



St James', Haslingden

PARISH BULLETIN

JULY 2020

As we're unable to produce, print and deliver the usual magazine at the moment, we hope that you will enjoy this amended and abridged version. Please do share!

Please remember that our clergy team are always available – at the end of the telephone, text message, email or even face-to-face on line. Please don't worry about getting in touch.

Fr David Stephenson

07539 264279 frdavidstephenson@gmail.com

Rev'd Judith Balkwell 01706 223652

Rev' d David Allsop 01706 224663

Andrew Holmes 01706 219751

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION UPDATE

We have some progress! Although it's small steps they're in the right direction. During June we were given permission to consider re-opening church buildings for private prayer. As we prepare to go to press for July the announcement has been made that we may again hold public services in our church buildings. Funerals and marriages may also now, in due course, be held.

We have no firm information other than that – it's expected on the day of bulleting-printing – but it seems that during July church will once again be open. We won't be returning to pre-lockdown *normal* – social distancing and strict hygiene measures will be in place for some time to come. Sadly, we won't be able to sing during services and when we receive Holy Communion, it will be in one kind only, the consecrated wafer only.

Everyone coming in to the church building will be asked to sanitize their hands on arrival and before they leave, follow a one-way route inside the building, and to sit only in open pews. Those from the same household or *bubble* will be able to sit together but otherwise we must remain apart. We won't be able to offer any refreshments before or after services and the place to chat will be outside.

Whilst this is far from ideal for those who have missed spending time in our holy place, joining in corporate worship and prayer, and receiving Holy Communion we hope that this will be welcome news.

As we are unable to give more information than this at the moment it's really important that you keep your eyes on local information, including our Facebook page, website and in your emails. For those who don't use the internet we will do our best to let you know what's happening.

Please remember, we want everyone to be safe. If you are still in a vulnerable group we will look forward to seeing you at church as soon as it is safe to for you to be there.

CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

It's not often that I'm heard to quote Madonna – that's the singer not the Virgin Mother of God – who sang, *Time goes by, so slowly, slowly*. I think that if you're one of the many people who have been isolated or are being shielded from the outside world then this must certainly be the case. With scenes in the media of beaches a little over-

crowded, thousands failing to keep social distancing

at protest marches and rallies, walkers and cyclists making the most of the great Lancashire outdoors, those who are confined to our homes, and even our own gardens, must have mixed feelings.



I must admit that looking after church during lockdown has felt something like shielding. Things inside have carried on with services broadcast, prayers said and hangings changed as the seasons have rumbled on. No one, though, apart from me, has been permitted inside. With the passing from Lent to Holy Week and on to Easter, thence to Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity and Corpus Christi, we are now back in the season of green and Ordinary Time. There feels nothing ordinary about it at all. The church can only be the Church with all of you inside it.

One of the questions I have been challenging myself with, as the lockdown progressed from weeks to months, is, *What am I missing?*. It's a question I often pose in what I have dubbed my *rambling* at the end of Morning Prayer each day. Should we ask ourselves this question then our



answers will all vary. Common responses, I know, will be *people*. I think most of us have really missed



not just family but friends. Telephone, Zoom and all the rest are good for a while but there's nothing quite the same as meeting

in person, sharing a hug and putting the world to rights. Showing our love and affection is a natural human instinct for many of us.

In terms of church, though, what have you been missing? Community is an important aspect of the Christian life. God calls us to be together, to build up each other in the faith of Christ, and to equip ourselves to do God's work. We are called to worship together – to be the Church at prayer both in and for the world. We are, of course, called to come together to receive the Holy Communion, the physical sharing of Christ's body and blood. It is this, at the very heart of the Church which has been most difficult to replicate in any way during lockdown. If we've missed hand-shaking and hugging those we love then,

perhaps, too, we have missed the touch of Jesus in our outstretched



hands and on our lips.

