



Holy Trinity



St.  
Gabriel

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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

**JUNE 2020**

**Price 50p**

## Editorial

At this time of global pandemic, we live with stark reality of death and life. Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones (37:1-14) was given when God's people were in exile in Babylon. They felt dead, being separated from home and God! The vision answers God's question: '*can these bones live?*'

We can also feel cut off from God, facing the loss of job, business, home or health, with churches unable to meet on Sundays. This vision assures us that God has power over death and can breathe new life into what is hopeless.

When Ezekiel is told to '*prophesy to the bones*' (4), God brings them back to life: the bones come together and are covered with muscles and skin, and then filled with God's breath to bring new life, by the life of His Spirit.

The Covid-19 virus robs people of their life by suffocation, so that they can't breathe. Our hope beyond the pandemic is that the gift of God's Spirit will bring new life to our lives, churches and world. Life will certainly look very different in the future, but we can be assured that God is with us and that we are safe in his hands.

*'I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'* (14).

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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.*

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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.

## Pentecost

I love superheroes. I love reading graphic novels (comic books), watching the films and wondering which power I would like to have. A 7-month old child brings with him early mornings but a surprise benefit of these early starts is that together Stanley and I have been working our way through the classic (in my opinion) Michael Keaton Batman films. Batman is one of my favourites. But whether the hero is bitten by a radio-active spider (Spider-Man), crashing to Earth from the planet Krypton (Superman) or even caught in Gamma rays and can't control their temper (The Incredible Hulk) I love them all.

So, if you could have a super-power, what would it be? Speed, so you could complete lots of work in a short period of time? Invisibility, so you can have some undisturbed alone time? Flight, so you can really save on those flights during the summer holidays? Super strength, so you may be able to beat Mick from St Gabriel's at boxing?



Personally, I find all of these worthy of countless hours of daydreaming.

However, two problems tend to arise. Firstly, I always seem to focus on how they would benefit ME.

Secondly, I'm pretty sure they are never going to happen and only appear in daydreams.

The Church has just celebrated Pentecost. This is when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit coming on to the disciples "like tongues of fire" (Acts 2:3). I find this image very dramatic.

Once in a school assembly, I heard someone say "The Holy Spirit came as fire onto all their heads!" Quite rightly this received gasps of horror from the children. In some Christian icons, the Holy Spirit is depicted like a candle flame above the disciples' heads. This holy anointing is so powerful, it calls to my mind the verse that speaks about "Children of Light" (1 Thessalonians 5:5). Now comes the challenge, this applies to us too, now. To carry this light into our homes, work and communities. But what does this look like?

We are told about the fruit of the Spirit. This is what we are to bear out with the Spirit within us. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us "the fruit of the Spirit

is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

It is important to note that it says “fruit” not “fruits”. This is a real game changer. It means that unlike choosing whether you would rather fly OR have super strength, we get both. We don’t have to choose between having more patience or faith. We can pray for all the fruit of Spirit. I don’t know about you, but I definitely need at least a few of them daily!

God in his love for us sent us the Holy Spirit so that, just like planting a seed, we can bear this fruit.

However, like tending a plant, we need to tend to ourselves. When I was in Uganda, I led a session on the Holy Spirit. I openly shared how personally I have had experienced great senses of being loved and a

deep sense of peace. We used the metaphor of a sponge saturated in water. Then over time the sponge dries out. There is no need to panic, just put the sponge into some water again. Over time, we may feel like we have dried out of patience, kindness or self-control. But Jesus says he is the “Living Water” (John 4:10) and we just have to ask to be filled again.

So I encourage you to nurture the Holy Spirit within you. Bear the fruit and pray to be refreshed whenever you need. In doing so, we can all bless and reflect the love of God onto all those with who we come into contact.

*Rev'd Ben*



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The Church of England has recently launched **#FaithAtHome**, a new programme which it is hoped will “make prayer a household habit once again.”

It will feature weekly video content to help families to talk about faith and pray together. The videos will be led by children, young people, staff and school leaders from across the country.

The programme will run for an initial 11 weeks, until the end of July, and can be accessed at [churchofengland.org/faithathome](http://churchofengland.org/faithathome). It will explore themes including courage, patience, generosity, resilience, love and hope.

## Trust in God

It always takes a crisis of any kind, especially a pandemic, to shock us into the reality of just how precious life as we know it is and just how much we do need God in our lives.

Even those who don't believe cry out in desperation for God's help and mercy.

Although it may seem like God is no longer in control, I think we can be sure he still is and always will be.

Faith, our spiritual umbilical cord between us and God, is being tested right now, but we will endure and we will overcome.

Just continue to believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

What we need now is Pandemic Praying, so keep on practising often, every day. Never underestimate the power of prayer - Jesus didn't.

