

# St James Parish Church Haslingden



Parish Magazine for  
December 2017  
January 2018

## Who's Who

Parish Priest of St James, Haslingden and St Thomas, Musbury, Fr Terry Murnane, The Vicarage, 1 Flaxmoss Close, Helmshore, Haslingden BB4 4PX, 212213, e-mail terrymurnane@gmail.com

### SSM Curates

The Revd Judith Balkwell 223652

The Revd David Allsop 224663

Communion and the oils for Anointing are available from the Reserved Sacrament at any hour and Confessions are heard by appointment

### Churchwardens

Roy Pinkerton 214569

Kaye Ridings 216398

Carole Whitling 07534197807 Arnold Wade 220496

### Treasurer

Julie Davis 212019

### Organist

Adrian van der Schans 228796

### Mothers Union

Vivien Pinkerton 214569

### Tuesday Lunch

Keith Entwistle 211165

### Friends of St James

Michael Hiluta 600330

### Flowers

Barbara Rogers 226879

### PCC Secretary

Miriam Taylor 222478

### Verger

Alec Taylor 214973

### Mens' Forum

Arnold Wade 220496

### Choir Secretary

Janet Cuff 230364

### Puppet Ministry

The Revd Judith Balkwell 223652

Friday Church contacts: Marjorie Charnley 01254 233608

Kaye Heathcote 217055

Please note; new 'phone numbers for Roger Smith are 01254 386811

Mobile 07717 835366

Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults co-ordinator Ann Burton 227137

Also available; Adrienne Taylor and Kaye Ridings.

Magazine editor, Sylvia Craig [hylt.sylv@btinternet.com](mailto:hylt.sylv@btinternet.com)

## Churchwardens' Letter

Once again the start of the church year has arrived and with it the season of Advent, starting on the 27<sup>th</sup> November, where we prepare for the coming of Jesus on 25<sup>th</sup> December. These are often busy times for many people, what with going to parties, buying presents, preparing the Christmas meals, decorating the tree, and visiting friends and relatives. But it is also a time when we should slow down, be quiet and meditate about the true meaning of Christmas, in that God came to earth and dwelt among us.

The Advent Wreath is meant to help us to concentrate on the things that Jesus brought to us by his birth, namely hope, love, joy, and peace, and with the lighting of a candle each week in Advent we can focus on each virtue in turn.

So, however you celebrate Christmas, whether it's with a turkey or a Chinese feast, please remember it's a celebration of the birth of Jesus and try to make time to come to church. Join with us to praise, to sing, to enjoy the candles and the decorations, and to give thanks for the mystery and wonder of what happened more than two thousand years ago in a stable in Bethlehem.

We can then look forward to the New Year and face it with hope, faith and confidence in the love of God.

We would ask you to keep Father Terry and his family in your prayers at this time. He is recovering, but it is likely to be a slow process and the concerns of Cheryl and the children are difficult to imagine. Please remember he is still our Parish Priest and support for the church is support for him, so please help us to keep his vision on track.

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year from the Churchwardens.

Roy, Kaye, Carole and Arnold

“Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.”

## The Christmas Message

May the joy of Christmastide  
Long in our hearts abide,  
And the season of goodwill  
Our hopes in hearts fulfil;  
With thoughts of peace on earth,  
Through Jesus' holy birth,  
While angels sing on high,  
Through wonder in the sky,  
And shepherds kneel in prayer  
To show their love and care.  
The bells in triumph ring  
While choirs in praises sing  
To welcome Christmas Day,  
In the same remembered way.



## Special Potato Scones

### Ingredients

A quarter cup of oatmeal,  
2oz plain flour,  
1lb Potatoes,  
A little salt

1. Mash the potatoes, adding a little salt and the oatmeal.
2. Knead in as much flour as the mixture will take.
3. Roll out thinly and cut into triangles. Prick them all over with a fork.
4. Brown on a griddle or in a frying pan, turning once. If possible brown them whilst still hot.

