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SAINTS ALIVE



ALL SAINTS

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

Our Regular Weekly Services

At the moment these are, until further notice: Sunday at 10.00am Parish Communion. At 6.30pm Choral Evensong on the 2nd Sunday of each month and Said Evensong on the 4th Sunday. On Wednesdays the church is open for private prayer at 12.00 noon, followed by Holy Communion at 12.30pm, after which everyone is welcome to stay for a chat and to share a bring-your-own-lunch. Arrangements for baptisms, banns and weddings, confession and spiritual counselling is by arrangement with the Clergy. We understand that for many this is still a difficult period. If you would like prayers or simply a conversation please contact me: Rev Sarah on 0161 485 3455, or email: @allsaintschadlehulme.org.uk. Alternatively, call one of our wonderful Churchwardens, John Ackerley 0161 486 1419 and Janet Ashman on 0161 485 7969.



"St Francis and the Birds"
by Sir Stanley Spencer
(1891 - 1959)
Oil paint on canvas,
painted in 1935
Size: 1713 × 612 mm
The Tate Gallery, London

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church:
25 September Alfie Clifford
2 October Elizabeth and Harry Hawkes

BIBLE SUNDAY

As we acknowledge Bible Sunday this month, it's a good opportunity to ask the question: why should I read the Bible?

The Bible is the world's best-selling book of all time. However, it isn't one book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over a period of 1500 years in a range of literature including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (end times). Despite having a number of different writers, the Bible claims one author: God himself! This is the basis of the unity of its message and authoritative claim to be the primary way by which God speaks to us: 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work' (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired ('the word of God in the words of men') and presents itself as a manual for life, equipping us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us in applying the words to our lives: 'the Spirit will guide you into all truth' (John 16:13).

At her coronation the Queen was given a Bible with the words 'the most precious thing this world affords'. Does this reflect our own attitude to the Bible?

This month we also remember St Luke (18th October), the author of the third Gospel and Book of Acts. Throughout his writing Luke makes clear that the good news of salvation is available to all people regardless of their gender, social position or nationality. It is believed that Luke was a doctor, so he sees the importance of healing in the ministry of Jesus and the Church. The signs of the presence of God's kingdom include the healing of sickness, hurts, as well as unforgiveness.

This is evident when Jesus sends out the 72 in Luke 10, a reading for St Luke's Day: 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field...When you enter a town and are welcomed eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'" (Luke 10:2,8). What challenges do we find in these verses?

Firstly Luke, as a Gentile (a non-Jew) recognises the revolutionary way outsiders are welcomed into the faith community eg Zacchaeus (Luke 19) and Cornelius (Acts 10). How can we engage with those who are outside the community of faith? We have to avoid the tendency to regard ourselves as insiders! As we reach out to those who are ready to welcome the gospel, we have an opportunity to share good news and healing in the name of Jesus.

Secondly, as an Evangelist, Luke wants us to share the love of Jesus with all those we encounter. However, as these verses indicate, this has got to be rooted in prayer, if we are going to be led by God in our response to others. 'Mission is seeing what God is doing and joining in' (Rowan Williams).



Younger people more likely to pray than older generations, survey finds



Younger adults are more likely to pray than older generations, according to a recent survey for the Church of England which shows that nearly half of UK adults report having ever offered up some form of prayer. A third of 18-to-34-year-olds – 32% – say they have prayed in the last month.

By contrast, a minority in the 55+ age group (25%) said they had prayed in the last month. Among those who had ever prayed, the most common topics prayed about were for

friends and family (69%), people they know who are sick (54%) and to give thanks (51%). The Revd Dr Stephen Hance, National Lead for Evangelism and Witness for the Church of England, said: “These findings really challenge the all-too-common assumption that young people are not interested in faith or spiritual things.

“In an age when mindfulness and meditation are more popular than ever, prayer makes sense to people. And with pressures mounting and people of every generation facing huge uncertainty, many people of all ages are drawing strength from God in prayer.

“This also confirms what other research has told us, that while younger people may be under-represented in church, this isn’t a lack of interest in faith. That’s why the Church of England has made engaging young people one of our top priorities for the decade.”



