
The Magazine of the Parish
of Holcombe & Hawkshaw

Messenger

May 2012

Why not visit our website: www.holcombehawkshaw.org

30p



17th May

7.30pm

Ascension Day

Holy Communion (CW),

Emmanuel,

Holcombe.



Christian Aid week

13th to 19th May

See page 5.

**JESUS
IS LORD**



**Loving God, loving neighbours;
sharing Jesus with you.**



Rev. Paul Sumsion,
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road,
Hawkshaw,
Bury,
BL8 4JN
01204 888 060.

Emmanuel Church,
Holcombe,
Ramsbottom,
Bury,
Greater Manchester.
BL8 4NB

**Emmanuel Church
Centre
&
Canon Lewis Hall,**
Longsight Road,
Holcombe Brook,
Ramsbottom,
Bury,
Greater Manchester.
BL8 4DB

**St Mary,
Hawkshaw,**
Bury,
Greater Manchester.
BL8 4JN

Vestry Hour

Clergy will be available most Mondays at the Emmanuel Church Centre, Longsight Road, between 6.30pm and 7.30pm, to talk about matters of concern particularly weddings and baptisms.



A local charitable Trust offering financial help to those in need. For further information contact the Trust's Secretary Mrs. Barbara Newhouse, (banew@sky.com), or visit the website www.bbrtrust.co.uk.

Notice Sheets

If you have any announcements for inclusion in the leaflet which is given out at services each Sunday:

Contact: Alex Percy - alexpercy@btinternet.com

Editorial: Stephen Newhouse - stephen.newhouse@sky.com. 01706 412657

Copy to can be handed to Stephen Newhouse, Michael Burton at Holcombe, Alex Percy Emmanuel Church Centre or to Margaret Yates at Hawkshaw, or can be handed in at any service by the

10th of the month prior to publication.

Note: The editor would be grateful for copy by e mail, or on disc, but typed or hand written contributions are always welcome.

All correspondence will be assumed for publication unless you specify otherwise. Contributions may be edited. Ideas and opinions expressed in contributions are not necessarily those of the editor.

... receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



One of my favourite stories is in the setting of a small country, white-frame church. It seems that the paint was peeling off on the old church so the people asked the vicar what to do. He suggested that they have a work day on the coming Saturday and paint the church. The people agreed. On Saturday an eager crowd starting painting the church, but as the afternoon wore on they realized that they would not have enough paint to finish the job. They asked the vicar what to do. He said, "Well, this is water-based paint so let's add water and thin the paint some. Maybe we will have enough to finish that way." Sure enough, they were able to finish the paint job. As they departed for the day, the people took one last look to admire their handiwork. The church looked beautiful.

But not long after they left, there was a great thunderstorm over the church and the downpour washed most of the fresh paint off the church.

When the people arrived the next day, they were very upset. They asked the vicar what they were going to do now. The vicar, in his best, ministerial voice replied, "Re-paint, re-paint, and thin no more!"

The theme of repentance is a common throughout much of the book of Acts, the book which we shall be looking at until Pentecost in our morning services .

When Peter first began preaching, he said that we need to deal with our sin before new life comes in our hearts. In Acts 2:38, Peter says, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

My prayer is that each one of us will know the power of the
Holy Spirit in our everyday lives.

Michael Booth

9th May

Pachomius d 346

the very organised monk

Have you ever worked for a disorganised organisation? You know the scene: your boss lives in a mild panic, your goals and deadlines keep being changed, your colleagues whisper darkly in corners, emails contradict each other, meetings lead to more confusion... and you go home each night with a headache.

So it is that Pachomius should be the patron saint of administrators everywhere. For back in the 4th century, without a computer or even a mobile, he managed to run eleven separate monasteries like clockwork.

Pachomius was born into a pagan family in Upper Egypt at the end of third century, and as a youth was conscripted into the army. On his release in 313, he became two things: a Christian and a hermit (probably craved some peace and quiet!). But Pachomius was no loner, and when other monks gradually sought him out, he did with them what he did best: he organised them. By 320 he had founded his first monastery.

Pachomius seems to have had exceptional powers of administration, no doubt perfected by his years of disciplined army life. By the time of his death in 346, he presided over nine large monasteries for men and two for woman. Each monastery was divided into houses, according to its craft, such as agriculture, tailoring or baking.



