



Dec 2017/Jan 2018

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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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FOCUS

DECEMBER 2017 SERVICES

Sunday 3 December

9.15am: Eucharist and Baptism @ Armitage Bridge including Junior Church

9.15am: Christingle @ South Crosland

11.00am: Morning Worship @ Newsome

Wednesday 6 December

10.00am: Morning Worship @ 14 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

11.30am: Carols and Communion @ Garden Court

Thursday 7 December

10.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Sunday 10 December

9.15am: Morning Worship @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Eucharist and Baptism @ South Crosland

11.00am: Eucharist @ Newsome

Wednesday 13 December

10.00am: Holy Communion @43 Delph Lane, Netherton

Sunday 17 December

9.15am: 9 Lessons and Carols @ South Crosland

10.00am: Team Eucharist @ Armitage Bridge

Wednesday 20 December

10.00am: Morning Worship @ 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

7.30pm: Carol Service @ Armitage Bridge

7.00pm: Carol Service @ Newsome

Thursday 21 December

10.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Sunday 24 December

9.15am: Eucharist @ Armitage Bridge

4.00pm: Crib Service @ South Crosland

5.30pm: Nativity Service @ Armitage Bridge

8.00pm: Carols and Communion by Candlelight @ South Crosland

11.00pm: First Communion of Christmas @ Newsome

Monday 25 December

10.00am: Christmas Day Communion @ Armitage Bridge

Sunday 31 December

10.00am: Team Eucharist @ South Crosland

2.00pm: Baptism @ Armitage Bridge



JANUARY 2018 SERVICES

Wednesday 3 January

10.00am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

Thursday 4 January

10.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Sunday 7 January

9.15am: Eucharist @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Morning Worship @ South Crosland

11.00am: Morning worship @ Newsome and Baptism

Wednesday 10 January

11.30am: Communion @ Garden Court

Thursday 11 January

10.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Sunday 14 January

9.15am: Morning Worship @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Eucharist @ South Crosland

11.00am: Eucharist @ Newsome

Wednesday 17 January

10.00am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

Sunday 21 January

10.30am: Unity Service, Berry Brow Methodist Church

Thursday 25 January

10.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Sunday 28 January

9.15am: Eucharist @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Eucharist @ South Crosland

10.30am: Arise and Communion @ Newsome

Wednesday 31 January

10.00am: Holy Communion South Crosland

NEWS



Messy Church Netherton 8 November 2017

The children had been making lanterns and poppies for Remembrance Day.

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This September Newsome Church's coffee morning got involved in 'The World's Biggest Coffee Morning'

And raised £203.25

This is the thank you that the church received

Dear Mr Longden

We wanted to say a massive thank you for helping us to make the year's Coffee Morning a huge success. Whether you baked the perfect sponge or popped to the shops, we hope you had a fantastic time bringing your community together for a brilliant cause.

You can be very proud as the amazing £203.25 you raised will help Macmillan support people with cancer when they need us most.

We're delighted to enclose a certificate for you to pin up thanking everyone for all their outstanding effort and contributions.

All the effort you've put into hosting your morning really does make a difference. From our Macmillan nurses to our information and support centre specialists, we can help for as long as we're needed thanks to people like you.

Thank you once again for making the World's Biggest Coffee Morning such a success - every slice helps those affected by cancer live their lives.

Warmest regards

Rachel Doohan,
Head Coffee Lady

NOTICES

Coffee Mornings:

Newsome Church Hall on 16 December.
South Crosland Junior School will be on 9 December .
Both events start at 10.00 to 11.30.



Café Church:

Café Church meets at 4pm until 5.30pm on the third Saturday of the month, eating at around 5pm. This month 16 December at Berry Brow Methodist Church and Community Centre, featuring Newsome Community Gospel Choir.



Messy Church – We next meet on Wednesday 13 December, 4-6pm at Netherton Methodist Church. Join us for crafts, fun, and food. This month's theme: "Messy Christmas".

9 December , 3-5 at Berry Brow Methodist Church and Community Centre, Messy Church does Music.

SOUTH CROSLAND WOMEN'S SOCIETY.

December 12. Snowman Drive. Please bring a small gift. (Approx £2)
January 23. Holiday slide show with Pam and David Kent .

POST SCRIPT

An unexpected double issue this time because of an extended holiday for our printers.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Fri.8 Dec: Churches together Carol singing around Newsome. Meet at 2.00pm at Edale Sheltered Housing. Afternoon finishes at Pam and David’s with mince pies and drinks.
- Sat. 9 Dec: Children’s Craft Workshop @ Armitage Bridge, 10-12. (Contact Melody on 01484 666205)
- Thu.14 Dec: Hope Huddersfield, Comedy and Carols, 7.30pm at John Smiths Stadium. Tickets £6. More information at <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/>
- Tues.16 Jan: St John’s DCC at 2.30
- Wed.17 Jan: South Crosland PCC at 7.00
- Sun. 21 Jan : Deadline for News and Notices for the February Focus**



Huddersfield Windband Concert at Holy Trinity, 19 November 2017. The concert raised over £600 for Church funds.

CLERGY PAGES

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Nothing can capture for me the mystery and beauty of Christmas better than the carols that we sing. They've the power to recreate in my imagination the scenes of the first Christmas. They seem to be able to set the atmosphere – the crowded inn; the sleeping city; the great star spilling its beauty down over the waiting earth. The lonely shepherds in the fields; the blazing sudden glory of the heavenly host breaking through the darkness. Then the contrast of the smelly stable with the sleeping babe, and later the wise men who come to worship and kneel before this amazing scene. JESUS CHRIST BORN ON EARTH!

