





Parish Magazine July 2020



Congregation beginning to gather on Sunday, 5th July, when the Parish Church was opened for worship.

Maintaining contact

We are concerned about people who are isolated for whatever reason. If you know of a member of the congregation who perhaps needs a phone call, please do contact us or send an email to julian.heaton_I@outlook.com

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Situated on top of the small hill at the centre of the town, Bury Parish Church stands at the heart of one of the ancient parishes of Lancashire. The present splendid building was opened for worship on 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation, in 1876, and is certainly the third - possibly the fourth - on the site. It is impossible now to know just when Christian worship began here, a thousand or so years ago.

During its long history, the Church has ministered to the town in many different ways. Bury Grammar School began life here in the Sixteenth Century, boys almost certainly being taught originally by clergy from the Parish Church. Parish Charities were set up to provide for the poor and sick.

The Rector was heavily involved in the growth of the town during the Industrial Revolution: much of the urban growth of those days took place on his glebe land. Sir Robert Peel, future Prime Minister and son of a manufacturer. local textile was baptized here in 1788. All of the dozen or so Anglican parishes in Bury were carved out of the original parish. The Church has had close links with the Lancashire Fusiliers (now part of the Roval Regiment of Fusiliers) since 1873 and continues to be a focus for the whole civic life of the Borough.

Today, we seek to continue to offer a wide variety of activities and opportunities to the whole town which we are called to serve for Jesus Christ's sake. This magazine gives its reader a snap-shot, in one particular month, of what is on offer. We are always eager to find new ways of witness and service and should be glad to receive any constructive suggestions.

From the Rectors Desk



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

What has caught your attention? COVID-19? Black Lives Matter? The easing of Lockdown?

The car-crash of the economy? Maybe none of these. Despite the constant narrow-casting of just a few news items, maybe your attention has been focussed closer to home; how your family has coped, the longing for a hug, a touch, a reminder of basic, earthy humanity? We are, after all, whole human beings, not just cyphers for a select, repetitious cycle of news.

For myself, although those key news items have held my attention, my prayers and my concern, as a priest, has been on another layer of concern these past weeks. Let me share it with you. As I do so, I hope that you may share your insights with me. One of the things about being stuck at home has been the lack of two-way communication, so some feedback would be welcome.

My concern (a rather typically parish priest's one) has been around how good we have been at practising the faith. I have this underlying anxiety that the Church of England has been pretty effective and efficient at encouraging people to come to church (well, perhaps until maybe thirty years ago) but less good at helping people develop their faith, foster a real, lively and passionate spiritual life. If you don't know what I am talking about, then I fear I my instincts are right.

Over the course of the Lockdown, I have tried to pump out a daily ebulletin. Early on, I gave some thought to what I would want to know about the Christian faith, what texts to have on my lips, what prayers to have in my heart, what worldview to hold when looking out of the window, at the news, on the television.

I decided, as a cradle member of the Church of England, that the answer might be found within the Church of England. Drawing on the 'Pilgrim Course', I shared four texts that I think we all ought to know in our heads; the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed. They set out a basic set of beliefs about God and about life, give us words to pray and practices to practice. I think the Church was onto something with them. They are more engaging than a simple Catechism. They are the words of Jesus, words that shaped Jesus' life and words about how to think of Jesus now. Words from the bible and words from the Church Catholic. So far, so good.

But what about fostering a lively spiritual life? The e-bulletin shared other people's ideas: from newspapers, YouTube singing, funny but insightful drawings, pithy sayings framed in slightly arty photographs, photographs taken and shared from members of the congregations' lockdown walks. Spiritual life is not only words. People began to share what gave their life shape and hope, depth and laughter. I found this hugely encouraging. I was reminded that people encounter God in many different ways. The task of the ebulletin was to offer those varieties and trust that some would stick. A huge shout-out to those who shared their material.