## **Santa Claus**

Most folks know that the original Santa Claus was Saint Nicholas. Nicholas was born in Myre, Asia Minor (Nemre in modern-day Turkey). His parents were wealthy Christians and he had strong religious connections from an early age. Both of his parents died young and he was brought up by an uncle. Between 312 and 315 AD, as a young man, Nicholas went to the Holy Land visiting places such as The Holy Sepulchre, Golgotha and Bethlehem. In 325 AD he attended the First Council of Nicaea and was one of the Bishops to sign the Nicene Creed (which we still use today).

There are many miracles and stories associated with Saint Nicholas. One example is the following story. There was a terrible famine in Myra in 311–312AD. A ship was in the port at anchor, loaded with wheat for the Emperor in Constantinople. Nicholas invited the sailors to unload a part of the wheat to help in the time of need. The sailors at first disliked the request, because the wheat had to be weighed accurately and delivered to the Emperor. Only when Nicholas promised them that they would not suffer any loss for their consideration, the sailors agreed. When they arrived later in the capital, they made a surprising find: the weight of the load had not changed, although the wheat removed in Myra was enough for two full years and could even be used for sowing.

Another story tells us that one night while staying with a family in Jerusalem, he wanted to pray at the only church remaining in Jerusalem at that time. It was the Church of the Room of the Last Supper on Mount Zion. As he approached the heavy, locked doors, they swung open of their own accord, allowing him to enter the church. Nicholas fell to the ground in thanksgiving.

Nicholas had a reputation for secretly giving gifts. He would put money in shoes which were left out for him, a practice still carried out by some people. Nicholas thus became the model for Santa Claus, his name being derived from the Dutch word SinterKlaas.

Hopefully he will visit you this year!

## **First Lady**

This is not a reference to Mrs Trump but to Carris Jones. She is a Cambridge graduate who has recently become the first lady to join the choir of St Paul's Cathedral. Carris, an alto singer from South London, was unanimously approved by a panel after several rounds of auditions.

The £24,000 a-year post is given the name "vicar choral". Carris has a two-year old son, Robin and was expecting her second child in May and so took up her post in September. She secured the job after responding to an advert that made it clear that both sexes would be considered for the role.

She feels that she has a responsibility to perform well for the sake of all her female colleagues and says that she was just in the right place at the right time.

She will tour with the choir which consists of 26 boy treble choristers, 8 probationers and 12 vicars choral. The Director of Music at the cathedral said that he was delighted at her appointment. Almost all Anglican cathedrals now include female choristers in their choirs.

Well done, Carris.

### **Ancient Recipes**

A hand-written recipe book (dated 1921) was given to me many years ago. It contained the following as well as traditional recipes;

#### **Cough Mixture**

Mix the following together; a few spoons of honey, the juice of 2 lemons, 2oz of best castor oil, 1 noggin of whisky.

This is guaranteed to relieve your throat!

#### **Furniture Polish**

Mix together 1 pint of methylated spirits, 4oz shellac and 1 and a half oz of resin. The mixture must be poured into a pint bottle and shaken until dissolved.

### **A Wonder of the Past**

An old pamphlet which I was given provided an interesting paragraph about our church.

A wonder of the past we found by the mother church of Haslingden, made new about the time of the French Revolution. By the tower, near the stocks, is a great stone with two holes, a dramatic witness of the past, for it is one of the rare plague stones which has come down to us. It was to these stones that poor victims came in plague time (in the days when the Black Death was cutting England in two) to fetch food placed there for them. In one hole was placed the article to be sold and in the other money to pay for it, the buyer and seller never meeting.

The church has a massive gnarled old chest bound with iron bands. The font is 400 years old; between the painted shields on the bowl we notice a sheep and a pair of shears. A brass tablet to Thomas Hamer tells us that he was the last of 4 generations to hold the office of Clerk and Sexton.

