



Holy Trinity



St. Gabriel

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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

**June 2010**  
**Price 40p**

## Editorial

Welcome to the June Parish Magazine. This month, Elizabeth Hartley writes our front article and she reminds us of the feast of Corpus Christi celebrated this month. Also celebrated this month is Fathers' Day and you can read about the origins of this day, as well as hearing about how Mothers Union is helping fathers. There is news from Uganda and a report on the parish's Annual Parochial Meeting as well as a range of other articles to entertain and inform.

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 editors on 0161330 2771/4925, email: joannafarnworth@aol.com or 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.



## **Thanks be to God ..... Elizabeth Hartley writes**

It took me a long time to find a theme for our June magazine, and I have borrowed a lot from Ronald Blyth's book "Talking to the Neighbours". (He writes a weekly piece on the back page of the Church Times, and it is always worth reading. He lives in East Anglia in a very rural area and he is close to the earth and the patterns of nature and the seasons)

One of the special days of the Church's year is "Corpus Christi" which is celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday / Pentecost. It was established through the efforts of Juliana the Mother superior of a convent near Liege in Belgium in the 1200s. The church authorities, and presumably her nuns, found her so trying that they forced her to leave the convent after her first celebration of the feast day - the thanksgiving for the Holy Communion. She was exiled from her community till her death - but some years later the feast was officially sanctioned by the church. It is a special opportunity to thank God for the Eucharist, the Lord's Supper, the Holy Communion, the Mass, our opportunity to share in the last supper which Jesus shared with his friends, and know what he did for them and us.

But Ronald Blyth is reminded on this day of another woman - whose name he did not catch - who spoke on "Prayer for Today" on the radio on May 30<sup>th</sup> 2000, and is an Australian aborigine. Of these two women he says "One taught the church to say thank you to Christ for instituting a service of communion between us for all time via the simple essential of a meal; the other taught me how grateful I should be for the gospel. Each of these teachers of gratitude stirred up what thankfulness I had in me and reminded me of all those times I had not said "thank you" - at least not with conviction". This second woman and her race had been treated abominably. Ronald Blyth had first seen aborigines in a New South Wales timber town, a group of unemployed young men sitting beside a dusty hot road drinking beer from cans. But later he had seen a "dreaming place" where over hundreds of years the native people of Australia would rest and contemplate and discover their spiritual strength. There were stone-age like carvings and hollows in the rock, a huge sky and arum lilies growing like weeds. When Jesus spent a month - 40 days - in the wilderness it was a nightmare, lonely, cold, hungry, uneasy. For aborigines, their month of dreaming is a kind of first step to paradise. Nature heals them, the earth restores them; they become whole or holy.

This woman was the outcome of a white man's rape of an aborigine woman, and had been taken with her brothers and sisters into state care to be brought up

“civilised”. But now she can use the site of her mother’s house as a kind of dream place where she thanks God for plants and trees, animals and birds and also for the Gospel which the white man had given her.

Ronald Blyth finishes by saying “the feast days of the church serve to jog our memory and play up our imagination. Julian from Liege and the lady from Australia would each have been reassured by St John when he wrote;

“But we belong to God.....Dear friends let us love one another, because love is from God. Everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God”  
(1 John 4. 6-7 NEB)

## **RUKUNGIRI SCHOOL – UGANDA**

In the most recent newsletter from the school, there is news of the bus that we helped purchase with money raised in a Harvest Appeal.

“When the bus is available on a Saturday the day starts very early, as the children get on the coach at 5-30 am. They sometimes go to the Queen Elizabeth National Park and aim to get there in time to see the animals as they start their day. When the animals are having their siesta the children have a treat, a meal of fish and chips. Then they have a boat trip on the Kazinga Channel which flows between lake Edward and Lake George. This is an excellent way to see the wild life as it comes to drink and bathe.”



## Ramblings of a Bibliophile

I have just “got rid” of a considerable number of books from my bookshelves – a very painful experience. It set me thinking about the power of words, how many I have read since childhood to date.