Pachomius knew how to delegate: each house had its own leader. He knew how to keep in touch: he held team leaders' meetings twice a year. Pachomius knew about supply chains: food and drink never ran out. Pachomius knew about marketing: he found buyers for their produce in Alexandria. Pachomius knew about delivering a vision: a daily pattern of work and prayer and sleep was set in place to make sure that the monks and nuns could devote themselves to God for hours each day in prayer, and in memorising the Psalms and other Bible passages.

Pachomius knew how to help people get things done. No wonder his Rule went on to influence that of Basil and Benedict. Certainly administration is listed by St Paul as a genuine gift of God, and prudence and clear forward planning are highly prized in the Proverbs.

Major new report seeks to protect church schools

Church schools are at the heart of the nation, and should robustly assert their Christian ethos and foundation, according to recommendations included in a groundbreaking report published by the Church of England.

The Church, which is responsible for more than 4,800 schools across the country, educates more than a million pupils and schools are increasingly in the front line of its work in communities.

The report, 'The Church School of the Future', has taken evidence from dioceses, school leaders, politicians and other stakeholders with an interest in education. Launched in late March, it says the challenge for all existing Church schools, and any new schools, is to maintain their distinctive Christian character in an increasingly fragmented education system and amid strong attacks from secularists.



And it warns against a 'utilitarian' approach to education where economic pressures risk forcing a narrow view of pupils' ability to develop and learn both academically and spiritually. While giving firm backing to the current Government's drive to raise attainment, the report describes the administration's approach to religious education as disappointing and calls for a new strategy to improve teaching and learning in RE.

“The values of our society convince us that those in the centre are the ones with whom we should align ourselves. The value of the Gospel calls us to live on the margins.”

Oscar - from “Living it out”

The power of standing together



Christian Aid Week tells the story of a community in Sierra Leone that has seen remarkable change. Tenneh Keimbay's life turned around when the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL) started to work in her town, distributing tools and teaching farmers simple food production techniques. She talks enthusiastically about the difference this has made: 'Now the children eat two meals a day all year round, whereas before it was one. They are growing well; they don't cry around me because of hunger. They are happy to go to school because something is in their stomach.'

The benefits of regular food speak for themselves, but the effects of the food production group have been more wide-ranging than this. Tenneh speaks of the huge difference working in a group has made to her. Acting together, the farmers can share their skills and work more efficiently. As she tells us, the bottom line is that 'the group work provides more food'.

Tenneh speaks of the support and the encouragement that the farmers give to each other, and how much can be achieved when the community comes together. 'What inspires me in life is unity,' she says. 'To me, unity means coming together to decide on one thing and take that forward.'

Now that they are no longer limited by hunger, the people of Gbap (pronounced Bap) have come together and successfully lobbied for a new school and an agricultural work centre for the community. The people of Gbap have taken their future into their own hands.

During Christian Aid Week, 15,000 churches across Britain and Ireland will organise house-to-house collections and events to raise funds to enable organisations like MCSL to carry out their work transforming communities such as Gbap. Christian Aid currently works with 507 partners in 47 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, helping people to make change happen. Our donations will be multiplied many times over as many small actions come together to make a huge change. But the giving that takes place during Christian Aid Week is not one-way.

Unity is something that our churches are not always good at, and the value of community that has inspired Tenneh is something that we can learn from and be changed by. Christian Aid Week is about raising funds, but it is also a call to unity – an invitation for churches to come together and celebrate the possibility of hope and life in parts of the world where mere survival can be a struggle.

This is a challenge because division and inequality and injustice will always be easier than unity. But Tenneh's insistence that remarkable things can happen when we come together is not new. We see it in the actions and ministry of Jesus, who pushed against all that leads to violence and separation and

called his disciples to model a new way of community.

Can we use this Christian Aid Week to allow ourselves to be changed? If we can work together, with each other, with our churches and with our neighbours both at home and as far away as Gbap, then we may start to see huge change happen.

Tenneh says that 'when you are a group and work with focus and total commitment, you work at a faster rate; the stronger ones can help with work that weaker ones cannot do by themselves'. As we engage in Christian Aid Week, we can rejoice as we stand together in solidarity. Although we might ask who is the strong and who is the weak – and who is actually giving to whom?

Be a part of Christian Aid Week this year: if, together, we take small actions we can give people like Tenneh the tools to make big change happen.

