

May 2021
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SAINTS ALIVE



ALL SAINTS

The Parish Magazine
of All Saints' Parish Church,
Cheadle Hulme

INFORMATION PAGE

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Holy Communion (2nd in month)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion

Thursday 10.00am.

Holy Days to be announced.

Matins

Daily at 9.00am.

CONFESSION AND SPIRITUAL COUNSELLING

By arrangement with the Clergy.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BAPTISMS, BANNS AND WEDDINGS

All enquiries to Rev'd Sarah Hancock (485 3455).

MOTHERS' UNION

Corporate Communion 10.00am on the 2nd Thursday in Church. Details of all meetings are in Saints Alive and weekly notices. See Notice Board.

MENS' SOCIETY

Monthly meetings on the 1st Thursday, September to May, at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room.

Chairman: Mr Bradley Torbitt (486 9387).

Secretary: Mr Mike Parry (485 7886).

FRIDAY CLUB

Fortnightly meetings on Friday evening usually in the Meeting Room at 7.30pm.

Open to women of all age groups.

Chairman is Lily Mitchelhill (485 5187)

Secretary is Julia Ball (440 8647)

JAMES GROUP

The James Group exists to encourage the Church's ministry of healing, and the practice of regular intercession for the sick.

The branch meets monthly to say an Office of Intercession: there is also a monthly Corporate Communion. For further information please contact: The Secretary: Pat Yates (485 4546).

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Secretary: Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647).

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Cubs: (7th Cheadle Hulme) Meet on a Friday 6.30pm - 8.00pm at Thorn Grove.

Contact: Andrew Thompson

email:andy.thompson@theadlescouts.org.uk

Beavers: (7th Cheadle Hulme)

Meet on a Friday 6.00pm - 7.15pm in the Parish Rooms. Contact: Kirstie Stamp

email:kirstie.stamp@theadlescouts.org.uk

Brownies: (11th Cheadle Hulme)

Meet on a Monday 6.00pm - 7.15pm at Thorn Grove. Contact: Jo Taylor

brownow11theadlehulme@yahoo.com

Rainbows: (2nd Cheadle Hulme)

Meet on a Monday 6.00pm - 7.00pm



Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

This past month has been a bit of a rollercoaster. At All Saints we have celebrated the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday and then the sad news of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh's death. We as a church marked this sad occasion with the ringing of the church bell 99 times, for the 99 years he has lived, on the Saturday after the news had broken. Throughout the 8 days of mourning the church was open for people to come and pray for The Queen and her family. We held a special Holy Communion service in remembrance of Prince Philip and thanked God for his life and service to us as a country. The announcement of Prince Philip's death, may for some of us, have brought up our own experiences of grief. Grief that might have been dormant for a while or is fresh in our memories over this past year. No matter when we lost a loved one, the reality of grief is that it is our companion for the rest of our lives. A companion that we might feel acutely or one that just raises its presence every now and again. When thinking about grief I draw great comfort from Psalm 23. This psalm of David has in it the verse which says:

*“Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.”*

It acknowledges that through life we will walk through the darkest valley, or in some other translations, the shadow of death. We will find ourselves on a path we didn't choose or even want to walk but the words afterwards are words of comfort. That when we walk through this valley, God is with us. The rod and staff guide us, keep us moving one step in front of the other. Life doesn't stop when we lose someone and that is sometimes the hardest thing to grasp. People will tell us to move on, to 'get over it' and yet this Psalm doesn't say that. David doesn't say 'and then you will be fine'. Grief is a companion that will journey with us for the rest of our lives, it is, to quote Queen Elizabeth II '...the price we pay for love.' If you are finding yourself in the valley of the shadow of death, my encouragement to you is to find someone to talk to about how you are feeling. If you are the person someone is talking to about their loss, listen, let them talk about the person they are missing.

As we can accompany people on this walk, we remember that God is with us too, walking along, listening to our hurt and gently comforting us with peace.

May God bless you today, Revd Sarah Hancock

**COPY DEADLINE FOR JUNE - MAY 6TH
ALL COPY TO THE EDITOR PLEASE**

Electoral Roll



The annual revision of the Electoral Roll for All Saints' Church has to be completed in time for the Annual Church Meeting (APCM) which is due to be held on May 23rd. Your name must appear on the Roll if you wish to take part in and vote at that meeting, also if you wish to be considered for election to the PCC or to be a sidesperson.

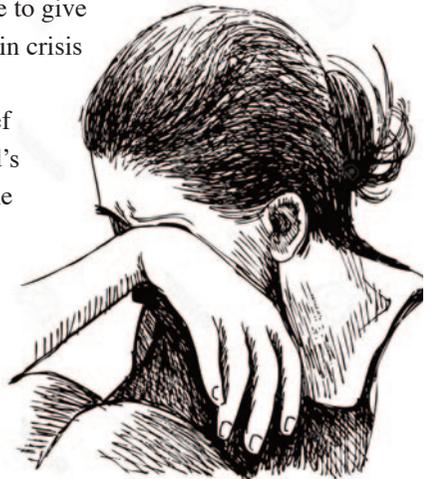
If you would like your name to be added to the Roll please contact me on 01625 850997 or 07977478111 by May 9th. You do not need to do anything if you were on the list last year unless you wish to check your entry or have changed your name or address. Thank you. David Jones, Electoral Roll Officer.



