

FOCUS



FEBRUARY 2021

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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



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Our church buildings are closed!!

As some of you will be aware we have closed our church buildings one again due to the coronavirus. The decision to close this time was taken locally by our church councils because the government has said that places of worship can remain open. However we felt that is it was the responsible thing to do as the message for everything else was stay home unless your journey is absolutely necessary. We can worship at home using the YouTube service we record each week or by using the television or radio. When we pray we can be confident that others are praying alongside us and when we give thank we know that others are doing the same. Being together in church is important to our faith and our relationship with our church family but staying safe is just as important and we, as a church council, have a responsibility to make sure we are not putting you in harm's way. The new strain of Covid19 spreads much quicker and easier and we did not want to be responsible for any of you becoming ill!!

So please bear with us as we work through this difficult time and once we feel it is safe to do so we will open our doors once again. In the meantime please do join us online or if you want the sermon and service sheet delivered each week just let me know!!

Stay safe and well

Julie

Bishop Nick Baines on Thought for the Day on BBC Radio 4's Today programme on 14th January.



Before the latest lockdown I watched a man painting white lines in a park. The reason I stopped was simply that I was curious to know what game the white lines were going to frame. Before working out where to put them on the grass, you first have to know what game you want to play. Now, this sounds obvious, I know. But, in the current climate it perhaps suggests something useful as the whole country tries to work out how to behave, which rules to follow and what guidance is most important. Repeated mantras of “it is absolutely clear” fail to recognise that clarity is defined by the hearer and not primarily the speaker. Hence, the first rule of communication: it’s not what you say that matters, but what is heard.

I am used to this. The gospels are full of Jesus telling a story or offering an image after which he asks the audience: “Do you know what I mean? Have you got the ears to hear?”

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Clearly, some couldn't hear, didn't want to hear, or refused to hear.

This is pertinent at a time when many people are clearly struggling to know how to behave best – within the white lines of rules and guidance. Does 'best' mean 'in a way that makes *me* comfortable' or 'in a way that protects *me and other people*'? The point about white lines on a pitch is that everyone in the game knows where the ball can be played, can choose where to run, and is free to be creative within the parameters.

Debates in the last week about compliance with government rules come down to this. If I am to choose well, I need to understand not only where the white lines are, but also what game I think I'm playing. Mature citizenship can be exercised where people know *why* they are being expected to behave in particular ways – what the game is and how to play it.

For example, if I think the most important thing in the world is my individual freedom, unconstrained by the security of other people in a common and interdependent society, I will filter out guidance that infringes that freedom to do as I like. If, on the other hand, I take seriously that inherent interdependence, I might be ready to sacrifice my individual freedom on the altar of the common good.

To reprise the white lines theme, I might sacrifice my moment of glory by letting someone else score the goal that gives the *team* a victory. In my terms, this means, in the words of St Paul: "Do nothing from selfish ambition, ... but look to the interests of others".

Ramblings from the Rectory

I was encouraged this week when on a Zoom meeting to find that I was not the only one who is feeling exhausted at the moment. It may sound strange that I was encouraged but I was beginning to think that I was the only one who felt like that and that I should pull my socks up and get on with it. After all I am not running around from meeting to meeting or from church to school trying to keep up with everything I have to do – no I do it all from the warmth and comfort of my study on Zoom (or the like)! What right have I got to feel exhausted!! Well I have to tell you that being on my computer every day is not easy! As an extrovert – and I know that comes as a surprise to most of you 😊 – I need people! I am nourished and invigorated when I am in company with others and I find myself drained when I am left alone! Having been alone now for 10 months I am absolutely dredging the bottom of my reserves just to keep going. Thankfully I am bubbled with my daughter and family and so I do get to see them twice a week and so do have some physical contact with another human being and that is what is keeping those reserves going; but it is not the same as being with all of you!! I miss your chatter, your laughter, your touch!!

Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, is 17th February and thinking about what we might do for Lent this year, I found myself reflecting on what Jesus must have felt in the wilderness! He was alone with no one to talk to or touch either and he was battling with the devil himself!! We have had our own wilderness experience this past year and just like Jesus we have been challenged – maybe not in the same way but there have been challenges nonetheless. For those who have come through those challenges and are now

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feeling more positive I thank God but for those still struggling I encourage you to talk to someone – you are not alone in this – as I discovered on my Zoom meeting. Talking to someone about how you feel is not a weakness but a strength and it is the first step in the healing and recovery journey!! Jesus talked to God and he knew he was not alone – you can talk to God too and he is right there with you but maybe you need to talk to someone you can actually see and hear and that is okay too!! Just reach out and ask – you will be surprised at how much better you will feel!!

I still miss you all and I am still exhausted but now I know I am not alone I am also encouraged and uplifted and I look forward with hope for a time when I can celebrate all that we are without any restrictions!!