In the residential part of the abbey on Iona, there is a caricature of a gaitered clergyman on one of the walls. From his mouth there is a “balloon” with hundreds of the word “words”. (This is near the library!) We listen to and read so many words, it becomes overwhelming at times – No, not a hint for shorter sermons!

There is a lovely prayer from the Hebrides written by Alistair Maclean:

Often I am like a man lost upon a moorland in the mid of night. I listen to the talk of men as to what I must believe, if I would be pleasing to God; if I would see thy face; if I would know truth and so my hope falters and my faith swerves. Lord Jesus, set me free from the power of words. Bring me into the place of thy light. Give me strength to be true to Thee in me. Perfect my faith in our Father. Teach me that what I do each day is the crown and proving of my faith.

*Doris Gummingsall*

Editor’s note: For those who recognise the name of the author of the above prayer, Alistair Maclean was a minister with the Church of Scotland - his son was the thriller writer of the same name who wrote among other books, *The Guns of Navarone* and *Where Eagles Dare*.

## A June Saint

Keeping the Scottish theme, this month the Church celebrates the festival of Columba of Iona on the 9<sup>th</sup> June. We remember him as a missionary. Born in Ireland in about the year 521, Columba was trained as a monk by St Finnian and then founded several monasteries himself, including probably that of Kells, before leaving Ireland to settle on Iona, off the coast of Scotland. He was accompanied by twelve companions and the number grew as the monastic life became more established and well-known. Columba seems to have been an austere and, at times, harsh man who reputedly mellowed with age. He was concerned with building up both the monastery and its life and of enabling them to be instruments of mission in a heathen land. He converted kings and built churches, Iona becoming a starting point for the expansion of Christianity throughout Scotland. In the last four years of his life, when his health had failed, he spent the time transcribing books of the gospels for them to be taken out and used. He died on this day in the year 597.

## **Parish of the Good Shepherd Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The APCM took place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April in Holy Trinity Community Centre – we started at 7.00pm.

As usual this was a threefold meeting. We started with a PCC meeting to approve the annual accounts. Steven Booth had undertaken his annual task of consolidating the accounts of our 5 churches and those of the Team Parish into one set of accounts for deposit with the Diocese and the Charity Commissioners. This is a monumental task! We are very grateful to Steven for all the hard work this entails. The accounts were approved.

At our Vestry meeting, the second meeting of the evening, Enid Fisher and Cath Sheldon were confirmed as our Team Parish Wardens. The church representation rules require us to have Team parish wardens who are also ChurchWardens of our Parish Churches. We have taken two steps towards making this the case. Last year we agreed to create a position of Warden Emeritus and Flo Matthews and Enid Fisher became Wardens Emeritus. Flo has decided this year to stand down from that role and we thanked her for all her hard work as Warden over a number of years. Enid continues as a Warden Emeritus. Cath Sheldon is also Warden of St. Peter's and will take on the role of Team Parish Warden for one year. Our Church Wardens have agreed that the Team Parish Warden role should be filled on an annual basis by rotation.

At the Annual Meeting itself, we elected officers – our Chairperson – Roger Farnworth; Parish Treasurer – Alison Burke; Parish Secretary – Deborah Brindle. We confirmed as elected members from their churches:

Sarah Higginbotham, Flo Matthews, Deborah Morris, Jean Coombs, Phil Bowden, Maureen Leigh, Janet Kennerley, Kathryn Derbyshire, Kathleen Holgate, Margaret Stanley, Doris Gummersall – four people still have to be elected by their churches.

In addition to those who are elected to our PCC, it also includes a number of people who are ex-officio – these include clergy, reader emeritus, deanery synod reps and church wardens from our churches.

For the main part of the meeting, we approved the accounts and we took a series of reports about the activities of the Parish in 2009. If you want to read these reports, Roger Farnworth can let you have a copy.

We also listened to a report from our Child Protection Co-ordinator, Deborah Morris which highlighted likely changes in the way Child protection will be managed and alerted us to the Vetting and Barring legislation which will require those working with or visiting Vulnerable to undergo similar checks. The law also requires that no one can work with children without having their checks completed – we can no longer start working with children while checks are being undertaken.