And Rhiannon and I went on Facebook. offering thought and praver. Our ordinand Hannah Lane. cranked up the whole social media machine, putting prayers and hymns Facebook, out on Twitter and Instagram. People commented. watched and prayed. I can truly say that tears sometimes ran down my face. I was gently being admonished

by God. His people knew that he loved them and they repaid that love by turning on and tuning in.

And people turned up to worship. They fought Zoom and won, joined in, sang (in the silence of their own room), prayed, were silent, learnt new ways of doing things, risked appearing ignorant (we all started ignorant in this regard) and laughed and became part of the faithful Sunday congregation. I cannot tell you how much that meant. And not just to me; so many told me how wonderful it was to either join in the chat before and after or simply to watch and know that they were still part of God's people.

And now we are starting to return. Some have appeared already. That's great. Some of you are being careful and wise and being appropriately cautious. That's great too. We are not called to throw away what has been achieved at great cost. Our online work will continue. It's now simply part of our life. And it's a reminder that we are bound together by love and faith and affection however we touch base; phone call or in person or online.

Back to my initial worries. Charles Wesley (or was it John?) said that we

should preach first to ourselves. And that means that that concern about a lively, passionate, spiritual life has to be my first priority for myself. Most of us will have found this lockdown confusing, exhausting, and distracting. I certainly have. We will have been seduced by frivolities, little mindless tasks that will have filled time. Well, we need time out. But we also need time in, time when we take our interior life seriously. I need time in.

I pray that, as we love forward, with all the complications of that, all the changes that we will have to absorb and accept, we take this opportunity to renew our faith and our commitment to practices of prayer and the Christian life, of worship, bible reading, service and sacrifice.

With love and prayers,

Julian

Rector

Online Church

A huge thanks to those who committed time and energy to enable our online provision to be a huge gift to the parish and beyond. We did not get everything right but, I think, we can say that we improved. As we go into our church, we have a serious learning curve to do all over again.

And, to say this. We need to think in terms of someone or more than one, listening to whether God is calling them to be our online pastor – overseeing the technology and the "content" that goes out past our parish and into Bury and beyond.

If you think that you might be called to this role, training is available.

Confirmation

We were going to have a confirmation service on Pentecost Sunday. We didn't. Bishop Mark did come, but only virtually. If you would like to be considered for confirmation or have a family member who might be considering this, please have a word with either Sheila or Julian

lore Than Sundav A year of discipleship

Welcome to #MoreThanSunday

A Year of Discipleship: encouraging us all to live out our faith every day of the week - not just on Sundays!

Theme 10 : WITNESS

'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.'

1 Peter 3:15

REFLECTION

He bounded up to me in the tinned his face fruit aisle, radiating excitement. 'What do you reckon?' he said. 'I'd say two-nil to England!' His job may have been stacking shelves in Sainsbury's, but his heart was clearly on that evening's European Cup game. It never occurred to him I might not be as interested in the football as he was. Enthusing to a complete stranger about the football didn't strike him as odd.

We all talk naturally and enthusiastically about whatever grips us, whatever we're passionate about: holiday destinations, music gigs, sports, favourite foods. But something seems to happen when it comes to talking about our faith. Many of us become tongue-tied and hesitant. Even those of us who have been involved in church all our lives can be nervous about talking about what and why we believe, and the difference faith makes to our everyday lives.

Why the nerves? Speaking personally, I guess it's sometimes a fear of being out of my depth. What if my friend asks me hard questions about why God allows suffering, or about the dodgier moments of church history? What if they expect me to know my Bible inside-out? Or I may feel a touch of impostor syndrome: I don't feel I'm a terribly good Christian, so who am I to represent the faith to the world? Wouldn't it be better if an expert did the talking about faith: somebody who knows their Bible, has thought about all possible objections, and has a great prayer life?

I wonder if it might help lower anxiety levels if we can separate out two ideas: being an *evangelist* and being a *witness*. Being an evangelist is a special calling. Some people are called by God to be sharers of the good news and are clearly gifted at doing it, whether in public events or one-toone conversations. Being a witness, on the other hand, simply means being open to talk about something I've seen or experienced for myself.

