

# FOCUS



**MARCH 2022**

FREE: Please take me home.

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

 **THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
Diocese of Leeds



Paul Roebuck-Rouse

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### March Church Services.

6 <sup>th</sup> March 9.15am	Holy Communion at South Crosland
6 <sup>th</sup> March 10.00am	Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church
6 <sup>th</sup> March 11.15am	Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church
13 <sup>th</sup> March 9.15am	Morning Worship at Armitage Bridge
13 <sup>th</sup> March 10.00am	Holy Communion at Netherton Methodist Church
13 <sup>th</sup> March 11.15am	Holy Communion at Berry Brow Methodist Church
20 <sup>th</sup> March 9.15am	Holy Communion at South Crosland
20 <sup>th</sup> March 10.00am	Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church
20 <sup>th</sup> March 11.15am	Morning Worship at Berry Brow Methodist Church

### **Mothering Sunday**

27 <sup>th</sup> March 9.15am	Holy Communion at Armitage Bridge
27 <sup>th</sup> March 10am	Morning Worship at Netherton Methodist Church.

### **Mid Week Worship**

#### **Mid Week Communion, at 10.00am on the following dates**

Wednesday 2 March	Ash Wednesday, South Crosland Church,
Wednesday 9 March	43 Delph Lane, Netherton
Wednesday 16 March	11 Sherwood Drive, Netherton
Wednesday 23 March	14 Sherwood Drive, Netherton

## Clergy Pages

### LENT 2022



Lent begins on March 2nd with **Ash Wednesday**. Two communion services to choose from - South Crosland at 10am and Armitage Bridge at 7pm. A grand way to begin Lent. If you have palm crosses you would like us to burn to create ash for those services, please give them to Julie or me.

It is a wonderful season of the church calendar, often called “the church’s springtime”. As I write, we are in the wake of Storms Dudley and Eunice and snow is gently falling but not laying. But the snowdrops are out in the churchyards and polyanthus are flowering in our garden. Promise of meteorological spring just around the corner. The days are lengthening a bit too and I find myself starting to do bits of spring cleaning!

There are spiritual disciplines which we regularly take on in Lent. One is **fasting**. Real fasting is choosing to do without something we don’t control well so we can be closer to God’s will for us. So it might be comfort eating or chocolate or alcohol or caffeine. But it might be choosing not to watch as much TV.... Or giving up “retail therapy” .... Or not buying anything wrapped in plastic. It’s important to choose something that challenges us and to keep it private. It’s between me and God - or you and God.

Another spiritual discipline is **praying** deeply. Maybe take on praying for particular people or places or causes during Lent this year. Or pray silently at some point in the day. And another is **giving** to a charity.

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One important spiritual discipline is being part of a **Lent study group**.

Here is what will happen this year:

**Saying Yes to Life** , a book by Ruth Valerio, came out at the start of 2020. It was Archbishop Justin Welby's choice for Lent Book 2020. We were going to run it as our Lent course then. Then Covid and lockdown came and everything changed. Except the reason why Ruth wrote the book.

### **About Dr. Ruth Valerio**

She is Global Advocacy and Influencing Director at the Christian Charity Tearfund. She is an environmentalist, a theologian and a social activist. She and her family enjoy living sustainably - taking care of creation and being thoughtful in everyday living.

We're going to use it for Lent 2022 instead. Here are 3 ways you can get involved.

#### **1. Buy the book**

You may want to read the whole book. It is not available in the library but I have 3 copies. There are plenty of cheap copies on Amazon Books UK too.

#### **2. Join our course at home**

You can join in our Lent course with a simple summary of each chapter, bible readings and discussion questions. We will give you a booklet with a paper copy of each session to work through at your own speed and at a time to suit you. Let Julie or Debby know if you want one of these booklets

#### **3. Join our Zoom course**

If you want to join our online Zoom Lent group, let Rena know. She will send you the booklet electronically, with a copy of each session as an email attachment, and also the Zoom link to join the online sessions,

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which will be on Thursday evenings starting at 7.30pm. Dates are March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and ending on April 7.

There will also be a special **Cafe Church** meeting at Newsome Berry Brow at 4pm on Saturday March 19th. It is called "A Carbon Conversation" and is a chance to think about how we can measure our carbon footprints and then gradually reduce them so we do less damage to the planet. Plenty of good company and good food too!

The Sunday services will all have a Lenten theme until **Mothering Sunday**, March 27th, which has its special place in our hearts as we give thanks for our mothers, and Jesus' mother Mary and all the mothering that takes place in our churches and our community.