- £6.50/€7.50 could buy a set of four hand tools for a farmer living in the town of Gbap.
- £50/€57.50 could pay for advocacy training for two young people in a Kenyan slum, equipping them with the tools they need to pressure their government to provide essential services.
- £123/€141.50 could buy a reclaimed aluminium greenhouse for women working on market gardening projects in Tajikistan, providing a vital tool for growing vegetables in a harsh climate experiencing extremes of hot and cold.

'Growing Together' Parish Away Day @ home

Speaker:
Rt Rev'd Chris Edmondson,
Bishop of Bolton.

**Saturday 30th June
10am - 3.30pm**

Emmanuel Church Centre.

*Teaching, worship and fun for all
Ages.*

*Followed by BBQ at St Mary's on
Sunday 1st July in the afternoon to
celebrate Vic's ordination.*

Parish Weekend Away

13th - 15th

**September 2013
Abbot Hall Hotel
Grange-over-Sands**

Speaker: The Bishop of Bolton.

Book now!

Details and booking forms
available at Worship Centres.

Visit:

www.christianguild.co.uk/abbothall/360.php

For virtual tour of the hotel.

Advice on marriage



HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with.

Kirsten, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then.

Camille, age 10

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess and watch whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.

Lynnette, age 8 (isn't she a treasure?)

17th May

7.30pm

Ascension Day

Holy Communion (CW),
Emmanuel,
Holcombe.

20th May

10am

Confirmation Service

St. Mary, Bury
(Bury Parish Church)

Date for your Diary!

Celebration Concert

with the

SQUARE STREET
SINGERS

at

Emmanuel Church

on

Saturday June 9th

at 7.30pm

Midweek Services

1st Tuesday

(1st May) 7.30pm.

Prayer meeting

St. Mary, Hawkshaw.

2nd Thursday

(10th May) 2.00pm

Holy Communion

Emmanuel Church Centre

2nd Tuesday

(8th May) 10 -11am

Reflective Prayer

Emmanuel Church Centre

3rd Tuesday

10a.m. - 12 noon

NO Quiet morning this month

Emmanuel Church Centre

4th Tuesday

(22nd May) 7.30pm

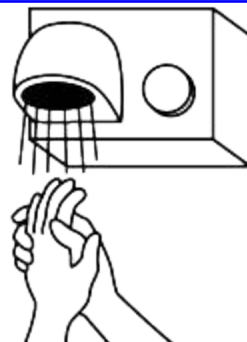
Compline

Emmanuel, Holcombe.



"It's not a quotation or sermon theme, it's just a warning about the low doorway"

Hot air



My clergy friend put sanitary hot air hand dryers in the toilets at his church, and two weeks later removed them in a hurry. I asked him why, and he confessed that they worked fine, but when he went in there one day he'd seen a sign that read: "For a sample of next week's sermon, push the button."



**Have you reports or news of events?
Could you write a short piece for this magazine?**

What's happening in the village, at school, in uniformed groups, etc....?

The magazine is your opportunity to publicise what you are doing.

E mail contributions to:

stephen.newhouse@sky.com

Planned Giving

giftaid it

If you are not in the Planned Giving Scheme please consider joining. It's an easy way to make your donations and at the same time it allows the Church to claim extra monies from the Tax man! Please contact Peter Lockett, 01204 886746, for more details, or visit our website.

Prayer Focus



We had a first taste of summer just before Easter

– a chance to feel the warmth of the sun and see the earth coming to life again. Green shoots and daffodils heartened the scene and we enjoyed some days of weather that lifted the spirit and gave cause and pause for thanks.

How we witness to our faith is as individual as we are and its not what we do so much as the intention behind it that honours God.

Prayer life is about relationship and the more personal it becomes the freer we are to engage in talking and listening, thinking and also just being in His Presence.

All the daffodils we see in gardens, parks and lining roadsides required planting. It struck me that in order for those bulbs to be planted someone had to kneel and place them in the soil. How similar that is to some physical forms of prayer – the kneeling and attention to the purpose.

Yet prayer is not prescriptive – we may be taught ‘hands together, eyes closed’, as children but if we think about drawing closer to someone in a deepening relationship we communicate in varied ways. Demonstrating care and love is personal – not always requiring words or deeds – just being there can be enough.

