

FOCUS



JUNE 2021

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

Mark Konig unsplash



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Church services!

Our church services for this month will be:-

All at 10am unless stated otherwise

6th June at Armitage Bridge

13rd June at Newsome

20th June at South Crosland

27th June at Armitage Bridge

27th June 2pm at Hall Bower for their Anniversary service

If you would like to come to one of the service please use our booking in system at www.ticketsource.co.uk/church-of-england-parish or email me and I will book a seat for you!

Thank you all for your continued support and patience as we navigate the safest way forward!

Julie

Foundation Governors Needed

At South Crosland CofE (A) Junior School we are in need of more foundation governors. These are governors who are regular worshippers and would serve on the governing body supporting the school and upholding the school's Christian ethos and values. This is a voluntary position but it is very rewarding. If anyone from any of our churches is interested or would like to find out more about what is involved please contact me through school and I will happily have a chat with you. (01484 667075)

Janice Dorrington

Finding God in Nature

As we've just passed Pentecost Sunday it's worth reminding ourselves that as Christians we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And as people filled with the Holy Spirit, like a tree bearing fruit, we can expect to bear the fruits of the Spirit which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Being human, our own needs and desires can interfere with the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. So it's worth checking out on a regular basis whether or not we are allowing the Spirit to bear its fruit in our lives.

Prayer is one of the most important ways to perform a regular check on our 'fruit production' and to invite the Spirit to provide its vital guidance and support. If we do this on a regular basis then we can be assured that the Spirit will keep us more or less on track.

For myself, I also find that immersing myself in nature (God's creation) helps me to maintain a close connection with the Spirit.

Last week Pam and I were in our caravan on a site in a village called Markington which is about three miles outside of Ripon.

We've been visiting this site for over 50 years and so there's a great deal of nostalgia involved.

The site is 2 miles from Fountains Abbey, which is one of our favourite 'watering holes' and this sacred space always provides us with a deep spiritual experience.



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Adding to its sense of God's presence were the two swans sitting on their nests, the coots with their 5 little chicks, the geese with their 2 chicks surrounded by the echoes of the monks chanting their daily office.



Many years ago I had the privilege of taking a communion service in the abbey ruins for a bus trip of people from St Peter's in Huddersfield.

I'm reminded of that very special occasion every time we visit.

On our way to the abbey, driving along the winding country lanes, we encountered a young deer.

It was clearly frightened by our presence, even though we stopped the car, and it was trying to find its way through the hedge into the adjacent fields.

Eventually a car, travelling quite quickly, came from the opposite direction and spooked the young deer so much that it ran across the road and sailed over a high wall with all the ease of an Olympic high jumper.

It ran a few steps into the field and then turned to look back at us.

A beautiful close encounter with one of God's most beautiful creatures in the wild.

We spent another day walking around Brimham Rocks and the Nidderdale Way and all the way we were serenaded by a cuckoo, which for us 'townies' was a rare treat.



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And who can wonder at the marvellous sculptures of the rock formations, carved by God using His simple tools of wind and rain.

A living work of art.

Even sitting in our caravan looking out of the window, we were entertained by a male blackbird feeding its fledgling, following its dad around and fluttering its wings as a signal to be fed. Dad was busily trying to find insects and worms for his new infant.

Wild garlic and bluebells were out in profusion.

I began by talking about the fruits of the spirit and I believe that if we truly immerse ourselves in the natural beauty of our surroundings, we will exhibit the fruits without any effort on our part.

God goes to incredible lengths to enrich our lives by the beauty of our surroundings and the Spirit gives us that amazing gift of appreciation so that nature can reach deep into our soul and speak to us of our creator God.

Recognising that we are part of nature, like the young deer, is also a gift of the Spirit and learning to observe nature with every fibre of our being brings us so close to God we can feel His breath on our cheek.

Albert Einstein once said “Nature only shows us the tail of the lion. But I have no doubt that the lion belongs with it even if he cannot reveal himself all at once.”

With every blessing

David

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Prayers

More prayers from the Brothers at the Community of the Resurrection, this time based on the Prayer which Jesus taught us:

Day 1: **Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name:**

Please pray that we will keep God our Father at the centre of our lives; that we will know him to be the great, wonderful, infinite, all powerful God who is beyond infinity and also the loving, gentle, intimate God who knows each one of us and is closer to us than the marrow of our bones. (Hebrews 4.12)

Day 2: **Your kingdom come, your will be done**

We need to see that we are listening constantly to God to discern his will. His will is that we listen to each other and respect each other. We also need to let ourselves be challenged, that it is not our will but God's will needs to be done. Do we really accept that our own wills need to be put on one side while we listen to God?