Being an evangelist is a calling for a few. Being a witness is something any of us can do.

At its simplest, being a witness means having a down-to-earth reply if a colleague or friend asks why I have faith: 'I find it brings me inner peace', 'My church is such a loving community', 'My faith motivates me to make a difference in the world', 'The life and teachings of Jesus inspire me'.

Being a witness is simply me talking honestly about my own journey, in my own words. It's not preaching, and it's definitely not an invitation to an argument! It's me saying: 'Well, all I know is... it's made a difference to me'.

The way most adults find faith is through getting to know a Christian. The journey to faith nearly always begins with friendship. And an essential aspect of any friendship is me sharing naturally what matters to me, what makes me tick.

All I need to do is keep it simple, and keep it honest. That's being a witness.

Mike Starkey

Suggested Actions

- Write down your faith story for yourself and thank God for what He has done.
- If you feel able, share your story with a Christian
- If you feel able, share your story with a non-Christian
- If you feel able, share your stay on social media - make sure to add #MoreThanSunday to your post





JULY 2020

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all well and keeping safe.

With the recent announcement regarding the opportunity to create a 2 household bubble, I am sure this news has been welcomed by many who live alone, and also the opening of the Church for private prayer is good news too.

Mothers' Union (Manchester) have made a request for photos taken during lockdown to use as illustrations for the book of poetry being compiled. If anyone has taken any photos and are happy to share please send them to the Mothers' Union Office, Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2GH or email to mothersunionmanchester@outlook.c om by the 31st July. Only a polite reminder if you haven't yet completed the survey regarding the changes planned for 2021 to Families Worldwide magazine the closing date is the 31st July 2020.

The MU appeal from Mary Sumner House has been a huge success although I don't have an up to date figure I understand the staff at MSH have been amazed at the response.

Technology is great but doesn't reach everyone so as a way of keeping in touch with all members I am doing a monthly Branch Newsletter which you will receive via email, post or hand delivered. If anyone has anything they would like included please let me know either via email or phone. Keep safe, keep well

With Love and Prayers. Susan Sugden 01204 884671



With so much pain and suffering going on across the world, filling our television channels and news feeds, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and fearful. It is also easy at times like these to believe that the world is a dark and tragic place, and to forget the goodness in our fellow human beings.



This year in particular calls for deep faith – faith in God, and in ourselves. It is a powerful thought that a relationship with God can bring any person around, no matter how irredeemable they or their situation may appear. As detailed below. members stepping their are UD throughout Britain response and Ireland and overseas, instilling faith and combating fears.

Just as we lit candles to signify the light of Christ during our Thy Kingdom Come service last month, we must be the light in the lives of others. That is what Mothers' Union members do best, staying connected and staying supportive. Each member is woven into the life of their communities just as the Holy Spirit is woven into our hearts.

If you are reading this newsletter and don't feel like the light in the lives of others, that's OK too. We have resources to help build you back up and all manner of ways of staying connected to the wider movement.

With love and prayers,

The Fundraising and Communications Team (Mothers' Union)

Mothers' Union's Response continues

Mothers' Union in Tanzania are delivering training, reminding people of these simple steps to avoid spreading the disease.

The national situation changes week by week and day by day. Within Britain and Ireland, members are not only producing much needed equipment for front line workers and carers, they are crafting soothing items for those who cannot be with their loved ones.

Meanwhile, the fight against the disease is taking on different dimensions across the world. The challenges facing members in international contexts are as diverse as they are difficult.

Tanzanians are having a difficult time at present due to ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19. People are suffering from the disease in multiple dimensions - financially, physically, mentally and spiritually. The Mothers' Union team on the ground in Tanzania analysed that there was a significant knowledge gap. People in general do not have enough information and are not aware of the dangers posed by the disease. This is especially the case in villages and among people who fall into vulnerable categories. This includes impoverished people, the elderly, orphans and street children.



After delivering training to established communities, they are looking forward to take action to reach vulnerable people in a specific village.

