



# St James', Haslingden

## PARISH BULLETIN

### JUNE 2021

Welcome to the June edition of our Bulletin. You can read this on our website, on Facebook, in hard copy, or by email. However you're reading it, we hope you'll find something of interest and inspiration.

If you know someone who might appreciate a copy, please contact Kaye Ridings.

If you have something you'd like us to include in June's edition, please let Fr David know by Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June.

Please remember that our clergy team are always available – at the end of the telephone, text message, email and now, face-to-face. Please don't worry about getting in touch or just calling for a chat.

Fr David Stephenson - 07539 264279 [frdavidstephenson@gmail.com](mailto:frdavidstephenson@gmail.com)

Fr Andrew Holmes 01706 231214 - Rev'd Judith Balkwell 01706 223652 - Rev' d David Allsop 01706 224663

## CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION UPDATE

As each month passes it is a month closer to being free from Covid restrictions. Thank you to everyone who has helped us comply with the restrictions placed on church buildings. We hope that this is the last month with restrictions in place. As we go to press the Indian variant of Covid-19 is making life difficult in local areas. If we need to maintain restrictions for a while longer to keep everyone safe then we will let everyone know as soon as we know. However, if all goes to plan, we'll be re-introducing congregational singing, and getting rid of face-coverings etc from the end of June. We know that some people will still feel more comfortable keeping their distance, hand sanitizing, and restricting physical contact. We want everyone to feel safe and comfortable in church so, when you come, please do whatever makes you feel safe and happy.

To continue keeping everyone safe, at the moment, the same Covid-safety will be in place:

- Face coverings must be worn inside church
- Everyone must use hand sanitizer as they enter and leave the church building
- Everyone must either sign in when they arrive or use the track and trace QR code
- Social distancing will be in operation inside the building
- Holy Communion will be administered in silence and in one kind only
- No congregational singing
- The congregation will need to disperse as quickly as possible at the end of the service

Funerals continue to be permitted in church with up to 40 people attending. We are also holding baptisms with up to 40 people attending. Marriages are a little more restricted and can take place with up to 30 people attending.

This is all dependent, of course, on infection rates continuing to diminish to we're carrying on with strict safety measures in church and are grateful for everyone's support and cooperation with these.

# CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

I hope you are keeping safe and well and as the as we welcome the month of June and the summer days approach, I hope it will be long and warm with any luck. Summer welcomes all sorts of beauty, the gardens are full of flowers, the fields are full of growing crops, animals graze in the rich meadows and pastures and the birds sing overhead.

Everything around us seems



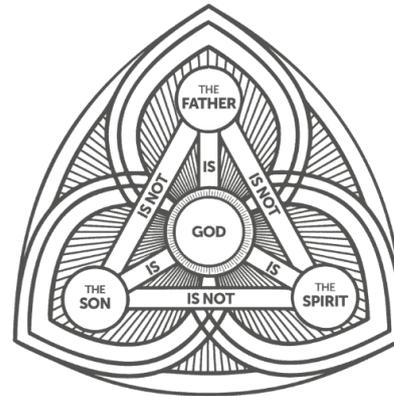
touched by God's glory and after a long and unsettled cold winter and late spring, whatever the weather I am sure there will be lovely days that fill us with joy and appreciate God's creation in all its glory.

As we come to the Summer season and the joy and majesty of the Easter season has come to an end. The Easter morning and celebrations leaves us with the memory of the Risen Lord and with the eternal love and hope that brings, and no sooner have we experienced that life changing event, we then experience the feast days of Christ's ascension into heaven and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The presence of the Holy Spirit and the power that it brought to the first Christians, and the power it continues to bring to us today. The work of God and the Holy Spirit is wonderfully inclusive because there are no boundaries and no person is left out. It allows us to call on the Lord's name and welcome the Holy Spirit to come to us with all the hope, love, peace and joy that it brings.

Trinity Sunday was celebrated at the end of May this year, so now the Trinity season or Ordinary Time begins, which lasts until the end of October. All the other seasons have obvious themes but the Trinity season otherwise known

as Ordinary time is considered the time and symbol of quiet growth. For the church the colours change, which is why the altar frontals and the vestments in many churches are green. So, in what way might we consider such growth in relation to the Trinity and the Trinity season?