Give Thanks appeal raises funds for vulnerable people

Christian Aid's latest appeal, which enables people to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccine and help others in crisis across the world, has raised £130,000.

Many people in the UK are feeling a sense of relief as loved ones receive their vaccines. Christian Aid's Give Thanks appeal encourages people to pass the blessing on, by helping others who have little protection from the pandemic. Funds from the appeal are helping vulnerable communities around the world access soap, water, food and vital health information as Covid-19 continues to destroy lives and livelihoods. Christian Aid partners have so far helped over half a million people in 27 countries.



Pentecost

The celebration of Pentecost this month could be described as a birthday party for the Church, as we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples (Acts 2:1-13). What are we celebrating?

God's Promise: The disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions as they gathered in the Upper Room: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised' (1:4). They met expectantly in prayer for God's promised gift. Just as we look forward to birthday presents, how eager are we to receive more of the Spirit in our lives?

God's Power: 'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (4). The disciples needed the power of the Spirit to be different: not fearfully gathered behind locked doors, but energised to make Christ known. The Spirit can transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus and give gifts to equip our witness. Although the disciples' experience of this power was overwhelming, it was essentially an encounter with God's love. For us, this can be equally emotional or quiet, but all are included, and nobody is excluded from this experience.



God's Purpose: The disciples 'began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' (4). The Spirit empowered their witness, so that everyone heard them speaking in their own 'native language' (lit: dialect, v8). We all have a story to tell of God's activity in our lives and it's the Spirit who translates our words and actions into a language that those around can understand! At Pentecost, 3,000 people were added to the church in one day! What do we expect of the Spirit in our day?

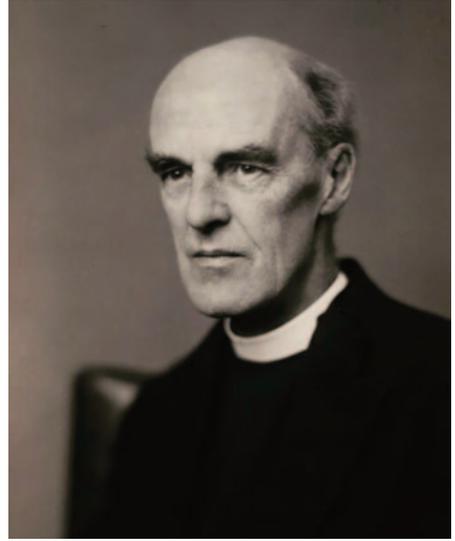
Let the Church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).



Earth-shattering events - an eye-witness account

One delightful activity not prevented by the pandemic is reading! I have just finished “Faithful Witness: the confidential diaries of Alan Don”.* A “Dear diary...” book sounds as though it might be a bit spicy but unlikely to be of lasting interest! Alan Don’s diary is not “spicy”, although it does contain stories of human life, and it is full of eye-witness accounts of events of the utmost importance in Britain, the world, and the Church of England.

Alan Don, a Scot, arrived in London in 1931 to become Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cosmo Lang. He held the post until Lang retired in 1942, he was also Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of



Commons, and King George VI; subsequently he became Rector of St Margaret’s Westminster, and Dean of Westminster from 1946 to 1959; he died in 1966 aged 74. During the 1930s Don’s diary recorded the behind-the-scenes dramas around the death of King George V, the abdication of Edward VIII, and the precipitation of the Duke of York into the role of King George VI. Palpable in the diary are the build up of anxiety, hopes of peace, and the inevitable descent into the Second World War. The horrors of the Blitz, the bombing of Lambeth Palace, and the suffering of people in the big cities are all felt at first hand. But there are bizarre episodes too - in 1939, the Dean of Canterbury had lorry-loads of earth dumped in the Choir of the Cathedral, so that, in the event of bombing, falling masonry would have a soft landing. Following the end of the war in 1945 Don recorded the jubilation and thanksgiving, but also the weariness, and the challenge of the recovery and re-ordering that faced the post-war world.

It’s a good read, but one aspect of the diary stands out - wives, Queens, and Cosmo Lang’s indomitable housekeeper, Martha, are mentioned, but otherwise women are notable for their absence. Perhaps that’s one reason why the record resonates like ancient history, rather than an account of momentous events still within living memory.

*Alan Don’s diaries, “Faithful Witness”, edited by Robert Beaken, is published by SPCK. *Douglas Scarisbrick*