Day 3: **On earth as it is in heaven**

We pray for this earth that God loves, and the people on it who he has created. We pray for those who are suffering through COVID-19, through Civil War, or oppression of any kind. We pray to understand better what we can do to alleviate suffering, also what we can do to repair the damage done to planet earth through the destruction of the environment. We have a certain freedom to act. Pray that we may use it well!

Day 4: **Give us this day our daily bread**

Materially, most of us are not in need for our 'daily bread'. However, we all have other sorts of 'food' that we need, and most of us belong to groups where we are longing for more people to join us. We pray that we will all receive what we most need, and that we will be open

to receive new things and new people in the right way to help your kingdom to grow in this place.

Day 5: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

Most of us are pretty good at hiding our sin from ourselves. Let us look with a clear, discerning eye at our destructive attitudes and behaviour. The result of this will not be gloom but freedom, and a greater knowledge of love.

Day 6: Lead us not to the time of trial, but deliver us from evil

Let's be honest. We are weak. We need the humility to say to God "Please look after us. Protect us from the evil we cannot fight against." Humility is at the heart of religious life. We know the truth about ourselves: we are not great. We need God to look after us. That trust in God's care for us is a wonderful foundation to life.

Day 7: Pray that the risen Christ will come to us all and fill us with joy.

Jeremy



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A Prayer for Summer

“Come Summer With Me”



Come summer with me, Lord;
summer deep down in my soul;
restore my faith in summer's time,
in rest, in joy, in play, in you...

Summer in my heart, Lord,
and dwell there
as if time would never end,
as if all time were children's time, eternal time
when school is always out and joy is ever in...

And let others summer in my shade, Lord,
and share whatever summer's peace is mine to give,
whatever summer's light is mine to shed,
whatever summer's warmth is mine to share...

Good God of every season and every day this week,
come summer with me, Lord, and let the child in my heart
spend this summer in your love...

Amen.

(A prayer by Fr. Austin Fleming Used with permission.)



Julie needs some help!!!

Are you creative?

Do you know your way around a computer?

Do you enjoy solving puzzles?

Do you have some spare time?

If you can answer yes to all these then maybe you can offer me some help!!

I am looking for someone willing to learn how to edit the services once we record them and then upload them to the YouTube channel for everyone to watch!!

If you think you can help then please drop me an email and we can have a chat about it! If there are 2 or 3 volunteers then it would mean we can all take turns!!

Look forward to hearing from you!!

Julie

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Environmental Matters

Hello Friends!

Welcome to June 2021! Two great things happen this month, one global and one UK-wide...

World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated annually on 5 June and is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of the environment. Since 1974, it has raised awareness of environmental issues such as marine pollution, human overpopulation, global warming, sustainable consumption and wildlife crime. World Environment Day has global outreach, with participation from over 143 countries annually.

This year, the host country is Pakistan and the theme is

GenerationRestoration.

5 June will mark the formal launch of the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030](#). However do we do that? So much damage has been done and continues to be done. This decade is about 10 actions ... Do they apply to you and me? Can you and I make a difference?

1. Empower a global movement

The challenge is global and local. What can we do here?

2. Invest in restoration

While the benefits of restoration far outweigh the costs, it can only happen with long-term financing. From Governments to individuals, we will all have to chip in to support.

3. Set the right incentives

In the long-term, healthier ecosystems mean bigger harvests, more secure incomes and a healthier environment. But caring for nature also mean losing the financial gains of harmful practices in the agriculture and fishing industries, for example.

4. Celebrate leadership

Campaigns to plant trillions of trees have captured the imagination of many communities. Indigenous peoples have acted as defenders of their ecosystems for generations. The UN Decade will celebrate leadership and encourage others to step up.

5. Shift behaviours

Deforestation, the depletion of fish stocks and the degradation of agricultural soils are all caused by global consumption patterns. We may need to change our diets.

6. Invest in research

Scientific understanding of how to restore and adapt ecosystems is still developing. We need to identify the best practices to restore our planet.

7. Build capacity

The UN Decade's strategy seeks to help people who stand to lose most from the destruction of ecosystems, such as indigenous peoples, women and youth, to take an active role in restoration.

