

FOCUS



September 2020

FREE: Please take a copy

**The monthly magazine of the Emmanuel
Benefice of Newsome and Armitage
Bridge and South Crosland, Huddersfield**

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Leeds



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Our churches are open!!

It is good to be back in our church buildings but as with all things these days there are some restrictions in order to keep us all safe! This means that there are a limited number of seats each week and if you want to join us then can I ask you to please book a place! I know this is not how it should be but with only 28-34 seats available (depending on the church) I would hate to have to turn you away at the door because we are full!!

The booking is fairly straightforward if you go to <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/church-of-england-parish> and just follow the instructions on the screen. Lots of you are using it already so I know it works and if you book a seat we can guarantee you will get it!

The other thing we need to do is follow all the government and Church of England guidelines to ensure you are not put in any danger! Here are a few of the rules which might help you to stay safe!

Sanitize your hands before entering the building at the sanitizing stations at the door.

Please wear a face mask if you are able (this is now law unless you are exempt)

Follow the one way system to avoid clashing with others. This will be clearly marked and the sidespeople will help if you are unsure!

Only sit on seats with service sheets on them – we've measured out the distance between them! The service sheets have been laminated so that we can use them again so please leave them on your seat as you leave!

Stay 2metres away from others – unless they are in your household or bubble!

No singing – out loud but you can sing and dance in your head and heart!

No tea and coffee will be available

No handshaking or sharing the peace

No hugging or kissing

Please don't stand in the aisle or doorways to chat; as others may need to pass!

Please fill in the test and trace sheet so we can help keep track of any cases of Covid19 and put it in the box provided on your way out!

I realise that all this may seem daunting but it will become part of life very quickly and it will ensure we are doing the best for you and all those you meet in church!

It is good to be back in our buildings worshipping God but please only come when you are ready, there is no obligation to come just because the doors are open. As Bishop Nick keeps on telling us “just because we can; doesn't mean we must!”

Any questions please just ask!!

Stay safe!

Julie

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All services will be at 10am

Date	Church and Type of service
Wednesday 2 nd September	Newsome
Sunday 6 th September	South Crosland
Wednesday 9 th September	Armitage Bridge
Sunday 13 th September	Newsome
Wednesday 16 th September	South Crosland
Sunday 20 th September	Armitage Bridge
Wednesday 23 rd September	Newsome
Sunday 27 th September	South Crosland
Wednesday 30 th September	Newsome
Sunday 4 th October	Armitage Bridge

Bishop Nick's article in the Yorkshire Post today to mark the seventy fifth anniversary of VJ Day.



The 75th anniversary of VJ Day is not just a day for celebrating the end of a cataclysmic global conflict. It is also a stimulus for reflection, humility and courageous self-reflection. For, in the famous words at the end of Bertolt Brecht's play 'The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui', pointing to Hitler, "The bitch that bore him is in heat again." Not elegant, but inescapably powerful. The sort of idolatries and dehumanising perversities that led to two world wars have not gone away, and there is great danger in thinking that we have since then just "moved on".

One of the most remarkable things about what followed VJ Day in 1945 was the ability of so many victims of Japanese military brutality to face the horrors they had endured and still forgive. Not everyone, clearly. And no one can point a finger at those whose suffering took them into silence, withdrawal or, even, hatred. Yet, many did recognise the complex nature of human identity, allegiance and obedience. (One of the best illustrations of this can be seen in the

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film 'The Railway Man' in which Colin Firth plays ex-POW Eric Lomax as he confronts the tortures he had endured during the war.)

This is not easy stuff. The German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, hanged on Hitler's orders a month before the Nazi surrender, addressed this when he rejected any notion of what he called "cheap grace". You can't just "forgive and forget" as a way of dealing with appalling cruelty or suffering; but, the beginning of any healing is to be found in facing the offence with courage and clarity.

A Japanese theologian called Kosuke Koyama did just that in 1984. Soaked in Japanese tradition and culture (though by then teaching in New York City), he wrote what he called a "pilgrimage in theology" in which he went from Mount Fuji to Mount Sinai – from the heart of Japanese emperor worship back to the formative place of encounter in the Judeo-Christian narrative with God. What this meant for Koyama was not just some interesting historical study from which he could maintain academic distance, but an open facing up to personal challenge and failure. In a nutshell: how did he find himself seduced by a cultural worldview that led to unimaginable cruelty (as an exercise of power) while at the same time claiming to be a follower of Jesus Christ?