Alcuin of York, a teacher of genius

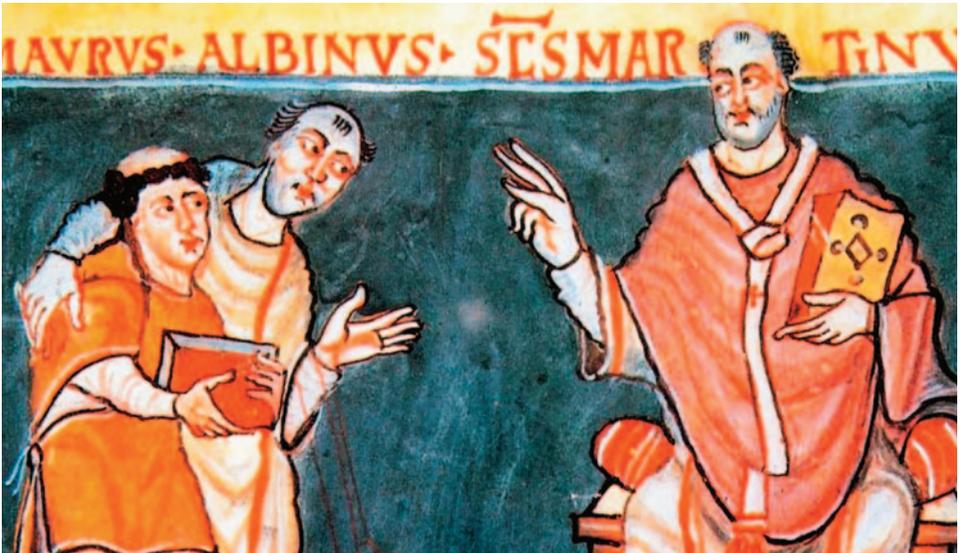
Here is a saint for all primary school teachers who have a passion to help children learn to read and write. Alcuin was born near York in about 735. His family were of noble stock, and they sent him to York Cathedral School, which had the best teachers in the land. They soon realised that Alcuin had a genius for learning, and within a few years he had become master of the school himself. Under his guidance, the fame of the school grew, with more pupils and an ever-increasing library.

In 781 Alcuin visited Rome, where he met Charlemagne, then King of the Franks, who persuaded him to move to Aachen and become master of the palace school – in effect his minister of education.

Alcuin did a magnificent job – he went on to establish a primary school in every town and village, and because the teachers were the clergy, he saw to it that their own literacy and education were improved. But Alcuin did much more – he set up scriptoria for the copying and preservation of ancient manuscripts, for which we owe him the survival of many classical authors. He is also credited with inventing cursive script – or as we know it, ‘joined-up writing’ – as an aid to speedier copying.

Alcuin also revised the Latin liturgy, wrote nine biblical commentaries, revised the Vulgate Bible, and supported the orthodox doctrine of the procession of the Holy Spirit from the Father and the Son.

By 796, Alcuin was over 60 and ready to retire. Charlemagne appointed him Abbot of St Martin’s at Tours, and here, in his declining years, he built up a model monastic school as he had done at York and Aachen. He died in May 804, but his influence lives on today, and affects hundreds of millions of us – all of us, in fact, who use joined-up writing!



Happiness?

The Canadian psychologist and best-selling author, Jordan Peterson, doesn't believe we should be pursuing happiness.

That could be a disappointment to 328 million Americans, who have been taught for nearly 250 years that the pursuit of happiness is their God-given right. The same pursuit might describe the quest of others who, despite being educated, well-fed, secure and sexually liberated, still feel deprived and unfulfilled.



Professor Peterson, who himself is finding his way towards God, has just published 'Beyond Order', which embodies his second list of '12 Rules for Life'*. He analyses various characters in ancient myths, modern literature and the Bible to demonstrate the direction we need to take if we want to make the most of our potential today. Happiness isn't on the agenda.

The Old Testament figure of Abraham, who abandoned all that was familiar in order to fulfil God's command to establish a new nation, is a model for Jews, Christians and Muslims. Was Abraham's divine commission pleasant? Peterson says it was, "...no call to happiness... what calls you out into the world – to your destiny – is not ease. It is trouble and strife... That is where the life that is worth living is to be eternally found – and where you can find it, personally, if only you are willing."

The Bible has little to say about happiness and when we do encounter the word, as in Jesus's Beatitudes (Matthew 5, 3-12), we are disturbed to find it focuses on God's will rather than what we want and is more about giving than getting. Men and women initially followed Christ because they felt He had got something they needed. Those who thought it would bring them a pain-free, trouble-free life were disappointed. At one point a number of His disciples left him. The first chapter of St John describes the mixed reaction to Jesus like this: "He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."

In place of the interminable pursuit of happiness, Christ reveals an eternal destiny.

**Professor Peterson's earlier book, 'Twelve Rules for Life – An Antidote to Chaos' was first published in 2018 and is now available in a Penguin paperback priced at £10.99.*

'Beyond Order', has just been published by Allen Lane priced at £25.



Reflected Faith: Hiding, waiting, hoping – FREE!

After many long months during the Covid pandemic we are at last beginning to be able to come together again. Some countries and some areas of some countries will be more open than others and we can only hope, pray and wait for all of us to be able to be ‘free’ again.

May, in the Church’s calendar, is supremely the month of freedom. During the first few weeks we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the Bible stories of those who met Him after His crucifixion and resurrection. Then we celebrate His Ascension – Jesus’ return to His Father. And finally, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and all those locked in that Upper Room – with the subsequent birth of His Church. Freedom indeed!

This last year has for most of us felt like a waiting time to see and hold friends and family again. We have some understanding of fear and the hope within us.

What a celebration there must have been when Jesus returned to His Father – and what a celebration also when the Holy Spirit so powerfully descended. It is the story of those ‘simple’ men who were scared and hiding one day and the next day bold and outspoken that speaks to me of something outstanding happening.

As I received my anti-Covid vaccination I felt that same freedom from fear. Not that I would be 100% safe and never ill again, but rather that whatever happened now would be manageable.

This month: Have a think this month about fears that you may have held inside you in this past year and how you have been able to manage them. Have you known the Spirit of Our Lord by your side as you have walked these roads?

I hope so, and I hope also that together we can help others to know His reassurance from fear. Freedom indeed.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all people and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.



Be kind to each other

‘And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.’

