



Holy Trinity



St.
Gabriel

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



St. James



St. Peter



St. Michael and All Angels

OCTOBER 2020

Price 50p

Editorial

The Bible is the world's best-selling book of all time. However, it isn't one book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over a period of 1500 years in a range of literature including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (end times). Despite having a number of different writers, the Bible claims one author: God himself!

This is the basis of the unity of its message and authoritative claim to be the primary way by which God speaks to us: *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work'* (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (*'the word of God in the words of men'*) and presents itself as a *manual for life*, equipping us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us in applying the words to our lives: *'the Spirit will guide you into all truth'* (John 16:13).

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

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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.

For everything give thanks:

I have to say that, with the virus taking control again, the infection rates rising, the number of deaths increasing, the businesses that are closing, the job losses that will follow, the complete disruption to our daily life, the inability to hug our grandchildren and our family - I could go on and on - there really doesn't seem very much to be thankful for at the moment.

Yet this is the time in the Church year that we set aside specifically to thank God for all that he so generously provides for us. This month we celebrate Harvest.

Harvest comes in my favourite season of the year. There are good things to appreciate in every season but, for me, Autumn takes the prize.

We've had some lovely days recently so Terry and I decided to take the car for a run. I have to say I went out feeling a little disgruntled - shut up in the car for a couple of hours driving round just to be sure that the car was still working properly didn't seem like my idea of fun. But I came back with a smile on my face, and joy in my heart, having been thoroughly spoiled by the beauty of the world around us as we explored some gorgeous Cheshire lanes around Dunham and Tatton.

Thick branches full of foliage curved from one side of a lane to the other, providing an arch of leaves fluttering in the breeze with sunlight glinting through. The trees were beginning to turn, some of them already showing the wonderful oranges and reds in which they would shortly be fully dressed. The fields had mostly been harvested and the rich, reddy-brown earth had been turned and ploughed ready for winter sowing. Little glimpses of colours in the hedgerows pointed to where summer flowers were still hanging on to their beauty. Sheep were lazily lifting their heads to see who was disturbing their peace as we drove past. It felt good to be alive and it certainly reminded me how much we have to thank God for.

Another reminder has been through a series of television programmes that I've been indulging in over the lockdown - This Farming Life. I love it! I've been humbled by the amazing resilience and determination of a whole range of different styles of farming across the British Isles. I've laughed at the antics of goats, I've cried when an Angus cow had to be put to sleep, I've been fascinated with how clever sheep dogs are and I've been full of admiration for the way in which

farmers have had to re-think their way of life by diversifying into holiday lets, country crafts, cheese making - even gin making! All in order to keep the land with which they feel such an affinity and a way of life that their families have been part of for generations.

Whilst the Harvest season marks the end of the yearly growing pattern for fruit, vegetables and many other crops for farmers, it is also true that we expect to be able to buy a much wider range of produce in the supermarket throughout the year these days. Gone are the seasonal patterns that once dictated our food and that, undoubtedly, puts much greater pressure on today's farmers than in previous generations.

The Church's whole approach to the celebration of Harvest has changed, too. In my childhood it was all about fruit and vegetables with a huge Harvest sheaf taking pride of place in the centre of the colourful display. Then we were thanking God for providing such a fruitful world that met all our needs and expectations, and for the weather that helped the farmers to grow such bounty. Later it became just as important for us to give thanks for the men who brave the worst seas imaginable to bring home the fish

that we expect to see on the shelves.

But Harvest is so much more than that. It's now about thanking God for **all** that we have - our homes and families and our work and play - and a recognition that we must be generous in sharing all that we have with those who have not, of which, under this current situation, there are an increasingly large number.

The most important lesson that Jesus taught us is to "Love one another as I have loved you. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Loving one another means we cannot discriminate. It cannot mean that we can only love those on a similar income level to ourselves and ignore those who are struggling. Love one another means that we cannot turn our face away from those who are forced to sleep under the hedgerows, with one eye constantly open to keep themselves safe, while we tuck ourselves down under our warm duvet within the safety of our locked home.

As Christians we have a clear explanation of our world - it's all there in Genesis. God created the world in 6 days. He brought light to the darkness, he separated the sky and the waters, he created plants and trees, he put the sun and the

moon and the stars in place, he made creatures that lived under the water and those that flew in the sky, he put animals to live on the land and then he created human beings to look after his creation and to share it together.

As we celebrate Harvest this year, different though it will undoubtedly be from other years as a result of the virus, whether it's in church or

at home because we're still shielding, let us indeed give thanks. Thanks for the beauty of this wonderful world that God has created for us, for our families and loved ones. And more than ever this year, let us remember to share what we have with those who are not so lucky, remembering that to share is simply an expression of love, the love that God has for us and that he asks us to have for each other.

Rev Pat Lodge

Helping those who need it most

The following was written by Pauline Town who does so much for the homeless in Tameside and refers to a man who was completely at the end of his tether sleeping out and went to a Pauline as someone had told him she would help him. He did and she got him into The Town House , the new unit recently opened to help with the homeless.

“That gentleman I posted about last night.....he settled in and had a proper night's sleep at The Town House.

He stood for so long in the shower that they went in to check he was ok.....he was absolutely fine, but after a month in the same clothes, the feeling of getting clean was so good that he didn't want it to end!

He slept in a real bed, with clean bedding and with a full belly....safe and not having to keep an ear and an eye open....

He got up this morning and was able to put on his clean clothes and eat breakfast.....

