



Holy Trinity



St. Gabriel

The Parish of The Good Shepherd, Ashton-under-Lyne



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

October 2009
Price 40p

Editorial

Welcome to the October edition of our parish magazine, edited this month by Pat – so blame her for the mistakes that you'll find! In this issue, we learn a little more about one of the projects that we have chosen to support through our Harvest Appeal this year, as well as an update from Rukungiri. Mike Pavasovic gives us an insight into his time as a journalist and we have a Diocesan update on the 'Flu Pandemic – as well as all the usual interesting assortment of news and views.

The views expressed in articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Parish of The Good Shepherd. Please consider writing something for the magazine yourself! And, if you have any comments to make on the Magazine you can contact the editor on 0161-330-2771, email: rogerfarnworth@aol.com or talk to a member of your DCC or PCC who will pass on any comments that are made.

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The Parish Prayer

Father God, whose Son came to bring love and peace to the world, help us to grow in faith and share our hope and joy with all whom we meet, so that we can work together to build your kingdom in Ashton, welcome new people into our churches, and be relevant to those around us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Elizabeth writes -

I had not realised that it was my turn to write an article for the magazine until a week before it was needed, so I have been exercised in my mind about what I should write.

It is October - the year already three quarters gone! – and in October the Church remembers a selection of “saints”, people who have been valued for their qualities of holiness, generosity, wisdom and example. These include St Francis of Assisi, William Tyndale, St Denys, St Paulinus, St Wilfrid, Elizabeth Fry, Edith Cavell, Teresa of Avila, St Ignatius, St Luke, King Alfred, SS Simon and Jude, Martin Luther – and others I have not mentioned.

Living in a world which seems to have to come to terms with, and cope with, so much fear and greed and anger and violence, it is some consolation to look at the list of people whose example has been catalogued through the centuries, who have been admired and venerated for their wisdom and insights, their generosity and love.

Here is an excerpt from St Francis’s Canticles to start the month:-

Praise to my Lord for Sister Water be;
Most useful, humble, precious, chaste is she.
Praise to my Lord for Brother Fire, so bright,
By whom thou dost illuminate the night;
For he is lively and most beautiful,
And most robust withal, and powerful.
Praised be my Lord and God for Mother Earth,
Who governs and sustains us; who gives birth
To all the many herbs and fruits that be,
And coloured flowers in rich variety.
Praised be my Lord for those who pardon wrong
For love of thee: enduring sorrow long,
Bearing their woes in peace – Blessed are they!
By the most high they shall be crowned one day.
Praised be my Lord for Sister Death, from whom
No living soul escapes. She brings the doom
Of endless woe to all who pass away

In guilt of mortal sin. But blessed they
Who die in doing thy most holy will.
To them the Second Death can bring no ill.
O praise and bless my Lord most thankfully,
And serve ye him with great humility.

And Martin Luther advises a friend who suffered from depression:

“When you are sad, and when melancholy threatens to get the upper hand, say ‘Arise! I must play a song unto the Lord on my regal (keyboard?), be it the Te Deum Laudamus or the Benedictus, for the scriptures teach us that it pleases Him to hear a joyful song and the music of stringed instruments.’”

Then begin striking the keys and singing in accompaniment, as David and Elisha did, until your sad thoughts vanish. If the devil returns and plants worries and sad thoughts in your mind, resist him manfully and say, “Begone, devil! I must now play and sing unto my Lord Christ!” The best thing you can do is to rap the devil on the nose at the very start.

When good people comfort you, my dear Matthias, learn to believe that God is speaking to you through them.”

With love to you all,
Elizabeth.

We're all told to be more aware of our carbon footprint as we travel around these days but have you considered the distance that the humble pizza travels to get to your table?

Flour for the base from North America	5,400 miles
Tomatoes from Italy	1,000 miles
Tuna fish from Mauritius	5,600 miles
Pineapples grown in Kenya	4,500 miles
Peppers grown under glass in Holland	400 miles
Mushrooms from the UK, taken to our supermarkets to be sold	200 miles
Black pepper from India	5,000 miles
Mozzarella cheese from Italy	1,000 miles

This totals a massive **23,000 miles** around the world.

News from Rukungiri!