Thinking the Trinity is an impossibly difficult thing to do, as impossible as picturing God. Perhaps the best we can do is to follow

the lead of the Creed and believe in God in three ways. So, what might be these three ways of believing in God be?

The first concerns God as creator, as the source of all that is, as the creative power. We are created, and as we are made in the image of God, we are created in order to be creative. We are co-creators with God, but our creativity is dependent on him

The second aspect of believing in God in three ways involves the loving communication of the life story of Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's way of speaking to us. And as Christians we are called to respond to God's word. God communicates with us through Jesus and calls us, through what we say and do, to communicate the life of Jesus to others.

And the third aspect of believing in God in three ways involves the Spirit connecting our believing in God with the world and with one another.



The Spirit is there to connect what we say in the Creed with the way we lead our lives. The Spirit lies at the heart of all loving relationships of giving and receiving.

And so believing in God as one in three and three in one, we believe in God creating, communicating and connecting. And though we may think of these as three separate actions, each action point, toward the other two.

When we think of all creation whatever that may be, we hold all three in our minds and in our hearts and its all-encompassing life, power and beauty.



I would like to share with you a prayer written in response to the ever-present rhythm of the tides around the Holy Island, by the writer and priest David Adam (pictured). He was at one time the Vicar of the Holy Island and has written many prayers in the Celtic tradition. The natural world was a great source of revelation to the people who lived and worked on the island, and around our northern and western coasts in the

early days of Christian witness in our land. In the daily round of work and rest, in the seasons and of the landscape around them the people found great inspiration, and the prayers that were handed down weave the everyday realities of life and the celebration of God's love and grace revealed in the gift of his creation.

*Grant me, Lord, Joy in giving, Joy in receiving.  
Love in-in coming, Love out-flowing.  
Peace instilling, Peace distilling.  
Wisdom infilling Wisdom outpouring.*

*Grant me, O Lord, A rhythm of life.  
God who my life sanctified Jesus Christ,  
who death defied Spirit ever at my side.  
From inflowing to ebb tide.  
From ebbing to inflowing tide.  
Ever with me abide. Amen.*

May the glory of these Summer days, reveal something of God's love for us and inspire us to praise him day by day in all that we do.

With Love and Blessings

*Judith*

## Christian Aid

**Thank you** very much to everyone who was able to support our collection, this year, for Christian Aid. Kaye and Darra created a very eye-catching display in the Hall at church which put us all into the right frame of mind. With no collection held in church last year, people were very generous this year.

We had donations made by envelopes sent out with the bulletin, on-line giving, some door-to-door envelope collections, boxes and church envelopes. With added in Gift Aid this came to a great total of £435!!

We know how much charities rely on our generosity and giving of what we have to help others.

Thank you.



## Worship & Church in June and beyond

If all goes to plan nationally, the last Sunday in June will see us released from all Covid restrictions. This will be a time of joy for many people. We expect not to be compelled to wear face-coverings in church, to be able to greet each other physically, to sit where we like and to be able to sing together again. Many people will be really pleased about the last easing of restrictions but it's important that we remember, before we act, that some of us will still be hesitant, uncertain and anxious. It will be good for us to continue to behave carefully and responsibly, respecting others' space when they need it and not to assume that everyone wants a handshake, hug or sitting next to. The re-introduction of all aspects of church life may take a little while and if there's anything you're not sure about, or concerned about, please speak to one of the clergy team.

Meanwhile, during June, we continue to keep ourselves and everyone else safe! Face-coverings, hand sanitizer, track and trace, social distancing and everything else we've been doing in church, continues.



Our Sunday services continue with the Eucharist at 10.45am with hymns sung alone by the choir. Our weekday Daily Prayers continue at 9am (on St Thomas' Facebook page) and 5pm (on St James' Facebook page). Baptisms and funerals are taking place in church with up to 40 people attending and weddings can go ahead too (not that we have any due to take place just yet).



**From July ...** we'll see the return of the Eucharist on a Tuesday morning at St James' and Thursday mornings at St Thomas', both at 10am.

