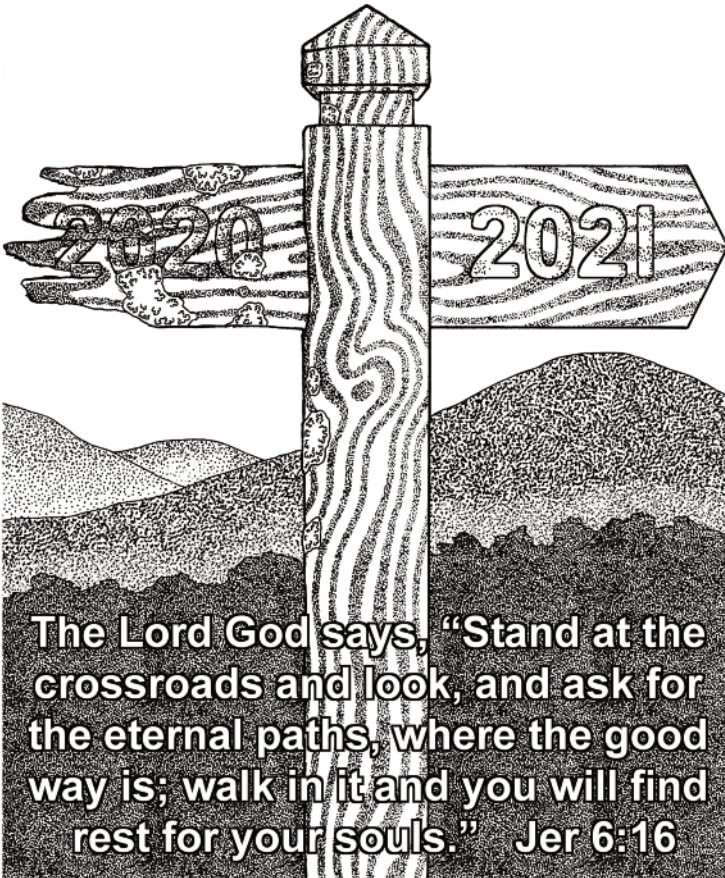


January 2021
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SAINTS ALIVE



The Lord God says, "Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the eternal paths, where the good way is; walk in it and you will find rest for your souls." Jer 6:16

ALL SAINTS

The Parish Magazine
of All Saints' Parish Church,
Cheadle Hulme

INFORMATION PAGE

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Holy Communion (2nd in month)
10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Evensong

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion

Thursday 10.00am.
Holy Days to be announced.

Matins

Daily at 9.00am.



CONFESSION AND SPIRITUAL COUNSELLING

By arrangement with the Clergy.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BAPTISMS, BANNS AND WEDDINGS

All enquiries to Rev'd Sarah Hancock (485 3455).

MOTHERS' UNION

Corporate Communion 10.00am on the 2nd Thursday in Church. Details of all meetings are in Saints Alive and weekly notices. See Notice Board.

MENS' SOCIETY

Monthly meetings on the 1st Thursday, September to May, at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room.
Chairman: Mr Bradley Torbitt (486 9387).
Secretary: Mr Mike Parry (485 7886).

FRIDAY CLUB

Fortnightly meetings on Friday evening usually in the Meeting Room at 7.30pm. Open to women of all age groups. Chairman is Lily Mitchelhill (485 5187) Secretary is Julia Ball (440 8647)

JAMES GROUP

The James Group exists to encourage the Church's ministry of healing, and the practice of regular intercession for the sick. The branch meets monthly to say an Office of Intercession: there is also a monthly Corporate Communion. For further information please contact: The Secretary: Pat Yates (485 4546).

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Secretary: Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647).

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Cubs: (7th Cheadle Hulme) Meet on a Friday 6.30pm - 8.00pm at Thorn Grove.
Andrew Thompson
email:andy.thompson@cheadlescouts.org.uk

Beavers: (7th Cheadle Hulme)
Meet on a Friday 6.00pm - 7.15pm in the Parish Rooms. Mrs J. Metcalfe
jacquie.metcalfe@cheadlescouts.org.uk

Brownies: (11th Cheadle Hulme)
Meet on a Monday 6.00pm - 7.15pm at Thorn Grove.
Jo Taylor
brownow11ththeadleulme@yahoo.com

Rainbows: (2nd Cheadle Hulme)
Meet on a Monday 6.00pm - 7.00pm





The Christingle

Every year at All Saints Church, we have a service when we give out Christingle oranges and raise money for the Children's Society. This year things are different and we can't gather and share them out. With powerful symbolism, every aspect of the Christingle has a special meaning pointing to an important truth about Christ.

The **orange** represents the world that God created. The **red ribbon** wrapped around the orange reminds us of God's love for the whole world and Jesus shedding his blood for us on the cross. The **candle** sitting on top of the orange represents Jesus himself, the light of the world, bringing light and hope into dark areas. The **four cocktail sticks** denote the four corners of the earth, north, south, east and west. The **dried fruits or sweets on the sticks** symbolise the four seasons and remind us of God's creation and the bountiful goodness of God's love which extends to everyone. God's loves us all and the Christingle is a wonderful visual aid to remind us of that.