In their August Newsletter, John and Alice tell us of a sewing machine that was donated as part of the aid brought to Rukungiri by Mission Direct. The machine is being used by Rovine, who has lived at Rukungiri since 1992 and who



has been supported through the Modern Primary school and then through The Gables Vocational Centre. Rovine has now finished her training as a tailor and the gift of the sewing machine means that she can be self-supporting. John and Alice go on to say:

" We have been able to put a deposit on the 200 acres of land and we have been given the Land Titles. So now we will be able to start planting beans and other crops to help to feed the children at the school. The other miracle is that the owner of the land adjacent to the Pre-Primary School, intended for the building of a girls' hostel for the school, has now agreed on a price and had handed to us the Land Titles before any money has been handed over. We praise the Lord and ask that your prayers will be that HE will finish the good work he has started. The Lord has also blessed the Rukungiri Orphan Partnership with many children being sponsored so far this year. But there are still many children waiting for sponsors, so please "Find a Sponsor for a Child". We thank you so much for all of your support and encouragement, we are continually reminded that *GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME*, we praise his name."

Do you ever wonder how you can get involved in big campaigns that might just make a difference - say to world poverty or climate change?

Well, it's easy. **Christian Aid** regularly campaigns on major issues that go right to the heart of the teachings of Jesus. **Christian Aid** will supply you with postcards that you can simply sign and post off to politicians and world leaders or you can join their campaigns on-line at

www.christianaid.org.uk/action/

so, make a difference to our world - and start campaigning now!

Mothers Union



Wednesday 7th October, 7.30pm

Diocesan Festival at Manchester Cathedral 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 8th October

Thursday Prayers 12.00 Manchester Cathedral

This month's prayers are taken by Saddleworth Deanery, led by Mrs Mary Helliwell

Saturday 17th October

Autumn Council at St Thomas' Centre, Ardwick.

Coffee at 9.30 am followed by the meeting from 10.00 – 2.30 approx.

We have a very important speaker at our Diocesan Festival – the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu. This is always a special service and we hope that it will be well attended. Branch and Deanery Banners will be presented.

On 9th September, The Rochdale Archdeaconry Festival was held at Oldham parish Church. Enid and Debbie came with me. Deanery Banners were paraded and I carried the Ashton Deanery Banner. The service was well attended and the Revd Derek Palmer took the Eucharist Service. We sang some lovely hymns, words not always familiar but set to music we all knew. All the service revolved round the Virgin Mary. The speaker was the Revd Canon Gilly Myers. She is Canon Precentor of Manchester Cathedral. She had not been to Oldham Parish Church before and was pleased to attend our M.U. service. Canon Myers has travelled abroad quite a lot and told us a little about her visits away. She did mention how good it was to see the M.U. Banners presented and, as it seems only the M.U. appears to still do this, she thought it was good and very impressive. She was very interesting. Oldham Parish Church has a good choir and it was a lovely service.

I am pleased to say that Mrs Florence Buckley, Branch Leader for St George's Mossley, is back home again and recovering well after her fall. I have been to see her and she looks well, though rather frustrated because she can't get around so well and everyone tells her to take it easy and be careful. It is good that she is home again.

We hope, too, that Flo Matthews, Verger at St James' is getting better after her hip operation. We all wish her a speedy recovery. We are all pleased that Reg, our Verger at St Michael's, is on his feet again.

Thought for the month:

May we always see the world through the eyes of Christ, speak the words of Christ and find the peace of Christ. Amen

Joan Brayshaw

Would you like to know more about prayer?

Perhaps you feel unsure of how to pray or perhaps you are curious to know how others pray.

Maybe you would like to grow in your prayer life and would welcome some guidance.

Perhaps you would welcome a morning of prayer with other Christians.

If so this is for you

Bishop Mark invites us to an Adventure in Prayer:-

School of Prayer

Saturday 10th October, 9.30am – 1.30pm

St Anne's, Royton.

Mary Wadsworth is organising a group to attend this event. "Sign up" sheets and further details will be in churches from early September. Please sign up early so we can sort out transport. Contact Mary for further information.

Don't forget

the Autumn Course

Building a People of Faith

October 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th

12 noon at St James

or

7.30 p.m. at St Peter's

Mike Pavasovic, a journalist by profession, has some wry thoughts on that age-old question "What's in a name?"

Thirty years ago I had cause to ring my friend Bill, a lad I knew from university. Everyone called him Bill, and that was who I asked for when his mother answered the phone. She responded with a curt, "Just a minute, please," and then I heard he shout, "William."

As you might expect, I felt a little embarrassed and that could often be the case when I rang clergy while working as a district reporter. You could never be entirely sure if you would use the right term.

