

FOCUS



January 2019

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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JANUARY SERVICES

Wednesday 2 January

10.00am : Holy Communion @ 43 Delph Lane, Netherton

Sunday 6 January

10.30am : Benefice Service @ Newsome

Wednesday 9 January

10.00am:Holy Communion @ 14 Sherwood Drive,Netherton

Sunday 13 January Baptism of Christ

9.15am:Morning Worship with Baptism @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Wednesday 16 January

10.00am:Holy Communion @ 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Sunday 20 January Epiphany 3

10.30am: Team Service @ Berry Brow Methodists

Wednesday 23 January

10.00am:Holy Communion @43 Delph Lane, Netherton

Sunday 27 January

9.15am:Holy Communion @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am:Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11.00am:The Gathering,The Net @ Newsome

Wednesday 30 January

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 14 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

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 12 January starting at 10.00 to 11.30.

Newsome Church Hall on 18 January starting at 10.00 to 11.30.

South Crosland Women's Society

20th Nov. The talk by Kathy from Meltham Wild Life Rescue, was very entertaining and made an enjoyable afternoon. All our members contributed to the needs of the animals and much appreciated. Thanks were given

11th Dec . SNOWMAN DRIVE. very enjoyable afternoon with exchange of gifts, followed by drinks and a selection of cakes supplied by the committee.

Thanks were given by Margaret Rodgers to Mabel and Stella and committee for organising.

Next meeting 22nd January. at 2.30.

Enjoy another Holiday with Pam and David Kent.

Joan Sierant.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sun 20 Jan : Deadline for News and Notices for the February Focus
- Mon 14 Jan : LEP Council meeting at St Paul's
- Wed 23 Jan : South Crosland PCC at Holy Trinity at 7.00
- Mon 28 Jan : St Paul's DCC at St Paul's
- Tue 29 Jan : St John's DCC at 2.30 at St John's

Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox appeal

Many thanks to those who provided a shoebox for the OCC appeal. Barbara Roebuck and I took our shoeboxes to Meltham Mills in November and were amazed by the scale of the operation, as always! We were also made very welcome with a cup of tea and a biscuit. We contributed 11 shoeboxes this year towards a total of over 10,000! This year, the first 10,000 were sent to Liberia with the remainder going to Eastern Europe.

Our local collection and distribution point at St James' church at Meltham Mills is now the regional centre. They gather shoeboxes from 23 collection points across the western part of North, West and South Yorkshire, from Skipton to Sheffield. They then check through every shoebox to ensure it has everything it needs before it is shipped off in containers to its destination. This massive operation keeps many people very busy throughout November each year! They actually start collating shoebox fillers and covering shoeboxes in paper from Easter onwards, every Friday morning at 10am, and also make greetings cards for the Welcome Centre. I'm sure you would be made very welcome if you wanted to join in.

Caroline Jones

Cafe Church

Church but not as you know it.



**19th January
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.**



Rev Glen Coggins

*'Walking together in Christian fellowship and love -
Ecumenism Today'*

**At Berry Brow Methodist Church
and
Community Centre.**

Birch Road HD4 7LP

**Come along and share in a different kind of
church experience.**

- Bring a friend!
- Invite someone who might usually eat on their own.
- Enjoy refreshments and fellowship.

There will be no set charge for the meal but contributions would be appreciated to help us to meet the cost .



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QUIZ TIME

South Crosland Quiz



Fun and fellowship at Newsome ,with delicious seasonal refreshments



Clergy Letter 2019

Well, it's all over and everyone is returning to work with the usual question 'did you have a good Christmas' and the usual reply 'well you know, quiet, ate too much as usual'.

Naturally, for those of us that still see Christmas as a religious festival it is not over yet as we continue celebrating the birth of Christ with the coming of the Magi and then the presentation of Jesus in the temple.

But, for the world, Christmas is over. On the whole the world sees Christmas not as a time to celebrate the birth of Christ but as a holiday, a time of expense and excess. Of course a few carols along the way adds to the atmosphere, naturally, and maybe even the annual visit to church on Christmas Eve to "get the party started!" But for the majority of people in the UK, they don't do God.

It's official that only 45% of people in the UK have any faith whatsoever. I briefly picked up a news item recently that reported an eminent judge who decreed that religion was irrelevant in our modern society and that religious studies should no longer be taught in schools. It is a pity that she has lost sight of the fact that the laws she holds dear, and have been the means of her current wealth and position, are largely based on Christian teaching.

It seems that Christian belief in UK is on the decline even though some of our holidays and the celebrations that people enjoy are centred on biblical events. Furthermore, our laws are based on Christian principles, our parliament still has prayers starting each daily session and when you appear in court you still have the option to swear on the bible before giving evidence.