There are times when we can just contemplate the beauty of our surroundings, perhaps thinking of the hands that have given delight when we see the fruit of their labour.

Such thoughts are indeed prayers of awareness and thanks; they reflect our feelings and give us chance to engage with Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gloria.

Emmanuel Church Centre

Sunday 6th May

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Holy Communion CW

(Acts 8 v26 to end; John 15 v1 - 8).

Lead: Rev. Robert Airey.

Thursday 10th May

2.00pm Holy Communion (CW)

Rev. Paul Sumsion.

Sunday 13th May

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Sunday Morning Worship (groups)

(Acts 10 v44 - 48).

Lead/Preach: Rev. Robery Airey.

Thursday 17th May

Ascension Day

Service at 7.30pm Emmanuel, Holcombe

Sunday 20th May

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

9.30am Sunday Morning Worship Communion (groups)

(Acts 1 v15 - 17 + 21 - 26; John 17 v6 - 19).

Lead/Preach/Preside: Rev Paul Sumsion.

Sunday 27th May

Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

9.30am Holy Communion (CW)

(Acts 2 v1 - 21; John 15 v 26 - 27 + 16 v4b - 15).

Lead/Preside: Rev. Paul Sumsion; Preach: Schwartz

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Emmanuel, Holcombe

Sunday 6th May

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (1662).
(Acts 8 v26 to end; John 15 v1 - 8).
Lead: Rev. Paul Sumsion.

11.00am Family & Parade Service
(Acts 8 v26 to end).
Lead: Michael Burton; Preach: Rev. Robert Airey.

Sunday 13th May

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

11.00am Holy Communion 1662
(Acts 10 v44 - 48; John 15 v9 - 17)

Thursday 17th May

Ascension Day

7.30pm Holy Communion CW
(Acts 1 v1 - 11; Luke 24 v44 - 53)
Lead/Preside/Preach: Rev Robert Airey.

Sunday 20th May

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

11.00am Morning Prayer
(Acts 1 v15 - 17 + 21 - 26; John 17 v6 - 19)
Lead/Preach; Michael Burton.

6.30pm Choral Evensong 1662
(Isaiah 61; Luke 4 v14 - 21; Psalm 147 v1 - 12)
Lead: Rev Paul Sumsion; Preach: Michael Burton.

Tuesday 22nd May

7.30pm Compline

Sunday 27th May

Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

8.00am Holy Communion (1662).
(Acts 2 v1 - 21; John 15 v 26 - 27 + 16 v4b - 15).
Lead: Rev. Paul Sumsion.

11.00am Sermons Service
(Acts 2 v1 - 21)
Lead/Preside: Rev. Paul Sumsion; Preach: Schwartz.

Note : 3rd June there will be NO 8am Service.

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St. Mary, Hawkshaw

Sunday 6th May The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.45am **Holy Communion (with groups)**
Rev Paul Sumsion; Vic. Fletcher.

6.30pm **Prayer and Praise**
James Moss, Hannah Faulkner

Sunday 13th May The Sixth Sunday of Easter

10.45am **Sermons Service**
Rev. Paul Sumsion.

6.30pm **Holy Communion CW**
Rev. Paul Sumsion; Ethel Houghton

Thursday 17th May Ascension Day

Service at 7.30pm Emmanuel, Holcombe

Sunday 20th May The Seventh Sunday of Easter

10.45am **Holy Communion CW**
Rev. Paul Sumsion. Richard Byrom.

6.30pm **Evening Prayer**
Ethel, Houghton; Richard Byrom

Sunday 27th May Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

10.45am **Healing Service with Groups**
Ethel Houghton; Michael Booth; Colin Honor

6.30pm **Prayer and Praise**
Joe Hanley;

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Afternoon Fellowship

Canon Lewis Hall, 2pm

Details: Elizabeth Lofthouse 01204 886732

Usually 2nd and 4th Mondays

14th May "On Receiving her M.B.E."

Doris Willan.

28th May "Arizona" Dorothy Mangham

The Cellar Youth Group (Years 7 & 8).in the Cellar, (Hawkshaw Church) at 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Thursdays

'Excell' youth group

Years 9 + 10 (Hawkshaw Church)

Mondays 7.30pm till 9.00pm

Choir - Thursdays

Emmanuel Church, Holcombe - 7.30pm.

Drop-in - Mondays Canon Lewis Hall.

