

10.00: Harvest Festival at South Crosland Junior School

9.15: Eucharist @ Armitage Bridge

11.00: Harvest with Scouts @ Newsome

### **Wednesday 4 October**

10.00am: Holy Communion @57Marten Drive

### **Sunday 8 October**

9.15am: Eucharist @ South Crosland

9.15am: Harvest Service @ Armitage Bridge

11.00am: Eucharist @ Newsome

### **Wednesday 11 October**

10.00am: Morning Worship @ 14 Sherwood Drive

11.30am: Holy Communion @ Garden Court

### **Thursday 12 October**

10.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

### **Sunday 15 October**

10.30 am: Unity Service @ Armitage Bridge

### **Wednesday 18 October**

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 43 Delph Lane

### **Sunday 22 October**

9.15 am: Eucharist @ South Crosland

9.15 am: Eucharist @ Armitage Bridge

11.00 am: Arise with Net@ Newsome. Food from 10.30

### **Wednesday 25 October**

10.00am: Morning Worship @11 Sherwood Drive

### **Thursday 26 October**

10.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

### **Sunday 29 October**

9.15 am: Eucharist @ South Crosland

9.15 am: Eucharist @ Armitage Bridge

11.00 am: Eucharist @ Newsome

## NOTICES

### **Coffee Morning:**

The coffee morning in South Crosland will be on 14 October and there will be one at Newsome on 21 October, 10 to 11.30am.



### **South Crosland Women's Society**

Next meeting will be on 24 October. A talk on " Growing up in the 1950's". Speaker Heather Coupland.

### **LEP Quiet Day**

Quiet Day at the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield, on 10 Oct 2017 £7, please bring a packed lunch. Please register your interest with Carol 07740425093 Or Pam Kent

### **Café Church**

Café Church on Saturday 21 October at St John's Newsome. 4.00 – 5.30. Presentation by Admiral nurses on their work with people with dementia.

### **News and Images**

Your next copy of Focus could include that wonderful photo you took this week! It could include that 'must know' piece of information. Please email them to me asap. [rsouten@gmail.com](mailto:rsouten@gmail.com)

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## **Emmanuel Website**

You can download your personal copy of Focus from the website and see the whole thing in glorious colour.

**<http://www.themmanuelteam.org.uk>**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

10 October : Quiet Day at Mirfield

22 October : Copy Deadline for November FOCUS

19 November: Huddersfield Wind Band Concert at Holy Trinity

## **NEWS**

### **A Great Evening of Music by Huddersfield Wind Band Holy Trinity Church Sunday 19 November 7pm**



We welcome back for a fifth year, the hugely entertaining and accomplished Huddersfield Wind Band to South Crosland.

Led by Musical Director John Turnbull and featuring Debby Plummer and Helen Pearson; come and enjoy a varied programme of classical and popular music.

Bring your friends – it will be a great evening out!

Ticket price £6 (accompanied children free) available from Helen Pearson (Tel 305976)

Refreshments and prize raffle. Proceeds to church funds.

## Huddersfield Debt Centre

### Christmas Stockings



Please will you consider *Adopt a CAP Family* for Christmas 2017, by preparing a Christmas Stocking?

For several years the Huddersfield Debt Centre has given Clients a gift at Christmas-time - not a food parcel, but more of a "quality Christmas Stocking".

You might want to give a 'Festive bottle' or a pampering gift for either a man or woman, or some special chocolates or a gift suitable for a child.



**Please contact Jeremy Plummer**

**If you can help**

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### **Giving for Life**

I may have told you this before, but when I was growing up in the Church, I remember being taught many lessons and stories. Many Bible stories have a moral, something to think about, and many demonstrate the generosity and selflessness of God and Jesus. I also remember when we Sunday School children were ushered into church to join the service, when a hymn was being sung as the offertory was being prepared and the collection taken. The first words the Priest spoke after the hymn were “All things come of thee, O Lord”, and our first response was “And of thine own have we given unto thee”. As they were the first words I heard every Sunday for many years in Church, they had a great effect on me and have stayed with me ever since. It followed logically to me, therefore, that as The Lord was so generous and selfless towards us, it was only right that we should be as generous and selfless in return by giving of our time, our talents and our wealth.

The General Synod enthusiastically commended the original Giving for Life report in 2009, when I first spoke about giving in our church. The second phase of Giving for Life expands our current good practice and continues to set giving first and foremost within the context of discipleship and mission. I think the original report summed it up well: generous giving provides resources to enable the mission and ministry of the church and fosters distinctive Christian lifestyles that enable others to be touched by the overflowing generosity of God.

The second phase of the Giving for Life initiative divides its points into sections, as outlined below.