Standard newspaper practice was simple: Catholic priests are called "Father", and all other clergy are referred to as the Rev. Bloggs, vicar of St Cuthbert's, and then as Mr. Please note, this was 1984!

Well, the trouble started with the first Anglican clergyman I dealt with. He was new to town and said he wanted to be called "Father". My editor simply couldn't grasp this but eventually gave in.

To be fair, this priest was only stating a preference. However, a couple of years later I came across a man who would literally fly into a rage if called anything other than "Father". I can remember being at his house one night when someone rang and asked for the pastor.

For all I know, the caller might have been recently bereaved but father Rip-rap went purple. "Pastor! What do you mean?" he hooted. "This is the Church of England. We don't have pastors here."

Eventually, the caller must have used the magic word and Father Rip-rap calmed down. He was essentially a good man but couldn't control his temper. He lost it again when a parishioner called the local Unitarian chapel a church. "It is not a church," he thundered. "It is a schismatic conventicler."

All right, Rip-rap is an extreme example, but you could have your problems with friendly clergy. I rang one once and asked to speak to Mr Bloggs. "Who?" came the reply from his daughter. "Mr Bloggs," I replied. "Aaah," said the daughter with a definite edge to her voice, "you mean Reverend Bloggs."

Feeling suitably admonished, I might have replied that calling someone Reverend Bloggs, without the "the", is to use an adjective as a noun. But I decided discretion was the better part of valour.

Let's hope we have more of Mike's reminiscences in future issues!

Schools News – Supporting our Governors

As a parish, we have a good number of people serving as governors in our local schools. This may be as Foundation Governors representing the parish or the Diocese in our church schools, as parent governors or as governors representing the local community in both church and community schools.

School governors have a very important part to play in developing the overall policies within which schools operate and also in providing links between the school and the local community. This is an important Christian service and as such should be valued by the church.

Being a school governor is one of the ways in which Christians can express their vocation to follow Christ by serving their local community. Christian governors may have a very important role to play in encouraging the links between the school and the local churches. This will not be their only task. They may be able to make an important contribution to the development of policy in religious education, school worship, sex education, and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils as well as areas of the general school curriculum where they have insights or expertise. They may also be able to support those parts of the school's management that are concerned with staff recruitment, selection, development and reward. They will bring important insights to bear on matters of pupil or even staff discipline. Governors are asked to contribute a considerable amount of their spare time to the role.

Please do pray for all those in our parish who act as Governors as they undertake this important role.

Be with our Governors, Lord as they learn from you how to best serve the youngsters and the staff in their school. Help them to work together well, to listen and respect each other's talents and skills. May they be watchful and mindful of the responsibilities they hold as a Governing body and yet joyful in the privilege of seeing all grow. Keep them focused and distinctive in their Christian ethos and outlook. We thank you for their fellowship with all your people and especially those within the school community. We ask this in Jesus Name, Amen.

Adapted from prayers for schools produced by Peterborough Diocese.



As part of her training, Pat did quite a lengthy placement with New Charter and spent time at Gibson Terrace. As we are supporting the children at Gibson Terrace through our Harvest Appeal this year, Roger asked Pat if she would tell us a bit about it.

Gibson Terrace, in Ashton-under-Lyne, is the largest of three centres for the homeless in Tameside. Following a major refit after New Charter bought it from Tameside Council in March 2000, it now contains 19 one, two, three and four bedroom flats and bed sits, together with one flat that is retained for emergency use only. Gibson Terrace is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Many of the residents at Gibson Terrace are children and there are strong links with St Peter's School, as many families have children who need to attend school whilst their long term housing needs are assessed. Some children are with one parent who has left an abusive situation. Others are with one or both parents who have been made homeless for other reasons. There is a limit to what people can actually manage to bring with them when they're made homeless and, often, it's the children's toys that are left behind.

A room is provided in Gibson terrace in which two child support workers, employed by New Charter through Government grants, can work with children between the ages of 4 and 13 after school and at weekends. This gives some respite time for both parents and children. In term time children can use the room for a quiet place to do their homework or just play with the toys. During holiday times, special events and outings are planned to give the children a sense of normality. New Charter raises funds amongst its staff during the year to provide Easter eggs and Christmas presents for the children.

The staff at Gibson Terrace try to stand alongside the people who have been placed there. They are absolutely committed to supporting people who find themselves in the distressing and traumatic situation of being homeless and helping them to cope with all the emotional stress that is part and parcel of such a difficult situation. Many of the residents have not only lost their homes but their self respect and their self confidence, too. They are not coping with day to day life in the way that they perceive the majority of society is and they are at absolute rock bottom. Hopefully, with the support of their key worker and the visiting agencies, they can begin the long haul back to getting another home and a way of life that so many of us just take for granted.