St Francis of Assisi, loving the Creation (4th October)

St Francis (1181 – 1226) is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. He was born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious – until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at the age of 45 and was canonised in 1228.

Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life.

Two ancient and many modern English churches are dedicated to him.



Healing for Today

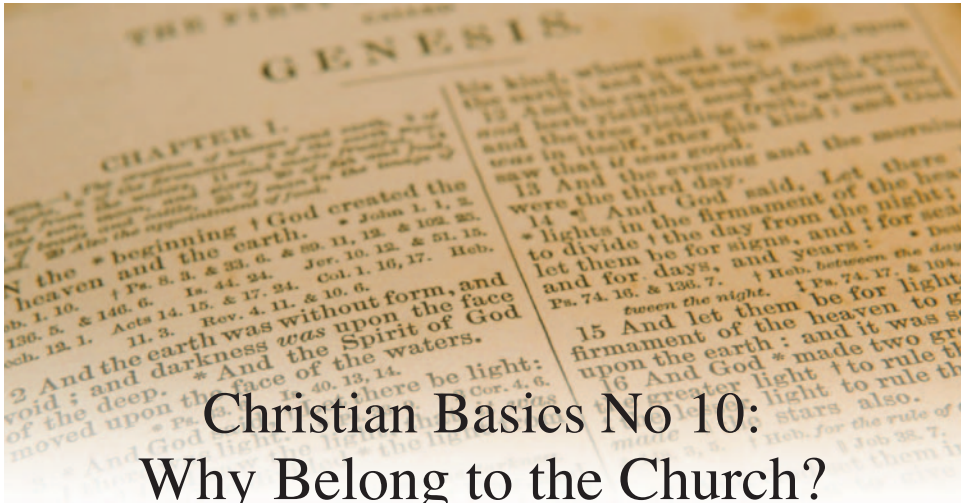
This month we focus on healing, as we remember St Luke (18th October), who was a doctor by profession. The healing of the paralytic man by Jesus (Luke 5: 17-26) gives us some key principles for healing for our lives, as the man was lowered to Jesus through the roof!

Faith: It was the adventurous and persistent faith of man's four friends that brought him to Jesus to be healed. Jesus was the focus of their faith, as they trusted His ability and willingness to transform the man's life. We are also called to such trust, exercising faith in a great God!

Wholeness: Jesus' first words are surprising, "Friend your sins are forgiven" (20). Before anything else, Jesus wants the man's relationship with God to be right. God wants to bring wholeness to our lives, including spiritual, emotional, relational, as well as physical healing. Often, He needs to deal with sin, hurt, unforgiveness, guilt or fear before physical restoration.

Authority: Jesus challenges the Pharisees with the question, "Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?" (23). By healing the man's legs, Jesus not only confirms that He has authority over sin and sickness, but that He is truly God. We can confidently bring all our needs to Him prayerfully 'in the name of Jesus'.

'Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give Your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.' (Collect, Common Worship).



Christian Basics No 10: Why Belong to the Church?

With Halloween coming up, we shouldn't forget that Satan's existence is assumed throughout the Bible and Jesus prayed 'deliver us from the evil one' (Lord's Prayer). Paul adds: 'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms' (Ephesians 6:12).

The spiritual world directly affects the physical, when evil powers oppose God's work. However, God is sovereign and evil can only operate as He permits. We cannot blame Satan for our own wrong choices! 'There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall into about devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.' (CS Lewis).

How does Satan operate in our lives?

By spoiling God's work in us (John 10:10)

By hindering our spiritual understanding (2 Corinthians 4:4)

By sowing doubts into our minds (Matthew 4:3,6)

By tempting us to break God's law (Genesis 3:6)

How do we resist evil? On the cross Jesus secured victory over Satan, 'And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross' (Col 2:15). Although Satan is still active today, his power is broken and he will be destroyed when Jesus returns. In the present we should put God first in our lives: 'Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you'(James 4:7). Making Jesus our Lord, gets Satan on the run!!