I mention Koyama because his account is not one that should be restricted to Japanese or Germans in the wake of a world war. It was a failure to recognise early enough the perversity of idolatry (of Hitler, the Reich, the Emperor) or the consequences of a thinking that dehumanises people that led to fifty million corpses across the planet in 1945.

An uncritical obedience to the Emperor cult led not only to extreme violence, but also to Hiroshima and Nagasaki where national identity and racial personality were reduced to ashes beneath the mushroom clouds of technological progress. Worship idols of national identity or racial supremacy and it will end in violence. Do we never learn from history?

Koyama came to the conclusion that Japan's collusion with emperor worship was a form of idolatry – giving ultimate worth to a dehumanising ideology. He pleads that every culture is prone to similar idolatries and that these are easily colluded with. The challenge for us, learning from his experience, is how to critique the values of our own culture ... in order to avoid unthinkingly slipping down a slope that leads inexorably to violence.

Self-criticism is not something that most of us find easy. Especially when we are asked to expose to external critique something as fundamental as our worldview: that is, our assumptions about the world, its people and what ultimately matters. It takes courage to look through the lens of others at the essence and drift of what we hold to be essential about our own collective values. The moral questions that lead us to condemn war crimes are the same as those we bring to bear on current challenges such as illegal immigration: what is a human being worth? And why?

I can't go with Koyama from Mount Fuji back to Mount Sinai where the Judeo-Christian ethical tradition is rooted (the Ten Commandments and the shaping of a just society), but I can at least see in Sinai some fundamental encouragements and warnings: to love God and neighbour; to avoid coveting and killing; to avoid idolatry and build justice; to tell the truth.

VJ Day celebrates the end of a particular dehumanising brutality and the cost of resisting it. The values that led the world to oppose tyranny must be the ones we hold onto as they come under pressure in every generation.

Bishop Nick Baines
Bishop of Leeds

Ramblings from the Rectory

Some of you will know that my favourite verses in the bible are Matthew 28: 19-20 and especially that wonderful promise from Jesus “I am with you always to the very end of the age!” It is this promise that keeps me going when things are tough, and it is this promise that fills my heart with joy when things are great. It is this promise that has kept me going over the lockdown when we couldn’t meet others in church (or anywhere else for that matter!)

But as you know we re-opened our church buildings on 9th August and restarted our Sunday services after being away since March. Everything seems to be going well and there has been an overwhelming feeling that Jesus is definitely with us as we do all the things that need to be done to keep you safe! If you read the list in last months Focus you will know what I am talking about!!

But how do help others to know that Jesus is with us – right now! Well we continue to do the things we have been doing since March! We support our neighbours and do the shopping for those who are still not able to come out! We phone or write to those who are on their own. We offer a helping hand to those who struggle to do things. We show them that we are the hands and feet, the eyes and ears of Jesus and that we are here to help them and love them!

And as for our church life; our worshipping community – well that is a bit harder in many ways. It requires careful thought and planning not just on the part of those who lead the service but on the part of everyone who comes. We are all now much more aware of those around us and how safe they are feeling. Coming to church again after such a break and in these circumstances is not an easy step to

take and there will be some people who will not feel able to come for some weeks and that is fine. And I quote Bishop Nick once again “just because we can; doesn’t mean we must!” And that is why we are not celebrating with choirs singing and loud whoops of joy just yet because we want to do that when we are all back together again. And so for now we will worship God and give thanks for Jesus and his promises to us. It is important that we ensure that everyone is included in our worship, whether they are at church or at home; and for this reason, we will continue to record and post on YouTube our weekly service.

But we can begin to look forward and think about what we might do to mark the things we have missed. In this strange year we have missed some of the main festivals of the Christian faith – at least as far as services in church are concerned. We have not been able to have Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost. I am not sure that there has ever been a time in the history of our churches when they have been closed and these festivals have not been kept. We did have our recorded services to mark these festivals and the season but it was not the same. I look forward to the day when we can celebrate the life of the church together with all our family!!

