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December 2018

FREE: Please take a copy

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

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Leeds



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DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 2 December Advent Sunday

9.15am: Holy Communion @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Christingle Service @ South Crosland

11.00am: Morning Worship @ Newsome

Wednesday 5 December

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 43 Delph Lane, Netherton

Sunday 9 December Advent 2

9.15am: Morning Worship @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Wednesday 12 December

10.30am: Carol Service @ Garden Court, followed by refreshments

Sunday 16 December Advent 3

10.00am: Holy Communion Team Service @ Armitage Bridge

Wednesday 19 December

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

7.30pm: Carol Service @ Armitage Bridge

Sunday 23 December Advent 4

9.15am: Holy Communion @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: 9 Lessons and Carols @ South Crosland

11.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Monday 24 December Christmas Eve

5.30pm: Nativity Service @ Armitage Bridge

4.00pm: Crib Service @ South Crosland

7.00pm: Carols and Holy Communion @ Newsome

11.30pm : Midnight Holy Communion @ South Crosland

Tuesday 25 December Christmas Day

10.00am: Team Service @ Armitage Bridge

Sunday 30 December Holy Innocents

9.15am: Holy Communion @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11.00am Holy Communion @ Newsome



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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 group. Every Thursday, gather to start at 5.30, silent meditation for 30 minutes, and departure at about 6.15 after sharing news. St Paul's Church, Armitage Bridge.

Newsome and South Crosland Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are an important part of our community outreach and ours at Newsome and Netherton are no exception.



South Crosland Junior School will be on 8 December starting at 10.00 to 11.30.

Newsome Church Hall on 15 December starting at 10.00 to 11.30.

Crafty Kids

Crafty kids at Christmas!! Come to South Crosland church for Christmas art and craft activities, 10am -11.30am on Saturday December 1st

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 16 Dec : Deadline for News and Notices for the December Focus

Mon 3 Dec : Armitage Bridge & Newsome PCC at 7.00pm



NET church Charity Quiz Evening

7:30 p.m. on Saturday 1st December at St Paul's Church, Armitage Bridge, HD4 7PD

Tickets: £4 including supper

All proceeds to Holmfirth Food Bank and The Welcome Centre

For tickets/further information, please contact Chris & Mandy Jowett at thejowetts@uwclub.net

South Crosland

South Crosland quiz and afternoon tea at 2.30pm on Sunday November 25th. Adults £4 and young people aged 16 or under, £2, including refreshments. Raffle plus mini-auction!! Please book first with Steve or Angela Gledhill on 683124. Thankyou

Newsome

The Light Quiz at Newsome church 2pm Thursday November 29th. Quiz plus fun activities. Tea/coffee and biscuits included £2. No need to book...just turn up!!

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South Crosland Women's Society

11 December at 2.30 pm.

Snowman Drive. Please bring a gift .(Approx £2)

Joan Sierant.



Carol Singing in Newsome

Friday 12th December at 2pm starting at Edale Sheltered housing then the village and Castle Grange finishing at David and Pam's house for drinks and mince pies.

Café Church

Cafe church 15th December at Berry Brow Methodist Community Church at 4pm to 5.30pm with refreshments.

We welcome the return of Valley Flutes to give us the Christmas Spirit.

Please feel free to bring a friend.

December 2018

Children's Christmas Craft workshop

On Saturday 8th December at St. Paul's Church, Armitage Bridge

10am – 12.15pm

Fun activities on a Christmas theme for children aged 3 – 13
years (under 3's to be accompanied by parent/carer)



The session ends with a short Christingle service

**For further details and to book a place please contact Melody
on 01484 666205 or email melodyannhirst@gmail.com**

Come along and join in the fun. We'd love to see you!

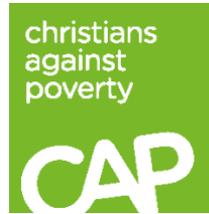
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Huddersfield Debt Centre

I have recently read the report:

Never just a number: Evaluating the impact of a holistic approach to UK poverty.

[This is the LSE Housing and Communities report for Christians Against Poverty, published: October 2018]



I found it refreshing to read the impact that CAP had on the nationally-respected (and secular) *London School of Economics*. Their summary runs to 96 pages, so here are some bullet points !

