

# St James' Parish Church Haslingden



Parish Magazine for  
February 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)

Dear Friends,

A Message from the Bishop of Burnley

As we keep the feast of Epiphany we are reminded of the great mystery of God's revelation of himself. What must Mary and Joseph have thought as these strange Magi with their mysterious gifts turned up at the front door? What must those wise men have thought as they saw that God's total revelation of himself was a frail, little child? It can sometimes be hard to fathom the ways of God.

As we have prayed together for Fr Terry and his family in recent weeks, all of us must have been wondering quite where and how God is at work in a situation such as this. Whilst Terry has been improving, the progress has been slow and we need to keep him, Cheryl and the family very deeply in our prayers. We must also go on trusting that even in such a hard situation, God is at work, revealing his purposes, even in ways our limited human minds struggle to comprehend.

It will obviously be some time before Terry is able to return to ministry and so I have been giving some thought to how best the spiritual needs of your two parishes are met. I am incredibly grateful to Judith, David and Stephen for all they have done and will continue to do. However it is clear that two Parishes of such size need a greater level of priestly support.

I am pleased therefore to tell you that Fr David Stephenson, currently the Assistant Curate of St Peter's, Darwen, will be moving to the Parishes as Associate Vicar of Haslingden and Musbury from the middle of February for a period of 12 months. This appointment has been made with Terry's knowledge and consent. Terry will of course remain Vicar and David will technically be his assistant. However, whilst Terry remains off work, David will fulfil his duties which will include oversight and leadership of the Parishes and chairing PCC meetings.

In the midst of the mysterious events of Epiphany, God's glory was revealed to the world in the child of Bethlehem. The purpose of local churches such as St James's, St Thomas's and St Peter's is to show that same glory to the communities you serve through worship, witness and service. Even as we keep Terry in our hearts, that work must continue, and I know that you will work closely with David to develop the vital mission and ministry of these very special parishes.

I am immensely grateful to David for taking on this role at very short notice. I will license David to this new ministry at some stage in mid-February and these details will be passed on to you as soon as they have been agreed.

You know of course that you are constantly in my prayers. Be joyful in worship, be generous in service, be fervent in prayer and may the Lord who revealed the light of his glory to the Magi bless you always with that same radiant splendour.

Yours,

Philip, Burnley

The Rt Revd Philip North

Bishop of Burnley

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Healthy Churches Transforming Communities

### **Our Diocesan Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we embrace

You call for us to make disciples,

To be witnesses and to grow leaders.

Give us the eyes to see your vision,

Ears to hear the prompting of Your S

And courage to follow in

The footsteps of your son,

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen



### **Bachelor Cake**

This is an old northern recipe. It was originally intended as an ideal cake for young girls to bake to impress their betrothed, possibly to show off their good, plain cooking skills. The cake contains no eggs and presumably demonstrates thrift and a care for the intended's health and fitness.

#### **Ingredients**

1. 340g (12oz) plain flour
2. 2 teaspoons baking powder.
3. 1 teaspoon each ; mixed spice, cinnamon, ginger
4. 75g (3oz) diced butter
5. 500g (1LB) dried fruit
6. 50g (2oz) sugar-golden granulated is best
7. 2 tablespoons marmalade
8. Up to half a pint of milk
9. A few almonds (optional)

Mix flour, baking powder and spice in a bowl. Rub in butter until texture of breadcrumbs. Mix in sugar. Add fruit and stir. Gradually add milk until a dropping consistency is achieved. Mix thoroughly. Transfer mixture to a tin, preferably one with a loose bottom. Arrange almonds on top of mixture. Bake at 150C, gas mark 2 for 50 to 60 minutes. Test by inserting a skewer which should come out clean.

For a richer cake add 1 to 2 tablespoons of rum or brandy to the fruit before adding to the mixture.

### **Cakes and Ale**

St Paul's Cathedral is embroiled in a row over a will made in 1612. The will in question is that of a former Master of the Worshipful Company of Stationers, John Norton. He left instructions in his will that cakes and ale should be served at the Company on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday each year to be paid for by money he left.



For Christians, of course, the first day of Lent begins a period of fasting to mark Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness.

The cakes and ale tradition has recently been changed to Shrove Tuesday as some folk think that it is not in the spirit of Lent to hold it on Ash Wednesday.

Others suggest that moving the tradition is not in the spirit of John Norton's original bequest. The Stationers' Archivist has said "If Norton wrote his will in that way and it has been kept for over 400 years, Why not leave it as it is?"

What do you think?

### **Good News**

A survey carried out in December 2016 suggests that one young person in six is a practising Christian. The HOPE Revolution partnership, a Christian youth organisation, was reluctant to release the figures as they thought the figure too high to be accurate. However, another study gave similar results and it seems that a surprisingly high number of young people describe themselves as Christians.