But it is not just the church services that we have missed! We have not been able to meet together at our coffee mornings, book clubs, crafty kids, Aspire, dance classes, women’s society and all the other activities we were involved in before lockdown! Doing them virtually has been an experience we never thought we would have but it is not the same as meeting in person! Sadly lots of these things will not be able to re-start this side of Christmas and so we will do our best to

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hold things together and reassure people that Jesus is with them wherever they are!

To help us to recognise Jesus is with us; we started some new things, and our Prayer and Praise via Zoom on a Wednesday has been great with everyone catching up before the service and worshipping together in song and prayer! The online assemblies have been a big hit too with the children and I will be resuming those in September! Life is never going to be the same again; it is what we do with that, that matters now and as we begin to think about the future and what we can do that is new or how we get back to some of the things that keep us going let us never forget that promise from Jesus; “I am with you always to the very end of the age!” Hallelujah!!!

Julie



CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE CSW : everyone free to believe

Christian Solidarity Worldwide focuses prayer each week on a different theme. It's theme for the week 6-12 September is PRISONERS: As the COVID-19 pandemic continues across the world, concerns are growing about the impact in prisons - some of the most crowded places, where it would be incredibly difficult to contain it. Knowing that we worship a God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine (Ephesians 3.20), let us be bold enough to pray big prayers:

Thank God for the release of several prisoners in Iran, due to concerns about the spread of Covid-19 in the prison system.

Ask God to provide adequate food for prisoners in Vietnam. In response to the pandemic, prisoners are no longer permitted to receive visits from their lawyers or their families, or to receive food parcels

Pray that Eritrean authorities will respond to the UN Special Rapporteur's call for vulnerable prisoners and prisoners of conscience to be released from Eritrea's overcrowded prisons, to offset the spread of COVID-19

Thank God for the wonderful stories from the Early Rain Church in China, where several church members are in detention, on bail or under house arrest: 'Sometimes they give hymns to the guards, sometimes food, sometimes the Bible . . . this is the way Christians express their love' We pray this in the name of our God, who proclaims 'I am the Lord of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?' (Jeremiah 32.27)

Jeremy

The Community of the Cross of Nails

Some of you will have heard of the 'The Community of the Cross of Nails', a community founded at Coventry Cathedral. Its members are committed to peace and reconciliation. "Father forgive" is the motto of the cathedral built there after the ancient cathedral was bombed in the 2nd World War. The phrase "Father forgive" is open-ended to remind us all of our joint responsibilities for the sin of the world. 'The Community of the Cross of Nails' are a worldwide network of over 200 churches, charities, peace-building centres, and educational and training organisations, inspired by the Coventry story of destruction, rebuilding and renewal, and active in reconciliation in their own ways.

Here is their Litany of Reconciliation, which you may find helpful in your own prayers at this time:

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class: ***Father, forgive . . .***

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own: ***Father, forgive . . .***

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth: ***Father, forgive . . .***

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others: ***Father, forgive . . .***

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee: ***Father, forgive . . .***

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children, ***Father, forgive . . .***

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God:

Father, forgive . . .

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Jeremy



A Big Thank you

“Mrs Jose Howes would like to thank the congregation of St.Paul’s, Armitage Bridge for their good wishes on the occasion of her 90th birthday”

Thank you
Melody

The Together Shop - Newsome



The Together Shop in Newsome is a charity shop which opened in 2001 to provide funds to support the ministry of the three participating churches of St John's, Newsome, St Paul's, Armitage Bridge and Berry Brow Methodist Church.

In the year 2000 Newsome and Armitage Bridge churches held a visioning weekend to consider what the church of the future might look like and how we might achieve the vision.

One of the outcomes of the weekend was to find new ways of raising funds that would be more effective than the usual coffee mornings, craft fairs and the like.

Church Charity shops were in their infancy back then but one member of our church family (Maurice Hamer) made the suggestion that we should open our own.

Along with the then church warden of Armitage Bridge (Jean Hobbs) and others, they undertook to research the idea, speaking to existing

charity shops to gain an insight into the setting up and running of such a venture.