Stay safe and talk!!!

Julie



Songs of praise



*We are having a Songs of
Praise service on Sunday
14th February.*

*This will be a recorded service on YouTube
but we would love you to be involved! Just
let Julie know your favourite hymns or
worship songs and why you like them and
she will include them in the service!*

*Please let Julie have your selection by 9th
February*

*You can email them to
julie_anderson51@yahoo.co.uk or*

Give her a call on 01484 962184

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An excerpt from a united prayer service prepared for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity by the Grandchamp Community

You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!

We sing your praise in the midst of the world and among all peoples,

We sing your praise in the midst of creation and among all creatures.

We sing your praise among suffering and tears,

We sing your praise among promises and achievements.

We sing your praise in the places of conflict and misunderstanding;

We sing your praise in the places of encounter and reconciliation.

We sing your praise in the midst of rifts and divisions,

We sing your praise in the midst of life and death, the birth of a new heaven and a new earth.

You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!

Prayers for the "World in Prayer" community

Lord, do you really want us to do *that*? You mean sing your praise?! Really Lord, sometimes I don't understand you. You know (don't you?) that I try to do what Jesus said and prayed about. Especially his prayer that his followers would be one! And, anyway, what I really want to talk to you about is – Why has Israel attacked the Gaza strip again?

Why has Indonesia seen so many natural disasters in one week, earthquake and flooding on 2 separate islands, as well as the loss of an aircraft?

And what about Syria – rain floods the many refugee camps, displaced people desperately search for food, and there may be ISIS “sleeper cells” waiting to take advantage of these disasters?

Lord, rend the heavens and answer.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

Why is unrest over youth unemployment and Covid-19 restrictions in Tunisia suddenly escalating?

Why are there the Covid-19 surges in the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka as well as the tennis players ill or in quarantine in Australia to the detriment of Australians stranded abroad?

As we read that since the New Year daily Covid-19 deaths around the world, at least the minority of countries which announce them, has been running at 10,000+, what about the elite athletes still training for Olympics which might yet have to be cancelled?

Lord, rend the heavens and answer.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Well, then, Lord, where is the international will to deal with the long-lasting situations in Yemen and Somalia?

What about the spill of untreated sewage in Puget Sound, USA affecting the Suquamish shellfish programme, following in the unusual winds causing power outages? What about the wildfires in Chile, Nepal and New Zealand? What about the disastrous ground blizzard in Japan and storms across Great Britain and North West Europe?

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It's the 20th January as I write, and by law the inauguration of the incoming President of the USA: renew the vision of caring, equality for all, love for each other with malice to none and care for all.

As the joint United Nations / African Union peace-keeping mission has ended in Sudan, where is there hope?

You give generously to all, Lord. Rend the heavens and answer.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Okay, Lord, there is good news – of the roll out of vaccines, of rescues from avalanches and landslides, of trapped miners found in China, of foodbanks still having food to operate and people willing to do it, that Egypt and Qatar have 'agreed to resume diplomatic relations' and much more that the media don't bother to report.

I will attempt to sing your praises, forever more. May it be so. Amen.

CSW

CSW now produce their Prayer Diary in a booklet every 3 months, with one page for each week.

You can download the latest prayer diary here. You can also request your own printed copy here.

<https://www.csw.org.uk//prayer.htm>

Jeremy



Not seeing our friends and doing the things we would normally do has been hard this past 10 months but we must remember that they are always there just as we are there for them. I found this lovely story and I thought I would share it with you all!!



Having A Best Friend

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand; "Today my best friend slapped me in the face." They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone; "Today my best friend saved my life." The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him; "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?" The other friend replied; "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it." Moral of the story: Don't value the things you have in your life. But value who you have in your life.

Julie

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LENT 2021



Lent begins on February 17th - traditionally a time to give up things, to take things on and to go deeper into our Christian faith. Here's a project to inspire everyone especially if, like us, you are deeply concerned about homeless people, from the rough sleepers in Huddersfield to the asylum seekers we helped last year trying to reach safety in Europe.

The project is called **SHELTERBOX - Tent for Lent**.

ShelterBox write "Join our life-changing community – give up one thing this Lent and help raise enough money to provide tents and other shelter essentials to over 100 families.

What will you give up for 40 days? From chocolate to cake, flat whites to Facebook, by giving up something for Lent and raising money in aid of ShelterBox, you can help families to stay safe and start again.

In the face of this coronavirus crisis, emergency shelter means more than ever – and many more people need our help."

Find out more by going online to shelterbox.org/tentforlent

Since 2000, ShelterBox has helped families in more than 314 disasters in 97 different countries and regions.

To contribute through the Emmanuel Benefice, please donate what you can via the Armitage Bridge account.

