

FOCUS



March 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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MARCH SERVICES

Sunday 3 March Next Before Lent

9.15am : Holy Communion @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am : Morning worship @ South Crosland

11.00am : Morning Worship @ Newsome

Wednesday 6 March Ash Wednesday

10.00am: Holy Communion and Ashing @ South Crosland

7.00pm: Holy Communion and Ashing @ Newsome

Sunday 10 March Lent 1

9.15am: Morning Worship @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

Wednesday 13 March

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 14 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

11.30am: Holy Communion @ Garden Court

Sunday 17 March Lent 2

10.00am: Team Service @ Newsome

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

Wednesday 20 March

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

Sunday 24 March Lent 3

9.15am: Holy Communion @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11.00am: The Gathering with baptism @ Newsome

Wednesday 27 March

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 43 Delph Lane, Netherton

Sunday 31 March

8.45 am: Said Holy Communion TBA

10.00am: Mothering Sunday Team service @ Scout Hut, Newsome

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 9 March starting at 10.00 to 11.30.

Newsome Church Hall on 16 March starting at 10.15 to 11.45.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 4 March: Armitage Bridge DCC at Newsome, 7.00pm

Tue 5 March: Newsome DCC at Newsome at 2.00pm

Mon 18 March: Armitage Bridge and Newsome PCC at Newsome at 4.00pm

Wed 13 Feb: Messy Church at Netherton Methodist, 4.00pm

Sun 17 March: APCM @ South Crosland after the morning service

Sun 24 March: Deadline for News and Notices for the February

First Aiders



South Crosland PCC base their health and safety reviews on the guidance given by Ecclesiastical Church – Health and Safety. This guidance states that “It is advisable to consider having a trained first aider present at big events”

As a first consideration, the PCC would like to know if we have any trained First Aiders (in addition to Revd Julie!) in our congregation. If you hold a current First Aid certificate, could you please let myself or another PCC member know.

Thank you
Helen Pearson

Mothering Sunday Celebration Service

Sunday 31st March

Come and join us on Mother’s Day to say thank you for our mums and all those who have looked after us over the years.



The service will be at 10am

At the Scout Hut in Newsome

All Age activities

Let’s give thanks to God together in word and song!!



Messy Church – We next meet on Wednesday 13 March, 4-6pm at Netherton Methodist Church. Join us for crafts, fun, and food.



Café Church

16 March at Barry Brow MC & CC at 4.00 til 5.30

Rev Julie Anderson 'My Journey to the Benefice'

For Your Prayers

Our Annual Parochial Church meetings are coming up and we will be thinking about our year ahead. If you have any ideas and want to help us to find a way to grow our churches then maybe being on the PCC will give you the chance to be a part of planning the future! In Newsome and Armitage Bridge this means being a part of the DCC too. If you want to know more then please speak to Julie or one of the PCC members in your church.

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Crafty Kids - Saturday 2nd March
10.00 - 11.30am



Holy Trinity Church South Crosland

At the February meet the youngsters had great fun making imaginative models including ones of the story of the 4 friends lowering the crippled man through the house roof to be healed by Jesus:



The club next meets Saturday March 2nd 10.00 – 11.30am. The theme will be “Those who care for us” and activities will include making gifts for Mums for Mothering Sunday (Shhh!!).

A little early we know, however the next club will not be until early April which will be after the big day.

All youngsters and Parents/Carers (if they wish to stay) are welcome. Come and have some fun and enjoy sharing delicious refreshments together.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Have you ever wondered – what is *Christian* meditation... is it prayer...or a mindfulness practice...where does it come from... how to do it...?



**Six Consecutive Mondays at
7.00pm starting on March 4th 2019**

**St Paul's Church
Armitage Road
Armitage Bridge
Huddersfield
HD4 7PD**

How to Book

Email: carol.stenner@leeds.anglican.org

Phone: 0113 353 0281

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/christian-meditation-huddersfield/>

For more information about the course

Email: sue.clarke@btinternet.com

Phone: 01484 681828

£5 per session (or £25 full course)

Meditation is an ancient form of prayer. Its aim is to bring the distracted mind to silence and stillness, and rest in the presence of God. Even in our modern busy lives, this is possible.

