

# FOCUS



April 2019

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

 **THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
Diocese of Leeds



Picture Courtesy Margaret Greaves

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## FOCUS

### APRIL SERVICES

#### **Wednesday 3 April**

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

#### **Sunday 7 April 5<sup>th</sup> of Lent**

9.15am : Morning worship @ South Crosland

10.00am : Joint Holy Communion @ Newsome for Armitage Bridge & Newsome

#### **Wednesday 10 April**

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 14 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

11.30am: Holy Communion @ Garden Court

#### **Sunday 14 April Palm Sunday**

9.15am: Morning Worship with baptism and Sunday school @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

#### **Monday 15 April**

6.30 – 7.00pm: A meditation at Netherton Methodist Church

#### **Tuesday 16 April**

2.30pm: Stations of the Cross @ South Crosland

#### **Wednesday 17 April**

10.00am: Holy Communion @ 43 Delph Lane, Netherton

6.30-7.00pm: A meditation @ Berry Brow Methodist Church

#### **Thursday 18 April Maundy Thursday**

7.00pm: Holy Communion @ Newsome

#### **Friday 19 April Good Friday**

2.00pm : an hour at the Cross, a reflective service@ Armitage Bridge

#### **Sunday 21 April Easter Sunday**

9.15am: Holy Communion @ Armitage Bridge

9.15am: Holy Communion @ South Crosland

11.00am: Holy Communion @ Newsome

#### **Wednesday 24 April**

10.00am: Holy Communion @14 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

#### **Sunday 28 April Easter 2**

10.30am: The Gathering @ Newsome



Easter Messy Church at Berry Brow Methodist Church and Community Centre. Wednesday April 17th from 3.00. Activities for all the family, fun food and stories. All are welcome.

### **Newsome and South Crosland Coffee Mornings**

South Crosland Junior School will be on 13 April starting at 10.00 to 11.30. This will be a joint event with the Friends of Deyne Wood



Newsome Church Hall on 20 April starting at 10.15 to 11.45.

### **SOUTH CROSLAND WOMEN'S SOCIETY**

19th February. The talk by Maureen Speight on Life and Drama was again very enjoyable:-

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

A good attendance opened by Stella Bowman with a prayer. Thanks were given to Sheila Smith who has served as Treasurer for many years, the gift of a plant to Sheila was graciously accepted. Sheila Garside has taken over as Treasurer. The minutes of last year's meeting were approved and signed. The Committee agreed to serve for a further year. It was decided to donate our charity giving to £100 to Kirkwood Hospice and £100 to Forget me not Children's Hospice.

March 19th. A talk by a volunteer from C.A.R.T. Christian African Relief Trust. Their charity shop in Lockwood would welcome any help with donations of cash, clothes etc. They do not give out charity bags to houses but will collect any bulky items. A Charity worthy of support.

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### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Sun 7 April: Newsome and Armitage Bridge AGM/APCM @  
Newsome after joint service, 10.00am

Sun 21 April : Deadline for News and Notices for Focus May issue .

### **Fund Raising**

There will be a fundraising Fashion Show on  
Tuesday April 16 th from 7 p.m. at Berry Brow Methodist Church and  
Community Centre. Profits to be shared between Christian Aid and  
church funds. . Tickets are now available from Astrid or Carol  
07740425093. Tickets £6 pp.

Berry Brow Carnival: Visit the South Huddersfield Churches Together  
Stall at the Carnival June 15th at the playing fields of Ladyhouse lane. If  
you would like to help either at the stall or with the Carnival contact  
Carol 07740425093.

### **Giving for Life**

The church's Giving for Life initiative states that generous giving provides  
resources to enable the mission and ministry of the church and fosters  
distinctive Christian lifestyles that enable others to be touched by the  
overflowing generosity of God. The key messages are outlined below:

*Preach and teach regularly about giving in the context of discipleship.*

The Old Testament talked about a legal tithe, and I remember 10% of  
income being quoted as a recommended amount of giving. The current  
thinking is that 5% of take-home pay or income is a rough guide to giving,  
but not a limit! This covers all charitable giving, including what we give to  
Church and other charities. I don't think anyone wants to give "just  
because they have to" or even because they feel obliged to do so; the  
whole point is that we should give because we want to! What is God's

love worth to us? 10%? 5%? I'm not sure that we can ever put a monetary amount on God's love, but we can think about what it means for us personally.