The bank details you need are:

Sort Code 40-25-10

A/c No. 54356861

HSBC Huddersfield

Bruce Greenwood will keep us up to date with how the collection is going. Shelterbox ask us for donations to reach them by April 1st (Maundy Thursday).

Thank you

Debby and Jeremy

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Ahmed Zayan Unsplash

Just a few anecdotes I found which might make you smile!

- When the minister announced the first hymn on Zoom, “Ten thousand times ten thousand!” the little boy turned anxiously to his father. “Does he want us to work that out?”
- Shortly after the funeral of a local wealthy man, two friends were discussing the Will. “How much did he leave?” wondered one. His friend thought a moment, and ventured: “Well, I suppose, everything!”
- The church service was under way and they passed the collection plate. When the preacher saw a £50 note on the collection plate, he announced “Who ever put the £50 note on the plate please stand up”. An attractive single woman stood up and said “I did.” The preacher told her, “Since you put that much money on the plate I would like to let you pick out three hymns.” Excitedly, the woman said, “How nice, I’ll take him and him and him!”

- An old man was wondering if his wife had a hearing problem. So one night, he stood behind her while she was sitting in her lounge chair. He spoke softly to her, "Honey, can you hear me?" There was no response. He moved a little closer and said again, "Honey, can you hear me?" Still, there was no response. Finally he moved right behind her and said, "Honey, can you hear me?" She replied, "For the third time, Yes!"

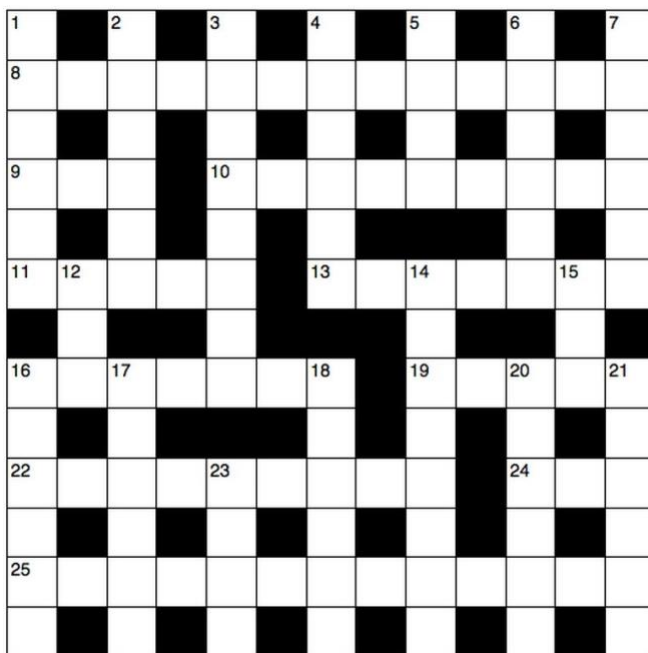
- An old man limped into the doctor's surgery and said, "Doctor, my knee hurts so bad, I can hardly walk!" The doctor slowly eyed him from head to toe, paused and then said, "Sir, how old are you?" "I'm 98," the man announced proudly. The doctor just sighed, and looked at him again. Finally he said, "Sir, I'm sorry. I mean, just look at you. You are almost one hundred years old, and you're complaining that your knee hurts? Well, what did you expect?" The old man said, "Well, my other knee is 98 years old too, and it doesn't hurt!"

Monthly Quiz with Steve Gledhill

The next monthly quiz will take place on Sunday 21 February 2021 at 7.00pm by Zoom. We will fore gather from 6.30. The QR code to make your donation is the same as last time.

Come along and join the fun.

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Crossword Clues and Answers

Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14
Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

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14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



February Readings

Sunday 31st January – Candlemass – Hebrews 2: 14-end & Luke 2: 22-40

Prayer for the Day – Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 1st February Psalm 57, Hosea 9, 1 Corinthians 12.12-end

Lord, we have come to praise you for life and all the good things of life, for the world in which we live and for the variety of colours and shapes all around us.

Tuesday 2nd *Presentation of Christ in the Temple* (Candlemas)

Psalm 48, Exodus 13.1-16, Romans 12.1-5s 48, 146

Lord, we thank you that we have eyes to see and ears to enjoy all that goes on around us as we go on in our daily lives.

Wednesday 3rd Psalm 119.1-32, Ecclesiastes 3.1-15, John 17.20-end

Lord, we praise you for those who love us and those whom we are called to love, for those who serve us and help us.

Thursday 4th Psalm 14, Ecclesiastes 3.16-4.end, John 18.1-11

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Lord, thank you for sending us to offer love and care to our neighbour, and for those moments of joy, peace and hope that flood into our hearts.

Friday 5th Psalm 17, Ecclesiastes 5, John 18.12-27

Lord, thank you that you fill each day with new reasons to turn and give you thanks and praise.