The origins of the Christingle service lie in the Moravian Church which has its roots in what is now Germany and the Czech Republic. Its first recorded use was in 1747, seeking a novel way to tell the Christian story. Christingle services were introduced into the UK by The Children's Society in 1968 and over the years we have raised money to help fund the valuable work they do in supporting vulnerable children and young people.

You can find out how to make a donation on the Children's Society website.

Does anyone reflect on the message of Christingle once the service is over? Has anyone become a Christian as a direct result of a Christingle service? Who can say? But in that moment when the Christingles are lit and the lights turned out, leaving just a circle of light in the darkness there is something not only magical, but also profoundly spiritual - a reminder of the divine through which God can speak more powerfully than we can dare to imagine. *Clare Russell, Children and Families Pastoral Worker*

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We must become a ‘simpler, humbler, bolder Church’ – Archbishops



The momentous events of 2020 will have a “profound effect” on the future of the Church of England and our wider society, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said.

In a recent joint address to the General Synod, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell said the Church of England must adapt and put its trust in God to become a “simpler, humbler, bolder Church.” The archbishops’ comments came as they addressed the first online sitting of the General Synod following a legal change to enable it to meet remotely amid

the coronavirus restrictions. They outlined how the coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout are providing the backdrop to huge social changes – here and around the world.

They also singled out how the Black Lives Matter movement and the publication of the IICSA report on abuse had exposed the Church’s own failings and the need to change. Archbishop Justin told Synod: “2020 will be a year that registers in memory and in history. It can be compared with 1929, with 1914, with 1989.

“We are aware that this is a year in which huge changes are happening in our society and consequently in the Church. For let us be clear, there is no possibility of changes in society failing to have a profound effect on the shape, calling and experience of mission in the Church.”

Outlining the dramatic events of 2020, he added:

“These crises are not signs of the absence of God but calls to recognise the presence of the kingdom and to act in faith and courage, simplifying our life focusing on Jesus Christ, looking outwards to the needy and renewing in our cells our call to wash feet, to serve our society and to be the Church for England.”



Archbishop Stephen went on to outline the work of groups set up to discern how the Church of England might respond and change in light of the recent challenges. He told Synod: “If we put our trust in God, and if we learn to love one another, then I believe we can become a simpler, humbler, bolder Church, better able to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.”



World Leprosy Day – 30th January

It is not just Covid-19 that makes other people want to avoid us.

Up to three million people worldwide are living with leprosy, a disease that can separate sufferers from their loved ones for years.

Someone is diagnosed with leprosy every two minutes, and millions of people suffer crippling deformities.

Leprosy Mission was founded to help defeat this terrible disease, and to transform the lives of its victims.

Nowadays this established Christian charity is a global network active in 34 countries across the world.

15 countries have a high burden of leprosy; Leprosy Mission works in 11 of them.

Leprosy Mission works closely with governments, local communities, partner health organisations, the WHO, local NGOs, local churches, and Christian partners. And – you can help! This month you can pray, make a donation, or even consider working with Leprosy Mission. Visit <https://www.leprosymission.org/get-involved>



Time to prepare for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th – 25th January

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

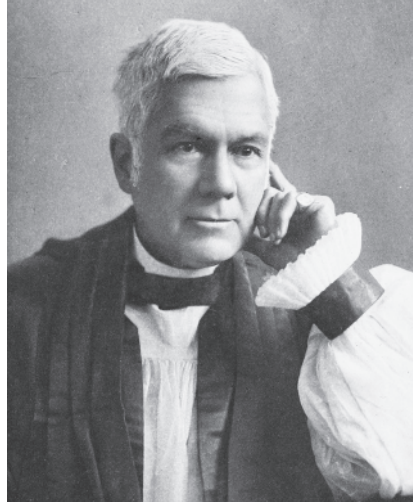
Today the community has 50 sisters, spanning different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. Each year Christian Aid provides the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with 'Go and Do' action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.

More at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>



The Children's Bishop

At this New Year, with its promise of spring flowers and new life, November is a distant memory, of darkening days, dead leaves and, in 2020, lockdown. But November also brought our special day; after Halloween came the peace and reflection of All Saints Day. In happier times we would have sung “For all the saints, who from their labours rest...”, celebrating the lives of our fellow believers who have gone before. It was written by William Walsham How, born in 1823. He was ordained in 1846, and served in Shropshire, becoming Rector of Whittington in 1851.



Walsham How loved parish work, but in 1879 he was persuaded to become a bishop in the diocese of London. Confusingly, his title was Bishop of Bedford, but his ministry was in the East End where his love of children was challenged by the poverty and needs of children and their mothers. He appealed for help to a community of Deaconesses in west London who set up what became the All Saints Deaconess home in Hackney. In 1888 he became Bishop of Wakefield where his concern for parish ministry led to the establishment of new churches in the growing textile towns of the West Riding. His preaching was said to be “straightforward, earnest and attractive”. He wrote many hymns besides “For all the saints . . .”, including:

*“It is a thing most wonderful, almost too wonderful to be,
that God’s own son should come from heaven, and die to save a child like me.”*

It sounds like a typical Victorian children’s hymn, but it goes on to speak of the depth of Christ’s sufferings, and of the frailty of the human heart:

“...but ‘tis more wonderful to see my love for him so weak and poor...”