Food and social events will begin to return once we get to July. Our Wednesday lunches come to an end at the end of June. From July, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays see the *Eat & Meet* lunch return at St James, at 12pm. This is a 3-course homemade sit-down lunch for £5 and all are welcome. You'll be able to book in but there's always enough for anyone to turn up who has forgotten to book. You'll find a sign-up sheet in church or give Fr David a call – 07539 264279.



On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, St Thomas' Refectory café will be up and running, albeit in the Church Hall for the next few months. This will be between 11am and 1pm. There will a *soup of the day* with sandwiches, a hot meal choice, cakes and drinks.

Please keep alert to more information as it becomes available but please, also, look forward to getting back together, catching up, eating and worshipping together.



*"Let us now stand and murder hymn number 147."*

## A new chapter of ministry

Fr Andrew has been with us for just about a year now. He began as a Licensed Lay Minister as Covid delayed his ordination. This took place in September and Andrew became Fr Andrew, ordained deacon by Bishop Philip.

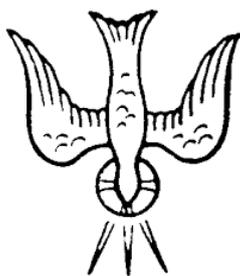


On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, at 10.30am, in Blackburn Cathedral, Andrew will be ordained priest by the Bishop of Blackburn. This is such an important and special day for anyone who has been through the long process of discernment and training as Andrew has. It will be a time of great celebration in our parishes, and in the whole Church.

The service, usually packed out in the cathedral, will be live-streamed so that we can all share the experience and hold Andrew in our prayers as he receives the gift of the Holy Spirit and the authority of the Church for the work of a priest. There are limited seats in the cathedral and, obviously, Fr Andrew will want his own family and friends close by him at this time.

The following day, Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July, at 4pm, Fr Andrew will preside at the Eucharist for the first time. This will be a great event and we hope that all of Andrew's church family will attend to be part of this major event in his life. We hope there will be much singing, a guest preacher, much joy and a time, following the service, to share in refreshments and be together.

More information will be available before the event but, in the meantime, please keep Fr Andrew, and all to be ordained this Pentecost, in your prayers.



***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  
called to be deacons and priests;  
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.***

## Are all welcome in this place?

There is a story told in all four Gospels. Jesus is at a dinner party. In Matthew and Mark, the scene is set in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper. Luke has it slightly different, in the home of Simon the Pharisee. We can imagine that the guests were all men. A woman enters. She is looked down on. Luke even refers to her as a *sinner*. She is certainly an outsider. The woman comes in from the city and stands behind Jesus, at his feet, weeping, wetting his feet with her tears and drying them with her hair and kissing them in humility and devotion. The woman anoints Jesus with costly and fragrant oil. The on-lookers are appalled – the waste, the brazenness, the touching, the impertinence!



I wonder how one of us might have felt watching this scene play out in front of us?

In the Gospel of Luke, Simon questions the identity of Jesus, *If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner* (Luke 7.39). The faith of this man has been shaken to the extent that he's no longer sure who this Jesus man is.

What is really happening, though, is that divine generosity is being played out. The woman, who was uninvited is more generous and hospitable towards Christ than the man in whose home he eats. The man has offered home and table but hasn't welcomed Jesus in his heart. Jesus responds to his host,

*I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.*

*Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love.*

(Luke 7.44-46)

In this powerful story, the uninvited, unwanted, looked-down-upon woman reveals to the pompous and pious man who this Jesus really is. She has, inadvertently, shown the host something he could not have imagined about the nature of Jesus, and the breadth of God's love, mercy and forgiveness.



It is stories like this one in the Gospels that teach us how to be as Christians, and how to be as members of the Church. In Christ, in the Church, there is no outsider. No one *belongs* any more than anyone else. It can be a really painful experience for those who are made to feel less valued than others.

The world has come a long way in the last few decades. We've become more alert to difference of many kinds but it's really useful to re-visit, from time to time, to check that how we each speak, behave and react doesn't make anyone else, especially as Christians, like second-class people. The woman in the story, although different, uninvited, and an outsider, was the one who would help others to see who Jesus really was. What might we learn from being with people different to ourselves?

So that we can learn, so that we can appreciate the richness of what God has created and designed in each person, we need to keep in mind that in God there is no difference. All are equal, in every way we can think of.