Friends of Ashton Parish Church



Although visitor numbers were down on last year, we still had a successful weekend with visitors coming from as far as Grantham and Northumberland. Stalybridge Photographic Society put on an excellent exhibition of photographs taken in the church. Rev Pat Lodge and Rev Roger Reece set up a series of prayer stations. All the guided tours were well supported as, thanks to the fine weather, were trips up the tower. All the tour guides have probably lost a few pounds in weight this weekend. The views over Cheshire were excellent, especially Jodrell Bank which could be clearly seen.

As usual, the refreshments did a good trade and we sold a good selection of guide books. Comments from our visitors included "an inspirational, beautiful and breath-taking church", "a wonderful experience", "awesome windows", "very interesting tour" and "excellent views from the tower - well worth the climb."

Alan F. Bacon

An interesting piece from the latest Mission Update from CMS (Church Mission Society) tells of Baptism by bucket! The event took place in July, when, under the eyes of a prison officer and a district deputy, 11 new Christians from a prison in western Nepal were baptised out in the prison yard. Apparently there is nothing like a pond or a tank that could have been used for immersion within the prison walls and so the only way to get round the problem was to prepare a bucket of water for each of the men to be baptised. The article says, "the men stood quietly, receiving prayer and then a bucket of water was poured over each one. One by one, as they were baptised they praised the Lord and expressed a great feeling of freedom in their hearts even though they have been behind bars for several years. Then they all took part in the Lord's Supper."

We have no idea how hard it is for some Christians to follow their faith, do we?

Flu Pandemic



The latest instructions from the Diocese concerning the Flu Pandemic are as follows:

For the past three weeks the rate of new cases of swine flu has fallen in the Northwest. This means it is likely that the first phase of the Pandemic has peaked.

The Diocesan Pandemic Advisory Group has decided to advise that the Diocese to move to amber alert. This change in status means that, for the time being, the common cup can now be reintroduced and the peace can return during communion. However, clergy should continue to advise 'at risk groups' not to receive from the common cup and are free to return to red alert should their local circumstances demand it.

Did you know

- that Manchester Diocese oversees education for over 50,000 children in 9 secondary schools, 2 co-sponsored academies and 192 primary schools
- that, in 2008, the Church and Society Department of Manchester Diocese supported parishes to secure nearly £1.5m in grants and loans and an additional £1.4m in grant offers from English Heritage
- that, in 2008, the Property section of the Diocese took responsibility for 317 clergy houses, rented 16 houses for curates and carried out 57 quinquennial inspections?

A lot more goes on in Church House than you might think!

**SONGS OF PRAISE
With the Accord
Gospel Choir**



**6.30pm
Sunday 27th September
St Michael and All
Angels' Church**

A shaggy dog story -

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, 'You should do it, because you get up first. Then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee.'

The husband said, ' You're in charge of cooking around here. You should do it, because that is your job, and I'll just wait for my coffee.'

The wife replied, 'No, you should do it, and besides, it says in the Bible that the man should do the coffee.'

The husband replied, 'I can't believe that. Show me.'

So the wife brought her Bible and opened it to the New Testament, where she showed him that, at the top of several pages, it indeed says.....'HEBREWS'

(Did I hear you all groan when you read the punch line? Ed)

ROCK SOLID YOUTH GROUP

This is our youth group for anyone linked with the churches in our parish. It is open to anyone who is in the last year of Primary school or at secondary school. We meet on Sunday evenings at St Gabriel's Church from 7.00 - 8.30pm.



Sept 27 th	Games Night - Bingo
Oct 4 th	French Evening
Oct 11 th	Fashion Night
Oct 18 th	Bulb Planting/Christmas Gift making
Oct 28 th	Half Term

To help you to prepare spiritually for Christmas

Journeying with the Magi -

an Advent Course in the Celtic tradition,
to be held on Tuesdays at St Gabriel's on

Nov 17th 24th Dec 1st 8th

and

An Advent Quiet Day

on Monday, November 23rd

10a.m. - 3.00p.m.

at St James'

Some years ago, Moira Wilson, from St Peter's, wrote the following poem at a particularly difficult time in her life. She shared it with Beryl Proctor, Warden of the Readers in the Diocese, who has since used it in her ministry in prisons. Moira now shares her poem with us.