**Preach and teach regularly about giving in the context of discipleship.**

The Old Testament talked about a legal tithe, and I remember 10% of income being quoted as a recommended amount of giving. The current thinking is that 5% of take-home pay or income is a rough guide to giving, but not a limit! This covers all charitable giving, including what we give to Church and other charities. I don't think anyone wants to give "just because they have to" or even because they feel obliged to do so; the whole point is that we should give because we want to! What is God's love worth to us? 10%? 5%? I'm not sure that we can ever put a monetary amount on God's love, but we can think about what it means for us personally.

**Communicate with givers from several different perspectives.**

What we give to Church, in terms of time, talent and wealth, helps to resource mission and ministry; this includes paying the Clergy salaries (via the Common Fund), funding outreach and giving annually to local and worldwide charities, as well as paying those essential bills! Currently, we are in an interregnum so our Parish Share to the Common Fund is reduced, but we still must offer to pay visiting clergy who keep our services going. The ministry of our Church produces fruitful and wide-reaching mission; in schools, in the community, ministering services, visiting the sick and needy and more.

**Send an annual, personal "thank you" to regular givers.** At the Annual Parochial Meeting, the Treasurer gives a financial review of the year and shows where our giving gets spent. We are all thanked for our giving and for the good work it yields. It is impossible to put a

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value on what we give in terms of our time and our talents, but again we can see the good it yields in terms of ministry and mission. Even if you haven't received a personal letter, be sure that you are thanked for your generosity. Thank you for giving so generously of your time, your talents and your wealth.



### **Hold some form of annual review of giving.**

Most people are generous and graceful givers; many people plan their giving by using the envelope scheme or giving via standing order, and also sign up for Gift Aid, the best free gift we can claim from the Government! But how often do we review what we give? Every year, our income, whether that is a salary or a pension, changes every year, but Church income tends to be static as people do not review their giving annually. This is a good time of year to review our annual giving, when we are being invited to give to the Gift Day at the end of October. Thank you for being generous and graceful givers and please think about reviewing your gifts every year.

### **Agree a legacy policy and communicate this to the congregation**

There was a note in September's parish magazine about making sure you have made a will. Only 40% of people have made a will, which means that more than half will be leaving their loved ones with the

trouble, work and expense of sorting out their affairs after their death. Be assured that any gifts that you do decide to leave to the church would be used by the PCC to make a real difference to the future mission and ministry of the Church.

### **Claim Gift Aid regularly**

How can we be efficient givers? Use the planned giving schemes (envelopes, standing order) and sign up for Gift Aid if you are a tax payer; it costs you nothing but means a great deal to the Church. Pledge to give a set amount each week and give it every week, even if you are away. Even when we are on holiday, the bills keep rolling in.

Setting up a standing order is perfect for this but if you use the envelope scheme you can put a few weeks' worth in the weekly envelope, by cheque or cash. On a practical level, paying by standing order rather than using envelopes or the plate greatly reduces the workload on an ever-reducing team of volunteers, and I would encourage you to do this if you can. I have put a stock of forms at the back of church, if you want to set up a standing order.

The Church is there all the time for us, are we always there in return?

*Caroline Jones*

***Team Parish Giving Officer***



In God the Ordinary becomes extraordinary

*Wild Geese don't intend to cast their reflection;*

*The water has no mind to receive their image*

I'm sure we've all experienced moments in life which simply happen through no conscious intention on anyone's part.

The image of an elderly person with a peaceful face, the smell of smoke rising from a chimney on a frosty evening (for those of us who can remember), the knowing look of recognition from a friend as we make a comment, the special feeling of a touch, the sound of laughter from children playing, the unexpected scent of flowers as we pass a

garden or walk through a wood, a fox running across our path as we drive home on a dark night, a hedgehog snuffling in the dried leaves of our autumn garden, a baby's chuckle.....

These are spiritual moments because they reach a deeper part of our being.

They are like slivers in time set aside which nourish our souls and add serenity to our lives.

It's a sure sign of spiritual growth when we learn to notice these kinds of moments.

As we travel along the early part of our spiritual path we often miss these moments because we're simply not open to anything we weren't already looking for.

But God's creation is so much larger than the human mind.

It's worth remembering that on our spiritual journey it's not always the major events that provide us with our spiritual growth, but often it's the space between.

"Today I will let the rest of life intrude upon my mind and I will let myself be nourished by what comes along. "

With Love

*David*

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**CLERGY PAGE**

Madeleine and I very much enjoyed visiting South Crosland again earlier this year and renewing friendships. Our own parish of St Hilda, Halifax, is also in a vacancy now as well as other parishes in our area so we are busy covering Sunday services here. We still hope to keep contact with you all and would be happy to visit again.