We are passionate about releasing people from a life sentence of debt, poverty and its causes. Our vision is to bring freedom, hope and the good news to people in every UK community through local churches....

We define our core services as:

Lifting the weight of debt through CAP Debt Centres

Helping people step into employment through

CAP Job Clubs

Freeing people from life-controlling dependencies and habits through

CAP Fresh Start Groups

Helping low income families survive through CAP Life Skills

Poverty and debt pose major challenges to the workings of society.

Literally millions of people are affected. Welfare reform and government austerity have intensified these problems, as has growing recourse to insecure private renting by people on the lowest incomes who previously might previously have had access to social housing. Homelessness is on the rise.

LSE Housing and Communities first came across Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in Newham, East London, in 2014 while interviewing people struggling with poverty and debt for a research project.

CAP had helped a destitute, homeless, starving young person who had been sleeping in a church doorway. She told us how they had helped her get free of unimaginable debts, find accommodation in a hostel, access work, and get back on her feet. We wanted to learn more about this dedicated organisation, as debt was an emerging strand of our work.

There are several striking aspects of CAP's approach to helping people in trouble:

A philosophy of going the extra mile in the belief that this will make the difference;

Taking on extreme cases, often referred by other agencies and charities;

Adopting a holistic approach, including helping in many practical and direct ways;

Relying on the church for support, inspiration, and motivation.

One key issue mentioned by four managers was the need to have more training around mental health issues, partly echoed by three interviewees who wanted more discussion and training on complex or "thorny" issues which arose regularly.

Here is just one example of many that are included in the report

"One lady, not our client at that time, had gone to the foodbank, but foodbank hours had changed. Other people left, but this lady broke down, and her kids were not behaving normally like squabbling or complaining, but were silent and pale.

We went to speak to her. She had walked three miles, and had no food left at home. We offered to take her home, and told her that we could do a big shop, got £100 for a shop for her.

When we got home, we saw there was no electric or gas, and she told us this had been off for five weeks. Her husband had abandoned her, gone abroad, and she did not know how to claim benefits. There was no TV and, more strikingly, no crumbs on the floor or in the kitchen cupboards."

Jeremy

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Prayer guide for the care of creation

“The work of praying is pre-requisite to all other work in the kingdom of God, for the simple reason that it is by prayer that we couple the powers of heaven to our own helplessness” [Ole Hallesby]

For information:

Scottish Power has become the first of the Big Six energy giants to abandon fossil fuels and become a 100% renewable energy operator. It has agreed to sell its entire gas generation business to Drax for £702 million. The deal will support Drax’s plans to reduce its reliance on coal power and shift towards lower-carbon gas and biomass.

For action:

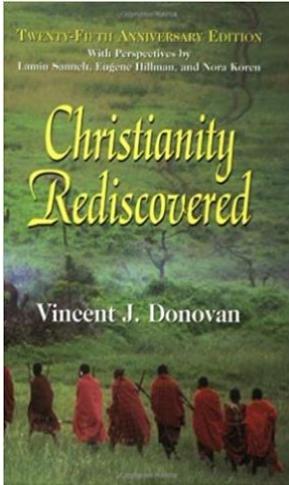
Edward Davey, reviewing the book ‘How to give up plastic’ by Will McCallum, concludes: “the time for hand-wringing is over. No single action is futile. We are all part of the problem to a lesser or greater extent, and so we must all act to address it. . . . There is an ethical value in doing everything we can, irrespective of the scale and challenge. Even one plastic straw saved from landfill and the ocean is worth the effort.

For prayer:

Protect us, O Lord, from thoughts without action;
Guard us, O Lord, from words without feelings;
Defend us, O Lord, from ideas without results;
and surround us with your presence. [David Adams]

Clergy Letter

A book that I found transformational in my early years of ministry is called Christianity Rediscovered by Vincent Donovan. The subtitle of



the book is 'Epistle to the Masai' and tells the story of Vincent's missionary journey's evangelising the Masai.