This place is known as Sukamahela village in the Diocese of Rift Valley where people with leprosy are living. The plan is to raise awareness and provide soap, buckets, masks, sanitizers, food, information posters and brochures.

How can you support?

The project has asked for support in terms of prayers, specifically that they can correct resources and materials vital to carrying out their important tasks.

Mothers' Union Annual Gathering (formally the General Meeting) 2020 will no longer be taking place on 26th September. We can confirm that it has been rescheduled for the same venue, the ICC in Belfast, on 25th September 2021. There will be a thanksgiving service taking place in the Cathedral on Friday 24th September 2021.

An updated information pack will be available towards the end of this year.

Other 2020 Event Updates

As mentioned in previous issues, the Growing in Hope & Confidence Together conference is having to be rescheduled as it was due to take Conference place in lune. The Planning group will be letting everyone know about the future plans as soon as possible and also about other ways in which we can share and learn from each other in the meantime



It can be read in the Bible in Luke 7:1-10, Matthew 8:5-13 When the Romans invaded Israel, they used soldiers to keep order. For the centurion in Capernaum it was more than just a job...



R.O.B.O.T In Lockdown

Were we unprepared? Back in March, COVID-19 Lockdown directives to ban face to face activities by the government and Scouting HQ initiatives was a huge blow. The Wilson Hall has stood empty and forlorn since then. However, scouting has continued; Beaver, Cub and Scout leaders have worked hard to keep their young people engaged.

Even though some participants were still managing to continue in other various deliberations ways, after concerning child protection, Zoom meetings were launched to enhance the activities and experiences of our members. There scouting was definitely a real buzz of excitement when our young people were able to chat directly to friends, they had not been able to see for some time. Some of them really felt the benefit of the extra human contact after so long. Beavers have collectively achieved over 70 badges during the lockdown.

They include: The International Badge and the Cooking Badge which included making a chocolate cake in a mug, simultaneously whilst zooming together. Their Zoom meetings have been popular with parents too and the colony refer to them as their highlight of the week. Cubs ioined the so-called Northumberland Group and held a virtual camp. They have also been working for badges such as: Astronomer, Book Reader, Home Help and Chef. Scouts, using the troop's Facebook pages, have participated in Knot tying exercises, water filter construction and last week held a very successful Zoom quiz. Back in April they were also invited to renew their promises and Bear Grylls challenged them to contribute to walking the distance to the moon inside their own homes Scavenger hunts and Bingo are also popular activities.

Unfortunately, participating numbers are down by up to 50%. Some households have been difficult to reach and some have not responded, perhaps because, right now, we are all part of something much bigger. Many scouts will not be returning because they will be too old by the time the pandemic is over. For those who do return, they can look forward to the simple joy of seeing one another and saying 'Hello!'.

So, were we unprepared? Thanks to our leaders and scouting helpers, perhaps not. The scouting spirit embodied in R.O.B.O.T is alive and well.

Beavers Renewing their Promises



Readings for July

July		10.00am	6.30pm
5	4 th Sunday after	Genesis 23. 34-38, 42-49	Psalm 56
July	Trinity	Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-end	2 Samuel 2. I-II; 3.I
			Luke 18.31 – 19.10
12	5 th Sunday after	Genesis 25. 19-end	Psalm 60
July	Trinity	Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23	2 Samuel 7. 18-end
			Luke 19. 41 – 20.8
19	6 th Sunday after	Genesis 28. 10-19a	Psalm 67
July	Trinity	Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43	1 Kings 2. 10-12; 3.
			16-28
			Acts 4. 1-22
26	7 th Sunday after	Genesis 29. 15-28	Psalm 75
July	Trinity	Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52	1 Kings 6. 11-14, 23-
			end
			Acts 12. 1-17