The Parish is now a registered charity (No. 1134826) and our stationery will need to reflect this in due course. Each year any new PCC members will be confirmed as trustees of the charity. Our annual reports now need to be deposited with the Charity Commissioners.

The evening concluded with prayer at 8.20pm!

## Mystery guests at St Gabriel's!

At St Gabriel's, one May Sunday morning, we couldn't find any of our small communion wafers! It was quite a mystery as we had plenty in the cupboard the week before. At the end of the service, we searched thoroughly through the cupboard and eventually found the bag with just one wafer left in it. Strangely, though there were lots of pieces of thread in the bag too – gold, green, purple and red strands of silk! What was going on? And then the penny dropped! We'd had visitors of the mice kind – who had feasted on our wafers and then chewed through the fringing on our pulpit falls and bookmarks to make a nice cosy nest for themselves!

Reflecting on this, a poem came to mind. In his "Diary of a Church Mouse", John Betjeman tells the tale of a mouse who also found a church a good place to make a home:

"Here among long-discarded cassocks,  
Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,  
Here where the vicar never looks  
nibble through old service books. Lean and alone I  
spend my days  
Behind this Church of England baize."



Perhaps this serves as a warning to us all to  
careful how we store things in church!

*Jo Farnworth*

## Fathers' Day

Fathers' Day is a celebration inaugurated 100 years ago to complement Mother's Day in celebrating fatherhood and male parenting. It is also celebrated to honour and commemorate our fathers and forefathers. It is celebrated on the third Sunday of June in 52 of the world's countries and on other days elsewhere. The first observance of Fathers' Day is believed to have been held on June 19, 1910 through the efforts of Sonora Dodd from Spokane, Washington.

Sonora Smart Dodd of Washington thought independently of the holiday one Sunday in 1909 while listening to a Mother's Day sermon at the Central Methodist Episcopal Church at Spokane. She wanted a celebration that honoured fathers that were like her own father, William Smart. He was a Civil War veteran, his wife died when Sonora was 16 and he had to take care of all six children. On June 19, 1910, she arranged a tribute for her father in Spokane. She had previously enlisted in

1909 the help of the Spokane Ministerial association, and young members of the YMCA went to church wearing roses: a red rose to honour a living father, and a white rose to honour a deceased one. Dodd travelled through the city in a closed carriage, carrying gifts to shut-in fathers. She was the first to solicit the idea of having an official Fathers' Day observance to honour all fathers.

It took many years to make the holiday official. In spite of support from the YWCA, the YMCA and churches, it ran the risk of disappearing from the calendar. Where Mother's Day was met with enthusiasm, Fathers' Day was met with laughter. The holiday was gathering attention slowly, but for the wrong reasons. It was the target of much satire, parody and derision, including jokes from the local newspaper *Spokesman-Review*. Many people saw it as just the first step in filling the calendar with mindless promotions like "Grandparents' Day", "Professional Secretaries' Day", etc., all the way down to "National Clean Your Desk Day." It wasn't made an official national holiday in the USA until President Nixon made a proclamation in 1972.

Fathers' Day, unlike Mothers' Day, does not have its origins in a church festival - so should the Church take any notice of it? Absolutely, says the Bishop of Worcester, Dr John Inge. He writes: "I have never known a love quite like the love of being a father and I rejoice in the great gift of fatherhood...because it helps me understand how God loves me, and how nothing can separate me from that love," the Bishop reflects.

He also points out that, by referring to God as 'Father', Jesus honours fatherhood: "Let's celebrate Fathers' Day in our churches, honouring those fathers who have shown us something of God's love, and remembering that our 'Father in Heaven' loves us and watches over us, always." In recognition of views like this that Father's Day should be celebrated in our churches, the Church of England has published a new prayer for children to pray in church, or on their own, on Fathers' Day

Loving God,  
We thank you for the gift of good dads,  
and everything that they do for us.  
Help them to have  
    patience when we're difficult,  
    wisdom when we can't see the way,  
    strength when we need comforting,  
    and love at all times,  
so that, though them,  
we get a little glimpse of how you feel  
about us,  
our heavenly Father. **Amen.**

A second prayer has been published for everyone to use:  
Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.  
Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to you for love and salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our rock and defender.  
**Amen.**

## SCHOOLS NEWS from Parochial School – Year 2 riddles

In year 2 at Parochial CE Primary School we have been writing riddles as part of our literacy. Can you guess which one is which?