'There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan' (CS Lewis).

Reflected Faith Series: the Cross in our churches

I recently read an article which was wondering if Christians actually need a ‘cross’ in our church buildings; or indeed if they were unhelpful in our worship. The major argument against having one, it seems, was that it could become the focus of our worship, and it is not okay to worship idols.

To me this argument is nonsensical. The cross is a graphic reminder of what Jesus Christ has done for us in His death. No one in their senses would dream of worshipping a cross



itself, as it was the most humiliating and debasing form of capital punishment – it was a means of gruesome execution. Christians use crosses in churches to remind people of just how far Jesus was prepared to go to rescue us from what St Paul called ‘the dominion of darkness’. So this Sunday, why not have a look around your local church building, and count how many crosses there are?

I would expect there to be ‘hidden’ crosses where the building was consecrated, and also under the altar itself. There will also be various paperwork, service books, sheets and hymnals which all have the sign of the cross on their covers. Perhaps you have candle holders with crosses sculptured into them. And in most Protestant churches you will see a cross on or above the altar table itself.

Many processions of choir and clergy will be led by a raised cross bearer. And In churches where the Bible is processed into the nave for reading during a service, a cross is also carried. People turn to face these processions as they travel without necessarily understanding which part they are facing: the Cross, the Bible or the Person?

The answer is – we follow the Word of God – the Bible – not the cross.

The same is true in any procession. We stand to honour the clergy in their role as Christ’s servants, not the cross which may be held aloft before them.

This month have a look around your church building – both inside and outside for crosses. What materials are they made from? How extravagant or glamorous are they? Are they Crosses (an ‘empty’ cross) or Crucifixes (this has a representation of Christ hanging on the cross)? How do they aid you in your worship and how much do they reflect your faith?



The story behind "O God, our help in ages past"

*O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!*

*Under the shadow of Thy throne
Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure...*

*A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.*

Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748) is often called the 'Father of English hymnody'. Certainly, before his hymns came along, congregational singing was a tedious business.

Watts was born in July 1674 in Southampton. (At the time of his birth, his father, an educated deacon in a dissenting Congregational church, was briefly in prison for his non-conformist beliefs.) As a boy, Watts showed outstanding ability with language (learning Greek, Hebrew, Latin and French). He also had an unusual ability for easy rhyming in English. (At the age of five, when scolded for giggling in family prayers, it was because he had seen a mouse on the bell-rope, and instantly composed the line: 'There was a mouse, for want of stairs, ran up a rope to say his prayers!')

Watts' literary ability, combined with his interest in theology, made him very unhappy with the congregational singing of the day, which focused almost entirely on strict metrical versions of the psalms. One Sunday after church, Isaac complained to his father about this. His father challenged him to write something better. Though only 18, Watts accepted the challenge, and produced his first hymn – which was duly sung the following Sunday.

It was such a success that he wrote new hymn texts every Sunday for the next two years. In all, he went on to write more than 600 hymns. Some of them are still well-loved today: from this one, 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past', which is a paraphrase of Psalm 90, to 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross', and the Christmas carol 'Joy to the World'.





Learn to ‘wait well’ for things

‘My future is in Your hands...’

In her book, *When, God, When?* Author Joyce Meyer wrote: “God has taught me to keep living the life I now have, while I am waiting for the things that are in my heart to come to pass. We can become so intent on trying to birth the next things, that we neither enjoy nor take care of the things at hand. I had a vision from God ten years before I began to see it fulfilled. During those years, I believe I missed a lot of joy, trying to give it birth outside of God’s timing.”



So why not learn to enjoy where you are, while you’re waiting to get to where you want to be? After all, all your life you will spend more time waiting that you will receiving. And when you receive what you’re waiting for now – you’ll begin waiting for something else. That’s life!

In other words, if we don’t learn to ‘wait well’ we’ll live with endless frustration.

Waiting well will also help us prepare for our dream. The Bible puts it this way: “in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal. 6:9). “Due season” is when God knows we’re ready, not when we think we are. He has set appointments to accomplish certain things in our life, so we might as well settle down and wait patiently, because that’s when it will happen – and not before.

