

FOCUS



April 2018

FREE: Please take a copy

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

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds



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APRIL SERVICES

Sunday 1 April

9.15am: Eucharist @ Armitage Bridge including Junior Church

9.15am: Eucharist @ South Crosland

11.00am: Eucharist @ Newsome

Wednesday 4 April

10.00am: Morning worship @ 43 Delph Lane, Netherton

Thursday 5 April

10.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Sunday 8 April

9.15am: Eucharist @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Morning Worship @ South Crosland

11.00am: Morning Worship @ Newsome

Wednesday 11 April

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 57 Marten Drive, Netherton

11.30am: Holy Communion @ Garden Court

Sunday 15 April

9.15am: Morning Worship @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Eucharist @ South Crosland

11.00am: Eucharist @ Newsome

Wednesday 18 April

10.00am: Morning Worship @ 14 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Thursday 19 April

10.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Sunday 22 April

10.00am: Team Eucharist @ South Crosland

Wednesday 25 April

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Sunday 29 April

10.00am: Team Eucharist @ Armitage Bridge

NEWS

Licensing Service for New Incumbent

Julie's licensing service will take place on Tuesday 24 April at 7.30pm at St Johns' Church Newsome.

Wanted:decorators

The Revd Julie Anderson will be in residence at the Rectory 42 Beaumont Park Road from April 3rd.

Julie would appreciate some help with painting from Saturday April 7th. Its very easy; just magnolia emulsion, materials will be provided. This is your chance to meet our new incumbent and welcome her to Huddersfield , combined with a bit of help.



Any willing volunteers contact June Richardson.

Phone: 665537

Email: june.richardson2@virgin.net

Fund Raising For Christian Aid.



‘Congratulations to everyone who ran in the Huddersfield 10K on Sun Feb 25th from St Pauls in Armitage Bridge on behalf of Christian Aid. Thankfully it wasn’t snowing but it was a bit chilly. Thank you to everyone who came out to support us despite the cold weather and a particular thank you to everyone stood outside the Northlight Gallery who gave us a much needed boost for the last few kilometres! So far we have raised £261.00 online with our Christian Aid Just Giving page and we have also received cash donations and cheques which still need to be added to the total.

It is not too late if you would still like to donate. The Just Giving page will remain open for a few more weeks and donating online is quite straightforward. You can access the Just Giving page for our event at the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/armitagebridge>. The link should take you through to a dedicated donating link for Armitage Bridge and will let you see the total raised so far. If you have any problems with this link then you can go to the main website for Just Giving at www.justgiving.com and then search for Armitage Bridge. You should then see the dedicated link titled ‘Sarah Pope 10K’. Click on this and then you will see the Armitage Bridge fundraiser option. Alternatively, if donating online is not your thing you can still donate by cash or cheque. All cheques should be made payable to ‘Christian Aid’ and you can hand your donations directly to either Sarah Pope, Naomi Pinkney, Bruce Greenwood or Katherine Huggett at St Paul’s church on a Sunday. ‘

NOTICES



Instead of carrying out door to door collections, Armitage Bridge Church will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday May 19th, 10am to 12 noon, to raise funds for Christian Aid.

Tickets costing £2 (including a drink with a slice of homemade cake or biscuits) are available from various members of Armitage Bridge Church and , of course, may be purchased on the day. Please support us, supporting Christian Aid.

Coffee Morning:

South Crosland Junior School will be on 14 April . starting at 10.00 to 11.30.



Messy Church – We next meet on Wednesday 11 April, 4-6pm at Netherton Methodist Church. Join us for crafts, fun, and food.

South Crosland Women's Society

24 April .2.30 pm Holy Trinity, South Crosland.
A speaker from Colne Valley Museum will give a talk on 'dialect'

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Crafty kids

31 March at Holy Trinity, South Crosland Church from 10am to 11.30am.
All welcome.

Meditation at St Paul's

Christian meditation is a simple way of finding inner stillness and peace.
Come and find out more – everybody is welcome to the new group, every
Thursday 5.30 - 6.30pm at St Paul's Church, Armitage Bridge.

Café Church



Saturday 21 April at Netherton Methodist Church. 4-5.30.
Paul Bridges on "What does the Mission do?" (Huddersfield Methodist
Mission) .