I have 4 legs.

I make something that is liquid and you drink it.

You will hear me making a loud sound.

I live on a farm.

A farmer looks after me.

My sound is "moo, moo"

I am a girl.

What am I?

*By Jack Clarke*

My nose is pink.

I've got grey fur.

I've got 4 legs

I've got tiny legs.

I am warm and snuggly.

I am smaller than your hand

What am I?

*By Oliver Dalton*

I have four legs that are very furry.

I have sharp teeth and claws.

I have a black nose.

I live in the woods.

Everyone is scared of me.

I drink water from the lake.

My fur is brown.

What am I? *By Louis Ayre*

I am a four legged animal.

I live in the wild or sometimes a tank.

I like wandering about.

I love the sun.

I eat carrots, apples and salad.

I often like to sleep.

I could be big or small.

I have a shell.

What am I?

*By Katie Sinclair*

I am the young of an animal.

I am a farm animal.

My favourite place to stay is in the mud.

I am usually pink.

I sleep in hay or straw.

I'm one of the smallest animals on the farm.

When I get older I'll be a pig.

What am I?

*By Matthew Stafford*

My nose is black

I like fish.

I like wondering off.

I have got two eyes.

I have fur all over me.

I have black paws.

I am cosy and soft.

What am I?

*By Olivia Sidebotham*

# World Cup – South Africa 2010



The Football World Cup starts in South Africa on the 11<sup>th</sup> June and millions of people around the world will be watching avidly during the month that follows to see how their teams fare. This event presents South Africa with a wealth of opportunities to show itself off to the world. South Africa is a country of stunning beauty and has a very resilient population which has seen immense political change in the last two decades. It is also a nation which faces very real challenges and organisations such as Christian Aid are working hard in South Africa to make a difference as the following piece shows:

## South Africa: Tackling HIV through youth mini world cup

With excitement surrounding FIFA's glittering 2010 World Cup in South Africa reaching fever pitch, it's easy to forget that this year's host nation currently boasts the highest rate of HIV on the planet; an estimated 5.4 million people accounting for one fifth of all cases globally.

Taking full advantage of the passion and energy stirred up by the biggest football tournament on the planet, a coalition of grass root organisations including Christian Aid partner PACSA (Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness), TackleAfrica and Alive & Kicking, are supporting a unique five-day youth football tournament to promote positive social education about HIV prevention and treatment amongst young people at high risk.

Named Bopha Siyakshona - meaning 'build the nation, one youth at a time' – this pioneering football tournament will take place between 5 -10 April in the KwaZulu-Natal province, strategically located near Durban where a new stadium is under construction for the World Cup, and will link 300 British, German and South African youths, all from hugely diverse social, cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds.

'With football's potential to unite and influence, the key aims of the football tournament are to reduce HIV transmission and increase HIV testing, to fight stigma and discrimination, to promote youth leadership and development, and to help break down social barriers by exposing youth to different backgrounds, people, peers and situations,' explains Rachel Baggaley, Head of Christian Aid's HIV Team.

'South Africa desperately needs more funding for HIV prevention and care, and in the KwaZulu-Natal province alone 39% of the population are HIV-positive, so we hope that the tournament will not only galvanise and prioritise the South African economy but also its HIV programmes.'

The Fair Trade footballs to be used in the tournament have been sourced from Alive & Kicking, with youth-friendly educative health messages relating to HIV and TB printed on the balls.

'This tournament is an excellent example of a programme that is maximising its impact in Africa through sourcing balls that are made and designed by previously unemployed workers across Africa, 55% of whom had never been in formal employment,' says Will Prochaska, director of Alive & Kicking.