Until we meet again, God bless us all, every one. Amen



*“All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.” — Julian of Norwich*

Barry Bowden



## Creative things you can do with your Bible

Bible Society is urging people to make good use of their enforced time at home by using their creativity to read the Bible with better appreciation. To help with this, Bible Society is offering a range of creative Bible-based resources to help people learn new skills, such as journaling, colouring or doing crafts that are Bible-based. These include:

Bless Our Nest (£5.95) – a colouring book filled with Bible verse Designs, featuring colour charts and tools for Bible journaling.

Faithful Papercrafting (£12.99) – now you can create note cards, gift tags and scrapbook paper, mini cards, bookmarks and envelope templates full of inspiring Scripture.

Complete Guide to Bible Journaling (£14.99) – offering new creative techniques for Bible journaling.

Go to: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk>



An article (written pre-Coronavirus lockdown) from GO, the newsletter from Interserve mission charity – *“Our purpose is to make Jesus Christ known through wholistic ministry, in partnership with the global church, amongst the neediest peoples of Asia and the Arab World.”*

## The International Run Crew

Paul and Emma are Interserve Partners based in Glasgow and working with asylum seekers – they share an exciting story of a recent initiative.



“We started a running group that meets in the east end of Glasgow, where many asylum seekers and refugees live. We call our group “The International Run Crew” – this running group started after several men in the English classes expressed an interest in keeping fit and taking part in a sport... a sport that wasn’t football! We meet at 10.30am and then organise an all-ability session in the park. After the run, we meet back at The Charter café and continue conversations over a cup of coffee and lunch (the café operates on a ‘take what you want, give what you can’ policy) so all get post-exercise sustenance. The group has been going for six months now and it’s exciting to see relationships deepen and barriers broken down. Many have taken Christian literature and received prayer.

It’s encouraging to see how sport – often so divisive in Glasgow – can bring people together. It’s also helped many to grow in confidence. Once man struggled to walk a mile and now he’s jog/walking over two every week. One of the Sudanese participants is now a qualified jog leader. A running charity, who resource the group, appreciate what we’re doing and told me they consider the International Run Crew as one of the most successful running groups to engage those from BAME backgrounds.

The conversations I’ve had during and after runs are amazing. In the last week alone, we talked about everything from the meaning of “sacrifice” in Christianity to someone asking how to get additional support with his struggles with depression. It’s often difficult to get younger men to talk about these more “weighty” issues.

Still, something about running seems to encourage openness (one mental health worker told me this is because when people are running/walking together, they can talk freely without the awkwardness of having to look at someone face to face.”



## Fair Trade

**STAY HOME, LIVE FAIR** is the message from the World Fair Trade Organisation. The situation for Fairtrade producers during this pandemic is extremely challenging, with far less support in place than we have in the UK, difficult and unsettling as it is for us all.

What can we, as a Fairtrade Diocese, do in support? Whether staying safe at home or working with little time to shop, we can still buy Fairtrade and eco-friendly goods. For example:

**Traidcraft** offers a range of Bio-D cleaning products on its website, including laundry liquid, hand wash, washing up liquid in 1, 5 & even 15 litre containers. You can add in dried fruit, sugar, dates, olive oil, socks, toilet rolls – and lots of chocolate of course!

**Justicia, Bolton**, has an Order and Collect Service, mainly for food items. Orders may be taken over the phone (01204 363308) or by email for collection on Tuesdays or Fridays between 10am and 2pm. Payment can be made by credit card over the phone or by BACS, and goods can be collected from the side door. You can arrange a collection slot when you place your order.

However you shop during this crisis, please try to choose products which support producers by buying items which are Fairtrade as well as kind to our planet – it's one way in which we can live out our Christian faith in a very practical way. So please stay home and live fair!

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## **Conservation Foundation wants to hear stories from your garden**

Have you been gardening during lockdown? If so, you may have a story or some advice to share. In that case, the Conservation Foundation would love to hear from you. It has recently launched a virtual *Gardening Against the Odds* network on Facebook @gardeningagainsttheodds and on our website at <https://conservationfoundation.co.uk/projects/gardening-against-the-odds/>

As David Shreeve of the Conservation Foundation explains: "Over the years running our GATO Awards we have made many friends and now we are making more virtually every day. If you or anyone you know would be interested in sending news and information to us especially if it doesn't involve an actual garden or somehow it's against the odds. We hope to be adding news every day and giving details of plant availability, tricks of the trade and offer the odd prize."

# Dandelions!

Many of us actually like dandelions. Their amazingly cheerful colour always brings a smile to our faces. The not-so-neat-and-tidy gardeners among us can simply enjoy flowers where they grow.



#197150076

The name ‘dandelion’ apparently derives from ‘dent de lion’ – lions’ teeth, owing to the tooth-like shape of its leaves. There are many different varieties of dandelion, but they all have the toothed leaves arranged in a rosette around the single flowers, each one made up of up to *two hundred* [yes, really!] tiny florets on a smooth stem, that when picked, releases a milky substance known as latex.