(Matthew 10:42)

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been thousands of shining examples up and down the country of people going the extra mile to help the elderly, vulnerable and those at risk.

The helpers have been shopping, cooking meals, making regular telephone calls, and checking that needs are being met. We must sincerely hope that these acts of kindness will continue well beyond the coronavirus outbreak.

Simple acts of kindness are so important in cementing the fabric of our society. Some years ago, this thought inspired the following poem:

A Brighter Tomorrow

*There is much we can do just to brighten
This world of all take and no give
There's a great deal that we can contribute
Through the everyday lives that we live.*

*By supporting one's elderly neighbours
Or through lending a hand in some way
It's by taking a bunch of spring flowers
To someone to brighten their day.*

*It's by sparing a few precious hours
In the service of those most in need
It's all about setting a standard
And trying to give others a lead*

*It's the way that we tend to treat others
And help and aid folks in distress
It's the care and assistance we offer
That will set us apart from the rest.*

*The choice that we face is quite simple
The rewards plain for all men to see
'As you did all of this to my brother
Then' said Christ, 'you did it to Me.'*

By Colin Hammacott



CMS honours its women missionaries who are working for a better world

Two hundred years after the death of Mary Bouffler, the first woman sent out in her own right by Church Mission Society to be a missionary overseas, CMS is honouring the achievements of inspiring women who followed in Bouffler's footsteps, to share their faith and transform communities. Bouffler travelled to Sierra Leone in 1820 and tragically died less than a year later. She was the first in a long line of countless CMS women missionaries to battle injustice and prejudice and fight for change, human rights and empowerment.

From Ann-Marie Wilson, who set up the charity 28 Too Many to highlight and stop the practice of FGM (female genital mutilation), to Helen Kisakye, who founded SPLASH, a dance troupe in Uganda that intentionally includes young people living with disabilities, and Nevedita, who leads a programme in Sri Lanka for children who have been abused and traumatised, women have been integral to mission throughout CMS's history. Healing, restoration and opportunity are common themes where these pioneering women are involved.

Rachel Karanja, a businesswoman, church leader and entrepreneur from Kenya, explained that being left housebound for over a year after a stroke inspired her to set up Women of Destiny Kenya. She said: "The charity helps to support women who have faced significant struggles in their lives and enables them to discover their God-given destinies."

Debbie James, CMS's Deputy CEO and Director of Mission Transformation, said: "At times in CMS's own history, women have been undervalued but what has been achieved over 200 years is testament to the tenacity, talent and imagination of countless women of God".



Thy Kingdom Come (13 – 23 May)

Among the estimated 130,000 people from Hong Kong who are making their way to the UK, there are bound to be thousands of Christians. What kind of reception will they get from the churches here?

We shudder when reminded of the cold shoulder shown to the 500 Jamaicans who disembarked the SS Empire Windrush at Tilbury in 1948, and others who followed. They came in response to a recruitment drive by London Transport and the NHS. Many were practising Anglicans, so naturally they made their way to English parish churches. Many were told they didn't belong there.

St Paul's nightmare about the Church had become a reality, with the eye saying to the hand, "I don't need you." (1 Corinthians 12.21) As a result, the Church of England missed out on the faith, experience, and witness of brother and sister believers from the Caribbean. Hong Kong citizens who hold British National Overseas passports can now apply for a work visa, enabling them to live and work in the UK, after which they may apply for permanent UK citizenship. They will bring a wealth of knowledge with them, including the experience of living under an increasingly repressive regime.

This is our chance to learn from past errors and to turn hostility into hospitality. We will soon discover that we have at least as much to receive as we have to give. UK society has already been enriched by immigrants, especially those who belong to ethnic minorities in this country, but are in the majority, worldwide. The NHS alone would collapse without them. In Bible times, Christians who were from Jewish backgrounds found it hard to believe the Church could accommodate foreigners. First there was a division between Hebrew-speakers and Greek-speakers. An even bigger row followed, when new Christians in other countries were regarded as sub-standard. Then St Peter had a visionary experience which contradicted his narrow upbringing. This is how he summarised it: "I now realise it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. Those who fear him and do what is right are acceptable to him, no matter what race they belong to." (Acts 10.34) Chinese? African? Caribbean? European? British? The real Church will accommodate all of them and then look for others to welcome.

Editor's Footnote: This piece struck a chord with me. My grandfather, a quiet man from Co. Mayo on the west coast of Ireland, arrived in Salford at the end of the Irish Civil War in the early 1920s. He found employment working as a signaller in Manchester and a new home amongst the Irish diaspora already settled there. At the end of WWII he hired two Caribbean men, part of that first Windrush generation, who'd answered the call to help rebuild our land. They were friendly, great workers, and grateful for the chance he gave them. But this didn't sit well with others however, and one night my granddad was badly beaten with coshes and warned to get rid of the two men as they were not welcome in this country. He refused and suffered further savage attacks as a result. This only made his resolve to help these two people he thought of as friends all the stronger. The two men never forgot this and saved their wages to buy him a beautiful dress shirt, and made my granddad so welcome in their homes for the rest of his life. He was so proud of that shirt, that he was dressed in it for his funeral, many years later, attended by these men and their families.



Ascension

(Luke 24:44-53)

Scriptures fulfilled,
Minds opened,
We followed Him to Bethany.
And there was joy in the blessing
Of our risen Lord,
Jesus, God on earth.