8. Celebrate a culture of restoration

Healing the planet is a cultural challenge. The UN Decade's strategy calls on artists, storytellers, producers, musicians and connectors to join **GenerationRestoration**.

9. Build up the next generation

Youth and future generations are most affected by the rapid destruction of ecosystems. Education for restoration will turn today's children into ecosystem ambassadors and provide skills for sustainable jobs.

10. Listen and learn

Restoring ecosystems is not an easy task. What restoration programmes are up and running in our area?

And **30 Days Wild** is back! Do you remember the spreadsheet we filled in at St Paul's Armitage Bridge in June 2019? I have ordered some of this year's spreadsheets from Stirley Farm so we can have daily wild encounters this June too.

Enjoy your June!

Debby

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Spring Time in the Lakes

We were lucky enough to be able to go and stay in the Troutbeck Valley near Windermere for 5 days in a Lodge during the last week in April.

The weather was very mixed but we managed three good walks.

We were entertained by lots of new born lambs. The ones in the picture had just been born, the mother was licking the mucus from them and we could still see the umbilical cords. We watched them for quite a while. What wonderful mothers they are and how resilient the lambs were wobbling about on unsteady legs, but soon finding their mother's teat.





Another of our walks was up the Grisedale valley to the slopes of Helvellyn. The fields and hedgerows were full of celandine, milkmaids, violets, just emerging bluebells and many more. There were lots more sheep and lambs in the valley bottom, some getting lost and bleating desperately for their mothers. Eventually she would reply and they were reunited to much pushing underneath her to feed and with much vigorous tail shaking. So amusing!!

The downside was a rainy day when we decided to boost the economy by having some retail therapy and a meal in an open sided tent in a pub garden in the rain!!

Not a good idea, rain sounds much heavier under canvas. We were frozen and the food soon went cold.

However after so much time at home it was just great to get away and relax in the beautiful surroundings of the Lake District.

Margaret and Allan

South Crosland Junior School; an update.

I'm very happy to say that despite the social restrictions which Covid has visited upon us, our children continue to thrive in school. The "sanitise – wash – sanitise – wash..." routine is now second nature and it's quite hard to recall what school life was like before we "bubbled" in our year groups.

The bubble system means we have no inter-year mingling. So each year group spends the whole day together. That means four separate break times, lunch times, 1 k run times... And we make it work beautifully! And it certainly works.

Its swings and roundabouts to a certain extent. The children don't get the social mix of normal break times BUT they get the whole playground and lunch hall to themselves. School feels spacious. Maybe even a little more relaxed.

We are very lucky at South Crosland in having some pretty much state of the art big interactive screens where most of us will remember where the chalk boards used to be!

With the addition of wide angle camera we can have some semblance of whole school worship on Fridays. Our Zoom celebrations allow prizes and praise to be given out in front of an interactive audience of all years and all teachers. The rafters still rattle, once a week, with the cheers of which ever class has the most team points, the tidiest coat room, most "Marvellous Manners," or what have you. Despite bubbled up, we still feel like a whole school. Summer is an excellent term in year 4. Children love the excellent Varjak Paw text we use in English with its spiritual overtones and gritty spoilt cat suddenly on the city streets storyline.

RE sees year 4 contemplate some big questions about God. Just this week Mrs Roebuck led a discussion of what heaven is like and prompting of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The response from the the class was right up there with our older children, with thoughts offered about reincarnation and souls returning to look after people in need. Truly wonderful stuff!

Our DT work becomes move involved too. We are currently designing and building lanterns, using the Moon Raking festival in Marsden as our inspiration.

The lanterns are always proudly taken home. Bamboo and tissue paper pyramids and cuboids, and all shapes between, painted with glue until they are waxed hard. I'm hoping we might be able to harvest our own bamboo this year. We planted two bamboo plants a few years ago and the growth has been most impressive. I have claimed, with no small success, that there are a couple of "uppity" refugee pandas living in there. It doesn't stop the year 3s trying to wade through and getting stuck however. Maybe they are looking for them?

We've managed a little gardening too in year 4. Fifteen minutes and a few trowels and you won't see a dandelion outside Miss Lindop's class for 48 hours. Team points for the longest roots is an incredible incentive to a year 4 wielding a digging tool.

Without doubt, despite covid, our year 4's are ready to move onward and upward. We look forward to waving them off to year 5 and receiving our new year 4. Job number 1 for me will be to come clean about the presence of pandas in the bamboo.