Fr Andrew has chosen a special hymn for his first celebration of the Eucharist in July. It's one which we've not sung before but which we'll learn together. I hope that we can sing it with sincerity and truth, always, in our churches:

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live.  
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace.  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true.  
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace.  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where love is found, in water, wine and wheat.  
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space,  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us;

*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone.  
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face.  
Let us bring an end to fear and danger;

*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard.  
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace.  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter;

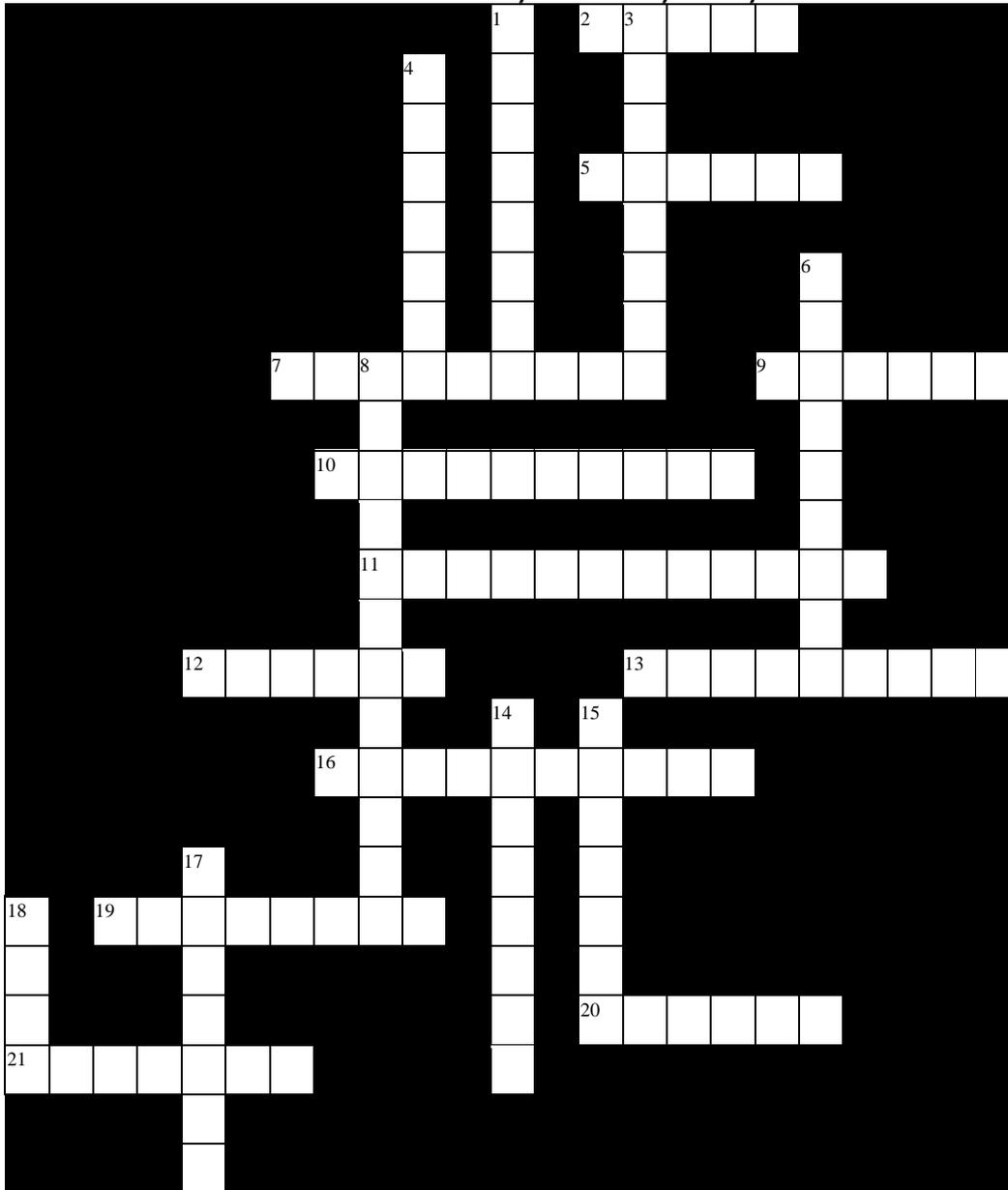
*All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*