The “children’s bishop” also wrote, in similar simple language:

*“O my saviour lifted from the earth for me,
draw me in thy mercy, nearer unto thee ...
“Lord, thine arms are stretching ever far and wide,
to enfold thy children to thy loving side...”*

William Walsham How led our praises on All Saints’ Day, and now he points us forward to Good Friday and Easter. *Douglas Scarisbrick*



Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers - 13th January

Heroes are not always men or women of action. Sometimes the fight for right over wrong can be even more powerful when done through words and argument.

Hilary was such a champion of the Christian faith. Born into a wealthy pagan family in Poitiers in 315, he first became an orator of Neo-Platonism. Here he learned how to think and argue, but soon he lost confidence in paganism. By 350, Hilary converted to Christianity.



Already well known and loved in Poitiers, Hilary was made bishop only three years later. His oratorical skills in defence of Christianity were badly needed: it was a time when the Western Church was under severe attack. The heresy of Arianism, which denied that Jesus was divine, was spreading everywhere. Hilary became the outspoken champion of biblical orthodoxy, defending it at both the Synod of Bitterae in 356 and the Council of Seleucia in 359. Although briefly exiled to Phrygia in Asia Minor by the Emperor for his stand, Hilary continued to defend Jesus' divinity, and was praised by both Augustine and Jerome as 'the illustrious teacher of the churches'.

When Hilary returned from exile to Gaul, there was great rejoicing. He continued to write many doctrinal and historical works. He also became the first known writer of hymns in the Western Church, stressing Trinitarian themes and the unique relationship of Christ to the Father.

There are three churches dedicated to Hilary in England. His feast day begins the Hilary Term at the Law Courts and at the universities of Oxford and Dublin.

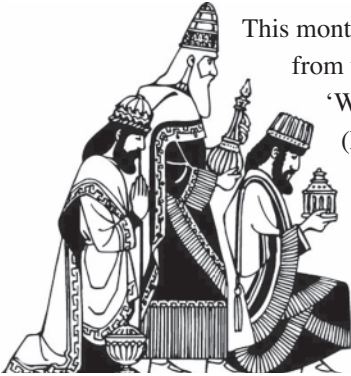
A New Year's resolution-prayer Following in His footsteps

Almighty eternal, just and merciful God, grant us the desire to do only what pleases you, and the strength to do only what you command. Cleanse our souls, enlighten our minds, and inflame our hearts with your Holy Spirit, that we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

St Francis of Assisi (1182 – 1226)



Epiphany for today



This month we celebrate Epiphany, when we remember the Magi from the East who followed a star to find the baby Jesus: ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?’ (Matthew 2:1).

At the start of a New Year, amid the uncertainty of the pandemic, are we asking the same question? The gifts they offered show us how we can find Him in the uncertainty of the coming year: ‘they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.’(2:11).

The gift of gold reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate all that we are and do to Him?

The gift of frankincense reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God’s people and so this gift reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer, as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this time?

The gift of myrrh reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby’s birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and was a spice used in His tomb.



As we face the trials and the sufferings of this New Year, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands all our experiences. Are we ready to trust Him?

‘Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice! Heav’n sings Hallelujah: Hallelujah the earth replies.’ (‘We Three Kings’).



Overcoming disappointment

'We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.'

(Martin Luther King, Jr)

During this current pandemic, one of the dominant emotions is disappointment. It comes out of our expectations of life, even as people of faith. The life story that we adopt for ourselves is that life should be long and healthy; we can become anything we want, and we have perfect families, homes, holidays and retirement! No wonder we're disappointed when things don't work out like this, especially during the pandemic.

Jesus tells the story of a wealthy farmer, living the good life (Luke: 12:13-21), when God says: 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

It's a very modern story, as this farmer's expectations of the future took no account of death or God. Like death, there are unexpected moments that interrupt our life story, including illness, redundancy, divorce, or the pandemic.

If we pay more attention to how Covid upsets us, we can discern where we have set our hearts. What life story are we really living for? What are our expectations for work, family and friends, health, God or church?



At the end of His parable, Jesus offers this challenge: 'This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.' (21).

At the beginning of a New Year, are we ready to align our story more to God's story for us? Reflect on Jesus' parable, asking how God can be at the heart of our life story.

What words would we like to see written on our gravestone when we die, describing the way that we've lived our life? With God's help, those words can reflect our life today!

Christ is the great central fact in the world's history. To Him everything looks forward or backward. All the lines of history converge upon Him. All the great purposes of God culminate in Him. The great and most momentous fact which the history of the world records is the fact of His birth. Charles H Spurgeon

Five things I'd like to see in 2021

I keep hearing people say that 2020 was a 'year like no other.' Friends have been writing a special journal recording the year, so they can pass it on to their grandchildren.

Others just want to leave 2020 behind and look to a happier new year.