When we are able to safely return to church to be God's people gathered for worship once again, things will be different. We will not be returning to things the same as they have always been and I think we need to prepare ourselves for the *new normal*. There will be things we can't quite do in the same ways as before – communion being one of them, and even sitting where we've perhaps sat for decades. If one thing has emerged from the lockdown so far, it's knowledge of what we value and hold dear and,

contrastingly, what we've discovered isn't as important as we perhaps thought it was.

Let us, then, look forward to a return, in some way, to our shared Christian life together inside the church building for services. Let us value all that we *are* able to do and to share and let's not worry, fret or complain about the things, for the while, we *aren't* able to enjoy. As much as our Christian life is sustained and fuelled by what we do *inside*, we need to remember that it means nothing unless it's lived on the *outside* of the building too.

With my prayers and love

Fr David



THINGS & DATES IN JULY

From the beginning of this month we welcome Andrew Holmes (and Liz, his wife) into the parish. As you will remember, Andrew is to be curate in the parishes of St Thomas' and St James' for the next 3, or so, years. Taking up residence in the curate's house on Sunnybank Close in Helmshore, Andrew's work will be within the community, and especially during his first year. Ordinarily, the ordination service for the diocese would have taken place on Saturday 27 June. Due to lockdown this is now delayed until the end of September – more details to follow when we have them. Until then Andrew will hold the Bishop's license to minister and to preach as a Licensed Lay Worker. As services continue on-line for the moment, we will try to include Andrew as much as is practicable but do please look out for him from the beginning of this month.



Friday 3 July is St Thomas' Day. Wherever we're having our service on Sunday 5 July, we will be celebrating our parish's patron saint.

Wednesday 15 July is St Swithun's Day. Watch out for rain!

Friday 17 July would have been St James' Quiz Night - watch out for something on-line.

Saturday 25 July is St James' Day. On the next day, again, wherever our services are, we will be celebrating the patron saint of Haslingden Parish Church.



ANDREW'S INTRODUCTION

Hello! to introduce myself, I'm Andrew Holmes your new Curate (licensed lay worker until ordination in September).

It seems an age since Liz and I visited you at St James and St Thomas, much has changed in all our lives during the past months. I know Fr David has informed you of the delay of my ordination, in the interim I will be licensed as a lay worker on the 27th June by Bishop Julian and will be moving to Helmshore over that weekend. It is very odd not to be able to have a gathering to say my goodbyes in Heysham. Likewise, it is unfortunate that we cannot come together and have the welcome lunch as planned. However, I hope the time prior to my ordination in September will be blessed and give us the opportunity to get to know you and celebrate together. Both Liz and I have enjoyed being with you, at least virtually and I only hope my daily offices can be as stimulating.

As I write this short introduction, I am surrounded by chaos and packing boxes. When you have lived in the same house for nearly twenty years there is plenty of sorting to do in preparation for moving. It has given us a chance to look back over the girls' childhoods in photograph and film. There has been time to pause, a lot of laughter and a few tears. Lockdown has given us the opportunity to be

together in the same house as a family for potentially the last time.

Bishop Philip tells the story of him joining the choir for money, my story is no better. I joined the choir in Menston, near Ilkley when I was six and started piano lessons at the same time. I was incredibly privileged to learn to play the piano, as I know it was a struggle for my parents to pay for my lessons. About the age of seven, I first sat at an organ console. I still feel that sense of excitement now as I did then. I have played and directed choirs the whole of my adult life, I love and cherish church music. As John Rutter, one of the most popular choral composers of our time once said on a training day I attended, "The church without music is a church without a soul".

We were married in Otley, West Yorkshire on 1st April 1989 (the Saturday after Easter, a Yorkshire man doesn't like paying for flowers). We have three daughters, Jessica (23), in her NQT year at Lancaster Road primary school, Kathryn (20) studying Law in Dundee and Laura (19) studying History and Sociology in Greenwich. I am grateful that the girls have supported me by singing, catering, and many other church activities, even when they felt like a lie in!