We invite you to come along and try this form of prayer which is simple and peaceful.

The introductory course provides an opportunity to experience the practice of Christian Meditation, to learn about its origins, and to discover its relevance as a form of prayer for the contemporary world.

People from any tradition or none are all welcome.

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LENT STUDY

Some frequently asked questions about Bible Study

When I suggest to folk that we have some bible study groups I am often asked the following questions so I thought I would answer them for you here to encourage you to come and join one of our groups this Lent.

Is bible study important to my journey in faith?

The simple answer to that is yes – I believe that bible study helps us to read and understand the bible better and to hear other peoples views on passages we may know well. If we read our bibles on our own then we only have our interpretation of what is being said and it is interesting to hear what others might think and others will be interested in what you have to say too.

Will it be like being at school where someone tells us what it all means and we just listen?

Absolutely not! Bible study is about sharing our views and thoughts and exploring what is being said together!

Will it help me to apply it to my life today?

I would hope so! When we read the bible together and ask the questions about what it means for us today we can help one another to see how we can apply it to daily life.

Will it make me a better Christian?

That's a hard one! If you apply what you learn from one another to the way you live your life then it will deepen your relationship with God and help you to be a better disciple – following Jesus. The rest is up to you!!

Will I still be a Christian if I don't come to bible study?

Yes of course but you will have missed out on fun and fellowship as you learn about Jesus and how to follow him. I often use the picture of a fire – the coals are all burning brightly together in the fireplace but if you lift

one coal out and put it on the hearth then it soon stops glowing and goes cold. We are the coals and we shine more brightly when we do things together so come and join us for our Lent studies and see what it does for you!!

Where and when?

Monday 7.30pm with Pam Kent at The Roebucks

Tuesday 2.00pm with Nancy Ndoho venue TBA

Tuesday 2pm with Debby Plummer at Armitage Bridge Church

Tuesday 7.30pm with David Kent at his home

Wednesday 7pm with Julie Anderson and Martyn Crompton at The Rectory

Thursday 10.30am with Julie Anderson at St John's church Newsome

Sign up sheets will be at the back of church so please put your name down for the group that suits you best.

Thanks

Julie

A Psalm of Fellowship, based on Psalm 23

This psalm is entitled "A Psalm of Fellowship" and is based on Psalm 23. Psalm 23 is about how God provides everything we may want or need in our lives together.

"A Psalm of Fellowship" was composed during our "Newsome Churches Together" weekend. This was held at The Hayes Conference Centre Swanick Derbyshire, May 2014

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**The Lord is the Creator of all things.
He leads me by still lakes**

**He guides my footsteps at all times.
He listens to me when I feel troubled.**

**He knows everyone by name.
He knew me even before I was born!**

He helps me to listen to people's troubles.

He guides me through darkness.

He gives me patience in abundance.

I will praise Him forever.

“A Psalm of Fellowship” was composed by :-

Trisha Wilson	St Johns Church, Newsome
Sylvia Beevers	St Johns Church, Newsome
Brenda Newby	St Johns Church, Newsome
Margaret Chapman	St Johns Church, Newsome
Melanie Farrar	St Pauls Church, Armitage Bridge
Christine Stroyan	Holy Trinity Church, South Crosland
Janet Parkins	Holy Trinity Church, South Crosland

God so loved the world

Each morning as I say the Office I come to a section in the Intercessions inviting me to pray for 'the world and its needs.'

I ask myself, how can I? There are some countries I don't even know exist, others I would not be able to find on the map. Researchers tell us we can only have a meaningful relationship with 150 people at the most, so how can I pray for and know the needs of over 7 billion people, most of whom I will never meet?