And in the blessing
Was the leaving,
And in the leaving
Was the blessing –
His Spirit of life and power
To witness to the world
Of our ascended Lord,
Jesus, man in heaven.

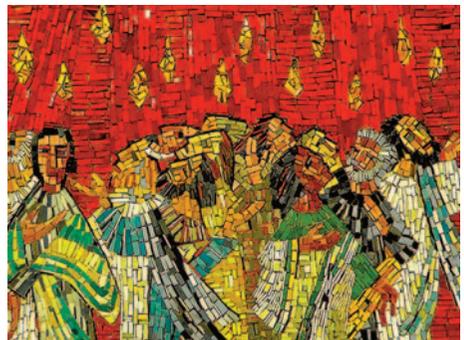
Daphne Kitching



Prayer for Pentecost

Loving Father God,
Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit;
Your Spirit who knows no restrictions or
barriers;
Your Spirit who can reach us and be with
us and in us, wherever we are, whatever
our circumstances;
Your Spirit who comforts and heals and
empowers us to live with confidence that,
ultimately, all shall be well;
Your Spirit who connects us, through the
life, death, resurrection and ascension of
Jesus.
Because of Jesus' victory over death we
have hope and life forever.
Thank you, loving Father, Son and Holy
Spirit. Amen.

Daphne Kitching



Millions join worship online during the pandemic

The Church of England's national online services alone have attracted more than 3.7 million views since the first restrictions on gatherings for public worship to limit the spread of Covid-19 were introduced. Clips and content from the services have been seen 40 million times on social media channels.

The Church of England's prayer and discipleship apps – through which people can join in ancient services of morning and evening prayer from wherever they are – have been accessed eight million times, up 50 per cent on the previous year.

The figures for the online services are thought to be just the tip of the iceberg, as churches' response to the pandemic triggered a major change in the way Christians worship and reach out to their neighbours. At least 20,000 services and other online events are now listed on the Church of England's 'church-finder' website AChurchNearYou. 15 months ago, there were none. And a special hymn download service, designed for local churches to use as part of online worship, has seen more than a million downloads.

As churches look ahead, many are assessing how to incorporate the lessons of the last year into their regular patterns of worship and outreach after the pandemic.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "The last year has been a time of loss, separation and pain for everyone. Not always being able to meet together for prayer and worship has made that even more difficult and I long for the day when we can gather together before God's face. Yet amid all of this, God has been with us and has done something new which we could not have imagined a year ago. We have sung the Lord's song in a virtual foreign land. As we look and plan ahead it's not a question of either online worship or meeting in-person, but of how we will be shaped by the experience and commitments of the last year, to try new things, to value the things we perhaps took for granted before, and to reach out to more people with the invitation to participate in the good news of Jesus Christ."

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell said: "I think there has been a digital coming of age. Of course we long to meet in person, but online services can be very beautiful. People of different ages, from different parts of the country or even the world, families sitting together, people watching whilst having a cup of coffee are all coming together to worship online in ways that we just couldn't have imagined a year ago."

(Continued on page 13)



(Continued from page 12) Many of those attending online services were worshipping for the first time. A survey of some of the online congregation found 19.7% of people asked were engaging with the Church of England online for the first time.

These national services have also been made available on the DailyHOPE line, a free phoneline that has been especially welcomed by those without internet access. The line has received over 400,000 calls and played five million minutes since it was launched in April last year.

The need to find new ways of meeting for worship amid lockdowns and local restrictions has also helped the wider public engage with a broad range of Anglican traditions.

For example, Book of Common Prayer services have seen a large increase in people attending as a result of being available online.

Amaris Cole, the Church of England's Head of Digital, said: "The last year has shown the incredible creativity of our local churches, which have worked quickly to engage with their communities, despite restrictions. To support this, we've continued our digital training for local churches to use digital platforms, with more than 7,000 attendees attending webinars to learn skills such as how to live stream, how to turn their sermons into podcasts or use Facebook groups for their Bible studies. It's been incredible to hear the stories of those being reached through these online services.

"With the national weekly services shared on our Facebook page and YouTube channel, we've been able to connect with people who may have never engaged with church services before and have seen communities form in the comments while these services are streaming on a Sunday morning. They regularly share prayer requests, ask questions about the Christian faith and offer to support others online.

"With services being led by bishops, chaplains, vicars and lay people, featuring classic hymns or worship bands, readings from television presenters and children from our primary schools, the diversity of the Church of England has been showcased through our national social media channels and we've ensured corporate worship is accessible wherever people may be."

The prayer apps include the Church of England's Daily Prayer app, offering traditional services of Morning, Evening and Night Prayer, which was accessed 4.4 million times, a rise of 55 per cent.

The Lectionary app, which includes the calendar, readings and prayer for the Church's year, was accessed 1.7million times, up 21%. Meanwhile the Church of England campaign app which provides reflections for current #LiveLent campaign and the Comfort and Joy campaign during Advent and Christmas was accessed 700,000 times, an increase of nine per cent.

Other apps include Time to Pray, which offers simple Daytime and Night Prayer services with audio, and Reflections for Daily Prayer, offering daily Bible reflections, were each accessed 400,000 times; Sunday Worship which had 240,000 opens, and the Reflections on the Psalms and Daily Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come with 160,000 together.

Being brave?

Some time ago I was helping my grandson George into his car seat in the back of my car, when I accidentally banged his head. His eyes filled with tears and he started to cry.