Both reactions are completely understandable. But I've been looking ahead to 2021 and thinking about the five top things I'd like to see in the year ahead. I wonder if you'll agree with them or not? Maybe you could put together your own list.

Let's make sure the vaccines are distributed fairly and speedily. Those who need the vaccine most urgently should receive it first, with a fair system for ensuring everyone else can be vaccinated quickly and efficiently. We need to ensure that everyone receives the vaccine wherever they live in the world – from the poorest to the richest. Especially, in those parts of the world where there is war, and people are living as refugees.

Let's learn the lessons of the pandemic – not just going back to how life was, as quickly as possible. Many of us learnt to appreciate our family so very much more – especially when we could not be with them for months on end. We learnt lessons about how important our neighbours and local businesses are, how precious our NHS, medical researchers, care providers and other frontline workers are. Let's not forget them.

Let's value nature. Those of us with gardens, or with parks or fields nearby, have been massively blessed. I've learnt to pay attention to birdsong, to the changing colours of the trees, and how unexpected plants have taken root in our garden. Pets have played a major part in helping us endure the lockdowns, especially for people who live alone. May we all learn to value the natural world on our doorsteps in the year ahead and beyond.

Let's bless technology. Without the use of the internet, meeting people 'online' or keeping in touch via email, Facetime or other technologies, 2020 would have been a whole lot tougher. Churches across the country moved their Sunday services online, and soon adapted to a different way of worshipping – not the same, but still helping us to worship together and see familiar faces. Let's continue to give thanks for the science that made that contact possible in 2020.

Let's value our church family. Imperfect we may be, like any family. But the months without being physically able to worship with them, share communion with them, sing alongside them have been hard. I value so much how many churches have risen to the pandemic challenge and sought to serve their communities in all kinds of ways. May we take all this experience into 2021 and build upon it.

Whatever 2021 holds for you and all those that you love, I pray that you may know the love of God in your life, and be able to pass it on to others.



Martin Luther and the Diet of Worms – 500 years on

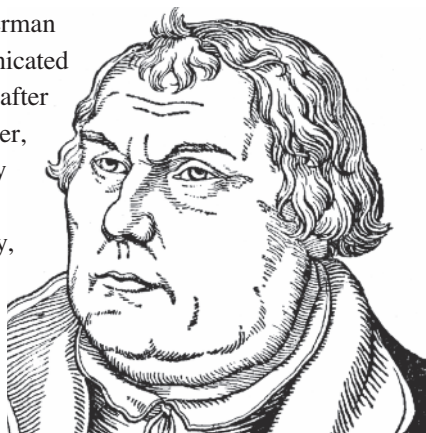
Five hundred years ago, on 3rd January 1521, German Protestant reformer Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Leo X after he refused to recant his writings. A few weeks later, on 23rd January, the Diet of Worms was called by the Holy Roman Empire and ran until 25th May.

This amusingly titled event (Diet means assembly, and Worms is a city in the Rhineland) culminated in the Edict of the Diet of Worms, which declared that Luther was a heretic, and banned his writings.

Luther was a monk and professor of biblical interpretation at the University of Wittenberg

who came to oppose the Church's corrupt practice of selling indulgences for the forgiveness of sins. His 95 theses, which he is famous for nailing to a church door in 1517 – though some historians doubt that it actually happened – were based on the belief that salvation is by grace through faith and cannot be bought by cash or actions, however good.

Luther was defiant and was supported by powerful princes. He lived until 1546 and with others brought about the Reformation, though he would doubtless have been amazed at the sheer number and variety of different Protestant denominations (including various forms of Lutheranism) that would trace their origin to his actions.



...Rodney, I've been meaning to have a word with you about your carbon footprint!

Holocaust Memorial Day calls for ‘light in the darkness’ of today

It was 25 years ago this month, on 27th January 1996, that the first Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed in Germany. It became International Holocaust Day in 2005 when it was adopted by the United Nations. It marks the day (27th January 1945) when the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration/death camp was liberated.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) in 2021 is ‘Be the light in the darkness’. The aim is to encourage people to “reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to ‘be the light’ before, during and after genocide.”

HMD is encouraging people to heed the ‘Be the light in the darkness’ theme as a call to action. “The utterly unprecedented times through which we are living currently are showing the very best of which humanity is capable but also – in some of the abuse and conspiracy theories being spread on social media – the much darker side of our world as well.

“We can all stand in solidarity. We can choose to ‘be the light in the darkness’ in a variety of ways and places – at home, in public, and online.” More at: www.hmd.org.uk

Tearfund helping the vulnerable

This past year, with coronavirus spreading in some of the world’s poorest communities, the UK Christian relief charity Tearfund has been busier than ever.

Worldwide, millions of people have been locked down and unable to work, and thus unable to buy food. Refugees are stranded in crowded camps with little access to clean water or basic items like soap to protect themselves against the virus.

Tearfund is working in more than 50 countries, and this past year alone has reached 1.5 million people with help of various kinds. It also installed 1,783 hand-washing stations, distributed 83,476 hygiene kits, and sent out 271,790 personal hygiene messages.

