



Holy Trinity



St.
Gabriel

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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels



NOVEMBER 2020

Price 50p

Editorial



This year we've been remembering the Battle of Britain, described by Winston Churchill in August 1940 as *'one of the decisive battles of the war... never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'* It was a dramatic turning point in the history of the Second World War. The occasions for Remembrance this month will provide us times of gratitude for what was achieved in the darkest moments of war. However, this year we are very aware of our own struggles with the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. We face an unseen enemy, but the effects on our lives and society are as almost as devastating as world war.

Remembering is not just about focusing on past events. It is also about making present past events, as we give thanks for all that took place. The Battle of Britain was fought by the Few and won in the skies over the Channel. In our battle with the virus, we can call to mind the victory of Jesus: *'Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David.'* (2 Timothy 2:8). Jesus secured the victory of death by His cross and resurrection, so that we don't need to fear death, but trust in His loving purposes for our lives.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

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The views expressed in articles in this magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Parish of The Good Shepherd. The editor reserves the right to amend articles as appropriate, for editorial purposes. Please consider writing something for the magazine yourself! And, if you have any comments to make on the Magazine you can contact the editor, Roger Farnworth on 0161 330 2771 or talk to a member of your DCC or PCC who will pass on any comments that are made.

Contents

	Page
Remembrance – Revd Roger Farnworth	3-4
Remembrance Sunday Services	5
Lord Help Us - poem	6
November Church Services	7
Poppy Appeal / Book Review	8
Why Go For a Walk?	9
Parish Notices	10
Contact Details	11



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.



Remembrance

It is the time of year once again when our hearts and minds focus on Remembering. Usually, on the Sunday closest to All Souls Day, we have an opportunity to remember loved ones who have died. It is a simple straightforward service with space to remember alongside others who have lost those they love.

That service will not be happening this year as we have felt that the logistics of the service and making it Covid-19 secure in the midst of Tier 3 Covid-19 restrictions would be difficult. Instead we are sending out a card to everyone which will give the opportunity to pray quietly using the same prayer as others as remember loved ones.

On Sunday 8th November, Remembrance Sunday, all our churches would usually have been full of people remembering, along with millions around our world, the many women and men who have given their lives in the different conflicts of the past 110 and more years. People who either by choice, or through compulsion, risked their lives in the pursuit of peace and justice. We owe our freedom to many such people who have stood up against tyranny and oppression - to people who risked everything, laying themselves on the line.

We will all remember. Some will be able to attend church on 8th November, others will want to remain at home. The capacity of our churches is greatly reduced at present in order to ensure that they are Covid-19 secure. So, for example, St. Michael's, which usually has around 500 people in church on Remembrance Sunday has a capacity of 40 people. We are sending out Remembrance Sunday prayer cards to people who usually attend our churches or who receive mailings. If you usually attend church, you will be able to pick these cards up at service on 1st and 8th November.

Our remembering will, of course, include the memories of those who have served on the battlefield or in conflict zones around our world will no doubt justifiably tell and re-tell stories of valour and bravery. For those who served, 'remembering' will also bring to the front of the mind stories of those who did not return. Remembering brings to the surface the naked fear of conflict, the pain of loss and a real sense of comradeship.

But remembering is so very important to us all, not just on Remembrance



Sunday or Armistice Day, but in all areas of our lives. Remembering leads to us telling our stories. Both as individuals and communities. And as we tell our story, we reaffirm our roots, and we define who we are. We put our own lives in context. For today's world, where we define ourselves not so much by where we come from as by our networks of friends and acquaintances can so easily become a rootless place where we do not know who we really are.

Our shared memories are our key to understanding ourselves. And our collective memory needs to be sustained by hearing the stories of our past. By hearing from those who went out from us here to serve in different arenas in our world. These stories, these people are so much a part of who we are here in Tameside today. They contribute to our history, they strengthen our community spirit.

Our stories are important. Remembering is vital. Nowhere is this more true than in relation to the conflicts with which we have been involved as a nation. Failure to engage with and learn from our past is the height of modern arrogance. We have to hear again the stories of conflict, of bravery, of pain and loss. And we need to allow those stories, ... that remembering, to change us

now. It must inform our thinking about the future, it must be allowed to change our wills and our actions.