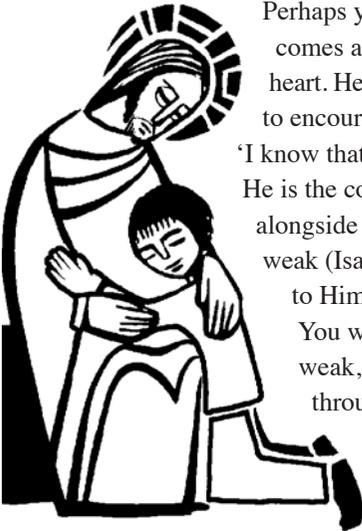
‘Come on, George, be brave,’ I said.

‘But I don’t want to be brave,’ he objected.

I guess we all know that feeling. Sometimes life is hard, and we know we have a need for courage, but somehow, we just don’t want to be brave.

We would rather give in, surrender to the difficulties, and wallow in self-pity.

The Bible seems to constantly exhort us to be brave, to be strong, to take heart, to be courageous. And life during a pandemic certainly calls for us to make a courageous response. But occasionally we may feel overwhelmed and ready to give in or give up.



Perhaps you are reading this at just such a moment. Maybe this comes as a message to you from God so that you do not lose heart. He knows you, and He sees your situation. And He speaks to encourage you, as He did to the church at Philadelphia: ‘I know that you have little strength’ (Revelation 3:8).

He is the compassionate and understanding God who draws alongside us, to give strength to the weary and power to the weak (Isaiah 40:29). You don’t have to do anything, simply turn to Him in your need and ask for help.

You will discover, as the apostle Paul did, that when you are weak, then you are strong. His power will be demonstrated through your weakness. You can do whatever is required of you because He will give you strength.

To spend an hour worrying on our knees is not prayer. Indeed, there are times when it is our duty, having committed a problem to God in prayer, to stop praying and to trust and to do the necessary work to arrive at a solution. Oliver Barclay

If your troubles are deep-seated or long-standing, try kneeling. Anonymous

Prayer is not an argument with God to persuade Him to move things our way, but an exercise by which we are enabled by the Holy Spirit to move ourselves His way.

Leonard Ravenshill

New book helps mark Christian Aid's 75th anniversary

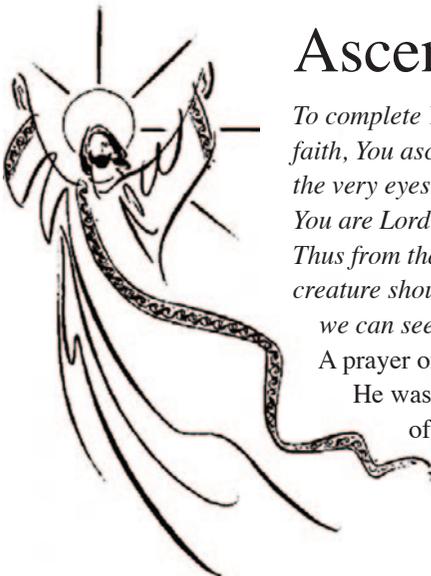
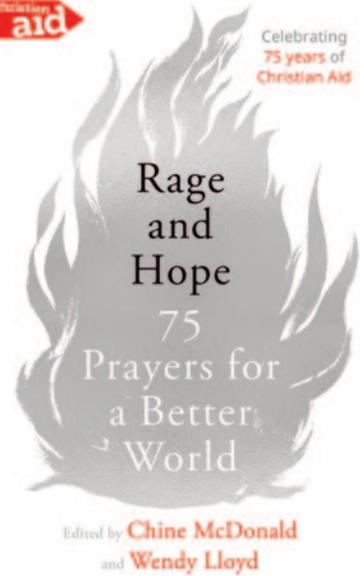
Christian leaders, activists, writers and theologians world-wide have written prayers for a new book to celebrate Christian Aid's 75th anniversary.

Rage & Hope: 75 Prayers for a Better World includes prayers on climate injustice, Black Lives Matter, violence against women, discrimination against Dalits in India, the coronavirus pandemic, from extreme poverty in Burundi, and inequality in Myanmar. Christian Aid's work began in 1945, when it was founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War. Since then, it has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support, while speaking out against injustice. Christian Aid helped during the Biafra war, advised Martin Luther King during the civil rights movement of the 1960s, campaigned to make poverty history in the 2000s, and is now fighting climate injustice in countries around the world.

Rage & Hope: 75 Prayers for a Better World from: <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/rage-and-hope>



Celebrating
75 years of
Christian Aid



Ascension

To complete Your seamless robe, and so to complete our faith, You ascended through the air into the heavens, before the very eyes of the apostles. In this way You showed that You are Lord of all, and are the fulfilment of all creation. Thus from that moment every human and every living creature should bow at Your name. And, in the eyes of faith, we can see that all creation proclaims Your greatness.

A prayer of Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 – 1153).

He was the main inspiration for the Cistercian Order of Monks.



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100 years of the British Legion

One hundred years ago, on 15th May 1921, the British Legion was founded in the aftermath of the First World War, to provide support to veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

It was created at a time when two million people were unemployed. More than six million had served in the war: of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability, and half of those were disabled permanently.