God bless you all this Lent

Peace and all good

*Debby*

### *Coffee Morning*

Holy Trinity Church holds a coffee morning on the second Saturday of each month at South Crosland Junior School, Moor Lane, Netherton.

Why don't you join us there? It would be great to see you.

Here are the dates for the coffee mornings.

12 March 2022

9 April 2022

14 May 2022

11 June 2022

9 July 2022

August No coffee morning

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### Diary dates

Please note that this evening includes an organ recital on the newly-restored organ, given by Alexander Berry, the Director of Music at Bradford Cathedral. There is no charge !



The poster is for an RSCM Leeds Area event. It features the RSCM logo at the top, followed by the text 'Leeds Area Organ Recital and Member Support Event' and the date 'Wednesday 23rd March 2022, 7pm'. Below this is a photograph of an organ console. The text continues: 'St Mary's Church, Honley HD9 6AH Organ recital on the 1910 Conacher Organ by Alexander Berry (Team Leader & Director of Music at Bradford Cathedral)'. A small note says 'A chance to share ideas, ask questions and engage with colleagues and friends'. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter with the handle '@rscmleeds', and the website 'www.rscm.org.uk/areas/leeds-area-team/'.

This is a completely open event. We would love for people to find out more about what the RSCM does.

### A Date for Your Diary

### Café Church

Cafe Church will return on March 19th to be held at Berry Brow Church from 4 pm to 5.30. Rev Debby Plummer will be having 'A Carbon Conversation'. As always the conversation will be followed by refreshments. Come and share in fellowship, friendship and food! Bring a friend.

### News:

Local MP, Jason McCartney on Facebook: "Lovely visit to [South Crosland C of E Junior](#) school in Netherton to see their fab [#ForestSchool](#) and plant some tree saplings. "  
[Queen's Commonwealth Canopy](#)

[The Woodland Trust](#)



CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide) has asked us to join them in praying particularly for Claire Denman, their UN Officer, as she represents them as ‘an expert voice for freedom of religion or belief’ at the upcoming session of the UN Human Rights Council (28 February - 25 March).

Claire asks us to pray over these three areas:

‘Please pray for our team at the next session of the Human Rights Council, where there will be a special focus on freedom of religion or belief.’

Father God, we thank you for the opportunity to speak up for freedom at the Human Rights Council. Please grant wisdom and boldness to all who will be presenting evidence, especially Claire, our team of advocates and the Special Rapporteurs. We particularly lift up the Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan, who will be appointed at this session. Amen.

‘My hope is for a better understanding of the right to freedom of religion or belief at the UN and among Member States.’

Lord, we know that if the right to freedom of religion or belief is being violated, other human rights are often being violated as well. We pray that those with the power to make a difference will see the value of this fundamental freedom. Lord, help them to prioritise, protect and uphold it at the UN. Amen.

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'The wheels of change often move slowly, especially within institutions like the UN. My desire is that we see momentum on the situation of human rights in China, for example, and concrete actions taken by the UN.'

Almighty God, we thank you for the many UN experts who have spoken out against the human rights abuses taking place in China. We pray for investigations and practical actions to be taken to stop the abuses and hold perpetrators to account, once and for all. May words turn into concrete action, in Jesus 'name. Amen.

Find out more at [csw.org.uk/un](http://csw.org.uk/un)

*Jeremy*

## **Teams 4U Shoeboxes**

We are starting to gear up for the 2022 goal of 100,000 shoeboxes. This ambitious target was set at a recent meeting and we'll be holding a meeting for volunteers both old and new on Saturday 5 March at 2.00pm at St James Church, Meltham Mills.

All are welcome; there will be cake!

Watch an informative video here:

<https://teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal-2021/>



## **Mothersing Sunday Celebration Services**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

*This year we will be having 2 services to celebrate Mothersing Sunday.*

*Come and join us to say thank you for our mums and all those who have looked after us over the years.*

*The services will be at*

*Armitage bridge at 9.15am*

*And*

*Netherton Methodist church at 10am*

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



# Ash Wednesday Services

## 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Remember that  
you are dust



And to dust you  
shall return

**Our Ash Wednesday services will be at**

**Holy Trinity South Crosland at 10am**

**And**

**St Paul's Armitage Bridge at 7pm**

**Come and join us and as we begin our journey  
through Lent and towards the cross!**

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**Armitage Bridge APCM will be on**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**

**All are welcome to the election of Churchwardens and**

**All those on the Electoral**

**Roll are welcome to the whole meeting.**

**If you are interested in joining the PCC please contact Julie or David Hirst for details.**

### **For your prayers**

The church annual general meetings for all our churches will take place in March and May and this is an appeal for prayer and for anyone who feels they would like to serve God and the church family by standing as a member of the PCC!!