As I stand here and look in,
I am invisible.

Invisible to the touch of love, not to the
touch that causes pain,
pain to ripple through my body,
to a plain where pain meets screams.
Except no noise comes, for the
Invisible makes no noise.
I am Invisible.

Not to the tongue that lashes like a whip,
words of hatred and shame, dirty, unclean.
I flinch inside but stay rigid
as each word beats my body,
my soul cries silent tears,
for I am Invisible.

Then for a split second, I am seen,
a reflection in the glass.
As I stand here and look in,
she looks back at me, she thinks
I can set her free,
but I am Invisible.

I cry for her as she cries for me
longing for a touch of love, a word to soothe the pain,
the shame, to set us free.
But we are Invisible.

Parish Notices

Baptism

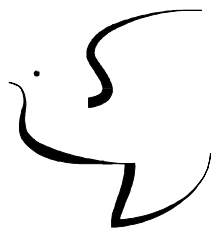
We give thanks with the families of:

Reece Colin Roberts

Ellis Michael Ormerod

Archie James Bennett

Zach Samuel Horridge



Weddings

We rejoice with:

Michael Graham McCourt and Claire Simone Green

Robert Philip Lee Fisher and Michelle Teresa Doherty

Funerals

Please pray for the family and friends of:

Mark Ellor

Ivy Whittaker

Ruth Hague

Diary Dates

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 27th Songs of Praise, St Michael's, 6.30pm

Monday 28th Hurst Knoll School service 9.30 a.m.

OCTOBER

Thurs 1st St Michael's DCC, 7.15pm, St Michael's

Fri 2nd St James School Service, 9.15am, St James

Mon 5th Autumn Course - 12 noon St James; 7.30 St Peter's

Wed 7th Churches Together, Welbeck Baptist, 7.30pm

Mon 12th Autumn Course - 12 noon St James; 7.30 St Peter's

Wed 14th St Gabriel's DCC meeting, St Gabriel's. 7.30pm

Sunday 18th Luke the Evangelist - Healing Service. 3.00pm, venue tbc

Sunday 18th One World Week service, Hurst Nook, 6.30pm

Mon 19th Autumn Course - 12 noon St James; 7.30 St Peter's

Fri 23rd St James Quiz night

Sat 24th Licensing Service for the Revd Josie Partridge

Mon 26th Autumn Course - 12 noon St James; 7.30 St Peter's

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st All Saints Day Remembrance service St Michael's

Sunday 8th Remembrance Sunday

Tues 10th Deanery Synod, 7.30p.m. St Ann, Haughton

October 2009 - Parish Diary

17th Sunday of Trinity

Sunday 4th October

9.30am	St. James	Holy Communion + Baptisms
9.30am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Gabriel	Family Worship
11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion + Baptisms
11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion + Baptisms
4.00pm	Holy Trinity	Evensong
6.30pm	St. Peter	Holy Communion

18th Sunday of Trinity

Sunday 11th October

9.30am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Gabriel	Holy Communion
11.00am	St Peter	Parade Service
11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday afternoons
4.00pm	Holy Trinity	Evensong
6.30pm	St. Peter	Holy Communion

19th Sunday of Trinity

Sunday 18th October

9.30am	St. James	Holy Communion
9.30am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Gabriel	Morning Prayer
11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Holy Trinity	Evensong

The Last Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 25th October

9.30am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Gabriel	Holy Communion
11.00am	St Peter	Family Worship
11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday afternoons
4.00pm	Holy Trinity	Evensong
6.30pm	St. Peter	Holy Communion

Regular Weekday Services

Tues.	10.30am	1 st Tuesday BCP Holy Communion at Moss Cottage; 2 nd , 4 th , 5 th Tuesdays - BCP Holy Communion at St Peter's; 3 rd Tuesday - Iona Prayer at St Peter's
Wed.	1.30pm	St. James Holy Communion
Thurs.	11.00am	St. Michael Holy Communion

Monthly:

1 st Wed. of the month	2.30 -3.30pm	Emmanuel Court, Firbank , Kingsfield EPH (Holy Communion)
1 st Tues. of month	10.30am	Moss Cottage
3 rd Tues. of the month	2.15pm	Ryefields (Holy Communion)



The Parish of the Good Shepherd, Ashton-under-Lyne is a Fair Trade Parish. Our churches have promised to serve only Fairly Traded Tea and Coffee and to work for justice for the world's poor.