## Genius or Lay-about

A recent visit to the lovely village of Haworth and the Bronte Parsonage Museum taught us a great deal about the family, particularly Charlotte, Anne and Emily who wrote some of our literary classics.

However we must not forget their brother (Christened Patrick Branwell) but referred to as Branwell, as his father was also called Patrick.

Partrick, senior, was a Church of England minister who took up the Curacy of Haworth in 1820. He had married Maria Branwell in 1812 and they had, by 1820, six children. Maria died shortly after the family arrived at Haworth leaving Patrick with the problem of bringing up six children. At that time Branwell was just 4 years old. As the only son in the family he was expected to become a scholar and lead a "good" life, but this did not turn out to be so.

Branwell was rigorously tutored at home by his father, and shared much of his sisters' creative talent, earning praise for his poetry and translations from the classics. But he drifted between jobs, supporting himself by portrait-painting, and gave way to drug and alcohol addiction, apparently worsened by a failed relationship with a married woman, leading to his early death. Some of Branwell's paintings and poems are displayed at the Parsonage Museum and are well worth studying. His self-portrait (opposite) is intriguing.



Branwell died at Haworth in 1848, aged 31. 2017 is being celebrated as the bicentenary of his birth.

## The Selkirk Grace

Some hae meat and canna eat,  
And some wad eat that want it,  
But we hae meat and we can eat,  
And sae the Lord be thankit.

Robert Burns

Robert Burns was born 25<sup>th</sup> January 1759, 2 miles south of Ayr, near Alloway Kirk and the banks of the Doon. He died in Dumfries in his house on Millhole Brae on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1794 aged just 37.

## **The Oldest Computer**

The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve. Not surprisingly, it was an apple. But it had an extremely limited memory: just one byte and everything crashed!

### **Ethel Ramsbottom**

Our families would like to thank you all for your kindness and prayers during our mum's, Ethel Ramsbottom's, long stay in Orchard care home. Thanks also to those who have sent cards and to those who came to her Cremation Service. Much appreciated. Thanks once again. Christine and David.

## **St James Men's Forum**

Welcome to our meetings from November to December 2017. We meet in the Church Lounge at 2.00pm on alternate Wednesdays. £2 per meeting. Why not bring a friend along to one of our meetings.

At the end of October we had a visit by Shirley Addy, a champion of Village Signs. Shirley told us about the tradition of ornamental signs which began in Norfolk in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The spread beyond Norfolk is due to the Duke of York (later George VI) who gave a speech to the Royal Academy in 1920 advocating the wider use of village signs. This prompted the Daily Mail to run a nationwide "Village Sign" competition. The prize fund exceeded £2000 and ten awards were made. The practice is now widespread and many signs commemorate significant events such as the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953, the Millennium or local celebrations. Shirley showed us images of some of the more ornamental signs from around the UK and encouraged us to look for them on our travels. Locally, Baxenden and Irwell Vale have interesting signs.

Next, we had a return visit by Norman Mitchell whose talk "Norway in a Nutshell" gave us an insight into the country. Norman took us on a photographic journey from Bergen, inland to Voss (a ski centre), and the complex of fjords in the area. Because the fjords are so steep-sided making roads impossible, many small towns and villages depend on ferries as their only means of communication. Features of the region are snow-covered mountain tops, valleys, forests, waterfalls and lakes.