## Puzzle this

**A home-made crossword this month (hope it works!).**

*How well do you know your hymns?!*



### Across

- 2 Gracious Spirit, Holy ...
- 5 O, in what ... pain they met
- 7 Most ancient of all ...
- 9 Who so beset him round with ... stories
- 10 Jesu, thou art all ...
- 11 In our day of ..., one psalm let us offer
- 12 Under the ... of thy throne
- 13 Eternal ..., king most high
- 16 Lord of all ... , Lord of all grace
- 19 What Christ's mother sang in ...
- 20 To this ..., where we call thee
- 21 He paints the ... flower

### Down

- 1 A ... they save
- 3 O worship the Lord in the beauty of ....
- 4 Stand up for Jesus! The ... call obey
- 6 O save me from the snares of hell, thou ... of the dead
- 8 and o'er its own ... weeps with loathing
- 14 ..., sing to Jesus
- 15 Our shield and defender, the ... of days
- 17 ... in the garden
- 18 Praise God, from whom all blessings ...

# The views from our schools: St James'

## What has been going on?

### **Mental Health Awareness Week**

We celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week and created displays to promote wellbeing and positive mental health.

### **National Nurses Day**

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May, we celebrated National Nurses Day. It was of great to take time to recognise the work our wonderful nurses do, especially over the last year. Each year group was given a famous nurse to research.

**Nursery & Reception** - Edith Cavell

**Y1 & Y2** - Mary Seacole

**Y3 & Y4** - Hazel Johnson-Brown

**Y5 & Y6** - Rufaida Al-Aslamia.

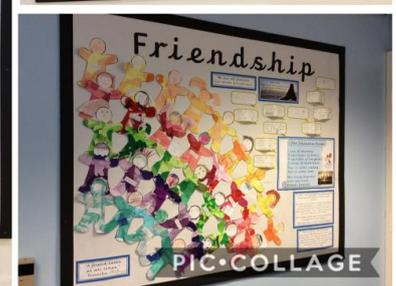
### **School Values**

Across school, each class has also looked in depth at our school values and created a beautiful display of what that means to them.

### **Outdoor learning**

Week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> May is our outdoor learning week. We will be going outdoors to learn together as part of the curriculum. Fingers crossed for sunshine.

## Here are some photos of the wonderful things going on in school:



Dear God, Thank you for nature and the wildlife around us, as it helps us to stay calm (it also looks fabulous!). I am also extremely grateful for my family and friends because they always make me laugh and they help me through tough times. I am sorry for everything I have done wrong and for making terrible mistakes that I shouldn't of done. Please help me and lead me to make the right decisions and to be kind to everyone, every day. Amen

## Crossword Solution

### Across

2 – Ghost; 5 – divers; 7 – mysteries; 9 – dismal; 10 – compassion; 11 – thanksgiving; 12 – shadow; 13 – monarch; 16 – kindness; 19 – gladness; 20 – temple; 21 – wayside

### Down

1 – murderer; 3 – holiness; 4 – trumpet; 6 – quickener; 8 – shortcomings; 14 – alleluya; 15 – ancient; 17 – walking; 18 - flow



## Hymn of the month ... How Great Thou Art

Carl Gustav Boberg (1885)

This hymn is a prayer, a plea, and a declaration of God's infinite greatness. This hymn was written by Carl Gustav Boberg, a 26-year old pastor in Sweden. As the story goes, Boberg was caught in a thunderstorm one Sunday afternoon after church. From his perch in the mountains, Boberg watched as the storm swept in with a bolt of lightning and massive clap of thunder. The storm hurtled through the meadows and grain fields, reverberating across the countryside with the sound of its astounding power. After the storm, pastor Boberg looked out his windows overlooking Mönsterås Bay. A rainbow spread

across the sky, the birds were singing, the church bells were softly tolling, and Carl was overwhelmed by God's power and majesty. The result was an outpouring of adoration and worship in the writing of the song, *O Store Gud*. The hymn made a circuit of translations, German, Russian, and English, and picked up a verse from an English missionary Stuart K. Hine in 1949. Now, the hymn is sung by millions of Christians in dozens of languages, all praying the same heartfelt prayer of "humble adoration, "My God, how great Thou art!"