One particular section of the book is a discussion between Vincent and a Masai chief where he tries to explain the meaning of faith. When he'd finished, the chief criticised his definition and gave him the Masai version of faith:-

“An elder of the Masai Tribe was talking to a missionary, using both English and Swahili to convey his thoughts. The Masai said that the word the missionary used to convey the notion of faith was not very satisfactory in his language because it meant simply to agree to. He said that to define belief like that was similar to white hunter shooting an animal with his gun from a great distance. Only his eyes and his fingers took part in the act. We should find another word. He said for a man to really believe is like a lion going after its prey. His nose and ears pick up his prey. His legs give him the speed to catch it. All the power in his body is involved in the terrible death leap and single blow to the neck with the front paw, the blow that actually kills. And as the animal goes down the lion envelopes it in his arms

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(Africans refer to the front legs of an animal as its arms) pulls it to himself and makes it part of himself. This is the way the lion kills. This is the way a man believes. This is what faith is.

And all the time we think we are the lion.

And all the time the lion is God. “

There are many occasions in our lifetimes when we are enfolded in God's loving arms, none more so than at Christmas time when we celebrate God coming to be amongst us in the shape of His son Jesus Christ.

In the same way that our celebration of Easter can be tremendously enhanced by our Lent observance, so too can our Christmas celebrations be enhanced by our Advent observance.

If we take time during Advent to eat a bit less, be a bit less busy and pray for a few moments each day, we will find that when Christmas Day arrives, we'll have prepared our body and soul to meet him once again in that stable.

Not only will the turkey taste better, but our soul will be filled to overflowing with the Spirit of our Lord Jesus. Because we have prepared ourselves, the event will be infinitely more meaningful.

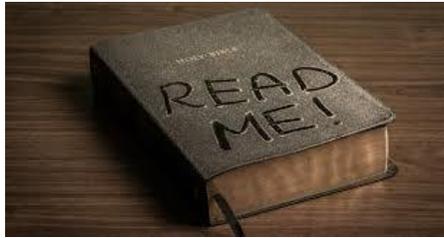
We are also running a number of Advent groups during December which can also provide more spiritual nurture at this special time.

Please do join one and allow yourselves to be spiritually fed in the run up to Christmas

Praying you will have a peaceful and prayerful Advent.

Wishing you every blessing

David



Bible Readings in December

2 December Advent Sunday

Matthew 1 : 18- 23

9 December Advent 2

Phillipians 1 : 3-11

Luke 3: 1-6

16 December Advent 3

Phillipians 4 : 4-7

Luke 3 :7-18

23 December Advent 4

Hebrews 10 :5-10

Luke 1:39-45

24 December Christmas Eve

Acts 13: 16-26

Luke 1: 67-79

25 December Christmas Day

Hebrews 1: 1-4

John 1: 1-14

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Christmas Tree Prayers

If you would like your Christmas tree to mean more this year, why not try this beautiful and thoughtful prayer idea?

Children love to help with decorating the tree. This idea is an easy way to let them get involved, and helps them pray at the same time.

Buy some pretty gift tags (sparkly stars work well) – or make some by cutting up last year’s Christmas cards.

Write on the plain side the names of people or situations that you want to pray about.

Hang the gift tag prayers on your tree as a sparkly reminder – just as your tree lights shine in the darkness, so your prayers are like a candle that lights up the lives of those in need.

Christmas is a particularly difficult time if you are sad, or ill, or lonely or worried. Keep a few spare gift tags so you can add to your tree when you think of others who need your prayers.

Tip: If you know someone needs your prayers, but it’s best if others don’t know they’re in need, why not just write their initial on the tag, or draw a heart shape – God will know you are thinking of them.



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CONTACTS

Webpage: www.theemmanuelteam.org.uk

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

Ministers and Readers

Rector: 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
Revd Ann Sykes 603894

Lay Reader Jeremy Plummer 667661

Churchwardens

Newsome: June Richardson 665537
Armitage Bridge: Pamela Thomas 359270
South Crosland: Martyn Dean 666325
Julie Dean 666325

Webpage and Magazine Contact Rena Souten

renasouten@theemmanuelteam.org.uk

THE EMMANUEL TEAM, HUDDERSFIELD

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