### **Wednesday**

6 <sup>th</sup> December	British Red Cross	Gordon Low
20 <sup>st</sup> December	Quiz, coffee and mince pies	Graham Fletcher

### **2018**

10 <sup>th</sup> January	Weavers' Cottages	Kathy Fishwick
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## **Flowers for December**

- 3 Vacant
- 10 Mr & Mrs Charnley
- 17 Misses M.Heald & A Hilton
- 24 Mrs C Whitling & Mr Jack Pilling  
in memory of Janet
- 31 Vacant (Joint Service)

## **January**

- 7 Vacant
- 14 Mrs K Holt
- 21 Mrs C Whitling
- 28 Vacant

## **Diary for December**

- 1 1.00pm Mothers Union Christmas Lunch at Sykeside
- 3 8.00am Eucharist  
10.45am Sung Eucharist and Jesse Tree
- 5 10.00am Eucharist with Fr Roger  
12.00 Eat & Meet Christmas Lunch
- 6 2.00 Mens' Forum British Red Cross, Gordon Low
- 10 10.45am Sung Eucharist  
12.30pm Parish Christmas Lunch
- 17 8.00am Eucharist  
10.45am Sung Eucharist  
6.30pm Service of Lessons & Carols (please note this service is at StThomas' Church)
- 20 2.00pm Mens' Forum Quiz, coffee and mince pies
- 24 10.45am Sung Eucharist  
4.00pm Blessing of the Crib  
11.30pm Eucharist of Christmas
- 25 10.45am Sung Eucharist (with Bishop Philip)
- 31 10.45am Sung Eucharist (this is a Joint Service at St James)

## **January**

- 7 8.00am Eucharist  
10.45am Sung Eucharist
- 10 2.00 pm Mens' Forum, Weavers' Cottages, Kathy Fishwick
- 14 10.45am Sung Eucharist
- 21 8.00am Eucharist  
10.45am Sung Eucharist
- 28 10.45am Sung Eucharist

For any further events in January please see the weekly Bulletin

Dear friends,

Fr. Terry is progressing slowly and will take some time to recover, his breathing being his main problem. Please keep him and all his family in your prayers especially at this Christmas time. Cheryl thanks everyone for their help, support and prayers.

We are grateful to Rev's Stephen, Judith and David for covering all our services so everything will continue as usual.

We also need YOUR SUPPORT week by week and especially Sunday by Sunday. The bills for the upkeep of the Church only go up. If anyone would like to help the weekly contribution scheme by taking envelopes or by paying by standing order, it would greatly help us to budget the Church accounts. If you are not yet a member and would like to join, please see Adrienne Taylor or Roy Pinkerton. As we have lost a lot of our regular givers due to death or moving into Nursing Homes, we need new members to sustain growth.

All our organisations are glad to welcome new members from the Mothers Union, Men's Forum, Choir, Eat and Meet Lunch, Sunday School and Friday Church, all offering company and friendship and on Sunday after the service come and enjoy coffee and a chat, meet new and old friends. We have social events and lunches where we would be glad to see new faces. You are always assured of a warm welcome.

Advent is the start of the Church's year. Why not make a resolution to come to Church on a regular basis and invite a friend or someone who hasn't been for a while. Perhaps you could give someone a lift. It would make a great difference in these difficult times.

The churchwardens would be grateful if anyone will volunteer to take on any job to help lighten the load.

With all best wishes for a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas from the Standing Committee Roy, Kaye, Arnold, Carole, Julie (treasurer) and Miriam (Secretary)

### **Stephen Haworth**

We are sorry to hear of the death of Stephen Haworth of Baxenden who, when he was well, was a regular member of our congregation. We thank his twin sister, Susan, for a generous donation in his memory. He is sadly missed.

### **MAGAZINE- SUBSCRIPTION**

The yearly subscription for the magazine is now due. At present we are able to keep to the same price except for postage which is going up again. The cost is £5.00 a year. (Still 50p an issue). If anyone would like it posted to them the cost of postage & packing will be £11.00. Please make cheques payable to St James Church and send to Mrs K Ridings at 13 Lyndale Ave. Haslingden, Rossendale, Lancs. BB4 4BP.

Any contributions to the February magazine would be very welcome. The closing date for items will be Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January so that printing can be done on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January. Please e-mail if possible to [hylt.sylv@btinternet.com](mailto:hylt.sylv@btinternet.com)  
Sylvia Craig.