Each participant of the tournament will also have the opportunity to take home one of the balls, helping to further spread positive health messages across their community and family networks.

'We are delighted to be involved with The Footballs for Life Project in South Africa and can't wait to get started!' adds Ben Maitland, chairman of TackleAfrica, a UK-based organisation that uses football as a vehicle to increase young people's understanding of HIV in their communities.

'We look forward to working with PACSA, Christian Aid and Alive & Kicking to deliver a project the children will enjoy and be inspired by.'



## 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



<b>30<sup>th</sup> May</b>	HALF TERM - No youth group
<b>6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	HALF TERM - No youth Group
<b>13<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Treasure Hunt in park
<b>20<sup>th</sup> June</b>	WALKS OF WITNESS - No youth group
<b>27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Rounders in the park

- 31<sup>st</sup> May** Whit walks in Manchester. If MU members are joining in, the colours to be put on banners are red and blue
- 10<sup>th</sup> June** 12.00noon. Mothers Union Prayer Service in the Cathedral. Rossendale Deanery are taking this service. The theme is "Refuge and Compassion. Finding the answers".
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June** Service at Blackburn Cathedral
- 24<sup>th</sup> June** General meeting at Guildhall, Preston
- 7<sup>th</sup> July** 7.30pm Ashton Deanery Festival held at Christ Church, Denton. Banners to be taken.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June it is Fathers' Day, for some this is a happy occasion, for others it can be sad. So many couples part and are divorced and dads only see the children from time to time. Years ago, fathers went to work to provide for the family and mothers took care of the home and children. Things have changed due to the rise in the cost of living and many mothers work to help with finance and fathers are expected to take more responsibility for their family. It is good to be sharing with the ups and downs of family life but it can sometimes put a strain on the relationship of the parents and result in partings and divorce.

Mothers Union has launched "What Dads Add" through a website [www.whatdadsadd.co.uk](http://www.whatdadsadd.co.uk) and a small card "What dads add" to be given out at baptisms. None of this is meant to devalue or disdain mothers especially single mums, but to give an insight into how dads are needed in family life.

I found this article in a Families First magazine, giving a single dad's thoughts

when his took his two daughters on holiday. I thought it was good:

Think of a single British bloke holidaying in Europe and you could be forgiven for conjuring images of a boozy weekend in Prague. A quick web search for holiday opportunities offers an array of such alcohol-centred trips. But for me, the pre-holiday web browsing had to include the key phrases 'on a budget' and 'family friendly' for I was going to holiday with my two daughters, aged 11 and eight.

Gone were the promises of 'sizzling nights followed by lazy days'. Rather I was led towards a series of safer looking and altogether more pedestrian camping and caravanning options. The photographs on various holiday company websites invariably displayed happy smiling parents with two children. Single parents (of which there at least three million in the UK) did not really feature in any of the marketing material I saw. But Siblu were different (see [www.siblu.com](http://www.siblu.com)), not only do they seek to attract lone parents, but the promise of a sizeable £100 discount for single parents sold the company to me

without further ado. The only thing left to do was to choose a resort...

But by this stage I was already asking myself not only where to go on holiday but whether to go at all. The more I thought about it, compelling reasons began to take shape persuading me to stay at home. Obvious reasons like cost, inertia, and the simple hassle factor in packing for a family. Men are notoriously bad at packing, and when you have two daughters who are a bit too young to pack for themselves, the whole thing can become a nightmare - but no, my real hesitation came from a gut feeling that my rather amateurish parenting skills would be put under the microscope for a whole week, and that would result in increased pressure. Pressure I could best do without.

In running [www.onlydads.org](http://www.onlydads.org) I come into contact with loads of dads who genuinely struggle with full-time child care. The dual role of being both mum and dad is alien to the majority of us men, as I'm sure it is for many women too. That said (and if this comes over as sexist I wouldn't disagree), many women, through a combination of nurture and nature are brought up to look after children. I have yet to meet a single dad with that same head start in life.