Of course, I can't. But, as I am increasingly coming to realise, my faith and my prayer life is not all about me and what I do, but depends on God's nature and what He has done, and continues to do, in Jesus Christ.

God knows each person and, for that matter, each creature in the world He has made. Every human being is made in His image and He loves them all. He knows their needs, their hopes and their fears and reaches out to them in love through His Son Jesus Christ. Not one of them, not even a sparrow, lives and dies unknown to Him. Not one of them is beyond the reach of His love.

So in my prayers for the world I thank God for His love which led Jesus to be born to be the Saviour of all who put their faith in Him. Especially I thank Him for His love for those I have come to love, my family and my friends, but also for those billions, unknown to me, but precious to Him, whom He also loves and whom Jesus also came to save. And I pray for my brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world whom He is already using to make His love known to them. Our world can seem a dark and threatening place at times, but the birth of Jesus at Christmas, His death and resurrection at Easter remind me as I pray each day that the light of God's love continues to shine in the darkness and will never be overcome. Thanks be to God.

Martyn

Clergy Letter

Many years ago, a despondent Korean war veteran stood on the Brooklyn bridge ready to jump. His suicidal mood was brought up short when he remembered a message he had seen posted outside his neighbourhood church. It read “ When you come to the end of your rope- tie a knot in it and hang on.”

The man decided to hang on to life because of hope offered by a bulletin board.

Roadside messages like the one he remembered once dotted church grounds in 500 cities on four continents.

The wayside message was first introduced to British churches by the Reverend H . Harrold Johnson. Called in 1919 to bring new life into the declining Cross Street Chapel in Manchester, Johnson created the Wayside Pulpit “Thought for the Week”; pithy messages that would appeal to the person in the street, rather than the person in the pew. These messages were hand painted on 40 x 30 inch posters, and were changed each week. The first Wayside Pulpit was posted on December 26, 1920, for all of Manchester to see. From that day on, a new poster appeared every Sunday morning for the next fifty years. Even when England was blitzed during World War II and the chapel stood roofless, a weekly message appeared.





In our efforts to encourage church growth and reach out to those beyond our doors, would it be a good idea to have a 'Wayside Pulpit' outside each of our churches?

Having in mind the widely used social media opportunities, how about a Facebook page for our church group sending out a weekly 'Spiritual Thought for the Week'?

Something like:-

'Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breaths away'

When Jesus chose his twelve disciples he was enlisting support to spread the Good News. He later sent out a further seventy to do the same.

As Christians we are called for the very same reason, namely to spread the Good News.

Communication systems have moved on a bit since Jesus' ministry and I can quite imagine that if he were around today he'd use Instagram, Facebook and writing his own Blogs.

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If we are to reach out to folk outside the church, don't we need to be using the most up to date and widely used methods?

Answers on a postcard please. (Old Technology!!!!)

By the time you read this letter Lent will be upon us. This is a golden opportunity to STOP and take stock of our lives. Maybe reduce our diary commitments, reduce the amount we eat (fasting) and take some time each day to talk to God (prayer).

You may even want to go further and attend one of our Lent Study Groups.

If we observe these simple disciplines we will discover why the word discipline and disciple are so similar, and we will find that the Festival of Easter shines brightly in stark contrast to the simplicity of Lent

Wishing you a blessed Lent

David



Bible Readings in March

3 March Next Before Lent

2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4: 2

Luke 9: 28-36

6 March Ash Wednesday

2 Corinthians 5: 20b- 6: 10

Matthew 6: 1-6 & 16-21

10 March Lent 1

Romans 10 :8b-13

Luke 4: 1-13

17 March Lent 2

Philippians 3: 17- 4:1

Luke 13: 31-end

24 March Lent 3

1 Corinthians 10 :1-13

Luke 13:1-9

31 March Mothering Sunday

Colossians 3:12-17

John 19:25b-27

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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 BENEFICE HUDDERSFIELD

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