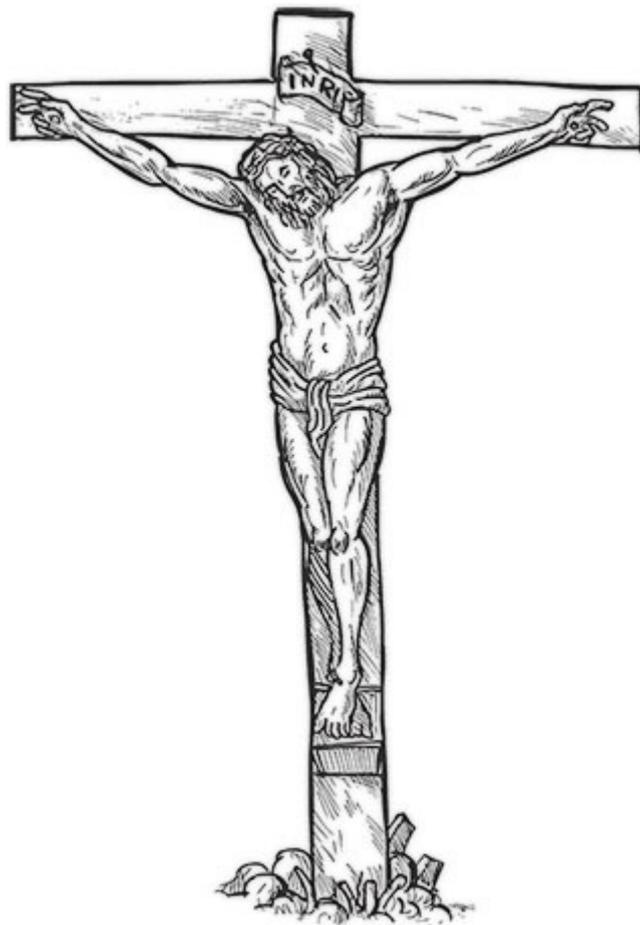


St James' Parish Church Haslingden



Parish Magazine for
April 2018

Who's Who

Parish Priest of St James, Haslingden and St Thomas, Musbury, Fr Terry Murnane. Associate Vicar, Fr David Stephenson, 07539 264279

frdavidstephenson@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

Men's 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 Canon 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

Clergy Letter – St James' Magazine for April 2018

What an absolutely wonderful month April is this year! We begin with the proclamation and celebration of EASTER on the 1st and continue with our celebrations right through the month. If there's a time to see the clergy getting a bit over-excited then it's definitely Easter time and it's not just because that Lent is over. Easter is a firm and solid cornerstone to the Christian faith – without the resurrection then who are we? What do we proclaim? What hope do we have? At the Nativity we see God take on human form to show us how to live and to help us realise how much we are loved by God. At Easter we see the fulfilment of that love by the empty tomb and the risen Christ who promises us all eternal life. The *Alleluias*, then, will ring out in our churches this month.

There's more to celebrate in April too as we come to the time of our Annual Church Meetings. Not only do we hear the reports on the finances and the church building and do the legal bits and pieces but we also have the opportunity to hear of all the fantastic things which we have achieved over the last 12 months. There will be a great number of people to thank and *well done*s to be handed out but we can also begin to look forward. In the coming 12 months where do we want our church to be? What do we want it to be like? Where do we want to be on our spiritual and Christian journeys? What successes do we want to share in April 2019?

Please ... put the date for our APCM in your diary ... Thursday 5 April, 7pm ... and come along for an hour to share our celebrations.

As we continue to look to the future it's vital to resist the temptation of just wanting more people in church. We have a wonderful church family at St James who give and work so much and so hard. Our plan for growth **has** to be to continue to challenge ourselves to become more faithful in our own discipleship and it has to be to take *church* into our community. When we are seen and known as a vibrant, *doing*, positive, happy and outward-looking group of people then we become attractive to others. When others come in, as they will, they need to have the very best experience we can offer. It's a whole church family job and we **all** have a part to play. As we explore together in the coming weeks, try to work out what your part is going to be.