A Tearfund spokesman says: “We are doing all we can to stand with the most vulnerable people at this time. We are adapting our programmes and finding new ways to safely support people in need.”





The Fourth Gift

*The fourth gift they had was
Wisdom,
The one they needed for themselves
And the world.*

*Wisdom
To leave the familiar
In search of a new security
More precious than the gifts they gave.*

*Wisdom
To discover, in the starlit child,
A significance above
Gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

*Wisdom
And the eyes of faith
To receive God's showing
Of His Son.*

*The gifts we read about
Were three,
But the fourth gift they had was
Wisdom.*

Daphne Kitching



Happy New Year

*(An acrostic poem where the first letter of
each line spells out the title of the poem)*

Heaven's gift of another year
As the old departs and the new is born,
Plans for a future and a hope
Preparing us for each new dawn.

Yesterday has gone forever,
New days and ventures lie ahead,
Even darkness turns to light
When we make the Lord our head.

Yielding to the Holy Spirit
Ever mindful that He's there,
As we live our lives before Him
Rejoicing in His loving care.

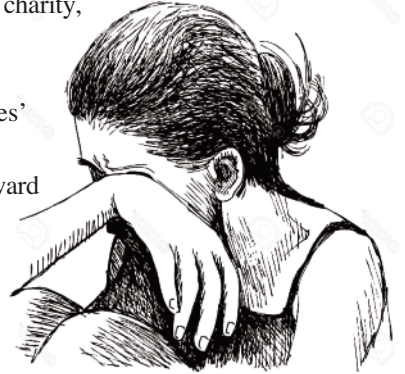
Megan Carter



UK's leading Christian philanthropy charity backs government report

Stewardship, the UK's leading Christian philanthropy charity, has recently backed a report by leading back-bench MP Danny Kruger, calling for a 'levelling up of our communities' and a 'New Deal for Faith Communities' in the UK.

Commissioned by No 10 Downing Street to bring forward proposals in light of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Danny Kruger consulted Church leaders and leading Christian charities such as Stewardship, the Evangelical Alliance, yourneighbourhood.org and others.



He has now urged Government and Public Servants to take new opportunities to work with faith communities at the very heart of their local communities.

In his report 'Levelling Up Our Communities: proposals for a new social covenant', Mr Kruger reminds Ministers that before the NHS and Welfare State was invented, it was often faith communities, especially the churches, which were at the heart of local health, edu-

cation and social care, and that they remain key players – but are often widely underused, and valued by the Government. Now, the MP says that church and faith leaders have made a 'grand offer' to work together to raise £500 million over the next five years, on top of the Church of England's £900 million already pledged, taking the church investment in the recovery of our nation to £1.4 billion over five years.

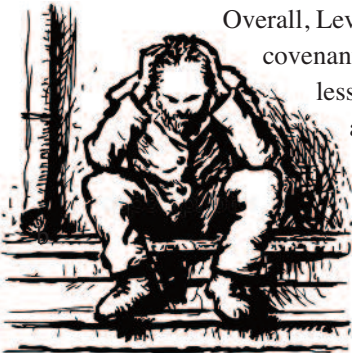
Given this 'grand' and generous offer, in his report, Mr Kruger calls on the Government to implement a number of radical proposals in the light of the need to re-build society again after the effects of Covid-19.

His key proposals include:

- Churches mobilise the congregation's resources to help resolve one or more besetting local social problems. This may include debt, childcare, personal rehabilitation, rough sleeping etc. and in return, churches are able to access Government grants and support. *(Continued on page 13)*



- A call for greater Private Philanthropy (the MP claims that of those earning over £250,000 a year, 2/3rds do not give to charity).
- The Government should consider the option of a new, national Civic Crowd-funding programme to tackle local and regional social problems.
- The Government commit to a new Community Recovery Fund, building on the £750 million given to local authorities to handle Covid-19.
- Renewing the National Lottery Community Fund.
- A Volunteer Passport Scheme, matching demand and supply for volunteers in local communities a key
- A 'Community Power Act' to give local people power over the design and delivery of public services, and 'Pop-up parishes' with time-limited powers and freedoms to innovate
- An annual Neighbourhood Day, in the form of a Bank Holiday, celebrating the contribution of charities and voluntary work in the community/nation



Overall, Levelling up our communities: proposals for a new social covenant sets out a vision for a more local, more human, less bureaucratic, less centralised society in which people are supported and empowered to play an active role in their neighbourhoods.

Stewart McCulloch, CEO of Stewardship, who has been working with Mr Kruger on the report said: "The role of communities, civil society and the Church is essential in creating a better society ahead as this storm passes. There is a Tsunami of need for practical help and Gospel hope that is only just coming into view. The Church must step forward to aid the poor, the vulnerable and the anxious at this historic time. Danny's report sets out a national manifesto for community led recovery; our job is now to equip the church to rise to this historic set of challenges and opportunities and we are ready and committed to doing so."

More at: <https://www.dannykruger.org.uk/communities-report>

There is nothing stronger than gentleness. Ralph W Sockman

Speak your kind words soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.