And yet it's more than that. Single dads don't tend to adopt the same rules as mums. We get far more relaxed, both with our children, ourselves, and our homes. Men in relationships live within boundaries. Men on their own (with or without children living with them) will eagerly let these boundaries drift off into the sunset. And without the safety of home, our liberal, disorganised and altogether ad hoc approach to parenting and domestic science will be put on public display for the whole holiday park to see.

One can almost hear the quiet muttering of the other parents...



But the real truth is this: If I was asked, what would make for a really good holiday for me, round the clock child care would not be at the top of my list! At my age, 43, I am not suggesting that spending a night locked up courtesy of Prague's Old Bill would be either, but time on my own or with some friends, would be. Such is the lot of single dads though - we can't have everything!

Decision time. Having taken a few virtual tours of various holiday parks, the girls settled on a static caravan at La Pignade on the French Atlantic Coast, north of Bordeaux. Excitement levels were rising. Theirs I hasten to add, not mine.

Flying from Bristol to La Rochelle was the easy bit. I played safe and packed just about everything I could find. Getting to the Parc is another story altogether, based loosely on not having a wife to map read (or drive), male arrogance at not wanting to ask for directions, and two tired girls, bored stiff with travelling, and I dare say an increasingly grumpy dad!

Once we arrived, our hire car quickly became surplus to requirements. But on our third day, I tried to extol the virtues of a day trip to a local Cognac distillery. The girls thought I was mad. 'Dad, we have everything here you could possibly want' was all I heard as they ran off to the pool. And in a sense they were right. A pool, a well-equipped shop, a bar and a very

reasonably priced restaurant all set amidst a forested landscape with the seaside less than a mile away coupled with warm June sunshine made the idea of driving anywhere all a bit nonsensical to my daughters.

Meal times were relaxed. We all breakfasted together on an adjacent patio area to our 'home'. We got used to buying our breakfast from the park shop first thing in the morning; the old saying is right - a good breakfast really does set you up for the day.

The local beach at Ronce-Les-Bains offered a range of facilities, but walking along the beach one evening as the tide had turned we found a French couple digging for shellfish in the wet sand. Despite the language barrier, Priya and Anya learned in the space of ten minutes the three golden rules of shell fishing. Firstly, spot the air-hole in the sand; secondly, grub around with your hands until you find the shell; thirdly, but most importantly, put the baby ones back in the sand. Said couple were going home to cook their bumper crop. I picked up that when they got home they would saute them in white wine, then eat them with spaghetti.

When we had done, I watched the couple walk off hand in hand. They appeared to be a really happy couple - I guess early thirties, relaxed with each other like true friends.

### **Thought for the month – a Fathers’ Day Prayer**

Thank you, friend Jesus, for my father who loves me, for grandfathers who care for me and for God, your Father and mine, and is always with us.

*Taken from MU, United in Prayer and Worship Book*

I would be lying if I didn't mention at this point that holidaying alone (even with children) can be lonely, and feeling that couple's bond suddenly brought that loneliness into sharp focus. But it had been fun for the girls and by this stage they were filthy and covered in mud. I had the bedtime routine to sort out and little time for maudlin self pity.

Once back at our house, both girls thanked me for taking them on such a 'great holiday'. It was spontaneous and left me stirred up and emotional. All lone parents feel guilty at least some of the time, and with their thanks came more guilt remembering the misgivings I had had before departing.

It struck me then that, like all things in life, you tend to get out what you put in. The girls knew I had gone the extra mile (literally) for them during this holiday and I found then that I was able to replace my feelings of guilt with a sense of pride that I really had put them first. In so doing, I gave the girls and myself a week to remember. Budget permitting we'll do it again!