Isn’t it comforting to know that God knows what you need, He knows when you need it and He knows how best to get it to you. All He asks you to do is trust Him.



Animal Welfare Sunday

This year, Animal Welfare Sunday falls on Sunday 2nd October, which is the nearest Sunday to St Francis' feast day on Tuesday 4th. It is a good opportunity to thank God for the animals, and to consider how we might be able to help them.

Christians have been involved in animal welfare reform throughout history. For example, even the RSPCA – the first animal protection society, was founded by an Anglican priest, the Revd Arthur Broome. But many other well-known Christians such as C S Lewis, John Wesley and William Wilberforce also spoke out against animal cruelty. As the Psalmist says in Psalm 148, animals in their amazing variety of species were all created for the glory of God and to praise His name. They were not created for our exploitation and domination.



But sadly, Creation has been abused, and continues to be abused today. The economics of providing us with low-cost chicken, pork, beef and milk can too often result in cruelty towards millions of animals.

These days, The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA), founded over thirty years ago, works to raise awareness of animal welfare issues within the Anglican Church and the wider Christian community.

The society encourages churches to include animal welfare concerns in their prayers.

Worship and Thanksgiving are at the heart

of Christian life and embrace all that God has made. The ASWA encourage and help churches to hold animal blessing services and to be aware of the need to care for God's creation. Through education and lawful action, we advance the conservation and well being of animals and co-operate with other organisations, religious and secular, that have similar aims. If you want to help the welfare of animals in some way, please visit:

www.aswa.org.uk

The dogs appearing in this article are: Amos (top) an English Setter, and Murphy (bottom) an Irish Wolfhound, both incredibly loved members of the Editor's family!

Remembering prisoners during Prisons Week – 9th to 15th October



More than 80,000 people are currently being held in UK prisons. Many of them have caused acute misery and hurt to innocent people, and so it is tempting to forget about them now. But Jesus commanded that we do the opposite – that when it comes to showing compassion, we should include in our care even those who may seem to us to be the least deserving of consideration.

When Jesus said: ‘I was in prison and you visited me,’ (Matt 25:43), He meant something amazing: that when we do any goodness to prisoners in His name, He will reckon that we have shown that kindness to Him. That is quite an incentive to do something for them! The Prisons Week initiative has prepared prayer literature for UK churches to use for more than 40 years, and so is an excellent place to start. The needs for all those affected by prisons: prisoners and victims, their families, their communities, those working and volunteering in prisons and the criminal justice system, are huge and complicated, and need God’s help. As Jonathan Aitken, who works with Prisons Week says: “Almost everyone has a spiritual dimension to their lives, however much they have suppressed it or ignored it. Prison is not a bad place to explore the part of your being which is called the soul. Yes, you have hit a rock-bottom low point. But you will recover from it and can rebuild your life. Be willing to extend or accept the hand of friendship.” More info at: www.prisonsworld.org Prisons Week aims to encourage prayer and awareness of the needs of prisoners and their families, victims of offenders, prisons staff and all those who care, reflected in the Prisons Week Prayer offered throughout the week:

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

We pray for those in prison.

Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

*Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends,
prison staff and all who care.*

*Heal those who have been wounded by the activities
of others, especially the victims of crime.*

Help us to forgive one another.

*To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ
in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day. Amen.*



Prayer for October 2022

*Loving, Creator God,
Thank you for your wonderful creation.
In these days of concern about climate
change and the damage caused by
modern lifestyles and choices,
help us to be more aware.
Help us to make good choices.
Help us to be good stewards of
Your creation.*

*You are so generous Lord.
You provide for us – more than enough
to meet the needs of all people.
Help us to play our part in making sure
there is fair distribution of all
Your provision.*

*Help us to reflect Your generosity,
Your compassion, Your justice.
Help us to care for Your world
and Your precious children.*

*In Jesus name, Amen
Daphne Kitching*



A prayer for morning... and for evening

*O God, who divides the day from the
night, separate our deeds from the
darkness of sin, and let us continually
live in Your light, reflecting in all that
we do Your eternal beauty.*