Fashion Show

April 26th Fundraising Fashion show Berry Brow Methodist Church, tickets
Carol Waters 07740425093.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Mon 9 April: Newsome & Armitage Bridge PCC APCM 7.00pm at St Paul's.
- Wed 11 April: South Crosland PCC APCM at 7.00 pm at Holy Trinity
- Sun. 22 April :** **Deadline for News and Notices for the May Focus**
- Tue 24 April: Licensing Service for Rev. Julie Anderson, St John's
Newsome at 7.30pm



Mystery and Murder at St Pauls'

As a change from our Annual Dinner, the Bellringers decided to try something different this year, inviting the Melthwaite Murderers to provide an evening of mystery and intrigue written around a bellringing theme.

They produced a brilliant scenario, where we were invited to a Bellringer's presentation evening. The actors moved around our tables, introducing and developing their characters, background information, possible relationships with plenty of "red herrings".....then a murder was committed . Who dunnit? It was now our job to find the murderer!

The murder was very realistically staged, great acting by the poor victim, who was laid out on the cold South Room floor after being hit on the head with a vase of church flowers.

Hot beef sandwiches and cake, all added to a very enjoyable and entertaining evening.

The Bellringers



Acts 4 35 says "and the money was distributed to each one according to his need"

Acts 435 is a revolutionary website that allows people to give money directly to others. 100% of what is donated via Acts 435 goes directly to those in need. If you GiftAid your donation, it helps towards the running costs of the charity.

When so many people need so much help, giving can sometimes feel hit and miss, and choosing between charities can be hard. Acts 345 puts people who can give in touch with people who are in need. The Church is the physical, face to face forum that enables virtual, online giving.

Please visit the website and see how you might help;

<https://acts435.org.uk/how>

**The GREEN CHRISTIAN
Prayer Guide for the Care of Creation:**

I was pleased to re-discover this Prayer Handbook recently. It has an entry for each day of the year. I always find them informative, and sometimes stimulating and thought-provoking. Sometimes they stir me to action! For example, here is part of the entry for

Monday 5th March

It reads:

The Church of England is urging Christians to give up single-use plastic for Lent, and adds some tips for cutting out plastics from everyday life, such as:

Giving up plastic cups

Using bamboo toothbrushes

Buying unpackaged bread

This is just the beginning of a long haul in the campaign to eliminate plastic waste altogether.

Here are some other examples:

Saturday 10th March

According to Herbert Girardet, cities are the primary location of economic development. However, much damage has been done to the world's ecosystems by urban resource use. The time has come for cities to take specific measures to help regenerate soils, forests and watercourses rather than just sustaining them in a degraded condition, and to make renewable energy their main source of energy supplies. "Regenerative development is as much about honest give-and- take between humans and Nature as it is about reviving human communities at local level.

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Monday 19th March

Despite a significant growth in UK electricity demand in the last 60 years, renewables in 2017 produced more electricity than the total electricity used in 1958. The power system in that year emitted 93 million tonnes of CO₂. Renewables in 2017 emitted just 3 million tonnes while producing the same amount of electricity. Last year half of Britain's electricity came from low-carbon sources, while coal and gas output fell by one-tenth.

Saturday 24th March

Tree planting rates in Britain have dropped from 25,000-30,000 per year from the 1960s to 1980s to just 5,000 today, according to Suzi Martineau, organiser of the Glastonbury Tree Conference. David Read of the Forestry Commission, at the same conference picked out Sitka spruce among the trees best capable of fixing CO₂. "What is remarkable is that its very high rates of carbon fixation are achieved on land that is too poor for agricultural use, meaning that mitigation of climate change can be achieved without competing for better quality land that can continue to be used for food production."

If you would like to receive the prayer diary each month by email (free), please email:

prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk

For further information about Green Christian, please contact:

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Jeremy

CLERGY PAGES

Dear Friends

Here is a story, only a story, of an old lady, 95 years old. She lived in sheltered housing and was visited one day by her friend, who asked “You look very sad, are you well?”

“Yes, I’m fine,” she replied. “Why then, are you looking so fed up?” asked her friend.