But Christianity cannot be irrelevant because 5 million bibles are needed in China each year to meet demand and the African churches are growing week on week. Somehow we just need to find a way to make it real for people in this country too.

If that eminent judge thinks the church is only here to provide free care for those in need, be a back up to our overloaded social system and education provision, and is going to do so without a voice and a strong message, she has another think coming.

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The church and its message of forgiveness, of God's redeeming love and of Jesus Christ the saviour of the world, is as relevant today as it always has been. Unfortunately the current laws of our land prevent us from saying it as forcefully and as often as we might.

This whole situation may seem hopeless and beyond our control and I suppose in a way it is. Fortunately it is not beyond God's control.

Isn't it ironic that in places where believing in Jesus is frowned upon and where Evangelism is illegal it is in those places that Christianity grows stronger and faster than in a free world, Christian country.

I believe God has his hand very tightly on this country of ours and the more obvious the opposition to Christianity becomes, the stronger those who believe that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life will be. The more Christians are muzzled the more they will strive to speak out about their Lord and what He has done for them.



When I was at college we were posed the question, 'if you found out you only had a short while to live, what would be your priorities'. The obvious answers came up, concerning provision for family, seeing old friends, visiting important places. However, what crossed my mind as well as these things, was a real desire to have the biggest Christian party ever and invite everyone to come and hear about Jesus and what he can do for them. It would be like a Billy Graham rally on overload!!

My greatest desire is to see people come to know Jesus and my biggest challenge is finding a way to do it! So all ideas welcome!

All we can do as we work it out is to pray and live out our faith showing people that Jesus loves them and that his birth, life, death and resurrection are as much for them as for us.

Happy New Year and may God bless you as you bless others.

Julie



CLERGY LETTER 2019

Welcome to a new calendar year, 2019, and the opportunities and challenges it offers us. Julie is encouraging those of us who are retired clergy to contribute to Focus and so I am writing the “clergy pages” this month.

I hope you enjoyed Christmas and were able to gather together with family and friends and church family over the 12 days. Hard on the heels of the Christmas season is Epiphany (literally God “shining out”) - a chance to be reminded about times when that happened. The visit of the wise men to the Christchild in Bethlehem, led by a star, and their prophetic gifts - gold for a king, incense for a priest, myrrh for a sacrificial death.

On January 6th, Epiphany Sunday, 3 of our Emmanuel adults will be confirmed by the Bishop of Leeds at St Peter’s (aka Huddersfield Parish Church). The service starts at 10am and our earlier Emmanuel service will be cancelled so that our people are free to support the candidates. There will also be an 11am service at St John’s Newsome for all of you who want to worship locally instead.

Other epiphanies are remembered later in the month, such as the wedding feast at Cana where Jesus turned water into wine, and the season closes with the Presentation (“Candlemas”) when Simeon and

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Anna recognised the Messiah in the little child brought to the Jerusalem temple by Mary and Joseph.

Throughout my life, I have found God shining out in everyday places and I would like to share a few of them with you. Starting with the very small. As a teenager, I became fascinated with what I could see through a microscope. A couple of drops of pond water teemed with life, from mayfly nymphs and rotifers almost visible to the naked eye down to beautiful single-celled plants in brilliant colours called diatoms. And electron microphotographs of human tissue were stunning. Muscle fibres, brain cells, blood all showing remarkable symmetry and organisation. Above all, the internal structure of cells, complete with powerhouses, protein factories and control centres, at the heart of it the coiled miracle that is DNA, the material of inheritance.

Going large, I have been speechless in the presence of great panoramic views, from the South Downs of my childhood to the mountains of Gwynedd, the Lake District and the Scottish Highlands. Castle Hill takes some beating too! And the night sky away from light pollution.

We were greatly blessed by seeing the last total eclipse of the sun in Cornwall in an unexpected gap in the cloud cover. The moon's shadow sweeping across the nearby scenery and then the unforgettable jewel hanging in the sky, both an astronomical marvel and a spiritual experience.

There are "bucket list" sights such as the Grand Canyon and the Northern Lights - but photographs are probably enough! And there have been personal marvels such as the birth of a child..... and human love. I believe God has never stopped shining out in his world and in our lives. All we need is the eyes to see and the time to wonder. Epiphanies are everywhere.

"A poor life this if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare"

A joyful New Year to all of you

Debby



Bible Readings in January

6 January Epiphany

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

13 January Baptism of Christ

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3: 15-17 & 21-22

20 January Epiphany 3

Hebrews 10 :5-10

Luke 1:39-45

27 January Conversion of Paul

Acts 9: 1-22

Matthew 19: 27 - end

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

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THE EMMANUEL BENEFICE HUDDERSFIELD

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