This may be something you have thought about before but not been sure what it entails. Please speak to any of the PCC members and they will happily tell you all about what it means.

Our churches cannot function properly without a good PCC and so please do pray about whether God is calling you to get involved in looking at new ways to take our churches forward following this pandemic. You might be the one person we need to help us become the beacon of hope we should be in our communities!

Thanks

*Julie*

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### **Stewardship to Holy Trinity Church, South Crosland**

I would like to thank you for your continued support of our church through your weekly envelope contributions, especially during Covid times! They are very much needed and appreciated for the running of our church and provide valuable resources for mission and ministry.

It is nearly time for me to distribute new giving envelopes. The cost of these has risen greatly in recent years so we are using the “left overs” from previous years. This means you may not get the same giving number as before. As we are not in church every week, just write the current date on the envelope and the packet may well last you 2 years!

If you would prefer to give by monthly standing order, please would you ask for a standing order form? You need to complete this and give it to your own bank. Alternatively, if you use internet banking you could use these details to set up the monthly standing order yourself.

*Bank account details for Holy Trinity Church, South Crosland*

*Account name: South Crosland PCC*

*Bank: Yorkshire Bank*

*Sort code: 05 03 48*

*Account number: 30282888*

Please put your name as the reference so Nicola knows who the money is coming from. I do not need a copy but it would be helpful to know if you are changing from envelope to monthly standing order so I will not allocate you a new packet of envelopes in April.

If you have any queries about your ongoing giving, please do not hesitate to ask me or Nicola, in confidence.

Thank you again for your support.

*Caroline*

## Armitage Bridge Ringers

### Bickering Bell Ringers

In bygone days the antics of church bellringers was often recorded in the local press, indeed in the 1800's ringers often fell out with clergy and each other over "bad behaviour", which usually included drink and money. At that time ringers were paid for their services and could make extra income by entering and winning "Striking Competitions"

Below is an article that appeared in The Huddersfield Chronicle in October of 1851:-

#### KIRKHEATON The Late Prize Ringing

To The Editor Of the Huddersfield Chronicle  
Sir, In your paper of Saturday last is a paragraph from a correspondent, containing the following sentence:-

This party ( the Dewsbury) rang their practice peal so well that little doubt existed as to where the premium would have gone had right been done.

Now, this sentence conveys a charge of partiality or of dishonesty on the parts of the censors (judges), and an inference that the ringers to whom the premium (1<sup>st</sup> prize) awarded were not rightly entitled to it. We need not here refer to the alleged misconduct of the censors, or notice the other misrepresentations of your correspondent; but we will say if the Dewsbury ringers are authors of the paragraph in question, and if they really believe the Kirkheaton ringers did not fairly merit the prizes they obtained at Kirkburton, they (the Dewsburyans) can *imagine* a mode by which may be determined their

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true position as ringers; and, we may add, that if the paragraph be meant for anything but an empty boast, and a mere ebullition of disappointment and chagrin, they will adopt that mode of satisfying themselves on the subject.

A parade is made about an old man, aged 72 years, having *assisted* in getting 43 prizes. Now, though *few* of us are half his age, we may state, for the information of your correspondent, that within the last five years we have had awarded to us ten prizes – seven 1<sup>st</sup>: one 2<sup>nd</sup>: and two 3<sup>rds</sup>, amounting together the sum of £54.10s.

That the Dewsbury set can ring well, no impartial judge will deny, but their connection with their present censor will not add to their fame or their respectability, for their bullying and tricky manner in which that personage “assists” his party in the censors room is so marked as to become a disgrace to the noble art of campanology, and disgusting to every honourable censor.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

THE RINGERS OF KIRKHEATON.

Kirkheaton October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1851

Strong Stuff!!