*O God, who gives the day for work and
the night for sleep, refresh our bodies and
our minds through the quiet hours of
night, and let our inward eyes be directed
towards You, dreaming of Your eternal
glory.*

From the Leonine Sacramentary,
5th century

Petition at Rising

*O holy Father of truth adored,
O kindly Father of mercy poured,
Deliver me from the spells that harm,
Deliver me from each evil charm.*

*Allow no stain to blemish my soul,
Allow no spot to my body whole,
Allow no taint my breath to defile,
Father of tender and lovely smile.*

*For now, and for henceforth unto me
In my life, in my death, do thou be,
O Son and Abba Father of love,
And Holy Spirit of grace above!*

From an ancient Gaelic prayer from
South Uist

Anthony Ashley-Cooper, the Poor Man's Earl

Think of Piccadilly Circus, and that small statue of the angel poised with bow and arrow. Most people think it stands for Eros. It does not. It stands for Anteros, his brother, the god of selfless love. It is a memorial to the greatest Christian Victorian philanthropist, politician and social reformer of his generation – Lord Shaftesbury. Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885) was a devout Christian who spent his life fighting to help ease the plight of lunatics, chimney sweeps, children in factories, women and children in the mines, opium addicts, and children without any education.

His own early life was loveless and bleak – his parents formal and frightening, his early schooldays a “horror” of “cruelty and starvation”. The only love came from the family’s housekeeper, Maria Millis. A biographer wrote: ‘She provided for Ashley a model of Christian love that would form the basis for much of his later social activism and philanthropic work.’ The reality and homely practicality of her Christian love were a beacon for the young Ashley. She told him Bible stories, she taught him a prayer.

After Christ Church Oxford, where he proved an outstanding scholar, Ashley turned to politics. In 1826, aged 25, he was elected as Tory MP for Woodstock. He was eager to serve on parliamentary committees that got things done; his great life’s work had begun.

Lunatics: In 1827 lunatics were kept chained naked in straw, forced to sleep in their excrement. They were washed in freezing cold water, with one towel for 160 people and no soap. There was gross over-crowding and inedible food: asylums were places to die in. Shaftesbury’s maiden speech in Parliament was in support of a Bill to improve their conditions. He wrote: ‘By God’s blessing, my first effort has been for the advance of human happiness.’

It took years: from 1827 to 1884 he fought for a succession of Lunacy Acts, writing later of ‘the years of toil and care that, under God, I have bestowed on this melancholy and awful question.’

Child Labour and Factory Reform: Again, reform took years, with Shaftesbury fighting for the Ten Hours Act from 1833, 1842, 1844, 1846 and 1847 – when it finally got through Parliament. No child under the age of nine should work in the cotton or woollen industries, and no one under 18 must work more than ten hours a day.

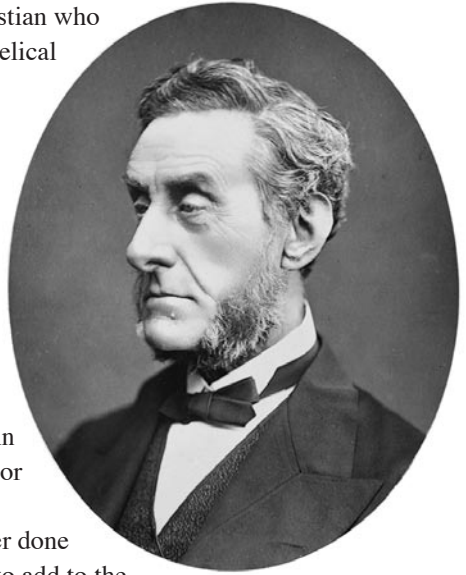
Miners: In 1842 he fought to outlaw the employment of women and children in coal mines. Climbing boys: Thousands of young boys were dying in terrible pain – scorched, blinded and suffocated by soot, or with cancer of the scrotum. Ashley fought for Bills in 1840, 1851, 1853, 1855, and 1864 until finally the Chimney Sweepers Act 1875 closed the practise down.