Young people in the 11 to 18 age range took part in the survey. They were asked what made them become a Christian. Many said they were influenced by visiting a church or cathedral and that this was more significant than attending a youth group, going to a wedding or speaking to other Christians about their faith. Others had been influenced by attending a Church School. Things which we would class as "old hat" methods still seem to be effective ways of attracting young people.

The Rt Revd, Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester and lead Bishop for churches and church buildings said “This shows the power of church buildings and that we should be passionate about keeping them open.”

In our own church, a wonderful confirmation service took place last year when some adults and several young people became full members of the church. It was great to see a full church and to be inspired by the proceedings which were led by The Bishop of Burnley, the Rt Revd Philip North. We hope to see our new members enjoying church life.

### **Keeping Things Simple**

The Vicar needed to know the exact height of the church tower for insurance purposes. He offered £50 to whoever came back with correct answer. In the congregation were an architect, a Professor of Physics and an Engineer.

The architect went round the church with a plan of the building. He measured all kinds of lengths and took sightings of the top of the tower from different angles. He went home, drew numerous diagrams and eventually after 2 weeks he calculated the height of the tower as 148 feet.

The Professor of Physics climbed the tower and dropped weights down the outside. His assistant at the base timed the fall. The experiment was repeated many times to get an average result. Then, using Newton’s Laws of motion and a computer at the university, after one week worked out the height of the tower as 148 feet.

The engineer, being a practical, hands-on person looked at the church notice board to see where the Verger lived. He went round at once and said to the Verger “I’ll give you £25 if you can tell me how high the tower is”. The verger agreed and told him it was 148 feet. The engineer was back at the Vicarage within 30 minutes and claimed the £50.

So the practical man won!

### **Snow**

Slowly, snow from heaven falls,  
Like angels’ breath from marble halls,  
Slowly, dust, like icing sweet,  
Scattering ground with each repeat,  
Slowly, carpet crisp of fluff,  
Dazzling dust known as white stuff.



Slowly tread with boot anew,  
Caressing crunch – and white seems blue.  
Slowly flakes of fine design,  
A perfect pattern, eight or nine,  
Slowly these smooth road and path,  
A robin has a crispy bath,  
Slowly, gently as a kiss,  
Transformation of white bliss,  
Slowly, layer upon white layer,  
Though milky sky is not set fair,  
Slowly, sparkling, fragile flakes,  
Say “Here is winter, for your sakes”  
Slowly scene enchants and stuns,  
The mundane, beauteous becomes.

### **A Life-Saver**

This year the Health Service turns 70. When it was introduced in 1948, according to one who was a junior doctor at that time, no one had a clue about the new NHS. It was feared that everyone would want free false teeth and spectacles. Under the old system GPs got paid by the state for treating employed males- their wives and children- had to pay. So for many poor families it was a choice between a visit to the doctor’s or food on the table. If you couldn’t pay, you could join the queue at the local teaching hospital to see a doctor. The hospital made no charge, but the Lady Almoner (nicknamed the All-Moaner) who was a predecessor to our present social worker, would decide by questioning and intuition if you could afford to pay.

Our present-day NHS is repeatedly criticized. We only hear of full wards, long waits in A & E, bed blocking and so on. It is easy to criticise but perhaps there should be praise as well.

In fact, in 1948, the new NHS saved my life. As a pre-school child, I was diagnosed with TB. I was quickly sent off to a TB sanatorium in Ulverston. I remember the care and kindness shown to me by the nurses and doctors. After 7 months, I had put on 1 stone in weight and recovered sufficiently to be sent home.

Many agree that the present NHS is in need of change and that politicians fail to see the problems or solutions but we must not forget the benefits as well.

## **The Future of the UK's Church Buildings**

The National Churches Trust has set out a five-point plan to help secure the future of the UK's church buildings. These are;

1. Prioritise the maintenance of church buildings. It suggests that maintenance and conservation are better than repair and replacement.
2. Make more churches centres for the community. Modern facilities such as toilets, kitchens and good heating mean that church buildings can be used for community activities.
3. Put churches firmly on the visitor and tourist map.
4. Create a one-stop shop for churches applying for funding for repairs and maintenance. At present the process is too complex.
5. Open churches to public more often.

Already at St James' we have addressed some of these points, but can we do more?

## **Time and the Mystery of Creation**

A few years ago I was lucky enough to attend a lecture by the Astronomer Royal, Martin Rees. He has some fascinating ideas about time and creation.

He suggests that time is a precious commodity. We can gain or lose it. We can save spend or waste it. If our crimes are revealed we can serve time.

But to scientists, time is something we can measure and keep track of. Indeed, astronomy was driven by the need to measure and keep track of time. Clocks have over the centuries been the high-tech artefacts of their era.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Charles Darwin's theory of Natural Selection was put forward. This involved long term development of species including "Man". He guessed that evolution was a slow process requiring not just millions but hundreds of millions of years.