He had what we all get to take for granted - and now he'll get the help he needs.”

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 – you may find that your churches look a bit different as a result.

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.

October Church Services

Trinity 17 Sunday 4 th October	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion
Trinity 18 Sunday 11 th October	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St. Gabriel	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Peter	Morning Prayer
	4.00pm	St James	St James on Sunday Afternoon
Trinity 19 Sunday 18 th October	9.30am	St. James	Morning Prayer
	9.30am	St Gabriel	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St. Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St. Michael	Holy Communion
Last Sunday after Trinity Sunday 25 th October	9.30am	St James	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Gabriel	Morning Prayer
	11.00am	St Peter	Holy Communion
	11.00am	St Michael	Morning Prayer
	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)

The Parish of the Good Shepherd – Harvest Appeal for 2020

As has been usual over a number of years our churches will be collecting produce at Harvest time. Each of our churches makes their own decisions about who the produce donated should be shared with. This year, given the circumstances, it seems that we are all planning to provide produce for Pauline Town's work with the homeless in the town centre.

The 5 churches of the Parish of the Good Shepherd usually agree together where monetary gifts made at Harvest-time are sent. In 2020 we have agreed to split the money equally between two different appeals – Stronger Together Tameside and the Bishop of Manchester's Lahore Pandemic Appeal for Covid-19 support in the Diocese of Lahore, Pakistan.

1. Stronger Together Tameside

Stronger Together Tameside is an umbrella organisation for the borough which includes organisations such as Tameside Council, Emmaus, Anew, Infinity Initiatives, food banks and more.

By sharing resources and support and taking a combined approach, the organisation is working for the greater good by supporting the homeless and vulnerable.

Run by volunteers, who generously give their time and skills to help those in need. Stronger Together Tameside takes a collaborative approach to make the borough a safer place to live for all.

The work embraces a number of charitable activities and organisations such as:

- Emmaus, a charity who currently support over 800 formerly homeless people through 29 communities across the UK. They provide not only support, but a home for as long as is need. Through their social enterprises they also provide meaningful work and training, giving people a sense of belonging and community.
- Anew have been providing support since 1981 to pregnant women and new mothers. Their award-winning services in Swords comprise supported accommodation for pregnant women and new mothers. This service provides intensive support for women during their pregnancies and new motherhood. Their experienced Social Care Workers, Housing

Workers and Support Workers provide life skills training and therapeutic parenting support as well as practical support in finding their 'forever home'.

- Pauline Town local pub landlady of The Station, who has made it her mission to help those rough sleeping in Tameside. Pauline provides 60 packed lunches each day as well as practical support to those in need. She has helped over 200 people into accommodation, some of which have been reunited with their families.

2. Lahore Diocese

The Diocese of Manchester says that Covid-19 is now increasingly affecting Pakistan after a relatively slow start. It is affecting the poorest in society the most, those who live on a day to day basis, those without reserves to fall back on, living day by day.

In Pakistan the hospitals are full with coronavirus patients, and many low-skilled workers are now unemployed. Lockdown, as we know, is very difficult when you need to work to put food on the table.

The headteachers of our linked Church Schools tell us that the schools are closed, with teachers sending work out to the children in a similar way to here in the UK. Education is not free in Pakistan with schools reliant on the fees paid by parents. Some schools are still receiving fees from parents, even in lockdown, whereas in poorer, more rural areas, the payment of fees for schooling have reduced significantly. Without the payment of fees, the reality is that teachers won't be paid.

The Church in Pakistan is focusing its efforts on providing food parcels to those in need, and we are appealing for our church communities in Manchester to support this work.

As a Church School community throughout Manchester Diocese, we believe that our attention could be to support the church schools in the Diocese of Lahore.

We know that these times have been difficult for many, but if you do feel that you are able to support either appeal, then it would be really appreciated, making a difference to friends and colleagues in the poorest areas of Lahore Diocese.

Our prayers continue to be with the people of Lahore and its surrounding areas, with Bishop Irfan and those in the Church of Pakistan trying to

provide food to those in need, for the church schools in Lahore Diocese and the vital work that they continue to do with their young people.

The Manchester-Lahore Diocesan Link has successfully promoted friendship and mutual school support for several years. All education in Pakistan is fee paying and schools are now struggling with coronavirus causing rising unemployment and food poverty. Our sister Church Schools in Lahore Diocese educate pupils from both Muslim and Christian homes. We understand that things are very tight for many at the moment. If you are in a position to raise funds or donate, your generosity would be gratefully received and make a real difference.

We intend that money sent to our Diocese will support work in both the areas mentioned – food for those most in need and support for church schools.

We hope that you will consider making a gift to support these two good causes this Harvest-time.

Revd. Roger Farnworth

The AGM of The Parish of The Good Shepherd
for 2019 will be held on
Monday, October 26^h 2020

PCC Meeting 7.00pm
Vestry Meeting 7.15pm
Annual Parochial Church Meeting 7.30pm

As things stand the AGM for the PCC will need to take place on Zoom but if the circumstances change we will try to have the meeting at St. Peter's Church.

Scripture Union are launching a new mission to help churches to connect with youth and children.

“Revealing Jesus” – Wednesday 14th October 7.30pm – Free online

This should be good for anyone interested in spreading the good news of Jesus to our next generation of children, whether you are Youth Workers, Church Leaders, Teachers, all of us who have children in our lives. Beryl Carroon

Parish Notices

From the September registers:

There were no baptisms, weddings or funerals in September.

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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