July Anniversaries of the Deceased

Taken from the Remembrance Book

lst	Norman Pickstone		Arthur Jefferson
	William Simpole Heywood		Irene Frost
2nd	Mary Alice Nuttall		Kathleen Innis
	Jennie Potter	l 6th	Rawdon Ashworth
3rd	George Whatmough		Thomas Proctor
	Bernard Warriner	l7th	Clara Jefferson
	Annie Pickup	21st	Jack Howcroft Stott
5th	Ernest Rawling		Christine Howcroft
6th	Florrie Duckworth		Thomas Holland
7th	Annie Horrocks		Joan Warburton
	Alice Edwards	22nd	Robert Bradshaw
	Victims of London Bombings		Alice Cawley
0.1	2005	24th	Ada Tonge
8th	Christina M. Fallows		Margaret King
9th	Ellen Wood		Thea Smith
			Katy Mae Smith
	Derek Edge	25th	Frank Johns
l 0th	Richard Whittam		Joan Smith
11.1	Elsie & Jack Steel		Donald Wight
llth	Anthony Ashworth	26th	Albert Stephenson
12.1	Ada Ellen Sedman		Emily Wain Edyvean
l 2th	William Howarth		Edith Eccles
	David Christopher Taylor		Olive Minshall
12.1	Albert Edward Howarth	28th	Cyril Hargreaves
l 3th	Dorothy Whittam		Graham M. Thwaites
	John Roberts		Andrew John Gaskell
	Bryan Maxted		James Storey
l 4th	Harold Wild	29th	Gertrude Ormrod
	James Duckworth Marilyni Siadzick		Lesley Ann Shepherd
	Marilynj Siedzick	31st	Anne Brown
l 5th	Annie Haddock		

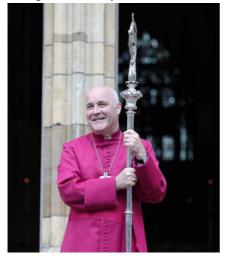


NEWS UPDATE

Newly-confirmed Archbishop of York to preach on the power of prayer

Stephen Cottrell was confirmed as 98th Archbishop of York via a Zoom video conference this morning, due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

The service included music from York Minster Choir and Manor Church of England Academy, York.



Chaplains from a hospital and a hospice are to join the newly-confirmed Archbishop of York on IIth July, where he leads worship from York Minster for the Church of England's weekly online service.

The first service to be presided over at York Minster by Archbishop Stephen will focus on prayer and the 'startling, beautiful heart' of the message of the Gospel of God's unconditional love for us.

In his sermon, he will say "This is my first time presiding here in this magnificent building as Archbishop of York and it is a joy to be in this place where prayers have been said for 1,300 years,".

Commenting on the Parable, the Archbishop will say in his sermon that the story shows how the Sower received a 'most magnificent Harvest' in spite of his errors. "Jesus comes to us, not to reward the rewardable, not to love the loveable, He comes to us to bring us into relationship with God, to plant the seed which is His word, His life in our hearts, so that our lives might be fruitful – why? Because He loves us so much, that is the startling, beautiful heart of the Gospel story."

"Prayer is what God does in us through the Holy Spirit, what we call prayer is just our response, however faltering, however uncertain.

"Whenever we open our hearts and our minds and our voices to God and tell God our hopes, tell God our fears, express to God our hopes and our love, then not only do we become people of prayer but we enter again into relationship with God."

"Time and time again I've had to learn the lesson that I cannot rely on my own strength alone and that I need God's resourcing each and every day."

Church of England awards £24 million in grants to spread the Christian faith in towns and cities

A funding package worth $\pounds 24$ million has been announced by Church of England to help spread the Christian message in urban and deprived areas.

Awards have been made by the Archbishops' Council to fund mission and evangelism in towns and cities alongside social action projects, from support for new parents to community cafes and food banks.

In the North East, £4 million has been awarded for mission and evangelism in South Tyneside, Sunderland, Hartlepool, Easington and Stocktonon-Tees areas with plans to lease empty high street shops in some towns.

The shops will host 'Communities of Hope', centres where people can explore the Christian faith. The centres will include social projects from food banks to community cafes, budget cookery classes and help with job hunting including CV writing and literacy and numeracy support.