You remain in my prayers and I hope I am in yours.

Fr David

Risen Saviour, who first appeared to Mary Magdalene,
the apostle to the apostles:

Help us hear you when you call our names,
that we, too, may proclaim
the good news of your resurrection
throughout the world,

to the honour and glory of your name. Amen.

(Elizabeth Rankin Geitz)

A Prayer for others

Lord, I bring to you someone I have met or remembered today...

Lord, I pray for someone who is hurting today...

Lord, I pray for a troubled situation in the world today...

Lord, I pray for someone who I find it hard to forgive or trust...

Help me to grow in generosity of spirit.

Amen



Dressing up or Dressing Down?

A senior church official has recently suggested that bishops should “ditch their mitres”. It seems that a decision was made at a recent meeting of the Synod to allow clergy to dress down under plans to allow clergy to ditch vestments.

You may know that recently Members of the House of Commons were told that they need not wear ties, so dressing down seems to be a general trend.

At last year’s Confirmation Service, Bishop Philip of Burnley appeared resplendent in his vestments and mitre. The outfit, together with that of the other clergy gave the church an atmosphere of celebration and festivity. After the service one small boy who had just been confirmed was delighted to be allowed to try on the bishop’s mitre!

Would you like your vicar to turn up for a service in jeans and a t-shirt?

Perhaps the answer would be to have an occasional dressing down day. Many businesses and schools do this and ask each person in “civvies” to make a contribution to charity. I know from experience that when this was done in school most pupils turned up in jeans and a t-shirt! You could say that this was a self-imposed kind of uniform.

What do you think?

No Men

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she decided to request that there be no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, “They wouldn’t take me out while I was alive, so I don’t want them to take me out when I’m dead.”

Potato and Leek Bake

Ingredients

1. 1lb 7oz (650g) potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced
2. 6oz (150g) leeks, thinly sliced
3. 2 sprigs thyme
4. 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
5. 300ml (10floz) double cream
6. Salt and pepper
7. 1oz (25g) butter



Cook the potatoes in boiling water for 3 minutes. Add the leeks and cook for a further minute. Drain the mixture. Transfer the mixture to a buttered oven-proof dish tucking the leeks under the potatoes if possible. Mix the thyme with the garlic, cream and seasoning and then pour this over the potato mixture. Cook in a hot oven, 190C/375F/gas mark 5 for 30 to 40 minutes.

Samuel Johnson

Samuel Johnson was born 18 September 1709. He is often referred to as Doctor Johnson. He was an English writer who made lasting contributions to English literature as a poet, essayist, moralist, literary critic, biographer, editor and lexicographer. Johnson was a devout Anglican and committed Tory, and is described by the Biographies "as arguably the most distinguished man of letters in English history". He is the subject of one of the finest biographies in English, "The Life of Samuel Johnson" by James Boswell.

One famous quotation of his was;

"If you are solitary, be not idle, if you are idle, be not solitary".

After nine years of work, Johnson's "A Dictionary of the English Language" was published in 1755. It had a far-reaching effect on Modern English and has been acclaimed as "one of the greatest single achievements of scholarship". This work brought Johnson popularity and success. Until the completion of the Oxford English Dictionary 150 years later, Johnson's was the pre-eminent British dictionary.

After a series of illnesses, he died on the evening of 13 December 1784, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. In the years following his death, Johnson began to be recognised as having had a lasting effect on literary criticism, and he was claimed by some to be the only truly great critic of English literature.

The Oldest Bell-Ringer

The world's oldest active bell-ringer is Dennis Brock, aged 98. Dennis was a bell-ringer before he was called up in 1939. He served as a Lance-bombardier but was captured by German soldiers in 1942 and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner.

He became ill while interned in a camp in Italy in 1943. A British doctor was able to get him transferred to a local cottage hospital. There he was to receive pioneering treatment from an Italian who had learnt it in Abyssinia. This was really an experiment done with Dennis's agreement. He was told that if the treatment failed, he would probably never walk again. Nevertheless, he went ahead and the result was success. Dennis is still climbing bell-towers.