Paul Roebuck Rouse

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It's quizzing; but not as we've known it.

I'd been on a Zoom course to learn how to do quizzes remotely via Zoom; it was agreed at the PCC that we could give it a go to try and raise funds. Steve and Angela agreed to write the questions and I said I'd sort out the presentation and Zoom etc.

I got to grips with Parish Giving and obtaining our own QR code; we could now take payment safely and directly to our bank account. It even sorted out the Gift Aid.

So we held four quizzes via Zoom; monthly starting in January. Steve , Angela, Opi and I were joined by various quizzers each time. And we raised £277.85! Thank you everyone.

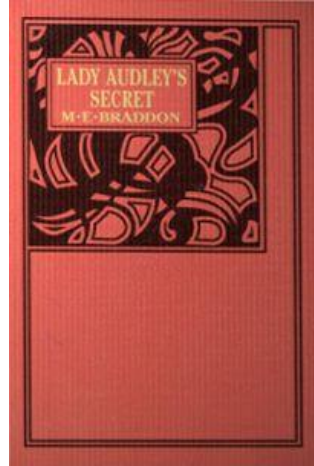
Yet to find a way of sending the prize to the winners by Zoom!



Book Review

Lady Audley's Secret by Mary Elizabeth Braddon.

First published in 1862, Lady Audley's Secret became an instant bestseller. This ingenious tale of abandonment, accidental bigamy, identity change, attempted murder..... and then throw into the mix a corrupt lawyer who will do anything to protect his family's position and honour.



The book opens in the idyllic setting off the lime walk at Audley Court, where Sir Michael and his wife “dawdle in the evening sunlight”, before returning to the drawing room. The strong oak door, through which they go, stands as a symbol of respect for Sir Michael's position.....but their house is crumbling; a symbol of the ‘crumbling’ of middle class Victorian society. A society where women were completely dominated by men. However, in Lucy, Mary Elizabeth Braddon has created a character who is prepared to use all her wit and guile to change things.

So now, read the book, my friends, and see if you agree with me that Lucy is more ‘sinned against’ than sinning.

Steve Gledhill

Readings for June 2021

Sunday 30th May – Trinity Sunday – Romans 8: 12-17 & John 3: 1-17

Prayer for the Day

Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 31st ‘Visitation’ Psalm 85, 1 Samuel 2.1-10, Mark 3.31-35

Father, forgive us that we fill our minds with many things that cause us hurt or confusion instead of focusing our attention on Jesus.

Tuesday 1st Psalm 5, Job 8, Romans 4.13-end

Father, we confess that we make space in our lives for the things we want to do, and then we pretend we are too busy to serve you.

Wednesday 2nd Psalm 119.1-32, Job 9, Romans 5.1-11

Father, we confess that we are quick to criticise others and to judge them for the very same things of which we ourselves are guilty.

Thursday 3rd Psalm 14, Job 10, Romans 5.12-end

Father, forgive us our lack of sympathy, our failure to show mercy and our neglect of passion.

Friday 4th Psalm 17, Job 11, Romans 6.1-14

Father, forgive us for being pleased when other people make mistakes and their failures are known by everyone.

Saturday 5th Psalm 20, Job 12, Romans 6.15-end

Father, forgive us where we are unforgiving, and make us clean again.

Sunday 6th June - First Sunday after Trinity – 2 Corinthians 4: 13 – 5:1 & Mark 3: 20-end

Prayer for the Day

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 7th Psalm 27, Job 13, Romans 7.1-6

God of hope, you hold us all our days, give us courage to let go of all that would hold us back and weigh us down on our journey.

Tuesday 8th Psalm 32, Job 14, Romans 7.7-end

God of hope, sustain us in our struggles where the way is hard and beyond what we can bear.

Wednesday 9th Psalm 34, Job 15, Romans 8.1-11

God of hope, calm our fear, and strengthen us for all that is hard to leave and will be missed.

Thursday 10th Psalm 37, Job 16.1-17.2, Romans 8.12-17

God of hope, move us onto embrace the future you lay before us, to step out in faith and trust into the unknown

Friday 11th *'Barnabas the Apostle'* Psalm 100, Jeremiah 9.23,24, Acts 4.32-37

God of hope, give us grace to rejoice with thankful hearts in your love that is always with us and never loosens its grip.