Anonymous

It is what we do with our solitude that makes us fit for company. CS Lewis

The Lord's Prayer and you in 2021

I cannot pray '**our**' if I am not in communion with fellow Christians.

I cannot pray '**Father**' if I do not treat Him as such, on a daily basis.

I cannot pray '**Who are in Heaven**' if all my interests are on earthly things.

I cannot pray '**hallowed by thy name**' if I am not striving, with God's help, to be holy myself.

I cannot pray '**Thy Kingdom come**' if I don't live as if I am within His kingdom now.

I cannot pray '**Thy Will be Done**' if I am disobedient to His commands.

I cannot pray '**on earth as it is in Heaven**' unless I am truly ready to give my life to God's service here and now.

I cannot pray '**give us this day our daily bread**' if I am not also willing to work for it, and to share with my neighbour in need.

I cannot pray '**forgive us our trespasses** as we forgive those who trespass against us' if I harbour a grudge against anyone.

I cannot pray '**lead us not into temptation**' if I deliberately remain somewhere where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot pray '**Thine is the Kingdom**' if I live as if the world is my kingdom.

I cannot pray '**Thine is the power and the glory**' if I am seeking power for myself and my own glory.

I cannot pray '**forever and ever**' if all my attention is on daily affairs.

I cannot pray '**Amen**', unless I honestly say, 'Cost what it may, this is my prayer.'



Amy Carmichael, founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship



Not many teenagers, on becoming a Christian, will devote themselves to winning others for Christ in a foreign land. Amy was such a person. She left Britain to live in a tiny village in Southern India. Here, for the next 56 years, Amy rescued hundreds of orphaned and vulnerable children, and served her Lord in Dohnavur.

Amy Wilson Carmichael had been born in Ireland on 16th December 1867, into a devoutly religious Presbyterian family in Belfast. When she was 16, Amy had become a Christian, and decided to start a mission for mill girls. When she came into contact with the Keswick movement, she sensed a call to serve abroad.

At first, Amy planned to go to China, but ill health prevented her from travelling. Later, for 15 months, she worked in Japan, but the climate was detrimental to her health. In 1895, she went to India to evangelise around Bangalore, and then, in order to escape rising political violence, she moved on to Dohnavur.

Here she met a girl called Preena, who had escaped being a slave in a Hindu temple. From that moment, Amy knew she had found her true calling. She dedicated the rest of her life to rescuing girls and boys who had been given by parents or relatives to serve in the temple as prostitutes.

Amy donned Indian dress and learnt about the Hindu culture and showed the love of Christ through her compassion. Overcoming much hardship and danger, Amy expanded her evangelistic work to establish a centre for homes, schools and a hospital. The Dohnavur Fellowship still continues today.

In 1931, Amy suffered a severe injury that virtually confined her to bed for the next 20 years. Despite this, she wrote 13 of her 35 books and many thousands of letters. Amy based her life on prayer and trusted God for all her needs. She died on 18th January 1951, aged 83.



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Prayer for New Year 2021

Dear Father God,

Here we are, nervously wobbling on the brink of this New Year. All our hopes, expectations, plans and possibilities for last year stolen by the relentless pandemic. The landscape of our lives has been shaken and changed, Lord. Nothing is the same. Normality has been redefined. 2020 was a year like no other. How dare we move into the uncertainty of 2021?

Lord, we dare – because of the one, wonderful certainty we do have – that You have been with us through it all. Thank you that You sent Jesus to save us, to offer us that bigger reality of life for all eternity – if we put our trust in Him, Jesus, who never changes. You promise that You will never leave us or forsake us. We will be able to navigate the challenges lie ahead, if we keep our eyes on Jesus, our compass; if we trust His Holy Spirit to lead us, however strange and unfamiliar the days of 2021 may be. You are with us! You are with us! You are with us!

Thank you, Lord of the years, that You know and love each one of us, and that we are safe in Your hands. We can go forward.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Daphne Kitching

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ALL SAINTS CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2.30pm in the Church Meeting Room. We learn new skills and practise old ones. Tea/coffee, biscuits and good company are always on offer. **Please join us when meetings begin again.**

All are welcome. For further details please contact Frances Pickett on 0161 439 8890.



All Saints' Website and Facebook



Keep up to date with news and events on the All Saints' website. Find out about our charity work, community groups and listen to recent sermons.



Please contact Sarah Ball on: comms@allsaintsheadleholme.org.uk with any stories and updates.

Find All Saints' on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsCH/> and "Like" us to get notifications about our news and events.



Church Open

**Saturday Coffee Mornings have been postponed
for the immediate future.**



MEN'S SOCIETY

Monthly meetings on the first Thursday, September to May, at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room (unless otherwise stated). After the talk there is a short question and answer session followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

Due to the implementation of measures to combat the Coronavirus pandemic all meetings have been cancelled. Further details will be posted when available.

Although this group is attended by men, if you are interested in hearing any of the speakers you will be most welcome to come along.

Chairman: Bradley Torbitt (0161 486 9387)

Secretary: Mike Parry (0161 485 7886)

Where do we go from here?