For in today's world, we are all called to take new & different risks. To act for justice, for peace in society, in the world around us. To work for racial justice, to fight discrimination, to engage with injustice in whatever form it might arise.

Where do we find the courage to do this? As Christians we have the promise of God in Christ. 'Go,' says Jesus, 'into all the world, work for the coming of my kingdom of justice and peace and I will be with you always.' God does not leave us alone to face new challenges, to risk our lives in the cause of his Kingdom. He promises always to be with us.

Real peace is enjoyed when people of different races, ages, interests, appearances, and with different views choose to live together in harmony.

So let us covenant again, on the basis of whatever we remember in coming weeks, to work within our own communities, groups and congregations, for peace, justice and understanding.

Revd Roger Farnworth



Services for Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020

- 10.30am St James' Church
- 10.45am St Michael's Church with Archdeacon David
- 10.50am St Peter's Church
- 10.50am St Gabriel's Church
- 4.00pm St James on Sunday Afternoon

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic restrictions
There will be no War Memorial Services

To help you to commemorate Remembrance Sunday at home, we are sending out special prayer cards to people who usually attend our churches or who receive mailings. If you usually attend church, you will be able to pick these cards up at services on 1st and 8th November.

If you have not received a prayer card, please contact a member of clergy

Barry Bowden writes about Covid-19

Hello, everyone! Well, here we are, eight months on, and still in Lockdown but with a degree of flexibility including Sunday morning worship. But pandemics are nothing new.

A Flu Pandemic during WWI claimed 50million lives, more than the war itself. Some years ago, there was a Diphtheria Isolation Hospital near Hartshead Pike. Then there was the Bubonic Plague outbreak in 1633, when the small village of Eyam, Derbyshire, when tailor ordered a bale of cloth from London which was infested by fleas carrying the plague. A boundary spot was set up outside each end of the village and the villagers voluntarily isolated themselves to prevent it spreading further. One woman had to bury her own family, husband and children. There was also a cholera pandemic in the 19th century which claimed 23,000 lives in Great Britain. Although Leprosy is still with us it is now treatable and of course there have been numerous natural disasters.

Planet earth has overcome many diseases in its lifetime.

Taken from Tony Robinson (TV)

Lord Help Us

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Colossians 3.12

I heard the voice of God today,
Its kind and gentle tone
Emanated clearly from
The speaker on the phone.

"Hello," it said, "It's only me,
I thought I'd ring today.
To have a little catch-up, and
Make sure that you're OK.

I'm hoping you've recovered from
That nasty, vicious bug.
Are you eating better now,
And keeping warm and snug?"

We talked of this, we talked of
that,
You know, the way you do,
While manna for my heart and soul
Came right on pouring through.

I touched the hand of God today,
Which really made me smile.
It happened just this morning
In the supermarket aisle.

A voice said: "Let me help you
there,
I'll lift that heavy stuff."
The helping hand was big and
strong,
The skin was rather rough.

An unknown person reaching out
To help me on my way.
And thus, celestial sparkle
Was sprinkled on the day.

For strangers, friends and
neighbours,
Whate'er their earthly role,
Are also proxy angels
Alert, and on patrol.

Tall and short and young and old
No matter height or girth,
They channel bits of Heaven down
To beautify the earth.

And so I've come to realise
It's part of the design.
We all have the potential
To be human and divine.

T Sturgeon, Norfolk



Coronavirus Pandemic



You are welcome to public worship services in our churches.

Risk assessments have been carried out and we have put procedures in place to ensure that people follow all relevant public health advice, including social distancing guidelines and hand and respiratory hygiene measures.

Please note that those who are extremely clinically vulnerable/shielding, or who have symptoms of a continuous cough or a high temperature or loss of or change to sense of smell or taste, should not attend church.

November Church Services

All Saints	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 1 st November	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion/Junior Church
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion

Remembrance Sunday 8th November - see page 5

2nd before Advent	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th November	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion/Junior Church
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion

Christ the King	9.30am	St James	Morning Prayer
Sunday 22 nd November	9.30am	St Gabriel	All Age Service of the Word
Sunday before Advent	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Morning Prayer
	4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday Afternoon

Advent 1	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 th November	9.30am	St Gabriel	Family Communion
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion
	4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday Afternoon

It may be necessary to change our services at short notice.