Education reform: 1844 Ashley became president of the Ragged School Union that promoted education for poor children. He wrote that if it were to fail, ‘I should die of a broken heart’. *(Continued on page 13)*

Religion: Lord Shaftesbury was a devout Christian who became a leading figure in 19th century evangelical Anglicanism. He was President of British and Foreign Bible Society for nearly 30 years. He was sympathetic to the Jews, and advocated their return to the Holy Land.

Shaftesbury's funeral service at Westminster Abbey on the morning of 8th October 1885 drew thousands of people. The streets along the route were thronged with the poor: costermongers, flower-girls, boot-blacks, crossing sweepers, factory hands and many more. They waited for hours just to see his coffin go by. He was dearly loved by them as the 'Poor Man's Earl'.

One biographer wrote: 'No man has in fact ever done more to lessen the extent of human misery, or to add to the sum total of human happiness.' The great preacher Charles Spurgeon called him 'the best man of the age'. He 'lived for the oppressed', he was a 'moral anchor in a drifting generation', 'friend of every living thing', 'he had a 'fervent love to God, and hearty love to man.'



Hope in the Darkness

Say not the struggle naught availeth,
The labour and the wounds are vain,
The enemy faints not, nor faileth,
And as things have been so they remain...

If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars;
It may be in yon smoke concealed,
Your comrades chase e'en now the fliers,
And, but for you, possess the field.

And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light;
In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly!
But westward, look, the land is bright!

From a poem by Arthur Hugh Clough

Christians Against Poverty Sunday

16th October



Everyone is feeling a bit poorer this autumn, as the cost-of-living spirals upwards at an alarming rate. For people who are already in financial difficulties, the cost of living will probably be at crisis point already.

And so, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) says: “It’s more vital than ever that the Church shines God’s love brightly in the darkness. You can do this by signing up to hold a CAP Sunday service this year, and by equipping your church to respond to your

community’s needs, bringing hope in the midst of pain and helplessness.”

The theme this year is ‘lament to hope’. And CAP is certainly bringing hope to thousands of people. In 2021 it counselled 13,452 people in desperate need, and helped 1,877 people become completely debt free. CAP also provided 1,091 families in critical need with emergency support. CAP can provide a revealing insight into the reality of UK poverty, and offer ideas of how Christians and churches can respond to some of their local needs.

CAP says: “We see churches becoming beacons of hope and light in their local communities. We’re so proud of our ongoing partnership with local churches. It’s because of them we can run services that give people the tools to break free from poverty. And it’s because of them we can offer emergency support to those in urgent need of essentials like food and heating.”





Celebrating Bible Sunday 30th October

What is a good way to ‘celebrate’ this annual day of appreciation for our Bibles? One way might be to send a Bible to someone in prison. Certainly, Bibles seem to be wanted there just now.

Bible Society reports that: “Prison chaplains are telling us that more and more prisoners urgently want to read God’s Word. Dominic Dring, who serves at two prisons, says he brings ten Bibles in with him and every one of them gets taken.

“This is an amazing opportunity. You can share the transformative love of Jesus with someone who has lost everything. You can increase the number of Bibles going into prisons this year. As demand rises, we need your help to meet it. Just £10 can provide a Bible to a prisoner in a UK prison. Imagine the impact that could have on someone longing for a second chance.”

Ever wonder how many Bible translations there are in the world? And how many more are still needed? Wycliffe Bible Translators reports the following, as of 2021:

There are now 3,495 languages, which have some Scripture available to 7.04 billion people. This figure of 3,495 breaks down into:

717 languages with a complete Bible – 5.75 billion people

1,582 languages with a complete New Testament (some also have Old Testament portions) – 830 million people

1,196 languages with some translated Bible portions – 457 million people

Meanwhile, there are a further 828 languages which have work in progress – 67.6 million people. And also, there are 1,892 languages still waiting for translation (or preparatory work) to begin – 145 million people.