*Communicate with givers from several different perspectives.*

What we give to Church, in terms of time, talent and wealth, helps to resource mission and ministry; this includes paying the Clergy salaries (via the Common Fund), funding outreach and giving annually to local and worldwide charities, as well as paying those essential bills! The ministry of our Church produces fruitful and wide-reaching mission; in schools, in the community, ministering services, visiting the sick and needy and more.

*Send an annual, personal "thank you" to regular givers.*

At the Annual Parochial Meeting, the Treasurer gives a financial review of the year and shows where our giving gets spent. We are all thanked for our giving and for the good work it yields. It is impossible to put a value on what we give in terms of our time and our talents, but again we can see the good it yields in terms of ministry and mission. Even if you haven't received a personal letter, be sure that you are thanked for your generosity. Thank you for giving so generously of your time, your talents and your wealth.

*Hold some form of annual review of giving.*

Most people are generous and graceful givers; many people plan their giving by using the envelope scheme or giving via standing order, and also sign up for Gift Aid, the best free gift we can claim from the Government! But how often do we review what we give? Every year, our income, whether that is a salary or a pension, changes every year, but Church income tends to be static as people do not review their giving annually. This is a good time of year to review our annual giving. Thank you for being generous and graceful givers and please think about reviewing your gifts every year.

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*Agree a legacy policy and communicate this to the congregation*

Only 40% of people have made a will, which means that more than half will be leaving their loved ones with the trouble, work and expense of sorting out their affairs after their death. Be assured that any gifts that you do decide to leave to the church would be used by the PCC to make a real difference to the future mission and ministry of the Church.

*Claim Gift Aid regularly*

How can we be efficient givers? Use the planned giving schemes (envelopes, standing order) and sign up for Gift Aid if you are a tax payer; it costs you nothing but means a great deal to the Church. Pledge to give a set amount each week and give it every week, even if you are away. Even when we are on holiday, the bills keep rolling in. Setting up a standing order is perfect for this but if you use the envelope scheme you can put a few weeks' worth in the weekly envelope, by cheque or cash.

On a practical level, paying by monthly standing order rather than using envelopes or the plate greatly reduces the workload on an ever-reducing team of volunteers, and I would encourage you to do this if you can. What are the advantages to you? It means that you always give your planned contribution, whether you are there or not, and you don't have to struggle to find the correct amount each week. What are the advantages to the church? It means the church will always receive your contribution, whether you are there or not, the PCC can plan expenditure more efficiently because they know the projected income, and the workload on church volunteers is reduced. Due to bank charges, if you give over £10 per week, it is cheaper for the church to receive this by monthly standing order; currently, if you give less than £10 per week it is still cheaper to give by cash.

The Church is there all the time for us, are we always there in return?

*Caroline Jones*  
*Team Parish Giving Officer*



## Huddersfield Debt Centre

I am pleased to tell you that the local Branch of “Christians Against Poverty” based in the Jubilee Centre (in Market Street, Paddock) is progressing well, and Yvette’s “First Appointments” now stretch ahead for many weeks !

Thank you for your support by your prayers, and by the financial donations that both churches in the Benefice and individuals have made.

A recent development has been an online Prayer Group, using *WhatsApp*. This seemed to be a more practical arrangement than meeting occasionally at the Jubilee Centre, and the first month or so has been very successful. Yvette is able to post current events which need powerful prayer support, and the results have been very positive. If you would like to join this Group, please email Yvette at [yvetterobinson@capuk.org](mailto:yvetterobinson@capuk.org) as this is a confidential account. Your commitment would be what you found worked best for you.

Yvette is also in need of “Befrienders” for people who have signed up for a financial programme from CAP. This is “what it says on the tin” . . . a visit from a friendly face from a local church. There’s no set pattern for these visits, so you could work out what seems best for you and for them. Yvette Robinson is the Manager of the local centre, and I know that she is very grateful for all the support she has from local churches.