Perhaps this was a question the Wise Men asked after seeing the infant Jesus. They had come from a distant land to Jerusalem. They had followed a star and expected to see a royal child. Now in Bethlehem, they saw things differently. No doubt, Mary and Joseph shared with these men their recent experiences and knew God was with them. Now the Magi had to have eyes of faith to recognise that this child was God in the flesh.

On 6th January many churches will celebrate Epiphany. On this day we remember the Eastern Men bringing their gifts to Jesus.

The word 'epiphany' describes their 'revelation' or 'insight' that this was no ordinary baby. Who could they tell? Not King Herod. They had a dream warning them to return home a different way.

Their return to familiar surroundings was going to be different. They couldn't be silent about what they had experienced. Their lives were now changed. On returning home they faced new circumstances and challenges.

Doesn't this sound a bit familiar to us today? The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all of us in one way or another. Where do we go from here? We have celebrated our Lord's birth, but now we are returning to our previous activities. The festive break is over, and we are returning to changed, very difficult circumstances.

We go into a New Year that is so different from this time last year. While we might be downcast with all the upsets around us, there is one thing that has not changed.

It is almighty God! He is our rock. We can look to Him in this world of confusion and uncertainty. Perhaps, from now on, we shall be worshipping and serving Him in different ways. So, with the challenges that lie ahead, let's continually seek His guidance. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding... and He will make your paths straight.* (Proverbs 3:5-6)



Great little one! Whose all-embracing birth lifts Earth to Heaven, stoops Heaven to Earth.

Richard Crashaw



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Visitor numbers to England's cathedrals grew prior to lockdown

England's cathedrals continue to play a huge role in the worship, heritage, and civic life of the country according to the latest figures from the Church of England.

In 2019, 1.3 million people attended services at cathedrals across the country and England's cathedrals also attracted nearly 10 million visitors a year.

In 2019, a weekly total of 37,300 people attended cathedral services – an increase of 13% from 2009. While Sunday attendance remained stable, attendance at midweek services grew by 35% over the decade.

Christmas and Advent service attendance also rose over the same 10-year period, with 2019 showing record high reported numbers for advent events including carol services, concerts and nativity plays. In all, cathedrals reported a total of 9.7 million visitors in 2019, just below the highest-ever figure of 10.1 million reported in 2018.

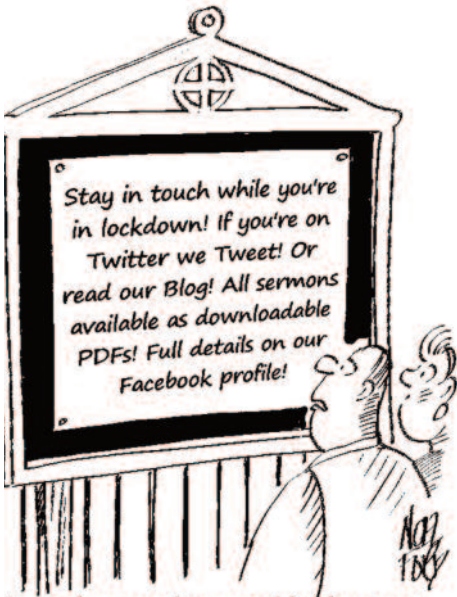


Much-needed support grants totalling £17.5 million have so far been received from Government, alongside additional contributions from Charities and the Church Commissioners in 2020. These have helped cathedrals to cope with the shortfall in visitor numbers caused by measures to minimise the spread of Covid-19.

Since Covid-19, cathedrals have found new ways to engage worshippers. Every cathedral able to re-open

to the public has achieved the Visit Britain' standard and consumer charter mark 'Good to Go' which means visitors can be confident that cathedrals are taking all the necessary steps to help ensure people's safety. Meanwhile, across the Church of England, more than 17,000 online services and events have been provided following the introduction of the lockdown and restrictions on public worship in March.





"...and we used to grumble about not understanding archaic church language!"



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Parish Calendar and Registers

SERVICES

Most of our services are of course 'on hold' at the moment, but services of Holy Communion were able to resume on Sunday July 19th at 10.00am.

These were shorter than usual, but a sermon, prayers and a reading have now been added. As you know, we are unable to sing together in church, but Trevlyn will be playing the organ.

Private prayer sessions will continue on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 11.00am. Please follow the signs, social distancing and recommended hygiene whenever you are visiting. More details are available on our website.



We're keeping our Coronavirus updates page on the All Saints website as current as possible. Keep checking there and on the All Saints Facebook page for further news.

If you know anyone who needs shopping; prayers or simply a conversation please call Rev Janet on 0161 312 4683 or our Churchwardens Janet Ashman 0161 485 7969 and John Ackerley 0161 486 1419.

The Wild Waves A Pilgrim's Plea

Shall I abandon, O King of mysteries, the soft comforts of home? Shall I turn my back on my native land, and my face towards the sea?

Shall I put myself wholly at your mercy, without silver, without a horse, without fame and honour? Shall I throw myself wholly on you, without sword and shield, without food and drink, without a bed to lie on?