Four organisations came together at the instigation of Lancastrian Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, who was angered at the Government's unwillingness to help, and Field Marshal Earl Haig, who had been Commander in Chief of the British Forces. The Legion campaigned for fair treatment of those who given everything for their country, and it continues this work today.

In 1922, the Legion's poppy factory opened in the Old Kent Road, London, with forty disabled men manufacturing 1000 poppies a week. The first Poppy Day was held that same year. The Festival of Remembrance began in 1927, and the Legion became 'Royal' in 1971 – 50 years ago – on its golden anniversary.

At first membership of the Legion was confined to ex-Service personnel, but it was expanded to include serving members of the Forces in 1981.

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ALL SAINTS CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2.30pm in the Church Meeting Room. We learn new skills and practise old ones. Tea/coffee, biscuits and good company are always on offer. **Please join us when meetings begin again.**

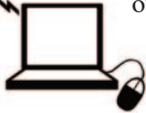
All are welcome. For further details please contact Frances Pickett on 0161 439 8890.



All Saints' Website and Facebook



Keep up to date with news and events on the All Saints' website. Find out about our charity work, community groups and listen to recent sermons.



Please contact Sarah Ball on: comms@allsaintsheadleholme.org.uk with any stories and updates.

Find All Saints' on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsCH/> and "Like" us to get notifications about our news and events.



Church Open

**Saturday Coffee Mornings have been postponed
for the immediate future.**



MEN'S SOCIETY

Monthly meetings on the first Thursday, September to May, at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room (unless otherwise stated). After the talk there is a short question and answer session followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

Due to the implementation of measures to combat the Coronavirus pandemic all meetings have been cancelled. Further details will be posted when available.

Although this group is attended by men, if you are interested in hearing any of the speakers you will be most welcome to come along.

Chairman: Bradley Torbitt (0161 486 9387)

Secretary: Mike Parry (0161 485 7886)

How long, O Lord?

How long until life gets really back to normal, and the pandemic is brought under control? If you feel like asking God that, you're in good company. This past year has taken its toll on our relationships, our economy, and on our collective mental health.

'How long, O Lord?' is a question that has been commonly asked by the Bible's poets, as well as many saints down the centuries.

Mother Julian of Norwich, whose feast day we remember this month, asked the question back in the 14th century. She was no stranger to pandemics herself, having suffered from the plague in 1372.

After much prayer and meditation, she was given an answer that has echoed down the centuries. In her 'Revelations of Divine Love' she wrote that God had revealed to her that: "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well." "He said not 'Thou shalt not be tempested, thou shalt not be travailed, thou shalt not be dis-eased'; but He said, 'Thou shalt not be overcome.'"

That is a promise that we can hang on to:

all shall be well in the end. But it is also necessary to add: if it is not well with you today, then it is not yet the end. This is a perspective on life that is full of faith, of hope, of trust in the goodness and victory of God. The psalms are full of it, and always trust in God for the final outcome. We can have this perspective, too, and perhaps share it with our neighbours.



Mother Julian of Norwich



A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the experienced vet realised it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So, the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots. After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the vet sprinkled the last pup's head, the owner forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."



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Telephone: 0161 485 2596

Church backs VaccinAid campaign to ‘Give the World a Shot’



The Church of England is supporting the ‘VaccinAid’ campaign which aims to help fund the biggest vaccination drive in history. Led by UNICEF UK, with the online fundraising platform Crowdfunder, the campaign offers people a practical way to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccination, by making a voluntary donation to help pay for jabs for others around the world.

It aims to help fund almost two billion Covid-19 vaccines for health workers and the most high-risk and vulnerable people on our planet. The money raised will also help UNICEF provide tests and treatments to people in 190 countries around the world through the global COVAX initiative.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is encouraging people and congregations both to donate, and also to spread the word in their community, as a practical demonstration of Jesus’s command to love our neighbour.

VaccinAid is being supported by other faith groups, businesses, celebrities and the NHS. Using the Crowdfunder platform, individual donations can be given, or communities – including parishes – can sign-up to fundraise together.

Local churches are being encouraged to join the campaign, with resources available to download for free on the AChurchNearYou.com Resource Hub to share on social media, newsletters or notice boards. The recently launched campaign has been developed in just a few weeks following a meeting convened by Archbishop Justin with faith leaders, Government and NGOs to discuss how people in the UK could do something practical in response to the real sense of gratitude they have felt as they and their loved-ones receive their vaccines.

Archbishop Justin said: “The Covid-19 crisis has had a profound impact on people here and around the world, but vaccines offer the hope of a brighter future. I’m delighted that churches and other faith groups in the UK are supporting the VaccinAid campaign. There is no better way to show our deep gratitude for the gifts of science and medicine than making sure vulnerable people around the world are also given a shot.”

For more information on the campaign go to www.vaccinaid.org to donate or begin fundraising.





"After a year of working from home, Anthony will seize any opportunity to put on a suit"



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Our building is closed. We are still worshipping.

It has been lovely this week to hear of the many ways our congregation have been worshipping together but apart using our service. I know it is a HUGE change from what we are used to and it can feel strange getting in to a new groove of prayer and worship. Thank you for your understanding. Please be assured of my prayers for you and the church.

We understand that for many this lockdown is a difficult situation. If you would like prayers or simply a conversation please contact me - Rev Sarah on 0161 485 3455 or vicar@allsaintschadlehulme.org.uk or our Churchwardens John Ackerley 0161 486 1419 and Janet Ashman on 0161 485 7969.