Everybody today is asking in the face of some of the tragic things that are happening – “What’s wrong with humanity? What’s wrong with life? Why is the world in such a continual mess? Why are the papers filled with murder and violence and hate and corruption and darkness?” The answer of scripture universally is “man’s sin”, or, to put it more realistically and more helpfully to us, “man’s selfishness.” That’s what lies at the root of it all. There are times when we want to say “STOP!” I know I do!

The amazing declaration of scripture is that the reason the creator of the world became the babe of Bethlehem was that he might make sacrifice for human selfishness, that he might solve the insoluble problem and wash away the unwashable stain. The good news of Christmas of course (and you will be pleased to know there is good news), is that every one of us who has found Christ, who has come to him, and who follow him, finds again and again that he has the power to cleanse us. He has the power to put away the guilt of the past, whether it’s the past 50 years of life, or the past five minutes of time. He has the power to cleanse it and wash it away, and to set us on our feet again with a clean slate and a fresh page to write on every day, to live life again in the power and the grace of the living God.

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Now that's the greatest message of all. He's in control and in charge of all human events. Therefore, Christmas means to us the most momentous event that the ages have ever seen – when the Lord of Glory became the Babe of Bethlehem, in order that we might be delivered from our selfishness. That's what Christmas is all about. It's the opportunity for LOVE to break out in our families, for LOVE in our homes, for LOVE among our friends, wherever we are, that the back of wickedness might be broken in our individual lives and we are set free to be the loving creatures God made man to be. That's why Christmas is always associated with WARMTH and JOY and FORGIVENESS, with HEALING and BEAUTY and LIGHT and GLORY and, above all, LOVE.

I hope, as we come to Christmas, that the gratitude of our hearts will express in our own way, in words to God, what it means to us all to have the Son of God born in our hearts, as he was born in the stable in Bethlehem all those years ago, and to give him the greatest gift of all, LOVE.

My dear Church Family, I wish you a very peaceful and blessed time this Christmas and New Year. With much love to you all,

Ann

New Year

A double edition of Focus - for December and January - gives us a double New Year! Advent Sunday on December 3rd is the beginning of the church year and January 1st the beginning of the secular year. If you add to this mix the beginning of the academic year in September, it is clear that we thrive on new starts!

The new church year gives us the opportunity to read through the action-packed and greatly condensed gospel of Mark, Sunday by Sunday. By far the briefest of the gospels and probably the first to be written down from stories passed on orally, Mark is very direct and down to earth.

No two years are the same, even though the same landmarks recur. Our lives seem to corkscrew upwards. We replay the wonderful Christian themes every year - waiting for God to act, incarnation, pilgrimage and penitence, passion, healing and redemption, death and resurrection, ascension and Holy Spirit, Trinity and growth as community, heaven, hell and judgement, bible and sacraments. Each time we encounter a theme it is with more life experience, different world context, slightly altered relationships at work, at church and at home. Each time we have more to thank God for; each time we are slightly nearer the end of our lives.

Every year, Christian or secular, provides each of us with chances to recognise God's grace-filled offer of life, wisdom and revelation - and to discover more of his plans and purposes for us. The end of a year

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can be a good time to take confession seriously and to let go of the things that are blocks to living a truly godly life as a Christian disciple. Then to accept God's forgiveness and to move on.

On November 26th., the last Sunday of the Christian year, I grappled with the powerful words of Paul in Ephesians 1 and Jesus in Matthew 25 in a sermon at South Crosland. They seemed to speak powerfully to me about how Christ our King both leads and guides us as a gracious Shepherd and also calls us to account for our actions. Here are several excerpts. Firstly from Matthew 25:

"Then the righteous will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Jesus' parable is so straightforward that I - and none of us - can winkle our way out of it. We inherit the kingdom simply by learning the art of being observant and acting on it. Compassionate and merciful. We look out for the family - and especially for those likely to be ignored - those without food or drink, those who are strangers or haven't enough clothes, those who are sick or in prison. Who is the family? My relatives? The members of my church? My neighbours? Everyone? Humans only - or all that is created? Jesus throws the ball in our court. For each of us, there is a challenge. How do I do this? When do I have to push through compassion

fatigue to go the extra mile? Is it all hard work and keeping the balls in the air? Are we just servants? Is everything the result of our works? Is it all hard graft?



Paul's first Chapter of Ephesians is a kind of answer to that. He starts by giving God thanks for the faith and the love and the caring that is present in the Christian Church of Ephesus. He prays for them as they do for him. His prayer is that they will receive from God wisdom - and revelation - and hope - and that they will know they belong to God and inherit his glory and have access to his limitless power. All this is possible because Jesus lived and died and rose to life again and now is Lord of all and head of his body the church. Is everything ours through faith? Is it all pure gift?

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It is 500 years since Martin Luther initiated the Reformation. A major issue then was whether we are saved by grace (God's generosity) or by works (our actions). Both of these themes are found in the bible and I believe the proper attitude is that God saves us out of his boundless love and the gratitude we feel and the presence in us of the Holy Spirit empowers us to live the Christian life in response. So, grace comes first and works spring from our gratitude. We cannot live the Christian life in our own strength. But "I can do all things through Christ the lord who strengthens me". And when Christians live this way, it is infectious and attractive and a wonderful witness. "See how these Christians love one another".

So, this is my hope for you and me in this New Year of 2018 and St. Paul puts it so beautifully in Ephesians 1:

"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. "

Love and prayers

Debby

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.”

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JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Wednesday 20 December

7.30pm Carol Service @ Armitage Bridge

7.00pm Carol Service @ Newsome

Sunday 24 December, Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service @ South Crosland

5.30pm Nativity Service @ Armitage Bridge

8.00pm Carols and Communion by Candlelight @ South
Crosland

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas @ Newsome

25 December, Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas Day Communion @ Armitage Bridge.