Much of my working life has been in the motor industry, I worked for over thirty years in sales, general and senior management roles. Whilst, Liz worked for many years at the Head Office of Bradford and Bingley Building Society. It was work that brought me to Heysham and we moved here just before Laura was born. My grandparents used to bring me here as a child, my grandmother loved St Peter's and I often think how much she would have loved it to be my sending church. Sadly, I lost both my parents to cancer during our time in Heysham, but they enjoyed the time they had with the children and the long visits to the seaside. I know they would both be so proud as I enter this new ministry. My calling and vocation started when I was in my late teens and I did explore the possibility of ministry. To be honest it is something I have had tugging away at me for many years. I have always

been involved with church in the parishes I have served, on the PCC, Church Warden for over ten years and as organist, choir trainer and music group leader. It has really been during my time in Heysham, where God has called louder and louder and with the constant love and support of many people and my family, I stepped forward as a mature ordinand. My time of training and formation, studying at All Saints has been extremely rewarding and I have felt a real sense of the Holy Spirit, calming and peaceful. Going back to study in my fifties was not something I had anticipated, but I have really enjoyed it. I feel a real sense of excitement as we join you, I am looking forward to working with Fr David, Judith and David and the ministry team. God's mission is alive, and I seek to join in what is instore for us in the future. We are called to know Jesus personally and to make him known to others. It is a simple mission, we allow Jesus to use us as 'fishers of people', to willingly use our new life in Him to benefit and share with others. However, we respond, Jesus is still there calling us.

Please keep us in your prayers as we make this transition, I look forward to being with you soon.

God Bless,

Andrew

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, by your Holy Spirit you have appointed various orders of ministry in the Church: look with mercy on your servants now called to service in your name; maintain them in truth and renew them in holiness, that by word and good example they may faithfully serve you to the glory of your name and the benefit of your Church; through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



THE LADY WITH THE LAMP



It was a sunny autumn day and we were enjoying a country walk not far from Matlock in Derbyshire. We came across a lovely house in an idyllic spot. This proved to be *Lea Hurst* which was the childhood home of Florence Nightingale. In fact, she returned there for a while after the Crimean War to recuperate. She had suffered some physical illness and depression. Legend has it that she came by train but had to walk the last two miles home.

Florence came to prominence while serving as a manager and trainer of nurses during the Crimean War, in which she organised care for wounded soldiers. By improving sanitary conditions her team of nurses reduced the death rate by two thirds. She gave nursing a favourable reputation and became an icon of Victorian culture, especially in the persona of *The Lady with the Lamp* making rounds of wounded soldiers at night. Remarkably, this lamp is in the museum at St Thomas' Hospital, London.

Florence's achievements are all the more impressive when they are considered against the background of social restraints on women in Victorian England. Her father, William Edward Nightingale, was an extremely wealthy landowner, and the family moved in the highest circles of English society. In those days, women of Nightingale's class did not attend university and did not pursue professional careers. Their purpose in life was to marry and bear children. Florence was fortunate, her father believed women should be educated, and he personally taught her Italian, Latin, Greek, philosophy, history and – most unusual of all for women of the time – writing and mathematics.

Florence was a member of the Church of England all her life albeit with some unorthodox views. She believed that everyone would eventually end up in

heaven even if they were “sinners”. She used this thought to comfort the dying.

Queen Victoria had a deep and lasting admiration of Florence. When the pair met, the Queen was expecting to encounter a battle-axe but instead found the now famous nurse modest and demure. The sorrowing monarch was persuaded to open the new St Thomas's Hospital “For Miss Nightingale”.

A new exhibition to mark 200 years since Florence's birth was to take place this year in the grounds of St Thomas's. In fact Florence left this hospital for Crimea on 21st October 1854. She died at the age of 90 in 1910.