*Jeremy Plummer*

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## **Prayer guide for the care of creation**

### *For Information*

CPRE's annual state of the Green Belt report finds that 400,000 houses are planned for building on Green Belt land, but that 72% of the houses already built on Green Belt land were unaffordable by the Government's own definition. There is currently enough brownfield land to accommodate more than a million homes, while local authorities with Green Belt land have enough brownfield sites for over 720,000 homes.

### *For Action*

A report from WWF suggests that a target for a zero-emission Britain by 2045 is possible, provided changes in industry, energy and lifestyle are rolled out nationwide. "A change in diet, away from red meat and towards more plant-based eating, would be necessary to meet the 2045 deadline. Halving UK meat consumption could save roughly 10 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent a year, so reducing the burden of emission cuts on farmers."

### *For Prayer*

Lord Jesus, the carpenter, help us not to be afraid to get our hands dirty as we work in your Name. Challenge us every day to care for your world, and always to work gently for it.

If you would like to receive the prayer diary each month by email, please email: [prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk](mailto:prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk)

**Crafty Kids - Saturday 6 April**  
**10.00 - 11.30am Easter Crafts**



**Holy Trinity Church South Crosland**

The club next meets Saturday April 6th 10.00 – 11.30am. The theme will be – Easter!

A variety of crafts to celebrate this wonderful time of year (and perhaps a little chocolate too!)

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



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.

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## **A letter from Gordon Longden**

**Dorothy Longden**

We would like to thank everyone most sincerely for your kind expressions of sympathy, cards of condolence and generous donations in lieu of flowers. A total of £360 was raised, to be shared equally between Marie Curie Nurses and St. John's Church. The presence of so many friends and relations in church was a great support to us all. A special thanks to Julie and David for their comforting service and to George for selecting the music and playing at the service.

*Gordon Longden, Stephanie Childs and Elaine Curran.*

## **A letter from Martyn Crompton**

As Christians we are sometimes described as 'pilgrim people.' We meet with Jesus, experience His love and forgiveness and receive His Holy Spirit who makes us more like Him and helps us to live as His disciples on life's journey.

Our final destination lies beyond this life for He has promised us that one day we will see Him face to face in heaven. But here on earth, day by day, He calls us to follow Him.

Sometimes that may mean moving on, leaving behind familiar, much loved places and going out into the unknown to meet new people and to learn new things.

Last October Gini and I moved to a new home in Meltham. Not very far away, but as weeks have gone by we have both come to believe that we are called to become part of the church and community there

and so we shall be leaving the Emmanuel Team in April after nearly 7 very happy and blessed years.

Of course we will not be leaving the Church. The Church is made up of 'living stones' – individual Christians of all ages and types – and is far greater than its individual local expressions. It is where the faith is taught, the sacraments are celebrated, God's love and forgiveness are shared as we encounter Christ in the power of His Spirit when we meet to worship in His name. It is also where we are empowered to serve Him by taking His love out into our communities and the world. So the Church extends beyond place, to embrace brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world, and, it extends, I believe, beyond time to include those who have known, loved and served Jesus before us as well as those who will come after.

But we will miss you. We thank you for the warmth of your welcome, and of your worship, for your love and fellowship, encouragement, support and concern, especially for your faithful prayers during this last year for our granddaughter Margot. You will always have a special place in our hearts and our prayers. It has been a joy and a privilege to travel part of our pilgrim journey with you these last 7 years.

With our love and prayers,

*Martyn and Gini*

PS Meltham is not too far away for friends to visit!

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### Clergy Pages

I am often asked by children and adults alike “What have bunnies and eggs got to do with Easter?” In short, bunnies really have nothing to do with the Biblical account of Easter well directly at least and the humble egg has been used as a symbol of new life which is one of the things we, as Christians, celebrate at Easter.

Easter is a time for us to remember all that Jesus has done for us and I want to say a little bit about that but I thought I would start by answering the question about bunnies and eggs first.