He has never been able to thank the man who helped him and only knows that he was a Lieutenant in the Italian army aged about 25, named Antonio Alessi.

When asked what he would say if he were to meet the man, Dennis said "If I saw him again, I would take him by both hands and say, Look, I'm still walking, and someone up there has been guiding him and guiding me too".

The Road to Heaven

In the Middle-Ages it was often the case that churches were built on bridges. It was felt that they symbolised the road to heaven. At one time Chantry Chapels were added where the souls of the dead were prayed for. However, this came at a cost and when Chantry Chapels were outlawed the churches on bridges often fell into disrepair.

Today only 3 or 4 examples remain. One such bridge chapel is that of St Mary the Virgin which is on Wakefield Bridge. Wakefield's chapel was begun in 1342 and over the centuries has fallen into disrepair and been restored several times. The last restoration was in 1939 and the chapel now stands as an ornament in itself and a historical reminder of social customs in past centuries.



The Church of England is now looking for "floating worshippers", as you might say. The Diocese of London has commissioned the building of a bespoke church boat to sail through East London and spread the message. The barge will look like any other barge using the

canal network near the Olympic Park in Newham. However, when it moors, it will open a concertina roof at either end modelled on the sleeping pod of a VW camper van.

The 650 square foot boat will be able to moor at various points from the River Thames in the south to the Olympic Park in the north.

Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem to Close

Christianity's holiest site is to shut in a tax protest. Church leaders are taking the rare step of closing the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which is said to be on the site of Jesus's crucifixion. This is in protest at Israeli tax policies which are said to unfairly target the Christian community. This is said to be an indefinite closure because of a systematic campaign by Israeli authorities. Jerusalem city government has started to levy taxes on church properties and a proposed bill would make it more difficult to sell church property. Israeli ministers are considering a bill which would prevent church authorities from selling land in Jerusalem to property developers.

Control of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is shared between the Catholic, Greek and Armenian churches as well as two smaller denominations. At the moment a stalemate situation seems to have occurred.

Stewardship: Planned Giving & Gift Aid

As we all know, Stewardship is an essential part of our Christian life. We know that being generous with our time, talents and money is essential to the growth of the Church and God's kingdom. We learn to be generous because God was first generous to us – in so many different ways.

We are again at the beginning of another year for for those who like to make their weekly offering using the **envelope scheme**. *Thank you* if you're one of those people. We really do thank *everyone* for their regular weekly contributions which means that we can continue with the work of the Church and the maintenance of our beautiful and historic church building.

If you've not thought about using the envelopes, but would like to, then please have a chat with either Adrienne Taylor or one of the Churchwardens. The scheme means that you can plan your giving for each week and, if you miss a Sunday, can still bring the envelope for that week the next time you come to church.

An **even better** way of making your offering is by using **Standing Order**. Perhaps you could consider your weekly giving by using this option. One main advantage of this is that we have less cash to count and bank each week in church. It also means that your giving is taken care of, sent to us directly by your bank each month, and you don't have to think about it or have cash ready for the collection plate.

Whichever way you make your offering it is **ESSENTIAL** that, if you are able to, you sign up to **GIFT AID**. This doesn't cost you anything but means that we receive 25% more money that you donate, claimed back from the Government. It's really money for free. If you are a UK tax payer then – **PLEASE** - sign up for **Gift Aid**.

If you're unsure about any of this then please have a chat with Fr David or Roy Pinkerton. Standing Order and Gift Aid are the best deals for the Church, the easiest for those who give, and the most effective way of giving.

Every single pound you give makes a difference to the work of the church. Please help us to plan and to budget by giving via Standing Order and/or by signing up for Gift Aid. Forms are available in church. Fr David and the Churchwardens can help if you're uncertain or need some help.

Thank you for your offering towards God's work in our church.

St James Men's Forum

Welcome to our meetings from April to May 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.

At the end of February we welcomed Alan Mitton who spoke to us about growing up in Accrington in the 1950s. He told us of some of the amusing escapades that he and his friends got up to. Alan went to Accrington Grammar School and later became a lecturer at Manchester University. His younger brother died at an early age of meningitis and Alan works to raise awareness of this disease. We made a donation to support research into meningitis.