As for the remaining need for Bible translation:

1.51 billion people, speaking 6,661 languages, do not have a full Bible in their first language. And 145 million people, speaking 1,892 languages, still need translation work to begin:

Africa – 558 languages, 16 million people; Americas – 119 languages, 2.4 million people

Asia – 751 languages, 124 million people; Europe – 59 languages, 2.3 million people

Pacific – 405 languages, 0.43 million people






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Reaping and harvesting

Sometimes a law of nature is very similar to a law of the spirit. Take the process of harvest, or 'sowing and reaping'. The Bible tells us: 'A farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop, but if he plants much, he will reap much.'

(2 Corinthians 9:6)

It has been said that probably the most sensitive nerve on our body is the one that runs to our cheque book! Money represents our time, our security and our hard work. It gives us

independence and power. So, when God begins to talk to us about giving more of our money to Him – sowing it in His service – we can feel very alarmed.



The seed a farmer sows in a field may sometimes be lost, but not the seed that we give to God. What we sow with regards to our time, gifts and money in service to others God will make sure we one day reap – in a harvest of spiritual riches that we can never lose.

STATE REGISTERED PODIATRIST

Andrew M. Fryer B.Sc. (Hons) M.Ch.S S.R.Ch

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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)

What our priorities as Christians should be



Writing to the saintly Bishop Edward King in 1861, his predecessor as Principal of Cuddesdon, H.H. Swinny wrote this on the importance of meditation – “We all try to do too much and don’t give enough time to earnest quiet thought... Somehow even my prayer, and Divine Service within God’s congregation, lose much of their reality without this deliberate bringing of the

Unseen into sight, and basking in the light and warmth of it for a little season. We shall accomplish more by attempting less.”

And Edward King himself persistently maintained that our first priority must be to “secure our own individual reunion with God through Christ, nurtured in those times apart, in solitude and silence.”

‘Oh, blessed are the poor in spirit’, says Jesus, ‘theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’(Matt. 5.3)

At the heart of what it means for us to be a Christ-centred Church is this renewal of prayer and spirituality, the disciplines of Christian contemplation, the pursuit of holiness, the recognition that we don’t have all the



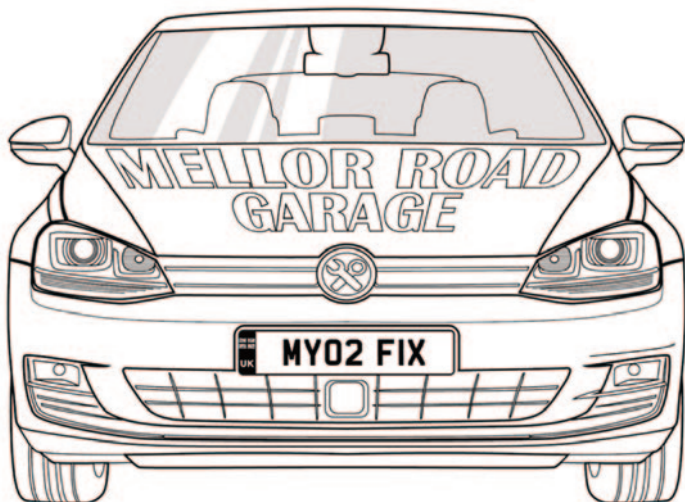
answers, a poverty of Spirit which is a richness in our need of God’s mercy and redemption, the ‘deliberate bringing of the Unseen into sight’, that even a so-called vision and strategy is simply a call – a call to God, a call from God, to centre our lives in Christ and then a few questions that we think are worth addressing and around which we will order our priorities. So how can we grow younger and more diverse?

And how can we create new pathways of belonging for those who don’t yet know Christ, revitalising the parishes and chaplaincies of our Church and expanding our vision to create new communities of faith and see more people come to faith in Christ?

And how can we learn to be disciples of Jesus ourselves?

Gladden your hearts with the sight of the Most Fair. Be constantly renewed and resourced by the beauty of Christ, the beauty of worship, the beauty of scripture. One thing I ask of the Lord. This I seek. To live – to find my life – in the house of the Lord... to behold God’s fair beauty (see Psalm 27:4).