10am - 12 noon each week.

Explorers after School in Hawkshaw

Church on Thursdays.

Details from Penny Hanley 07870 578 632

Mothers' Union - Contact: Romy Simpson.

1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2.00 p.m.
in Emmanuel Church Centre.

2nd May Wed 7 pm DEANERY A.G.M.
Christ Church, Walmersley

15th May - Mrs Doreen Hough -
"My childhood at Turton Tower"

P.C.C. Meeting

21st May 7.30pm E.C.C.

Prayer Meetings

Parish prayers:

Tuesday 1st May St. Mary's 7.30p.m.

Holy Communion

Thursday 10th May 2pm., E.C.C.

Reflective Prayer

Tuesday 8th May 10am - 11am., E.C.C.

Quiet Morning

No Quiet Morning this month.

Compline

Tuesday 22nd May 7.30pm., Holcombe

Singing Practice Hawkshaw

Vicarage

at 7.15am. Fridays.

Travellers (Adult & Toddler)

Canon Lewis Hall - Every Wednesday
1.30pm to 3.00pm in term time.

Please check your copy of the weekly Notices and/or with the particular person responsible, as events and times can and do change.

High blood pressure?

Have 8 cups of tea



The British have long enjoyed de-stressing over a hot cup of tea. Now scientists in Australia have found that tea really does lower the blood pressure. In tests it was found that drinking eight cups of black tea a day ‘significantly’ cuts blood pressure, according to research from the University of Western Australia. So – put the kettle on!

National Smile Month

20 May to 20 June

Whoever came up with the idea of a ‘National Smile Month’? The mind boggles at the idea of everyone smiling at each other for weeks on end, especially on the trains and buses, never mind in the House of Commons.

In reality, National Smile Month is not about goodwill breaking out across the country, but about dentists urging us to take better care of our teeth; and hence, our smiles. It is an oral health campaign with three key messages: brush your teeth for two minutes twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste; cut down on how often you have sugary foods and drinks; and visit your dentist regularly, as often as they recommend. At least your dentist will then smile at you!



THE ALTO'S LAMENT

It's tough being an alto when singing in a choir
Sopranos get all the twiddly bits people most admire
Bases boom like loud trombones, the tenors shout with glee
But the altos' part is just two notes, or if you're lucky, three.

And when we sing an anthem and lift our voice in praise
The men get all the juicy bits with telling little phrases
Of course the trebles sing in tune, they always come off best
But the alto part is just three notes and a twenty two bar rest.

We practice very hard each week, from hymn book and the Psalter
But when the conductor looks at us our voices start to falter
Too high, too low, you held that note too long
It doesn't matter what you do, its certain to be wrong.

Oh shed a tear for altos, they're martyrs and they know it
In the ranks-of choralsingig, they're considered very. low
They are so very humble that a lot of folk forget them
They would love to sing soprano, but their vocal chords won't let them.

And when the final trumpet sounds and they are wafted higher
Sopranos, bases, tenors will all sing in the heavenly choir
When they sing hallelujahs to celestial chords and sharps
The altos will be busy with polishing the harps.

anon

One choir- one voice and Beryl

It was a great shock to all members of Holcombe Choir when Mel Harrison announced she had accepted a job working for the BBC World Service which would necessitate her living much of the time in the South of England and therefore she could no longer be our Musical Director. This was a double blow. As well as MD, as we all know, Mel is also a gifted and flamboyant organist. Who could forget her rendition of "Moonlight and Roses" one St Valentine's Day? Although Mel had left us before because of work commitments only to return, we all realised that this time was different, because this was not just about a new job but a new life and, while we all wished her well in it, we viewed the future with trepidation.

It's no secret I think that, as my husband tactfully puts it, Holcombe Choir is not in the "first flush" but many of its members also battle with ill health and/ or the ill health of those close to them as well as personal loss. As I looked round I wondered how we could go on. I hadn't reckoned of course with the never say die, indomitable spirit of such as Hilda and Doris nor the trusting faith of Pauline who, when I started to fret, just told me to "Lay it to prayer, Lesley". I also hadn't reckoned with Beryl. In spite of the fact that it was not what she wanted, rather than allow the choir to go under, she agreed to step into the breach until a new musical director could be found. Cometh the hour, cometh the woman!