The golden heads, which close up at night, in wet weather, or if picked to go in a vase, give way to the seed-heads we all know as clocks. Who cannot remember proclaiming the time as a child, having blown the seeds away, counting each breath as an hour? And who, if this happened in the garden, remembers the reaction of a parent, or grandparent, to the efficient dispersal of the seeds all over the vegetable patch or flower bed!

In the past, dandelion drinks and concoctions have been valued for their medicinal powers in combating a variety of complaints, and the Victorians used to cultivate them in order to fill sandwiches with the young leaves. Fizzy drinks manufacturers still produce a variety known as Dandelion and Burdock, and intrepid wine-makers can use the flowers to concoct a heady brew.

The roots, some say, can be dried and ground up for use as a coffee substitute. It is those same roots, long and strong, that our grandmothers would water carefully, to the amusement of onlookers, in order to pull them up completely.



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To many of us, dandelions are one of Nature’s joys.



# Book Review

## Celtic Saints: 40 days of devotional readings



By David Cole, BRF, £8.99

The life stories of the Celtic saints are inspirational. They demonstrate great and unassuming faith, often in the face of insurmountable difficulties. In Celtic Saints David Cole draws us to relate our own life journey and developing relationship with God into the life story of the Celtic saint of the day. A corresponding biblical text and blessing encourages and motivates us to transform our lives for today’s world in the light of such historic faith.

## Understanding Trauma – how to overcome post-traumatic stress

By Roger Baker, LionHudson, £8.99

What is post-traumatic stress disorder? What does it feel like? And how can it be overcome? Trauma is a term that many of us find alienating and clinical. But in fact trauma is something most people encounter at some point in life, and post-traumatic stress – far from being a mental disorder – is a normal reaction to abnormal events: even breaking a bone or witnessing a car crash. Drawing on 20 years of research and clinical practice, Roger Baker explains the many symptoms of post-traumatic stress and lays out a self-help programme – emotional processing therapy – which can defuse the distressing memories of trauma and reduce the occurrence of flashbacks, nightmares and tensions.



### Notable Quotes

*“Have courage for the great sorrows of life, and patience for the small ones. And when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake.”* – Victor Hugo, writer

*The good thing about prayer is that there’s only one way to go wrong, and that’s not to do it. If prayer at its simplest level is listening to God and talking to Him, you don’t need long books to tell you how to do it.* – Anon

# Parish Notices

## From the May registers:

### Funeral:

We pray for the families and friends of:

Steve Forde

There were no baptisms or weddings in May.

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### **Mothers' Union offers range of resources**

The Mothers' Union has made a very practical response to the coronavirus. As their website explains, "We know that our work and experience in re-building communities and supporting family life is going to be more important than ever once the threat of COVID-19 subsides. Our members will be some of the first in line to support those around them."

In the meantime, MU has drawn together a range of resources to "help nurture our members and their friends and neighbours through this challenging time." The resources will "help combat feelings of loneliness, to nourish faith and to help you continue to feel connected to your friends and community."

These include: rainbows, prayer cards, prayer resources, puzzles resources, and Bible study resources. More info at: <https://www.mothersunion.org>

## 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

### THE PARISH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD:

Parish Warden: Cath Sheldon 18 Essex Road, Debdale Park, Manchester 07702 137596  
Parish Warden: Les Smith 20 Lowerbank, Denton 336 0904  
Warden Emeritus: Enid Fisher 243 Mossley Road, Ashton 308 2795  
Chair of PCC: Roger Farnworth The Vicarage, Westbury St, Ashton 330 2771  
PCC Secretary: Pat Lodge 250 Yew Tree Lane, Dukinfield 338 5303  
Safeguarding: Moira Wilson 07854 536949  
PCC Treasurer: Jan Ratcliffe c/o The Vicarage, Westbury St, Ashton 330 2771  
Parish Magazine: Roger Farnworth The Vicarage, Westbury St, Ashton 330 2771

### HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Church Wardens: Judith Hilton 198 Park Road, Dukinfield 344 5440  
Les Smith 20 Lowerbank, Denton 336 0904  
For Baptisms, Banns, Weddings, contact Revd Roger Farnworth 330 2771  
For room bookings, contact Carl Kelsall 339 0236

### ST GABRIEL'S CHURCH

Church Wardens: Sandra Kiy 89, Andrew St. Mossley 01457 838919  
Vacancy

### ST JAMES CHURCH

Church Wardens: Tina Howarth 47 Hartshead Avenue, Ashton 07411 773336  
Gemma Marchant 07795 068999

### ST MICHAEL'S & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

Church Wardens: Peter Lee 244 Chapel Street, Dukinfield 07961 143890  
Vacancy

### ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Church Wardens: Cath Sheldon 07702 137596  
Philip Bowden 07807 346891

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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