Saturday 6th Psalm 20, Ecclesiastes 6, John 18.28-end

Lord, we thank you for Jesus, for his life on earth and for the things he said and did, pointing to your love for us all.

Sunday 7th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent – Colossians 1: 15-20 & John 1: 1-14

Prayer for the Day – Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 8th Psalm 27, Ecclesiastes 7.1-14, John 19.1-16

Father, we pray for those who take life and the things of life for granted, and for those who take others for granted and rarely show any appreciation of what they receive.

Tuesday 9th Psalm 32, Ecclesiastes 7.15-end, John 19.17-30

Father, we pray for those who are empty, lost and afraid, for those who were once active, alive, and involved but now simply sit and watch and wait.

Wednesday 10th Psalm 34, Ecclesiastes 8, John 19.31-end

Father, we pray for those whose days have lost meaning and purpose, for those who sit in the hospital who long for someone to visit them.

Thursday 11th Psalm 37, Ecclesiastes 9, John 20.1-10

Father, we pray for those who are rejoicing, full of happiness and hope. May Christ renew the waters of all our relationships with the wine of his joy and love?

Friday 12th Psalm 31, Ecclesiastes 11.1-8, John 20.11-18

Father, we pray for those who are on our minds at this moment, those who ill or in hospital alone and afraid, for the dying and those who care for them, for those facing a time of stress at home, work, family or loss of employment.

Saturday 13th Psalm 41, Ecclesiastes 11.9-12.end, John 20.19-end

Father, we give you thanks and praise for listening to and answering all our prayers, no matter how small or big they may be.

Sunday 14th February – Sunday next before Lent – 2

Corinthians 4: 3-6 & Mark 9: 2-9

Prayer for the Day – Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 15th Psalm 44, Jeremiah 1, John 3.1-21

Jesus, who knew temptation and hunger for our sake: Free us from all covetousness, and wake us from indifference to evil. For the life of the world, we pray.

Tuesday 16th Psalm 48, Jeremiah 2.1-13, John 3.22-end

Eternal God, whose image we bear: You have created us to live by more than bread alone. Nourish us through your Word and release us from the selfishness born of fear. In Jesus' name we pray.

Wednesday 17th 'Ash Wednesday'

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Psalm 38, Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19, 1 Timothy 6.6-19 Christ, who wept over Jerusalem: Look with compassion upon the cities of our time; that our children might live to adulthood and enjoy a future filled with hope. In Jesus' name we pray.

Thursday 18th Psalm 77, Jeremiah 2.14-32, and John 4.1-26

God, who searches for the lost: our season brings the lengthening of days and longer light reveals what had been hidden. Cleanse our hearts as we spring-clean our dwellings that we give away what we no longer need and justice and kindness have ample room. In the name of Jesus we pray.

Friday 19th Psalm 3, Jeremiah 3.6-22, John 4.27-42

God our creator, who makes our bones strong: through our prayers and gifts heal the ravages of poverty and disease that those now suffering may one day leap for joy.

Saturday 20th Psalm 71, Jeremiah 4.1-18, John 4.43-end

Merciful God, pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, which we might pour ourselves out for the hungry and offer refreshment to those who thirst. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen

Sunday 21st February – First Sunday of Lent – 1 Peter 3: 18-end & Mark 1: 9-15

Prayer for the Day – Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 22nd Psalm 10, Jeremiah 4.19-end, John 5.1-18

Father, we come to praise you, just because you are so very great and wonderful. Your power is complete and there is no weakness in you. There is nothing you do not know.

Tuesday 23rd Psalm 44, Jeremiah 5.1-19, John 5.19-29

Father, we praise you that you see everything to the ends of the earth and deep into our lives. We thank you that there is nothing you do not see or fully understand.

Wednesday 24th Psalm 6, Jeremiah 5.20-end, John 5.30-end

Father, we praise you for your greatness and your supreme authority. It gives us hope and strength as we come to you because in Jesus Christ your Son you first came to us.

Thursday 25th Psalm 42, Jeremiah 6.9-21, John 6.1-15

Father, we thank you that you always make the first move. You did not wait to be asked to create, to love, to forgive, or to send Jesus to be our Saviour. You loved us before we loved you.

Friday 26th Psalm 22, Jeremiah 6.22-end, John 6.16-27

Father, it is when we become aware of your majesty that we realise how small our lives are. It is when we begin to grasp your glory that we can be held by your grace.

Saturday 27th Psalm 59, Jeremiah 7.1-20, John 6.27-40

Father, it is when we are crushed by life that we are glad we can be strengthened the knowledge of the empty cross. It is when we are defeated by our attempts to follow Jesus that we are glad to be encouraged by the empty tomb.

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

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THE EMMANUEL BENEFICE HUDDERSFIELD

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