The outcome was the Together Shop as we know it today.

It was decided to make the shop part of the Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) project, hence the involvement of the three churches mentioned above and it was initially staffed by volunteers from within our church family.

Initial research showed that the key factors in the success of the venture would be a constant supply of donations, sufficient footfall to ensure a good flow of customers and of course sufficient volunteers to open the shop throughout the week and to sort and price donated goods.

We also needed some premises and it just so happened that the shop where we are presently located was vacant at the time and seemed to tick all the boxes.

Not only that, but the landlord (Andrea Kinden, wife of ex-Town Footballer Steve Kinden) was well disposed to helping with our venture and so offered to rent the shop to us at a very favourable rent. A situation that has remained to this day.

As most of you'll be aware, the shop is quite small and so we have used a room at the back of Newsome church hall in which to receive donated goods, sort and price goods before taking them to display in the shop.

Throughout its existence, the shop has been overseen by the LEP Council with a steering group looking after the day-to-day running.

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There are no paid staff at the shop, and various people have acted as shop manager over the years. Currently we have a manager looking after the sorting activity and a manager looking after the shop.

Every day we have separate volunteers who transport donated goods from the shop to the sorting room and priced goods back to the shop.

We have volunteers who take damaged or unsuitable goods to the tip and a company who removes unsuitable goods (Rags in the main) in return for cash.

We also have a volunteer who tests electrical goods prior to sale as well as volunteers who check that jigsaws have all their pieces and we occasionally use eBay to sell more valuable goods.

In the main the shop sells clothing, books, DVDs, jigsaws, games, toys, shoes, handbags and accessories, jewellery, hats, scarves, curtains, bedding, bric-a-brac, cookware, small electrical goods, crockery and cutlery.

As time has gone on we have found it necessary to recruit volunteers from the local community as well as the churches.

During the lifetime of the shop we have taken around £470,000 with almost £350,000 being distributed to the LEP and the participating churches.

The money has helped with church running costs, paying for a community worker, funding many grants to local good causes, subsidising a gardening scheme for people who can no longer manage to care for their gardens.

For the first 15 years we held an annual thank-you party for volunteers but more recently we found fewer people attending so we now give out a £10 voucher in a monthly draw just as a thank-you for all the time and effort they devote to the shop.

Joyce Garside, the treasurer of St John's church, has for many been treasurer of the shop and Keith Hodgson acts as the Independent Examiner as the accounts are incorporated into the LEP accounts.

The considerable sums of money raised, even when taken over a 20 year period have certainly realise the potential visualised by the 'founder members'.

But more than that the shop provides a ready means of 'up-cycling' in the community, access to cheap goods for those of limited means, a meeting place for local people, an opportunity to make a contribution and a sense of purpose for many of the volunteers.

It also acts as a contact point for the church and enables us to employ an outreach worker for the local church.

Since Covid-19 came on the scene and months of lockdown, most people took the opportunity to clean house and de-clutter resulting in an avalanche of donations which currently fill the scout hall next door.

We have been very grateful for many new volunteers who have stepped into the breach to help when some of our existing volunteers have been isolating or shielding.

Whilst competition from the Hospice Charity shop and changes to shopping habits have seriously impacted on shop takings, we hope to

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have a presence in Newsome for years to come and be able to assist the local church in bringing the light of Christ to our community.

(Note! I am writing this whilst on holiday so the figures are close approximations as I don't have access to exact financial figures. I will provide accurate figures in a future edition of Focus.)

Rev David Kent
Chair of Shop Steering Group.

Together – an LEP venture

Some of you may have visited the charity shop at Newsome crossroads. It was formed in the summer of 2001 by the Local Ecumenical Partnership comprising St John's, Newsome, Newsome South Methodists and St. Paul's, Armitage Bridge, and has been raising money for the LEP ever since. It is run by a large team of willing volunteers and the money raised goes back into the community in a variety of ways.