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Telephone: 07871 435747

Share the good news, protect the persecuted: first Lambeth Call

The recent Lambeth Conference made its first official ‘Call’, urging every Christian to pray that, through their example, at least one person could come to faith in Jesus Christ every year. It also calls for dioceses to find creative ways to revitalise churches, plant new congregations, and for every church to be “renewed by the power of the good news of Christ”. The Call goes on to speak of the need for churches around the world facing persecution to be supported and protected in their witness.

There were no resolutions at the 2022 Lambeth Conference. Instead 650 bishops from the Anglican Communion met in Canterbury to discuss the first of a series of ‘Lambeth Calls’ designed to foster action by churches and Christians around the world.

The first Call considers the subject of Mission and Evangelism – meaning reaching out to others and making new disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said evangelism was “one beggar telling another beggar how to get bread”. He went on: “With my whole heart, my hope for the Anglican Communion ... is that the local church... will be a place where thousands of people who do not yet know Christ – can learn about and receive Him.”

He added: “Evangelism itself, the actual business of bringing people to faith, that is the work of the Holy Spirit. God is the one who brings people to faith in Christ, and it is our responsibility as the evangelising Church to participate with God in God’s work.”

The text of the Call quotes the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was martyred during World War II. Bonhoeffer summarised evangelism saying: “God loves human beings. God loves the world. Not an ideal human, but human beings as they are; not an ideal world, but the real world. “God calls every person through His great love, therefore it matters that those who have never heard this good news can hear it in a way they understand, that they can respond to it.”

464 bishops responded to the Call with the following three options:

‘This Call speaks for me. I add my voice to it and commit myself to take the action I can, to implement it’ – 66%

‘This Call requires further discernment. I commit my voice to the ongoing process’ – 33%

‘This Call does not speak for me. I do not add my voice to this Call’ – 1%



Dietrich Bonhoeffer
(4 February 1906 – 9 April 1945)



"Never mind, let's just be happy that Baz came to church in the first place."



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Good Reads



Love: Food for the Journey

By Elizabeth McQuoid, IVP, £4.99

Love has been described in so many ways, but do we really understand what it means? This 30-day devotional drills down to what love really is, and how it is ultimately defined in and by God – a God who loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son to rescue us from sin and reconcile us to Himself.

Covering passages from across the Old and New Testaments, in this devotional some of the Keswick Convention’s best preachers – including Vaughan Roberts, David Coffey and Rico Tice – mine the riches of the Bible’s wisdom on love. In

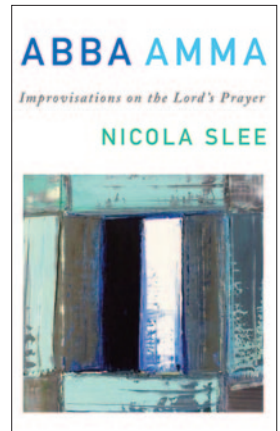
self-contained daily devotions they show us how we rest assured that God’s love is everlasting, unconditional and breathtaking in its immensity.

Abba Amma– Improvisations on the Lord’s Prayer

By Nicola Slee, Canterbury Press, £14.99

The Lord’s Prayer unites Christians of all traditions. It is the first and perhaps only prayer that people learn by heart. However, its patriarchal and kingdom imagery do not resonate universally today. How do we pray the prayer Jesus taught us in ways which are authentic and life-giving?

This volume offers a series of prayers and poems written in response to it. Each prayer uses the address Abba or Amma: Aramaic terms of intimate address to God as father or mother which reflect Jesus’ usage, drawing on the abbas and ammas of the Desert Tradition as well as our own parental relationships.



Sunday School Lesson

Very lively little Dora had returned from Sunday school, where she had been for the first time. “And what did my little girl learn this morning?” asked her father indulgently. “That I am a child of the devil,” was the beaming reply.

What?!

I get most of my exercise these days from shaking my head in disbelief.



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: Michelle Statham, Parish Rooms Supervisor (07871 435747)

Email: parishrooms@allsaintsheadleholme.org.uk

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@allsaintsheadleholme.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