



St James', Haslingden

PARISH BULLETIN

AUGUST 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.

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CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION UPDATE

August is usually a month without its own magazine but this year, with guidance and regulations changing quite quickly, we've decided to keep our bulletin going. Last month we reported plans to being reopening churches for public worship. That began on Sunday 5 July and we've managed to maintain the 10.45 Parish Eucharist each Sunday since. It has been a real joy to be able to open our doors and welcome people in. Services have, though, been very different.

To keep everyone as safe as possible we have these measures in place:

- Hand sanitizer is available for everyone entering and leaving church
- We ask people to consent to us keeping a record of their attendance for *track and trace*
- Services sheets are single-use and help-yourself
- Every other pew is open to sit in and worshippers are asked not to wander from their seats
- Holy Communion is administered in one kind only, is given in silence, with the celebrant wearing a face covering, and with arms outstretched to receive
- Everyone leaves church as soon as the service is over, one row at a time, through the South door
- Each pew and *touch-point* (door handles, light switches etc.) are cleaned once everyone has left

Although these measures feel quite extreme, during July it has become a new normal, and they mean that we can continue worshipping and praying together, week by week in person. For those who don't feel ready, or able, to return to church just yet, we continue to broadcast services live each Sunday on our Facebook page. With as many people watching on line that are in church, our Sunday *attendance* is high!

The latest change is the recommendation that everyone who is able to wears a face-covering for church. We very much hope that this will be a short-term expectation and that our next bulletin/magazine will be able to report some more cheerful news!

CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

We have recently had Petertide (Sunday nearest St Peter's day: 29th June), the period where we normally have ordinations and it's so sad that this year, our own Curate designate, Andrew, is now having to wait until later this year (Michaelmas: around 29th September), when hopefully he will be Ordained Deacon and then Priest next year. We all hope and pray that this will go ahead. Judith and I remember our own ordination 10 years ago and we hope to have a joint parish celebration with Andrew when this may be possible. We hope Liz and Andrew are beginning to feel settled in their new home and parish life.

The Bishop's charge to those being ordained priest includes these words:



Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They

are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever. Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins.

This is hugely demanding and those of us who are, or will be ordained, know that we can only begin to fulfil this calling with the prayerful support of the people we are called to serve.



Summer time finally seems to be here and with the warmth come the memories of summers past. This summer of course is going to be very different from what we are used to. Some people will be going on holiday, either within the UK or for those who are not trepidatious, abroad. For many this would normally coincide with the end of school terms, but for others without children, they may be staying at home and choose to take holidays in the later summer weeks when it is quieter and cheaper.

There is one other summertime event which has a deep significance for many people, and that is the start of the School or educational year. This occurs for most people on some date in September, although if you are moving to University it may not actually start until October. It is this manifestation of the New Year for which many people are now starting to prepare. The summer holidays, the time to wind down after one year and think about the start of a New Year. To those starting or going back to school / university, we hope that you enjoy meeting once again with friends and teachers and enjoy your journey!

This idea of 'ending' and 'starting' is not just something associated with the beginning of a New Year; it is an integral part of our individual and corporate faith journeys. At the centre of the Christian message is the idea of forgiveness and linked with that is the capacity to start afresh. As human beings I am constantly reminded that we all make mistakes, that is something well recognised in the Bible, and the Bible then goes on to tell us that the God we worship is a forgiving God. We only have to look at the story

of 'The Lost Son' in Luke 15 and see that the Father, a representation of our heavenly Father, is someone who wants to allow his errant son to make a new start. This is also reflected in the



stories of the resurrection in John's gospel, where the risen Jesus allows Peter, who had denied he even knew Jesus, to make a fresh start. There are times in all our lives when we need to recognise that capacity to make a fresh start. Having moved through a pandemic, the type of which is new and strange to most of us, perhaps

that time is now? Our faith and trust in a forgiving God is a model which we are all encouraged to copy, that as we are forgiven by God and allowed to start again, so we should forgive each other and allow each other to make a fresh start.

Our faith is about forgiveness and renewal – out with the old, in with the new. May we live in constant awareness



of that essential dynamic of the Christian gospel, which is good news for us and for all people.

With my prayers and every blessing to you all.
Keep safe and have a lovely summer!

Rev'd David

A new Archbishop of York

At the beginning of July the new Archbishop of York began his new ministry. At a service in York Minster, significantly different to what might have been, the new Archbishop was confirmed in his new post. Shortly after, during July, Archbishop Stephen spoke to the General Synod of the Church of England...