I now feel like I imagine the crowds who witnessed the feeding of the five thousand

must have felt for I can hardly believe what has happened since. Not only has the choir survived but it has grown in number with the addition of Jill Hunt and Rosemary Artley in the Sopranos. In fact Rosemary has now agreed to take over as our new MD! We also have Richard France's new wife, Dorothy, who makes guest appearances in the Altos – you have to admire the man's commitment to recruiting new members. Furthermore, Colin has made a very welcome return to the tenor section (a very lonely Robert) since his health has improved. Another gift has been John Fairclough who came to play the organ wonderfully for us and amazingly has carried on coming in spite of the fact that we don't always tell him what he is supposed to be doing! As a result, those of you who attend and enjoy the services, especially those over Christmas and Easter, must agree that Holcombe Choir is very much alive and kicking.

As we look forward to a new exciting era with Rosemary at the helm, I felt we had to pause and reflect over the last months. I have no doubt in my mind that this choir owes a huge debt of gratitude to the musical tradition built up in this church by Mel and those before her, including Olwen France and, of course, Beryl's husband Ian, but also, and especially, to Beryl who has given us so much of her energy, considerable musical expertise, keen sense of humour (vital) and love. Furthermore, we are thrilled that she has agreed to be Deputy Musical Director, as she was for Mel, as well as continuing to sing with the Sops. The future for Holcombe Choir is bright - we have our own faithful Shepherd! Thank you so much, Beryl.

Lesley Yates

A good read



Less is More – spirituality for busy lives

By Brian Draper, LionHudson, £7.99

Bigger, better, faster, is today's mantra. Within the frenetic and frenzied culture of the West today, amid the blizzard of downloads, texts, status updates, e-mails, and smart phones; within the break-neck world of work, in which we must look busy or else; within a consumer world in which we endlessly pursue more things to keep up with the latest gadgetry, as well as with each other; within all the pressures to be someone, to make something of your life, and to be seen as successful; Brian Draper stops. And pauses. And breathes in. And breathes out. And listens. And asks, How can we simply live live?

Sister Wendy's Bible Treasury – stories and wisdom through the eyes of great painters

By Sister Wendy Beckett, SPCK, £14.99.

Few can match Sister Wendy Beckett's combination of charm, enthusiasm and knowledge when it comes to art history. This month she brings her lively and accessible touch to the key Bible stories accompanied by fine art from the great Western painters.

Artists in the frame include Caravaggio, Degas, Leonardo, Raphael, Rembrandt, Titian, van Gogh - and many more!

Finger

The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, moves on. And so I stare and wonder - where does the ink come from?!



On how maintaining the churchyard can lead to turf wars

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

Consider yourself fortunate that your churchyard consists of no more than a small paved area and that keeping it tidy requires ten minutes of picking up discarded takeaway boxes on Sunday morning. Our four acres of grass and randomly placed gravestones absorbs a large portion of the time and energy of half the parish.

By getting different people to adopt sections of the churchyard, the hope was that an element of competition would be introduced; Major Rutherford would never let Admiral Crompton's section look tidier than his and the local farmers would want to show the amateurs that they knew far more about land maintenance.

Sadly, human nature has got in the way – as it invariably does. Miss Timmins has declared her section a nature reserve, so that the cuddly field mice and darling hedgehogs have somewhere to live in. This now means that crossing from her patch to the next feels like crossing from Kew gardens to the Amazon rainforest. Two feet high grass and a profusion of dandelions give way to manicured lawn with any weed daring to pop its head above the parapet being beheaded in seconds. Miss T is toying with erecting a fence round her plot, to keep her dear furry friends safe and Sir Horace is threatening to have it electrified, to make sure they do not defile his grass billiard table.

Mr Tremble, a retired health and safety officer, whose well-meaning advice on avoiding accidents is such a burden, is applying to have all the gravestones on his

patch levelled, so that no one could be killed by having a fall on them. The fact that this has never happened in 600 years, seems an irrelevance to him. On the

other hand, his neighbour spends summer evenings painting his stones with sour milk in order to encourage lichen. Mr Tremble's warning that some lichens can be quite poisonous have so far fallen on deaf ears.

A local farmer, who maintains the boundary walls, generously planted cherry trees all round the perimeter; not only for their looks in Spring, but so that the birds would have somewhere to roost. Sadly, Lady Lipton, while resting from maintaining her plot, tends to shoot them while she smokes her briar pipe.