*Alan*

Article supplied by Oliver Austin

## March 2022 Readings and prayers

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March – First Sunday of Lent – Romans 10: 8b-13 & Luke 4: 1-13**

**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 7<sup>th</sup> Psalm 11, Genesis 41.25-45, Galatians 3.23-4.7**

Jesus, you came into this world to bring light and peace, kissing the earth with love, with hope, with life.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Psalm 44, Genesis 41.46-42.5, Galatians 4.8-20**

Jesus, you are for us the Christ who is the Tree of Life, and your leaves are for the healing of all people.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> Psalm 6, Genesis 42.6-17, Galatians 4.21-5.1**

Jesus, grant us this day to shelter in your shade that we may clearly see the things which lead to health and healing, well-being and peace.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Psalm 42, Genesis 42.18-28, Galatians 5.2-15**

Jesus, grant us to eat of your fruit that we may be strong to work for the health of our communities.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> Psalm 22, Genesis 42.29-end, Galatians 5.16-end**

Jesus, grant us the use of your branches, that we may shelter the homeless, defend the weak and discover creative work for unemployed hands.

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### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Psalm 63, Genesis 43.1-15, Galatians 6**

Jesus, grant us the sweet perfume of your flower, that in all our efforts we may never lose the wonder and delight of your presence.

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Second Sunday of Lent – Philippians 3: 17-4:1 & Luke 13: 31-end**

Prayer for Today – Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Prayers for the Week**

#### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> Psalm 32, Genesis 43.16-end, Hebrews 1**

Heavenly Father, we praise you because you are always there, sometimes we are not aware of your presence and we live as if you did not exist.

#### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Psalm 50, Genesis 44.1-17, Hebrews 2.1-9**

Heavenly Father, we praise you that you still break into our lives, and we thank you for the ways you make yourself known.

#### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Psalm 35, Genesis 44.18-end, Hebrews 2.10-end**

Heavenly Father, we praise you for coming to us when we are afraid and for giving us hope.

#### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Psalm 34, Genesis 45.1-15, Hebrews 3.1-6**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for being with us when no one else can be there and when no one else wants to be.

#### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Psalm 41, Genesis 45.16-end, Hebrews 3.7-end**

Heavenly Father, we praise you for life's wonderful surprises and we thank you for times of excitement and celebrations



**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> – Joseph of Nazareth - Psalm 25, Isaiah 11.1-10,  
Matthew 13.54-end**

Heavenly Father, we praise you for the new things that Jesus taught us about you and we thank you that he showed your wonderful love for all of us to share.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Third Sunday of Lent – 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 &  
Luke 13:1-9**

**Prayer for the Day** – Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Prayers for the Week**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Psalm 5, Genesis 47.1-27, Hebrews 4.14-5.10**

Lord, there are no words that can express the joy with which you fill our hearts and lives.

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Psalm 9, Genesis 47.28- end of 48, Hebrews 5.11-6.12**

Lord, there are no hymns of songs that have the words that will do justice to your glory.

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm 38, Genesis 49.1-32, Hebrews 6.13-end,**

Lord, there are no words that will truly reflect your majesty, truth and righteousness.

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Psalm 56, Genesis 49.33-end of 50, Hebrews 7.1-10**

Lord, there are no words that can truly declare your mercy, peace and love.

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### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> – Annunciation – Psalm 113, 1 Samuel 2:1-10 & Romans 5:12-end**

Lord, there are no words except your word in Jesus, he alone is the Word that enables us to see you, to know you and to honour you, and through the Holy Spirit to worship you.

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Psalm 31, Exodus 1.22-2.10, Hebrews 8**

Lord, we praise you for your closeness to us and for your being with us in Christ and that in him you have entered fully into what it means to be a human being, you have shared in all our experiences that we call life,

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday – Colossians 3: 12-17 & John 19: 25b-27**

Prayer for the Day – God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Psalm 77, Exodus 2.11-22, Hebrews 9.1-14**

Father, we thank you for all the good things of life and all the good things we enjoy and for promising to be with us always.

### **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Psalm 79, Exodus 2.23-3.20, Hebrews 9.15-end**

Father, we thank you for all the things we can learn and all the things we can discover. We thank you that you have made us so that we can think, plan and choose.

### **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> Psalm 90, Exodus 4.1-23, Hebrews 10.1-18**

Father, we thank you that Jesus called the disciples to be with him and that he was their teacher and Lord, and for the stories he told them and for the things he taught us about you.

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> Psalm 86, Exodus 4.27-6.1, Hebrews 10.19-25**

Father, we thank you for those who help us to learn; for scientists, people who work in research; for those seeking cures for those who are ill; for our parents, friends and our family, and all who help us learn the things we need to know.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Psalm 102, Exodus 6.2-13, Hebrews 10.26-end**

Father, we thank you for all who have helped us to learn about Jesus and what it means to know him as Saviour and Lord.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Psalm 32, Exodus 7.8-end, Hebrews 11.1-16**

Father, we thank you for those who teach us about the Bible and show us what it means to trust you.

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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.”***