Weekday Services

Thursday: 4.00pm Holy Trinity Evening Prayer
(This will be a Eucharist Service on the 1st Thursday of the month)



Poppy Appeal 2020

Look out for the Poppy Appeal again this year, but not so much via street collections. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contactless donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic.

One method will be ‘point of sale donations’. This means that when you shop at your supermarket and reach the till or online, you may be invited to round up your total to the nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal.

A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: “The Poppy Appeal 2020 is very much still going ahead”, but that “the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and members is paramount.

This means that collectors who fall into the vulnerable category have been advised “not to take part in activity on behalf of the Poppy Appeal that would expose them to any additional risks while coronavirus is still present.”

And yet the need is still huge: “Members of the Armed Forces Community are suffering significant hardship as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and we at the Royal British Legion will do everything we possibly can to support them.”

Book Review

Come Let Us Adore Him - a Daily Advent Devotional
By Paul David Tripp, Crossway/10ofThose, £4.99

Every time the Christmas season comes around, we look forward to putting up a tree, giving and receiving gifts, and participating in other traditions that make this wonderful time of year so special. But sometimes the most significant aspect of the season—focusing on the coming of Jesus—grows old and familiar.



Here Paul Tripp seeks to reawaken our awe during Christmastime. Each day begins with a compelling, gospel-centred thought followed by an extended meditation for the day. Each of the 31 devotions also includes a Scripture reading and notes for parents and children, equipping us to do the one thing that matters most each December—celebrate Jesus.

Why go for a walk?

Keep fit and healthy

Walking packs more of a punch than most people realise! Good for our hearts, lungs and blood (that's blood pressure, sugar levels and blood flow) walking is a brilliant, low impact way to get and stay healthy.

Unless you're self-isolating, you can still head outside and take your daily walk at the moment. Just remember to keep your eye on government advice to ensure you're doing things safely.

Combat stress and promote good mental health

Evidence shows that a good walk can do wonders for our mental wellbeing. We've always said that a good stroll is good for your northern soul, and that's true now more than ever.

Walking for at least 10 minutes a day is a great way to relieve stress, improve self-esteem and help with anxiety.

During difficult times, knowing how to manage our stress and worries is so important and walking is a fantastic way to help with this!

Get exploring from your doorstep

All this talk of social distancing and reduced contact can feel quite isolating, but it doesn't have to be. As well as connecting with your loved ones using phone calls and video chats, you can connect with your surroundings too.



Whether you live in a more green and rural part of Greater Manchester or somewhere colourfully urban, once a day you can still go explore in your local area. Check out the routes page on our website gmwalking.co.uk to see if there is one close to your home that you can discover.

Try using this time to listen to new music, find a new favourite podcast or help the kids stretch their legs. Get some comfy shoes on and feel the wind on your skin.

The government's Chief Medical Officer recommends 150 minutes of 'moderate intensity' exercise a week for adults. That translates to 30 minutes of walking every weekday.

This can be first thing in the morning to prepare for the day ahead, a lunchtime walk as a break from your makeshift office, or an evening walk to wind down.

Finding a rhythm that suits you is important. Don't worry about distance or pace, just appreciate the time spent on foot!

Greater Manchester Walking

Parish Notices

From the October registers:

There were no baptisms, weddings or funerals in October.

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Free national phoneline bringing worship and prayer



Government figures show that 2.5 million people aged 75 and above have never used the internet. And so, to help them, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, recently launched a free national phoneline to bring worship and prayer into the homes of those without access to the internet.

Daily Hope, which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England.

CONTACT DETAILS

CLERGY: (*usual day off)

Revd Roger Farnworth, Team Rector (*Tues.)
The Vicarage, Westbury Street, Ashton OL6 9NL 330 2771

Revd Ben Brady, Team Curate (*Fri) 400 1556

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Fairly Traded Tea and Coffee and to work for justice for the world's poor