Stay safe and God bless
Rev Sarah Hancock

"The Visitation"
by Rogier van der Weyden
(1399 or 1400 – 18 June 1464)



The gift of the Spirit was a fruit of the resurrection of Christ. John Calvin

*Before Christ sent the Church into the world, He sent the Spirit into the Church.
The same order must be observed today. John R W Stott*

The longest journey is the journey within. Dag Hammarskjöld

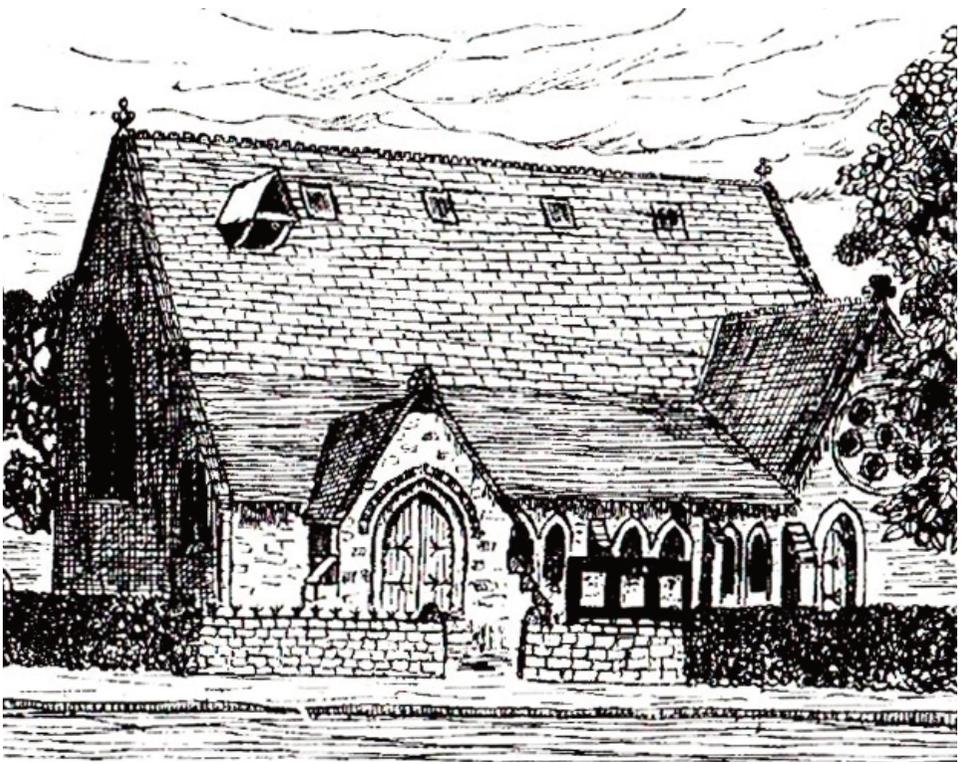
Thank God for what you have, TRUST GOD for what you need. Anonymous

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

We give thanks for the lives of the following:

Feb 15 Howard James Naylor

Mar 25 Jacqueline Ann Singleton



Christian Stewardship

The Parish practises the principles of Christian Stewardship in its giving for the work of God. If you are interested to learn more about it please contact the Recorder, Kate Hughes (485 1010), the Vicar or the Churchwardens. The giving of time and talents is encouraged, If you wish to help in some capacity in the Church services or organisations, in improving or maintaining the Church fabric or grounds, or in visiting and helping the sick or housebound, please speak to the Clergy or the Churchwardens.



All Saints Cheadle Hulme

PARISH DIRECTORY

Clergy: *The Rev'd Sarah Hancock, All Saints Vicarage, 27 Church Road SK8 7JL (485 3455)
The Rev'd Janet Owens (Retired) (312 4683)

Readers: Mrs Pat Yates (485 4546)
Mr Michael Aiers (439 7692)

Church Wardens: *Mrs Janet Ashman (485 7969)
*Mr John Ackerley (486 1419)

Deputy Wardens: *Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647)
*Ms Sarah Ball (07966 146746)

Organist: Miss Trevlyn Thomas (485 8026)

Sacristan: *Mrs Janet Valentine (439 8203)

P.C.C. Vice Chairman and Treasurer: *Mr Jeremy Valentine (439 8203)

P.C.C. Secretary: *Mrs Linda Ackerley (486 1419)

Planned Giving and Gift Aid Secretary: *Mrs Kate Hughes (485 1010)

Mainly Music Co-ordinator and Child Protection Officer: *Mrs Clare Russell (486 9304)

Church Room Bookings: Mr Neville Ashman (485 7969)

Parish Rooms Bookings: Ms Joanna Parsons, Parish Room Cottage, Church Road, SK8 7JB
(485 2596)

Electoral Roll Officer: Dr David Jones (01625 850997)

Parish Magazine Editor: Mr Rhys Davenport (485 6772) Email: seed.design@mail.com

Website and Social Media: *Ms Sarah Ball Email: comms@allsaintsheadleulme.org.uk

Parish Magazine Secretary and Treasurer:
Mrs Chris Spencer (485 8282)

Deanery Synod Representatives: *Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647)

*Miss Irene Walton (439 6096)

P.C.C. Members are marked* Other members

Mesdames: L. Bacon, M. Epps, C. Jones, L. Karuku, F. Pickett, S. Stone