Saturday 12th Psalm 41, Job 18, Romans 8.31-end

God of hope, send your Spirit down on us, to strengthen our resolve to do your will, and find in our cross the way of life and peace.

Sunday 13th June – 2nd Sunday after Trinity- 1 Corinthians 12: 12-20, 27 & Mark 10: 35-45

Prayer for the Day

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Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 14th Psalm 44, Job 19, Romans 9.1-18

Blessed are you, mighty God, Creator of light and darkness, to you be praise and glory for ever. By the resurrection of your Son to eternal life you have destroyed the darkness and fear of death.

Tuesday 15th Psalm 48, Job 21, Romans 9.19-end

Father, as we rejoice in the gift of this new day we seek to delight in you and your great love that you give unconditionally.

Wednesday 16th Psalm 119.57-80, Job 22, Romans 10.1-10

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for in your love you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.

Thursday 17th Psalm 56, Job 23, Romans 10.11-end

Father, may our worship to you be full of joy and awe. Father give us the courage to go out to proclaim your love and you're saving power.

Friday 18th Psalm 56, Job 23, Romans 10.11-end

Lord Jesus Christ, however often we hear it, still we are amazed by the magnitude of your love and the awesomeness of your sacrifice that you went through to save sinners like us,

Saturday 19th Psalm 51, Job 24, Romans 11.1-12

Father, help us we pray to more fully understand and celebrate your grace, so that it may shape our lives, now and always.

Sunday 20th June 3rd Sunday after Trinity – 1 John 4: 7-12 & Luke 6: 46-49

Prayer for the Day

God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 21st Psalm 71, Job 27, Romans 11.25-end

Father, we have so much to thank you for, your creation so rich and the resources you have given us so many, and yet we all too rarely show our gratitude.

Tuesday 22nd Psalm 73, Job 28, Romans 12.1-8

Father, we take your blessings for granted, complaining about what we haven't got instead of rejoicing in what we have.

Wednesday 23rd Psalm 77, Job 29, Romans 12.9-end

Father, we are not only ungrateful but irresponsible, squandering what you have given, frittering away earth's treasures with no thought for tomorrow.

Thursday 24th *'Birth of John the Baptist'*

Psalm 50, Malachi 3.1-6, Luke 3.1-17

Father, we forget the needs of those around us, we ignore the cry of the poor across the world, and we ride roughshod over the claims of future generations to their rightful stake in your creation.

Friday 25th Psalm 55, Job 31, Romans 13.8-end

Father, we are part of a world in which the few have plenty and the rest make do with crumbs from the table; a world in which the well-being of the future is sacrificed to the whims of the present; and once more we have remained silent, telling ourselves that there is nothing we can do and so ducking the issue.

Saturday 26th Psalm 76, Job 32, Romans 14.1-12

Father, we are reminded today that thanksgiving must be more than simple words, that it involves the stewardship of your gifts and the generosity of our giving, commitment both to you and to others,

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Sunday 27th June 4th Sunday after Trinity – Ephesians 4: 23-24, 29-32 & John 13: 1-17

Prayer for the Day

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 28th Psalm 80, Job 33, Romans 14.13-end

Father, Where kindness is treated as weakness or rejected through lack of grace, forgive us for understanding the gifts of your Spirit.

Tuesday 29th ‘Peter and Paul, Apostles’

Psalm 71, Isaiah 49.1-6, Acts 11.1-18

Father, Where goodness is crucified by the power-hungry and passes unrecognised by a noisy, busy world, forgive us for losing sight of the gifts of your Spirit.

Wednesday 30th Psalm 119.105-128, Job 39, Romans 15.14-21

Father, Where faithfulness is abandoned and no one trusts another anymore, forgive us for wiping out the gifts of your Spirit.

Thursday 1st Psalm 90, Job 40, Romans 15.22-end

Father, Where gentleness is ridiculed and people build their lives round aggression, forgive us for misrepresenting the gifts of your Spirit.

Friday 2nd Psalm 88, Job 41, Romans 16.1-16

Father, where we lose self-control, giving in to the violence of our emotions, forgive us for not trusting the gifts of your Spirit.

Saturday 3rd ‘Thomas the Apostle’

Psalm 92, 2 Samuel 15.17-21, John 11.1-16 Holy Spirit, forgive us our rejection of your riches; open the hearts of nations and peoples to receive love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, but start with us!

Pentecost Decorations at Newsome.



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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.”