Church must 'learn afresh how to share the gospel', Archbishop of York tells Synod

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, has called on the Church of England to "learn afresh how to share the gospel in the world" as Church and Society face "turbulent times" in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

In his first public address since his confirmation as Archbishop, he spoke of the pain and loss many have experienced in recent months and the major challenges ahead.

Archbishop Stephen was speaking to members of the General Synod, who were meeting remotely following the cancellation of the annual July group of sessions in York. He spoke about lockdown, as a time when people have experienced a "stripping back of our lives", bringing hardship but also clarity and a renewed focus on God.

His comments came in a joint presidential address, alongside the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. Archbishop Stephen went on:

"Do not misunderstand me," he said. "I hugely miss our church buildings and our liturgy, ... I cry out for the pain of all those socially distanced funerals, the thousands of people who have died alone, the baptisms, weddings and ordinations that have had to be postponed; the economic misery which is around the corner and the devastating impact of this pandemic upon the whole life of our world.

"But neither can I deny, that it has forced me to encounter things about myself which I had allowed to remain hidden behind the security of the things I have had to relinquish."

He spoke about a group he is leading to discern a vision and strategy for the Church for the next decade.

The vision, he said, is the easy part: "It is unchanging – it is what God has done for us in Jesus Christ and continues to do through the power of the spirit."

Archbishop Stephen said that the Church will have to make decisions about priorities amid limited resources. He hopes to bring some proposals to Synod next year.

Face Coverings

From the Diocesan Coronavirus Task Force:

The wearing of face coverings in public spaces such as shops became mandatory at the end of July. The Church of England released updated advice. They have chosen to highlight the following paragraph:

We strongly advise that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.

In terms of our local response, we are asked to consider the following:

- Whilst additional measures remain in place, in Blackburn with Darwen and Pendle face coverings should be worn by all members of the congregation.
- Whilst they should encourage the wearing of face masks, clergy and church officers should not feel obliged to police or enforce this.
- There is no need to wear a face covering when leading worship as long as you are a good distance away from people. However, we advise that a mask be worn when speaking over the elements of holy communion unless they are covered (for example in a sealed ciborium) and when distributing communion. We also advise that a face covering be worn when welcoming or bidding farewell to worshippers.

For everything there is a season

Since March we have been offering daily services on-line via our Facebook page. Morning Prayer (9am Monday-Friday) has been shared on St Thomas' page and Evening Prayer (5pm Monday-Friday) has been on St James' page. This routine and pattern of prayer has been a source of nourishment and calm for many people – congregations have regularly been 30-50 people. Taking time for all aspects of life is a biblical concept as much a prayer, both individual and corporate.

'He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.' (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The 60s hit 'Turn! Turn! Turn!' by the Byrds is based on verses in this chapter: *'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.'* The different seasons of life are not random, for God is in control and His timing is perfect: *'He has made everything beautiful in its time.'*

The verse goes on to say that God *'has also set eternity in the human heart.'* This means that we all

have an in-built sense that there's more to life than what we can see, as we search for meaning in life. However, we can fill our lives with other things: career, pleasure, shopping and relationships. While good in themselves, these things can never ultimately satisfy. It is only a relationship with God through Jesus that truly satisfies. How does this challenge us?

Firstly, we are to live for God in all that we do, knowing that it all counts for eternity. This includes helping others find a personal relationship with Jesus Christ for eternity.

Secondly, we accept that there is lots in the current 'season' where it's difficult to know what God is doing: *'no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.'* However, we do know that everything has consequences for eternity. Finally, how can we be more aware of eternity every day? Spending time with God in worship and prayer will bring us the true pleasure that belongs to eternity.

'You made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.' (St Augustine).

Memories of 18th July 1964 in Haslingden

Do you remember this day?

It was Saturday morning. The day I thought the world was coming to an end. I was making the lunch. It was thundering and lightening all morning. At about 12 o' clock the sky turned black as midnight.

Then the heavy rain started.

Then the hailstones as big as golf balls.

They hit the windows, bounced off the cars and brought tree branches down. They were so heavy that they blocked the drains which brought on the floods. I sat in the pantry under the stairs, scared to death. Our garden was almost washed away. It lasted about an hour. It was about 2.00pm before it eased off and we then started the mopping up.

My parents had gone on holiday the evening before and when we went to check their house, the soot had come down the chimney and almost filled the living room. All the neighbours came in to help clean up. My in-laws were away also and their boiler house was flooded and had to be pumped out. We had to wade through two foot of water to get to their house.