Sylvia Craig

ST CHRISTOPHER ~ 25 JULY



The legend goes that St Christopher was a Canaanite who lived in the 3rd century. He was a giant of a man, of fearsome appearance. At first he decided to serve the devil, but when he discovered that the devil was afraid of Christ and His Cross, Christopher decided to serve Christ instead. A nearby hermit instructed Christopher in the Christian faith and assigned to him a place near a river: Christopher's job was to help travellers cross it safely.

All went well, and Christopher helped lots of people on their way until one day a child came along and asked to be carried across. Christopher put him on his back and set off, but was soon staggering under the astonishing weight of this child. The child then told him that He was in fact Jesus Christ, and that He carried the weight of the whole world. The Christ-child then told Christopher to plant his staff in the ground: the next day it bore flowers and dates – confirmation that the child was indeed who He claimed to be.

After some time more of helping travellers cross the river, Christopher went to the city of Lycia, where he preached the gospel with such success that the Roman emperor (Decius?) had him arrested and

imprisoned – especially when Christopher refused to sacrifice to the gods. Two women sent into his cell to seduce him came out converted Christians instead. So Christopher was beaten, shot with arrows and finally beheaded.

Christopher has been well-loved of the English down the centuries. Many wall-paintings of him have been placed on the north wall of churches, opposite the porch, so that he would be seen by all who entered. There was good reason for this: as patron saint of travellers, it was believed that anyone who saw an image of St Christopher would not die that day. As the ancient saying goes: 'Behold St Christopher and go thy way in safety'.

A kind of daily insurance policy against death – this was so good that in due course St Christopher became the patron saint of motorists. There is even a church in the Javel area of Paris where Citroen cars are made, that is dedicated to St Christopher. In modern times, with the increase in air and motorway travel, Christopher has remained popular. When in 1969 the Holy See reduced his feast day, there was a sharp protest in several countries, led in Italy by a number of popular film stars. If you ever travel in a taxi on the Continent, look out for a little St Christopher hanging from the rear-view mirror beside the driver. Now you know why it is there!



A PLEA FOR HELP

During my time studying for the ordained ministry at The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham I was privileged to get to know a number of international students. Usha Kishore was studying for her Masters in Theology having come from her home in Southern India. Usha recently contacted me asking for support for the work she and her husband are doing back in India. At college Usha had spoken to us in great detail about their work and so I asked her to write a brief message for the *Bulletin*:

Dear Saints,

Greetings from Usha Kishore, from South India.

Since 25 years I have been serving the Special Needs children and doing the ministry as well in my Country. These are my callings according to His will in my life. After I saved and accept Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour he told me to serve the Special Needs children, while I was praying for the Job to do for my livelihood.

While I am started serving the Special Needs according to His will miraculously, He called to serve Him in 2010. Then onwards Me and husband both are doing these two ministries. I have one Missionary from China who was supporting me till last January 2020. Since February 2020 she is unable to support us due Covid Pandemic Crisis. That's why I am requesting you all kindly support us to provide essential help and assistance to these most valuable people to our relentless endeavour to prove and enabling them to survive and sustain..

TQ one and all...

Their special needs home, *Promised Land*, has been a life's work for Usha and her husband. You can see more on their Facebook page – www.facebook.com/UshaManoVikas. They have always struggled for funding and support and, it seems, in this time of crisis it's even tougher. If you felt that you would like to offer a gift to support the work of *Promised Land* then please contact me and I'll send all our gifts, as one.

Fr David

FINDING PEACE

We often say *Peace be with you* in our church services. That is a wonderful thing to say to anyone. Sometimes we regard a deceased person as *At Peace* and mean that they are in a place of eternal rest; a place of tranquillity. Or maybe we think of peace as the opposite of war. That is certainly a strong message. What does peace mean to you? It could mean being in a quiet place of rest; perhaps not having any worries, freedom of disturbance, ease of mind or conscience, quietness, stillness or silence. At a recent Yoga class, we were encouraged to lie still and to empty our minds of any worries we had. We were to think of peaceful situations such as watching the sea gently roll in over the sand or watching a lovely sunset on a calm summer evening.