I had never been involved with the shop until lockdown when I responded to a call for more volunteers to help sort the backlog of donations. It is a small shop but there is a big sorting office behind the church hall which is “full to bursting” with generously donated items which are then sorted and fed into the shop on an almost daily basis. During lockdown, a lot of people have had a good clear out of unwanted items and taken them to local charity shops for some positive recycling. Even the big sorting office couldn't cope with the influx, so the scout leaders generously made their scout hut available to us, which we also filled! After some serious overtime, the volunteers have cleared most of the backlog and the scouts will be able to use their hut again in September.

So, how can you help? By going in the shop and buying some quality used items! You will be getting a bargain and putting some more funds back into the community. Or perhaps volunteering some time to sort, transport or sell; Revd David Kent is the man to contact if you want to volunteer.

What can we buy? The shop sells clothes, shoes, handbags, homewares (curtains, bedding, cushions, lampshades, cutlery, crockery, pots and pans etc.), books, DVDs, CDs, toys, games, jigsaws, gifts (greetings cards, gift bags, toiletries, ornaments, mirrors, pictures, frames, vases, bric a brac, etc.) and small electrical items. And probably some other things I've forgotten! You name it.....the list goes on!
So, come on down and grab yourselves a bargain. Happy shopping!

Caroline Jones

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Photos by Caroline Jones

Seen any good films lately?

Over lockdown I have been watching some new and some old films and I started to think about why I watch certain films over and over again!

I think it is what mood I am in that determines whether I think a film was good or not. Some days I love to watch an all action movie and then on other days I like a good laugh so would choose a comedy over any other kind. I have some “go to” favourites for when life is getting me down but I enjoy the thrill of watching a movie I’ve never seen before and the anticipation of what will happen next.

My DVD collection is eclectic to say the least with The Best Marigold Hotel sitting alongside Jack Reacher and the X-men Quadrilogy and then my collection of Disney and Disney/Pixar films (I think I have most of them now)! Quite a mix!

But what about those old favourites why do I go back to them even though I know exactly what will happen? Well because they make me feel good! Here are just 6 of my favourite, and why I like them:-

Dirty Dancing – a holiday romance that makes you smile; with great music and that iconic dance and of course the gorgeous Patrick Swayze with the immortal words “No body puts Baby in a corner”! What’s not to like!!

Hitch – the amazing Will Smith in a gentle comedic role as the matchmaker who falls in love! It is fun, easy to watch and has a happy ending!!

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Spy – for me this film is Melissa McCarthy at her best and a wonderful performance from Miranda! It is a spoof on the usual spy type films but does have some scenes that may not be suitable for younger viewers. It is however a film that makes me laugh!

The Kingsman films – a young man with no prospects is recruited into an elite and very English organisation that has to save the world (twice). An action packed film with some great actors and of course good winning over evil.

The Harry Potter films – I just love these stories and yes I was one of the people queuing at silly O'clock as the books were released!! The films are definitely not for the very young but they are exciting!

Inside Out – probably the best Disney/Pixar film ever made – it shows how our feelings interact with one another and how important they all are! There is also a wonderful Jesus moment in the film!!

I could go on for pages and pages because there are so many more films that I love to watch but I thought if I gave you a taster you could then tell us about your favourite films too!

So for next month why not email Rena with your favourites and see how many others like the same films as you or maybe get some inspiration from others choices!

Julie

Back to the Church buildings.

How was it for you? My first service back in Church was at South Crosland and I felt a bit like I used to on the first day back at school after the summer holidays.

But whilst everything was different it was still Holy Trinity! A warm welcome from masked Allan and Margaret. I was checked against the register and then I cleansed my hands; Rev Julie guided me to my seat in the pews. Only 2 folk per pew if you are not from the same household.

As I settled in I noticed the plethora of signs reminding us to social distance and to follow the one way system.

A masked Debby took the service which was very uplifting; it was wonderful to be back in church and exchange greetings with everyone. I've never seen so many varieties of mask in my life!

Thank you everyone.

Rena

My first service was at South Crosland Sunday 16 Aug. It was wonderful and liberating walking through the doors. Great to see some people that I had not seen in 5 months. It felt as if I was "coming home".

There was a lot of stewarding and instructions which was a little distracting pre service. I am expecting the need for that to reduce as we get used to our new ways. However once Debby started our said communion service it felt wonderful. A really good spiritual experience - great to be worshipping together again. I am no stranger to said communion services therefore the lack of hymns did not particularly lessen the experience for me. Julie then asked some of us about music and it was agreed to have music pre service. This was in place at Newsome on the 23rd and certainly enhanced the pre service

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time.