We travelled round the town. In places it looked like it had snowed and there were great drifts. Drains were blocked so water was everywhere. The Carrs area had all the houses flooded with 2 feet of mud, as were houses on Holcombe Road. Rising Bridge was a disaster area. A house over the culvert had collapsed. A man in Northfield Road had to be rescued from his garage roof from where he watched his car disappear under water. It was my

friend's wedding day and she needed wellies to get to church and was 2 hours late and then couldn't get to the reception at the Dunkenhalth because of all the diversions.

All the local mills had terrible flooding and mud on all the machines. All the pits in the garage workshop at Cordingleys had to be pumped out by the fire brigade. It slowly became light again and we felt that we were saved. It was so bad that it made the news on ITV and the Sunday and local papers, some of which I still have.

What were your experiences of this day?

Kaye

Keep your distance!

I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch you with a six-foot pole" would become national policy, but here we are!



It's not all on-line!

The internet has been a massive resource for many people during lockdown. For many in our communities this is still a bit of an unknown. The Church of England has set up a **free** telephone service for people who would like to some contact and religious content to their daily lives.

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. This has been established in partnership with CONNECTIONS at Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

“With many in our country on lockdown, it’s important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are.”

Archbishop Justin Welby



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

DailyHOPE phone line menu options

- *** **Press *** to listen to Archbishop Justin Welby’s message.
- 1** **Press 1** to listen to ‘Hymns we Love’ (this is a series of short talks based on well-loved hymns).
- 2** **Press 2** to listen to our Hymn Line (these are recordings of different hymns on a daily loop).
- 3** **Press 3** to listen to our Prayer Line (prayers that are specific and relevant to the Coronavirus crisis).
- 4** Otherwise, please **press 4** for more options .
- 5** **Press 5** to listen to the Church of England’s weekly service.
- 6** **Press 6** to join in with traditional morning and evening prayers.
- 7** **Press 7** to listen to the latest Government advice on the Coronavirus.
- 0** **Press 0** to return to the main menu.

A Harvest of Gratitude

It's been quite hard putting together this month's *bulletin*. There seems to be not much good news and, with current uncertainty, not much to be able to look forward to. However, as I sit at my desk this morning, I am reminded that there is much to be grateful for.

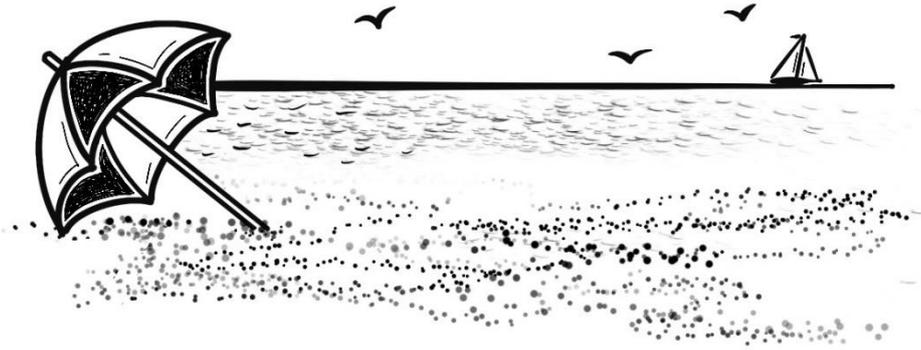
Like many others, I was uplifted and inspired during the first part of lockdown by the weekly doorstep claps of gratitude for NHS workers. Many of us owe them a great debt of personal thanks as well as national gratitude for their determination to help our nation through the Coronavirus pandemic. Many others, too, have contributed to maintaining the life of our parish and community. There have been countless acts of kindness, generosity and thoughtfulness. It's easy to let those loving and thoughtful people slip from our minds and so, before they do, I'd like to say **thank you**.

I'd like to say **thank you** to everyone who has sent me encouraging and grateful messages, cards, letters, emails and texts during the Coronavirus catastrophe. I'd like to say **thank-you** to everyone who has asked how *I* am and how *my* family is coping. I'd like to say **thank you** to those who have baked and gifted treats, face-masks, books, DVDs, plants for the garden and more besides. **Thank you** to those who have kept me informed of how others are doing and who might like a call or card from the Vicar. And **thank you** to those who have joined me for daily services and kept me in their prayers. It's all made a **massive** difference and I, we, are grateful indeed.

Fr David (& Fr Mark)



*'I made £3.87 from the
cake sale and £2,300 from
fining people for not
wearing a face mask'*



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 September magazine/bulletin.*

Other key contacts are here too.

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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/>