“Well,” she said, “All my friends have died and have gone to heaven to be with God a long time ago.”

“So what is the problem?” the kindly friend asked.

“Well, they’ll be wondering where I’ve gone!”

I suppose we can wonder ‘where they have gone’, can’t we? Far too frequently, the Church is called upon to share in that sad and cruel moment when someone has died, and the family and friends of that person are bereft. What do we say? Should we say anything? What if they take it the wrong way? What if I get stuck for an answer?

Someone once said that being a Christian is like being a beggar who has found bread and who goes to tell their fellow beggars where they can be fed also.

We have a responsibility as those who have discovered, not to put too fine a point on it, the best thing ever – namely, that God has made it possible to know him and to live with him forever. How would we feel if the person who helped us to come to faith had simply remained silent? If they had decided to not pass on the wonderful good news that God is in the business of rescuing those who cannot rescue themselves? If we had been left to our own devices and not directed to the one who is ‘the Resurrection and the Life’?

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I guess the person who helped us simply said what they could. They maybe didn't have the courage and said something about their faith in Jesus, and at some point, it began to make sense to us.

By the time we read this, we will, as a Church and as a Christian Community, be about to celebrate Easter – that moment when the work of Jesus triumphed over death itself. We will share in that wonderful moment and ponder once more what it means to us, and perhaps what it might mean to others. We might reflect on our own experience, our own journey of faith, and we might want to think about telling our nearest and dearest what it means to us. When we die, as we surely will, will our friends and our families wonder where we have gone? Or will they be quite sure where we are and who we are with? They might not have to put up with all the sorrow of our deaths if we have told them where we are going and, more importantly, who it is who makes it possible to be there. Don't we owe it to them?

God Bless You All this Easter time.

Ann



Keep your Pencil Sharp!

(Letter from Rev. David Kent)

As I watch the news and read my papers and generally observe what's going on around me, it occurred to me that society today resembles a shop window where all the price tags have been swapped around.

Where the tat suddenly acquires a high price tag whilst the things which are priceless are devalued to become almost worthless.

Try to imagine what some of these goods might be.

Where would we place something like greed in the display?

What about corruption? I wonder if we even recognise corruption for what it is these days. Some people in high places transform corruption into an essential virtue these days.

Celebrity status we worship, wealth in financial terms, rights are highly prized, but we seem to want to separate them from responsibilities, which seems to me like trying to separate a north pole from a south pole on a magnet.

Bad behaviour, bad language, binge drinking, vandalism, graffiti, gadgets, possessions, over indulgence, blaming others, suing people, political correctness, instant gratification, debt, I'm sure you can add plenty of your own.

But what about discipline, what value do we place on discipline?

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What about love, peace, respect, responsibility, honour, truth, faithfulness, loyalty, chivalry, prudence, honesty, gentleness, common sense, generosity, courtesy, kindness, self-sacrifice, earning a living, the list goes on.

Virtues which all too often seem to count as worthless these days yet which are transformational when practiced by the majority.

Lent has been a good time for me to take a long hard look at my own shop window and check out which of my labels have become swapped around, as they surely do (few of us are exempt from the pressures of the 'modern world')

To be brutally honest with myself and be prepared to put the labels back where they belong.

If that seems to fly in the face of today's culture then that's because it does.

Christians are now, and always have been, counter-cultural.

It's usually the case that if we agree with how society is conducting itself, we've got it wrong.



That's not to say we should be different for the sake of it.
It means that without regulation and constant self-examination, the worst aspects of human nature seem to prevail.

As Christian pilgrims, we have the great benefit of periods like Lent which we set aside for self-examination and regulation.

We have special time set aside to sit before God and allow him to prune us back into shape so that we'll bear fruit once again.

It's not enough to come to church once a week.
It's not enough to tell people we're Christian

St Francis said "Go out and preach the Gospel; use words if necessary!"

We need to be seen to live out our Christian faith in our lives.
That often means by a different set of values than the majority of society.

We march to the beat of a different drum.
We must lead by example. By the Grace of God.
We hold the key to a well ordered society and to a peaceful world.
We are God's messengers.

We are pencils in the hand of God who is writing a love letter to the world.

Yours in Christ

David

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.”