Thank you to all who have done so much to prepare our churches for worship again.

Helen

Returning to the church building

Since 9th August, we have been allowed to enter our three church buildings on a rota basis for worship every Sunday and Wednesday. So far, I have been to St. Paul's, Armitage Bridge and St. John's, Newsome for Sunday communion services.

What did I think? I was excited at the thought of going back to the church buildings, though with some trepidation about being inside.

On the positive side, the safety measures put in place (hand sanitiser, facemasks, one-way system, booking system, trace and trace records) made me feel quite safe in church. It was good to see everyone there and to share the worship with others rather than worship alone at home. It was also good to receive the bread of the Eucharist and to pass the Peace, even if it was only with a nod or a wave rather than a handshake or a hug.

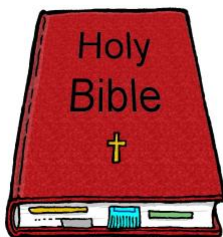
There were some things I didn't enjoy so much. I don't mind sitting on my own on a pew but sitting on an isolated chair at St. Paul's felt lonely! The lack of music made it feel empty and it was better at St. John's with the CD music before and after the service. A few of us stayed and chatted outside but I missed the leisurely fellowship of

chatting holding a cup of tea and a biscuit; chatting outside won't be much fun in poor weather. And how I do wish we could all sing safely!

Overall, I have enjoyed being back in the church buildings. I didn't see it as a return to church as I've never left; church isn't a building and I have continued to pray at home and follow the YouTube services, with a feeling of togetherness with others. I have continued, and will continue, to watch the YouTube services so that I can join in the singing. I'm just grateful that Julie will keep doing those services until Christmas.

Caroline Jones





Daily readings and prayers

Sunday 30th August – 12th Sunday after Trinity – Theme – Lydia

Acts 16: 13-15 & Matthew 16: 21-end

Prayer for the Day - God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 31st Psalm 98, 2 Samuel 11, Acts 8.26-end

Gracious God, with sorrow we admit that our lives have not been wholly as you will.

Tuesday 1st Psalm 106, 2 Samuel 12.1-25, Acts 9.1-19a

Gracious God, we confess the sin we know, and regret the shame we feel.

Wednesday 2nd Psalm 110, 2 Samuel 15.1-12, Acts 9.19b-31

Gracious God, we confess that some thoughts have been unworthy; centred on self, others denied.

Thursday 3rd Psalm 113, 2 Samuel 15.13-end, Acts 9.32-end

Gracious God, we confess that some words have been wounding; barbed and harsh, twisting deep.

Friday 4th Psalm 139, 2 Samuel 16.1-14, Acts 10.1-16

Gracious God, we confess that some actions have been unfitting; kingdom-destroying, love-denying.

Saturday 5th Psalm 120, 2 Samuel 17.1-23, Acts 10.17-33

Gracious God, we confess that sometimes we have been silent and still in the face of need; hesitant to give, slow to care.

Sunday 6th Sept – 13th Sunday after Trinity Romans 13: 8-end & Matthew 18: 15-20

Prayers for the Day - Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 7th Psalm 123, 2 Samuel 18.1-18, Acts 10.34-end

Loving God, you have chosen us; called us to be your children and agents of your love in the world.

Tuesday 8th Psalm 132, 2 Samuel 18.19-19.8a, Acts 11.1-18

Loving God, we choose you to be the centre of our lives, we choose the way of love, we choose the way of life and we choose the way of Christ our Saviour.

Wednesday 9th Psalm 119.153-end, 2 Samuel 19.8b-23, Acts 11.19-end

Loving God, you have chosen us, and we are your people; we have chosen you, and you are our God.

Thursday 10th Psalm 143, 2 Samuel 19.24-end, Acts 12.1-17

Love of the Father, reaching out in creation; may we reach out to others.

Friday 11th Psalm 142, 2 Samuel 23.1-7, Acts 12.18-end

Love of the Son, in obedience and self-giving; may we follow your way.