It is thought that the word Easter comes from a pagan figure called Eastre (or Eostre) who was celebrated as the goddess of spring by the Saxons of Northern Europe. A festival called Eastre was held during the spring equinox by these people to honour her.

The goddess Eastre’s earthly symbol was the rabbit, which was also known as a symbol of fertility. Since rabbits and hares give birth to large litters in the early spring, it’s understandable that the rabbit is the symbol of fertility.

Then as Europe and especially Germany gradually became Christianized in the 15th-century, the pagans who were now following the Christian faith didn’t do away with their former holiday entirely, but instead incorporated its symbols, like the bunny rabbit, into their new faith -- though it wasn’t too great a leap considering the similarities between Jesus rising from the dead and a pagan symbol representing the renewal of life after many long, cold winter months.

But as easy as that might be to understand, there’s another odd element to the Easter bunny tradition. Rabbits don’t lay eggs.

The legend of the Easter Bunny bringing eggs appears to have come from southwestern Germany. The German tradition of the Easter Bunny or “Oschter Haws” migrated to America in the 1800s, likely accompanying German immigrants, many of whom settled in

Pennsylvania. Over the next 200 years the Easter bunny has become a worldwide tradition.

In legend, the Easter Bunny, also called the Easter Hare and the Spring Bunny, brings baskets filled with coloured hard boiled eggs, chocolate, and sometimes toys to the homes of children on the night before Easter, in much the same way as Santa Claus is said to deliver presents on Christmas Eve. The Easter Bunny will either put the baskets in a designated place or hide them somewhere in the house or garden for the children to find when they wake up in the morning, giving rise to the tradition of the Easter egg hunt.



I have often been asked if it is okay for Christian parents to allow their children to participate in traditional activities that refer to the Easter Bunny? These days it is more about having fun and eating chocolate and unless someone is actually worshipping the goddess of fertility I think it is pretty harmless.

As long as our focus for Easter is on Christ and not the Easter Bunny, our children will understand that, like Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny is merely a symbol. As with Christmas, Easter should be a time to reflect upon and celebrate the incarnation, the resurrection and the risen Christ.

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When we think about Easter and the great celebration it brings we often forget that there was a lot of pain leading up to that day. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey on the day we call Palm Sunday and began his journey to the cross. People cheered and waved palms at him because they were so happy to see him and yet only a few days later that same crowd were shouting for his death. Easter is a time of mixed emotions for those of us who know and love Jesus because we have to think about how he was betrayed by Judas, arrested by the Jews and tried by the Romans before being cruelly nailed to a cross to die for us. Then just 3 days later we get to celebrate and jump for joy as we remember how Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive for us today. As I said if we follow the story through we will experience every emotion possible.

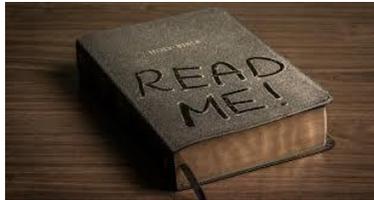
Easter is the most important celebration in the Christian calendar and if you have never experienced the roller-coaster of emotions that goes with it then why not come along and join us during Holy Week and experience a new and deeper relationship with Jesus and find out what it all means.

And of course you can celebrate on Easter Day with chocolate because even though Easter eggs have nothing to do with the story of Jesus they are here to stay and I know that I will find them hard to resist.

Happy Easter everyone

Jesus Christ is risen – he is risen indeed halleluiah!

*Julie*



## **Bible Readings in APRIL**

### **7 April 5<sup>th</sup> of Lent**

Philippians 3: 4b-14

John 12: 1-8

### **14 April Palm Sunday**

Philippians 2: 5-11

Luke 19: 28-40

### **18 April Maundy Thursday**

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

John 13: 1-17 & 31b-35

### **19 April Good Friday**

Heb.10 16 – 25

John 18 1-19

### **21 April Easter Sunday**

Acts 10: 34-43

John 20:1-18

### **28 April Easter 2**

Acts 5: 27-32

John 20: 19-end

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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.”*