Precise radioactive dating now tells us that the Sun and its planets condensed 4.55 billion years ago from interstellar gas which emerged from a fiery "beginning" that happened 13.8 billion years ago.

What happened before the "beginning"? In the 5<sup>th</sup> century St Augustine argued that time itself was created with the universe. The "Genesis" event is in some ways as mysterious to us as it was to St Augustus. What triggered the fiery beginning remains elusive.

Even today, most people think we humans are the culmination of the evolutionary tree. But bear in mind that our sun has got about 6 billion years before its fuel runs out, so that is unlikely. Perhaps we should remember what is written on the north face of our church clock. Carpe Diem, a phrase that comes from the Roman poet Horace, which means literally

"Pluck the day", though it's usually translated as "Seize the day". A free translation might be "Enjoy yourself while you have the chance".

### **Mothers' Union**

1<sup>ST</sup> February Cllr David Stansfield

1<sup>st</sup> March Carole Whitling – Lacemaking

5<sup>th</sup> April Hylton Craig – A tale of two Villages, Heptonstall and Hebden Bridge

2<sup>nd</sup> May (Wednesday) Michael Jackson – Lancashire's Cotton Industry

This is a joint meeting with the Men's Forum, All ladies welcome.

8<sup>th</sup> May (Tuesday) Deanery Festival at St Paul's, Oswaldtwistle

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

Welcome to our meetings in February 2018. 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.

In early December Gordon Low spoke to us about the work of the British Red Cross. We learnt that they are totally impartial and are concerned only to bring help and succour to those in need across the world.

We rounded off 2017 with another light-hearted Quiz led by member Graham Fletcher. This was followed by coffee and mince pies.

#### **Wednesday**

7<sup>th</sup> February Join the Snappers-

My photographic journey through 2017 Keith Hughes

21<sup>st</sup> February Growing up in Accrington Alan Mitton

#### **Flowers for February**

Feb 4 Mrs Haworth of Stonyhurst

11 Vacant

18 Lent, no flowers

25 Lent, no flowers

## Diary for February

- Feb 1 2.00pm Mothers Union- Cllr David Stansfield - everyone welcome  
4 8.00am Said Eucharist  
10.45am Sung Eucharist  
NO EVENSONG  
6 10.00am Said Eucharist  
7 2.00pm Men's Forum, talk by Keith Hughes, "Join the Snappers".  
11 10.46am Sung Eucharist  
12 7.30pm LICENSING of REV DAVID STEPHENSON as INTERIM ASSISTANT PRIEST of St James' and St Thomas' Musbury  
Please note that this service is at St Thomas' Church. All Welcome  
13 10.00am Said Eucharist  
12.00 Eat and Meet Lunch  
14 7.30pm ASH WEDNESDAY, Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes  
18 8.00am Said Eucharist  
10.45am Sung Eucharist the first service of Rev. David Stephenson  
20 10.00am Said Eucharist  
21 2.00pm Men's Forum, Talk by Alan Mitton, "Growing up in Accrington".  
23 6.30pm Friday Café Church, Everyone welcome  
25 10.45am Sung Eucharist  
Mar 1 7.30pm Service to celebrate the 70th birthday of Fr Roger Smith with Bishop Philip  
4 8.00am Said Eucharist  
10.45am Sung Eucharist

## Annual Magazine Subscription

Please note that the yearly subscription for the magazine is now due. The cost is £5.00. If you want it posting to you the cost is £11.00 (£5.00 + £6.00 for postage and packing). Please make cheques payable to St James' Church and send to Mrs K Ridings, 13 Lyndale Ave, Haslingden, Rossendale, BB4 4BP. We are trying to assess if 'The See', the pamphlet in the magazine, is helpful or of interest. If you find this so, please let the churchwardens know.

We are thankful to Bishop Philip for arranging that Rev David Stephenson will come to help and support our two parishes over the next twelve months. We are grateful to Rev David for accepting.

We thank Rev Judith and Rev David Allsop for their help, guidance and administrations over the last few years. Rev Stephenson will be celebrating the Eucharist on the 18th February at 10.45am. We hope that you will be there to meet and welcome him.

Any contributions to the March magazine would be very welcome. The closing date for items will be Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February so that printing can be done Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Please e-mail if possible to [hylt.sylv@btinternet.com](mailto:hylt.sylv@btinternet.com) Sylvia Craig.

# FRIDAY CHURCH 2018

This year our theme is **CELEBRATION!**

Here are some dates for your diaries...

26<sup>th</sup> January - Baptism

23<sup>rd</sup> February - Mothering Sunday

23<sup>rd</sup> March - Weddings

27<sup>th</sup> April - Easter

25<sup>th</sup> May - Ascension

29<sup>th</sup> June - Birthdays