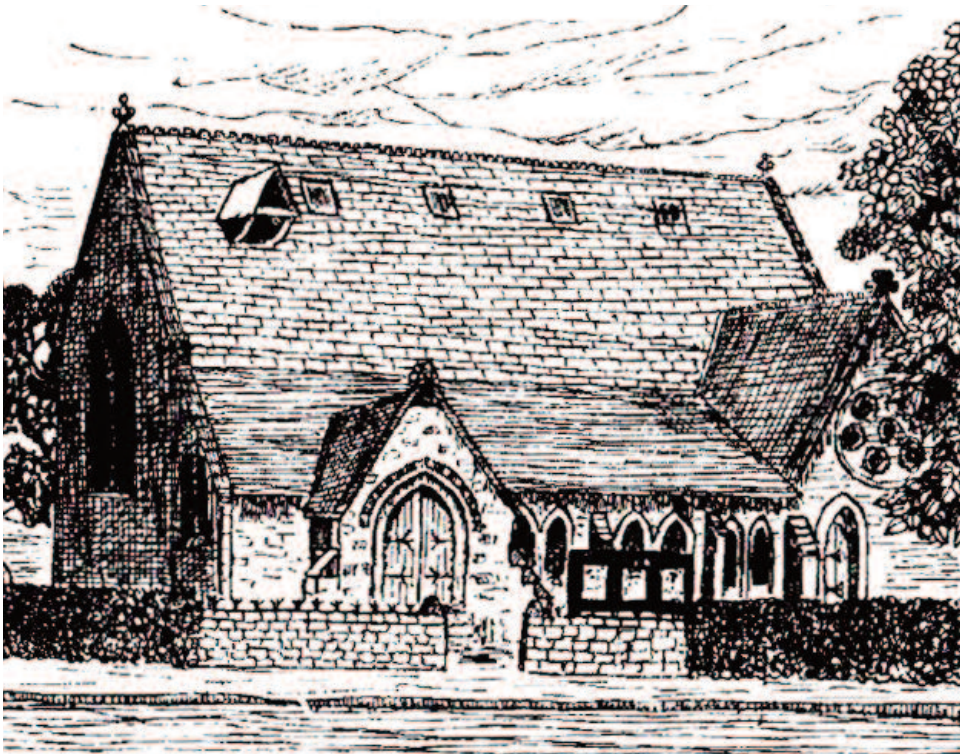
Shall I say farewell to my beautiful land, placing myself under your yoke? Shall I pour out my heart to you, confessing my manifold sins and begging forgiveness, tears streaming down my cheeks?

Shall I leave the prints of my knees on the sandy beach, a record of my final prayer in my native land? Shall I then suffer every kind of wound that the sea can inflict?

Shall I take my tiny coracle across the wide sparkling ocean? O King of the glorious heaven, shall I go of my own choice upon the sea? O Christ, will you help me on the wild waves?

Attributed to St Brendan





Christian Stewardship

The Parish practises the principles of Christian Stewardship in its giving for the work of God. If you are interested to learn more about it please contact the Recorder, Kate Hughes (485 1010), the Vicar or the Churchwardens. The giving of time and talents is encouraged, If you wish to help in some capacity in the Church services or organisations, in improving or maintaining the Church fabric or grounds, or in visiting and helping the sick or housebound, please speak to the Clergy or the Churchwardens.



All Saints Cheadle Hulme

PARISH DIRECTORY

Clergy: *The Rev'd Sarah Hancock, All Saints Vicarage, 27 Church Road SK8 7JL (485 3455)
The Rev'd Janet Owens (Retired) (312 4683)

Readers: Mrs Pat Yates (485 4546)
Mr Michael Aiers (439 7692)

Church Wardens: *Mrs Janet Ashman (485 7969)
*Mr John Ackerley (486 1419)

Deputy Wardens: *Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647)
*Ms Sarah Ball (07966 146746)

Organist: Miss Trevlyn Thomas (485 8026)

Sacristan: *Mrs Janet Valentine (439 8203)

P.C.C. Vice Chairman and Treasurer: *Mr Jeremy Valentine (439 8203)

P.C.C. Secretary: *Mrs Linda Ackerley (486 1419)

Planned Giving and Gift Aid Secretary: *Mrs Kate Hughes (485 1010)

Mainly Music Co-ordinator and Child Protection Officer: *Mrs Clare Russell (486 9304)

Church Room Bookings: Mr Neville Ashman (485 7969)

Parish Rooms Bookings: Ms Joanna Parsons, Parish Room Cottage, Church Road, SK8 7JB
(485 2596)

Electoral Roll Officer: Dr David Jones (01625 850997)

Parish Magazine Editor: Mr Rhys Davenport (485 6772) Email: seed.design@mail.com

Website and Social Media: *Ms Sarah Ball Email: comms@allsaintsheadleulme.org.uk

Parish Magazine Secretary and Treasurer:
Mrs Chris Spencer (485 8282)

Deanery Synod Representatives: *Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647)

*Miss Irene Walton (439 6096)

P.C.C. Members are marked* Other members

Mesdames: L. Bacon, M. Epps, C. Jones, L. Karuku, F. Pickett, S. Stone