The only area which no one dares criticise surrounds the mausoleum of the Luscombes, maintained by the gardening staff of the present Lord. It contains such a collection of rogues and miscreants that parishioners fear their anger at being disturbed may even cross the divide of death.

I hesitate to admit it, but the thought of an area of concrete with a few pizza boxes scattered round does at times hold a certain attraction.

Your loving uncle,



Eustace

Who's who . . .



Some details may change as a result of elections at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Rector: Rev. Paul Sumsion, The Vicarage, Bolton Road ,

Hawkshaw, Bury , BL8 4JN

01204 888 060.

Associate Minister: Rev. Robert Airey

01706 224743.

Readers:

Mr. Michael Burton, 6, Carrwood Hey, Rams. 01706 822664.

Mr. Richard Byrom 01204 883110.

Mr. Michael Booth 01204 884648.

Mr. Vic. Fletcher 01204 882750.

Church Warden: Mr. Michael Booth. 01204 884648.

Mr. Stephen Newhouse. 01706 412657.

Deputy Wardens:

Emmanuel: Mr. Colin Gaskell and Mr. Derrick Latham.

Emmanuel Church Centre: Mrs. Alex Percy and Mrs. Elizabeth Lofthouse.

St. Mary, Hawkshaw: Mrs. Jane Fletcher and Mr. Eric Shortt.

Hon.. P.C.C. Secretary: Mrs. Geraldine Booth (P.C.C. Minute Secretary: Mrs. Alex Percy).

Hon.. Treasurer: Mr. David Lomax .

Assistants to Treasurer: Mrs. Jenny Burton and Mrs. Judith Horrocks.

Gift Aid Secretary : Dr. Peter Lockett .

Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs. Sheila Partridge, (Assistant Hawkshaw: Margaret Yates).

Child Protection Officer: Mags Croll (Assistant: Rev. Robert Airey).

Standing Committee: Rector, Churchwardens, P.C.C. Secretary and Treasurer.

Other members to be decided by the P.C.C.

Finance Team: Treasurer, Assistant Treasurers and Gift Aid Secretary.

Booking Secretary: Emmanuel Church Centre & Canon Lewis Hall:

Mrs. D. Mangham 01204 886771.

or Wendy Goldsmith 01204 883086.

Emmanuel Church Centre: (not always manned)

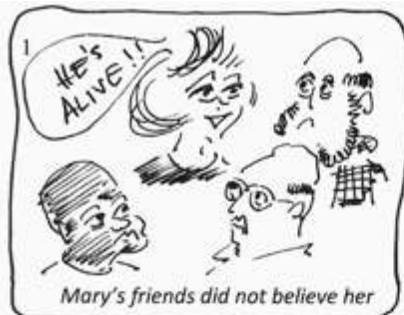
07796 435596.

Booking Secretary: St. Mary, Hawkshaw

Mrs. Penny Hanley 07870 578632

Bible Sketchbook

Signs will follow!



Jesus rose from the dead and Mary was one of the first to see him. She told his friends but they did not believe her. So Jesus came and told them off. He said: "Believe and go global!" He said anyone who believes and is baptised will be saved! Also believers would see signs and wonders accompany their preaching. Jesus went up to heaven and that's when they really started talking about him!! Now it's OUR turn!

Read more in Mark 16: 9-19



William Mather©



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The meeting was held on 30th April, so too late for this edition, a full report with election results next month.

Archdeacon's Visitation

7.30pm St. Stephen's, Bury

Wednesday 2nd May

All sidespeople and
P.C.C. members should
attend.

In fact the service is for
any member of the parish,
so please support those
elected at the Annual
meeting.

**The first meeting of the
new P.C.C. :**

21st May

7.30pm

Emmanuel Church Centre.

SERMONS SUNDAY

13th May

St Mary, Hawkshaw

10.45am

27th May

Holcombe, Emmanuel

11.00am

How to be thankful

If you wish to establish the habit of doing a certain thing, you take pains to do that thing upon every possible occasion, and to avoid everything inconsistent therewith. Now then, if you wish to form the habit of thankfulness, just begin by being thankful – not next year; not for some great event or experience, but for whatever has just occurred, whatever has been pleasant, yes, and (also) for whatever has been painful.

John Broadus, 1891- 1938