You may already have read some words of Octavia Hill, co-founder of The National Trust 125 years ago;



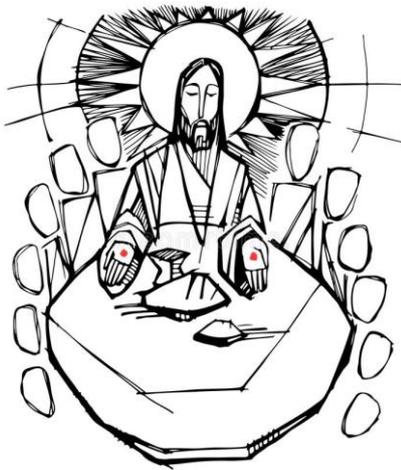
*Our lives are overcrowded, over-excited, over-strained.
We all want quiet. We all want beauty. We all need space.
Unless we have it we cannot reach that sense of quiet,
In which whispers of better things come to us gently.*



PRAYER RESOURCES

Spiritual communion

for those unable to make their own communion.



My Jesus, I believe that you are present
in the Blessed Sacrament,
I love you above all things
and I desire you in my soul.
Since I cannot receive you now sacramentally,
come at least spiritually to my soul.
As though you were already
there I embrace you
and unite myself wholly to you;
permit not that I should ever
be separated from you. Amen.

*St Alphonsus Liguori, 1696-1787
trans. Eugene Grimm, 1835-91*

A prayer in times of isolation

from Christian Aid

God of heaven and earth,
in these times of isolation,
apart from loved ones
distant from friends
away from neighbours
thank you that there is nothing
in all of creation,
not even coronavirus,
that is able to separate us from your love.

And may your love that never fails
continue to be shared
through the kindness of strangers
looking out for each other,
for neighbours near and far
all recognising our shared vulnerability,
each of us grateful for every breath,
and willing everyone to know the gift
of a full and healthy life.
Keep us all in your care. Amen.

CHURCH FINANCES

Thank you very much to everyone who has maintained their financial giving during recent weeks. As I've explained previously, the church's income has dropped significantly without public services, funerals, weddings and cash offerings. Several people have been in touch with myself and Julie Davis, our Treasurer, to make arrangements for their gifts to be received. Some have switched to regular, monthly giving by Standing Order which makes our life significantly easier. Others have arranged for offering envelopes to be received. Some have made one-off payments on-line or with Julie, on the telephone.

If you are still concerned that your offering isn't reaching us at the moment, please contact Julie Davis, 01706 212019, in confidence, to discuss options.

For all you continue to give, for all you offer, thank you very much.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

The clergy are always available for a chat, for guidance and advice.

Please don't hesitate to contact them – they'd be delighted to hear from you!

Please also feel free to email any ideas, suggestions or pieces to include in the May bulletin if we need one!

Other key contacts are here too.

Vicar of St James, Haslingden & St Thomas, Musbury
Fr David Stephenson, 07539 264279 frdavidstephenson@gmail.com

Associate Priests

Rev' d Judith Balkwell 01706 223652

Rev' d David Allsop 01706 224663

Licensed Lay Minister

Andrew Holmes 01706 219751

Churchwardens

Roy Pinkerton 01706 214569

Kaye Ridings 01706 216398

Arnold Wade 01706 220496

Treasurer

Julie Davis 01706 212019

PCC Secretary

Miriam Taylor 01706 222478

Safeguarding

Ann Burton 01706 227137

Adrienne Taylor & Kaye Ridings



Please remember to **like** and **share** our church Facebook pages where you can also find all of our on-line service content.

<https://facebook.com/StJamesHaslingden/>

<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMusbury/>