In Manchester and Rochdale $\pounds 5$ million has been awarded for projects to develop new church communities,

including a revamp of the Ascension Church in Hulme to include a venue for music and arts activities such as gospel choirs.

The Rochdale and Manchester projects are located in some of the most deprived communities in the country and, will provide a range of social action including support for parents and children, and volunteer programmes working in areas such as dependency on drugs and alcohol, and street outreach for homeless people.

In Birmingham, a grant is to be shared for mission and evangelism work by St Mary's Church Pype Hayes in the Aston and Sutton Coldfield areas and a planned new church in Shirley. Services such as a food bank and a youth drop-in would be provided at St Mary's and a community café and support for first time parents in Shirley.

In Liverpool Diocese, £4.61 million has been awarded to develop mission to 11-29 year olds in Liverpool and Wigan.

In Newham, east London, £3 million has been awarded to expand mission work in West Ham and other areas of the borough for new congregations and centres of evangelism. The funding would include work on projects to tackle issues such as homelessness, hunger and drug abuse. A £1.37 million grant will be used to help support the development of more than 140 lay people to act as community evangelists in Middlesbrough, Hull, Scarborough, Redcar & Cleveland and Bridlington.

There will also be funding to invest in mission and evangelism in Milton Keynes, High Wycombe, Reading, Slough, Southampton and Bournemouth.

The Strategic Development Funding (SDF) grants have been awarded as part of the Church of England's programme of Renewal and Reform, aimed at ensuring that the Church of England once more becomes a growing church for all people in all areas of the country.

The awards have been announced as many areas of the country particularly the most deprived communities – cope with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Debbie Clinton, Director of Renewal and Reform for the Church of England, said: "The range of work outlined in these projects is a measure of the Church of England's commitment to all areas of the country - including some of the deprived urban most communities. Our churches are sharing the love of Jesus Christ and bringing the good news of the gospel through spiritual and pastoral support to people as well as practical action."

The House of Bishops meets via Zoom

The House of Bishops met via Zoom on 8^{th} July, as it has done regularly throughout the current pandemic.

The Bishop of Manchester updated the House on the overall work of the Church in responding to the crisis. The Bishop of London, the Rt Rev and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, Chair of the Church's COVID-19 Recovery Group updated the House regarding how churches are experiencing the gradual lifting of restrictions to enable the re-opening of churches for physical services.

The Bishops also discussed the interim findings of the working group which is reviewing the current Clergy Discipline Measure. This was followed by an update from the Archbishop of Canterbury regarding the postponed Lambeth 2020 conference and future planning.

The Bishop at Lambeth, the Rt Rev Tim Thornton commenting on the Clergy Discipline Measure said: "We are now actively seeking to improve processes, minimise delays and identify other improvements needed to make the system more effective. I am personally committed to replacing the CDM with a new system and hope to bring proposals forward as soon as practicable."

Daily Hope phone line clocks up two million minutes

A free phone line offering hymns, prayers, and reflections to tens of thousands of callers after church buildings closed because of the coronavirus is to continue despite moves to ease the lockdown restrictions.

Daily Hope, launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, in April, has now received 173,000 calls from over 37,000 people – with calls topping more than two million minutes.

The service – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – was set up as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes, especially older people and anyone unable to join online church services.

Archbishop Justin said: "Daily Hope has been a lifeline for tens of thousands of people in the last few months. "We've heard stories of people using it who are regular church attenders and those who aren't. That's a testimony to the vital importance of Daily Hope.

"I have been praying for those who have used the phone line, and written to us, that God would bring them comfort, not just at this time but in the weeks and months which follow.

"The Church will continue to look to serve older people, and those who can't easily get out to a church building. "I look forward to seeing how Daily Hope can go from strength to strength as lockdown restrictions are eased."

Callers to the line are welcomed with a short new greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.

New material to the service continues to be updated, including mental health reflections voiced by Pam Rhodes which started this week and plans for holiday at home material in August as well as prayers from the Mothers Union.

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