In early March we had a return visit by Cllr David Stansfield. David gave us an insight into the work of Rossendale Council and Lancashire County Council and their various spheres of responsibility. This was followed by a question and answer session. We thanked David for another informative talk.

Wednesday

11 th April	Grand Austrian Tour	Jean Harrison
25 th April	Skye and the Small Isles	Hylton Craig
9 th May	Lancashire's Cotton Industry	Michael Jackson
23 rd May	Quiz	

Clifford Carter

It was the first week of January 2000 when Donald Valentine suggested a men's group be formed for the purpose of a regular meeting for the men of the parish and others. Donald took on the role of Chairman with Frank Pilling as Pastoral/Sick Visitor and Arnold Wade as Treasurer.

When Donald passed away, the Forum was without a Chairman/ Secretary. Clifford stepped into the breach and continued doing a sterling job for years. Clifford was a local Councillor, Magistrate, a good organiser and a good friend to many. He will be sadly missed by all at the Men's Forum.

R.I.P. and God Bless.

MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers Union March meeting was unfortunately cancelled because of snow. Carole Whitling was snowed in. We hope that she will come at a future date (maybe October) to give her talk and demonstration on lace-making .

Our meeting on 5th April is a talk with slides by Hylton Craig entitled 'A Tale of Two Villages- Heptonstall and Hebden Bridge'. This is an open meeting.

FLOWERS for APRIL

- 1st. Mrs C Whitling
- 8th Vacant
- 15th in memory of Ernest Higson
- 22nd. In memory of Mrs Lizzie Hilton
- 29th. Mrs Vera Whittaker & family

DIARY for APRIL

1st. EASTER DAY, no 8.00am service, 10.45 Sung Eucharist. We hope that all Christians will attend on this day.

- 2nd. Wedding
- 3rd. 10.00am. Eucharist
- 5th 7.00pm. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING
- 8th. 10.45am. Sung Eucharist
- 10th 10.00am. Eucharist
12.00. Eat & Meet Lunch
- 11th 2.00pm Men's Forum, "Grand Austrian Tour" by Jean Harrison
- 14th and 15th Walsingham Pilgrimage
- 15th 8.00am. Eucharist
10.45am Sung Eucharist
- 17th. 10.00am. Eucharist
- 22nd. 10 45am. Sung Eucharist
- 24th. 10.00am. Eucharist

12.00am. Eat & Meet
10.30am to 1.00pm. CAFE open

25th 2.00pm Men's Forum, "Skye and the Small Isles", illustrated talk by Hylton Craig

27th. 9.00am CHURCH OPEN ALL DAY FOR SETTING UP OF FAIR

10.30am. to 1.00pm CAFE open

6.30pm. CAFE Church. All Welcome

28th. 11.00am. SPRING FAIR Please come and support your Church

29th. 10.45am. Sung Eucharist

Father Roger was disappointed to cancel the celebration for his birthday due to the snow. We hope it can be arranged at a future date.

SPRING FAIR - 28th APRIL - 11.00am

It is time for our Spring Fair. This is one of our main fundraising events. Without the two Fairs our income would be inadequate to cover outgoings. It is only with your help and support that we have successful events. Please come and bring your friends to enjoy a good lunch in the Café, meet old friends and buy some useful items. If you cannot attend it would help greatly if you could donate items for sale. A lot of work goes into arranging the Fair but we all enjoy it if you come and support your Church. Looking forward to seeing you.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thursday 5 April, 7pm

in the Hall

A celebration of our church community over the last 12 months

A review of how we've done

A look to the future

A coming together

Please make this a priority on your calendar.

All are welcome.



Sunday 29 April
is the 5th Sunday of the month

A Joint Service at St James
10.30am

Everyone welcome



Any contributions to the May magazine would be very welcome. The closing date for items will be Tuesday 17th April so that printing can be done Friday 20th April. Please e-mail if possible to hylt.sylv@btinternet.com Sylvia Craig.