We send you our love and prayers.

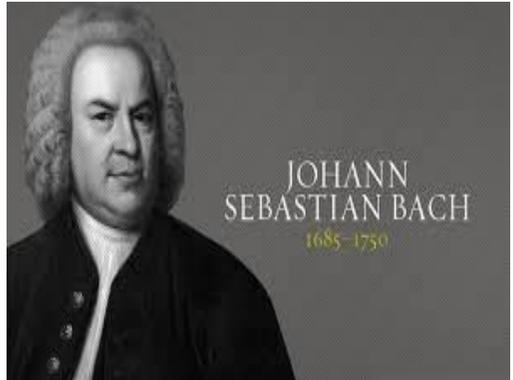
*Martin and Madeleine Russell.*

**A GERMAN PILGRIMAGE DISCOVERING MARTIN LUTHER & J.S.BACH**

On 24<sup>th</sup> May Madeleine and I went on holiday to Germany to visit our son Nicholas, his partner, Beata, and our two granddaughters Hanka (7) and Marleya (5). We had a wonderful week with them in the countryside north-east of Berlin near the Polish border. On the day after our arrival, Ascension Day, we were invited to a church celebration in a village about an hour's drive away where we attended a special service in a ruined church without a roof (how appropriate for Ascension Day) and people came from the villages all around. The church was packed and included items from a choir. Afterwards there was tea, coffee and cake and sausages. Then Beata led some circle dancing which people joined in with enthusiasm - including ourselves, of course! During our week the weather was hot and sunny and we frequently went swimming in the local lakes.

For our second week we travelled by train south to the town of Eisenach in Thuringia (former East Germany). Madeleine chose

Eisenach because it is the birth place of the great composer Johann Sebastian Bach and also the town where Martin Luther, the great Protestant Reformer, grew up. When we arrived we quickly came to realise that our visit coincided with the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of



the Reformation and the streets of Eisenach were decked with banners full of different quotations of Martin Luther. We found Eisenach a wonderful place to stay as it was a small historic town with the centre all pedestrianised and we were able to walk to all the places of interest. On our first day we visited the Bach House museum. The visit included a live performance on period instruments of Bach's keyboard and organ music. There was a special exhibition showing how Bach was inspired by the hymns written by Martin Luther and how he used them in his cantatas. Bach was himself a devout and serious Christian and had his own major theological library which helped him in his church compositions. He said his compositions were "solely to the glory of God."

The following day we made the climb up the steep hill and woods outside Eisenach to Wartburg, the castle where Martin Luther was held for his protection after he protested at the Catholic sale of Indulgences. During this time Luther translated the New Testament into German and it soon became very popular. There was again a special exhibition about Luther in the castle and his translation work.

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Later in the week we visited the Luther House in Eisenach where Luther had lived when he was a choir boy in the parish church of St George. There was a display about how Luther's translation

of the Bible had helped to form the German language and how attitudes to the Reformer had changed down the centuries. This included a comparison of attitudes by the Roman Catholic Church which had been quite hostile but now was much more supportive.

One highlight of our visit was on Pentecost Sunday when we attended the historic parish church of St George in the central square. The church was packed with several hundred people because it was Confirmation day. Families arrived all dressed up and there was an air of excitement and anticipation. We eventually found seats on the second tier gallery from where we had a fine view of the choir, band and organ as well as the service below. The actual Confirmation was done by two Ministers and each candidate was given their own personal Bible verse (as well as a Bible and prayer book) as an inspiration for the Christian life.

Our last two days in Germany were spent in the city of Leipzig, the city where Bach was Master of Music for many years and where he composed some of his greatest works. We visited the St Nicholas' church where Bach had served and also the place where there had been prayers for peace – confounding the East German riot police at

the time when the Berlin wall came down. While we were there the church was invaded by a crowd of Chinese tourists who turned out to be a male-voice choir. They came up to the chancel – about forty strong – and sang the Luther hymn “A safe stronghold our God is still” in Chinese and German and the song “Dona nobis pacem” (Give us peace) and it was thrilling to hear their voices resonating in the gothic arches. The following day we visited Bach’s other famous church, St Thomas’, where we heard the organ play and then stayed for the midday prayers. Bach is buried in that church and the place is marked by a simple floor memorial stone adorned with flowers. It was a memorable visit.

Looking back, our time in Germany turned out more than a family and cultural visit. It felt more like a pilgrimage in which God had given us so many surprises.

*Martin*

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## CONTACTS

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

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**THE EMMANUEL TEAM, HUDDERSFIELD**

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