*Joan Brayshaw*

# Friends of Ashton Parish Church

## Visit to Beverley.

Thirty members and friends left Ashton on a lovely sunny morning in the middle of May for our annual outing. This year our destination was Beverley, an East Yorkshire market town with two large churches, the Minster and St Mary's. Most of our party decided to go to the Minster which was founded by St. John of Beverley in the 5th century. He later became Bishop of Hexham and Archbishop of York. Although originally run by monks from the 10th to the 16th century it was then regulated by priests, seized by the Crown at the dissolution of the monasteries and reduced to a status of a parish church. Neglect nearly caused disaster but major restoration in the 18th century saved it from further deterioration. It is now a sub-cathedral in the diocese of York. It has some beautiful carved stonework both outside and inside, its font is of Norman marble. The magnificent stained glass windows date from the 19th century although there are small pieces of medieval glass in the east window and some modern 21st century glass in the Retro choir. There are also several monuments to the Percy family who are Earls of Northumberland. All this was put into perspective by our guide who was also the Virger.



St. Mary's church is not quite as old dating from 1120 founded by Thurstan archbishop of York who had been Privost of the Minster. During the middle ages it was regarded as the parish church of the town. The church was extended during the 14th and 15th centuries. As with much tower building at this time the central tower collapsed in 1520 killing many of the congregation during a service. North and south galleries were erected in the nave in the 18th century where high pews faced a three decker pulpit in the centre aisle. The 19th century saw a complete restoration of the church under Augustus Pugin and Sir Gilbert Scott. The font of 1530 is of Derbyshire marble and the nave ceiling contains many interesting bosses. The unusual Memorial Door near the font to those who lost their lives in the Second World War is the work of Mouseman Robert Thomson of Kilburn Yorks. The church also contains some 15th century misericords. There are also several interesting carvings around the church including The Pilgrim Rabbit in St Michael's chapel and the Pilgrims Pillar. Once again our visitors were giving a very comprehensive tour by their guide.

After visiting the churches and doing some shopping several of the party enjoyed the warm sunny weather by sitting outside the pavement cafes for afternoon tea before returning to the coach for the return journey.

The next meeting of the Friends is on Thursday 8th July at 1-30 in church.

**Alan F. Bacon.**

## Parish Notices

### Baptisms

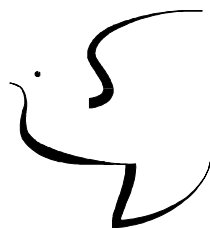
We give thanks with the families of:

**Dylan Bryan Thomas Parsons**

**Oscar Thomas Sibley**

**Mason James Staub**

**Poppi Grace Elizabeth Staub**



### Funerals

Please pray for the family and friends of:

**Frank Bishop, Philip Buckley,**

**Liam Mansfield**

## Diary Dates

### JUNE

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Corpus Christi – United Deanery Service at St John’s Hurst. 7.30pm. Bishop Mark is presiding.
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	St Michael’s DCC, 7.15pm, St Michael’s
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	Table Top Sale, St Peter’s
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>	PCC meeting, St Peters, 7.30pm
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>	Deanery Treasurers meeting,
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Walks of Witness
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Confirmation Service, 7.30pm, St George’s, Stalybridge
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup>	Team Treasurers meeting, St James Vicarage, 8.15pm
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup>	Games Night, St Peter’s

## June 2010- Parish Diary

### Trinity 2

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June

9.30am	St. James	Holy Communion
9.30am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Gabriel	Family Service
11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Holy Trinity	Evening Prayer
6.30pm	St Peter	Evening Prayer

### Trinity 3

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June

9.30am	St. James	Holy Communion
9.30am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Gabriel	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Holy Trinity	Evening Prayer
4.00pm	St. James	St James on Sunday Afternoon
6.30pm	St. Peter	Holy Communion

### Trinity 4

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June

9.30am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
9.30am	St. James	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Gabriel	Morning Prayer
11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Holy Trinity	Evening Prayer
6.30pm	St Peter	Evening Prayer

### Trinity 5

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June

9.30am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Gabriel	Holy Communion
11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Holy Trinity	Evening Prayer
4.00pm	St. James	St James on Sunday Afternoon
6.30pm	St. Peter	Holy Communion

### Regular Weekday Services

Tues.	10.30am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
Wed.	1.30pm	St. James	Holy Communion
Thurs.	11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion

### Monthly:

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