Saturday 12th Psalm 147, 2 Samuel 24, Acts 13.1-12

Love of the Spirit, active within us; may we be active in the world.

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Sunday 13th Sept – 14th Sunday after Trinity Romans 14: 1-12 & Matthew 18: 21-35

Prayer for the Day - Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 14th 'Holy Cross Day' Psalm 2, Genesis 3.1-15, John 12.27-36a,

Gracious, patient God, you must have wept again and again at the failures of congregations like ours.

Tuesday 15th Psalm 5, 1 Kings 1.32-2.4;2.10-12, Acts 13.44-14.7

Gracious, patient God, you must have wept at our lack of vision, yet you still ask us to speak for you.

Wednesday 16th Psalm 119.1-32, 1 Kings 3, Acts 14.8-end

Gracious, patient God, you must have wept over our apathy and indifference, yet you still give us your living Spirit.

Thursday 17th Psalm 14, 1 Kings 4.29-5.12, Acts 15.1-21

Gracious, patient God, you weep at our inconsistency, yet you still show us opportunities to serve.

Friday 18th Psalm 17, 1 Kings 6.1, 11-28, Acts 15.22-35

Gracious, patient God, you must have wept at the impoverishment of our worship, yet you still receive our prayers and praises.

Saturday 19th Psalm 20, 1 Kings 8.1-30, Acts 15.36-16.5

Gracious, patient God, Why are you so patient? Why do you still love us? Is it because Jesus never stopped loving his friends to the end and pleads for us now? Is it because that is the way you are and the way you have always been?

Sunday 20th Sept – 15th Sunday after Trinity Philippians 1: 21-end & Matthew 20: 1-6

Prayer for the Day - Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 21st 'Matthew, Apostle' Psalm 49, 1 Kings 19.15-21, 2 Timothy 3.14-17

Eternal God, you are a God of good news, always seeking to address your world; speak to our hearts this day so that we can share in your communicating.

Tuesday 22nd Psalm 32, 1 Kings 8.63-9.9, Acts 16.25-end

Eternal God, open our ears to hear what you have to share through Scripture and Saint.

Wednesday 23rd Psalm 34, 1 Kings 10.1-25, Acts 17.1-15

Eternal God, open our hearts to receive your call through the cries of the world's wounded.

Thursday 24th Psalm 37, 1 Kings 11.1-13, Acts 17.16-end

Eternal God, open our arms to embrace our neighbours in compassion and care,

Friday 25th Psalm 31, 1 Kings 11.26-end, Acts 18.1-21

Eternal God, open our mouths to pass on words and thoughts which glorify you,

Saturday 26th Psalm 41, 1 Kings 12.1-24, Acts 18.22-19.7

Eternal God, open doors of opportunity so that your voice can be heard through our sharing and caring.

Sunday 27th Sept – 16th Sunday after Trinity Philippians 2: 21- 1-13 & Matthew 21: 23-32

FOCUS

Prayer for the Day - Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Monday 28th Psalm 44, 1 Kings 12.25-13.10, Acts 19.8-20

Lord our God, maker of heaven and earth, your glory is all around us in all things bright and beautiful.

Tuesday 29th *'Michael and All Angels'* Psalm 34, Daniel 12.1-4, Acts 12.1-11

Lord our God, your hand is in the wonders of nature, your purpose in the very matter of creation.

Wednesday 30th Psalm 119.57-80, 1 Kings 17, Acts 20.1-16

Lord our God, redeemer of the world your love for us is plain to see and know.

Thursday 1st Psalm 56, 1 Kings 18.1-20, Acts 20.17-end

Lord our God, giver of life, your creation teems with life.

Friday 2nd Psalm 51, 1 Kings 18.21-end, Acts 21.1-16

Lord our God, each springtime showers profusion of new life, and summer yields abundant fruit.

Saturday 3rd Psalm 68, 1 Kings 19, Acts 21.17-36

Lord our God, maker of heaven and earth, redeemer of the world, giver of life, we gather to give you praise.

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This magazine may be read in full colour on our webpage!

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THE EMMANUEL BENEFICE HUDDERSFIELD

“Offering love and service to our communities in Christ’s name.”