

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  

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Diocese of Leeds

***Barnoldswick with Bracewell  
Parish Magazine***

***Summer 2020***



*Dear friends*

It's been a while since we had a magazine. Our churches have been closed and we have all been through a period of lockdown, some of us for many weeks.

I remember in January referring to the poem by Minnie Haskins, quoted by King George VI in his Christmas message to the nation in 1939. Little did we know what lay ahead.

### **THE GATE OF THE YEAR**

'God Knows'

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

*So heart be still:*

*What need our little life*

*Our human life to know,*

*If God hath comprehension?*

*In all the dizzy strife*

*Of things both high and low,*

*God hideth His intention.*

*God knows. His will*

*Is best. The stretch of years*

*Which wind ahead, so dim*

*To our imperfect vision,*

*Are clear to God. Our fears*

*Are premature; In Him,*

*All time hath full provision.*

*Then rest: until*

*God moves to lift the veil*

*From our impatient eyes,*

*When, as the sweeter features*

*Of Life's stern face we hail,*

*Fair beyond all surmise*

*God's thought around His creatures*

*Our mind shall fill.*

The story of exile is a big theme in the Bible. We are a kind of exile as we try to find a new place in a new world. Things are not the same and never will be. There will be no back to normal. But as the poem reminds us, God knows. He graciously brings good out of adversity and pain and opportunities out of crisis.

We have been perhaps complacent for too long. Now we share in a small way in the daily lives of others across the world who face epidemics more often than we do.

May the spirit that has drawn us together in this time create new communities and wiser and more compassionate churches. And bless us in the changes that lie ahead.

*Revd Sheena*

### OPENING FOR WORSHIP

The wardens and I have been thinking carefully during our weekly meetings about what services can take place where and how as we begin to meet for worship: these arrangements are subject to approval by PCC so they may change!

We are mindful that there is currently a spike in coronavirus in Pendle, and that some in our congregations are (rightly) feeling cautious.

Each PCC has a responsibility to make its own decision based on the church and the church community. That is why some larger churches and those churches with younger congregations have opened already. Our churches here in Barnoldswick and Bracewell are small and are confined spaces. The PCC, wardens and vicar have a responsibility to make sure worship is as safe as it can be for everyone and there are many factors to consider.

I cannot stress strongly enough the need for care of each other. If we are truly intent on loving our neighbour then we will gladly abide by the safeguards put in place. The question should be not, "could I catch Coronavirus?" though that is important, but "if I am carrying the virus, could I pass this on to someone else?" As Christians, that should concern us.

Inevitably, this will mean changes in how we "do church" for a while - maybe a long while. Every church has to find a way of abiding by the guidance which is right for us. Please be understanding about this. We are not making rules for the sake of it - these are recommendations which are in force in many shops and public buildings. Churches are no different in this respect.

We will explain in detail what this will mean when PCC have discussed this but as a minimum we will be operating a one way system, and you will be allocated a seat in order of arrival. You will be asked to sanitise your hands on arrival and departure, and you may wish to wear a mask for the protection of others.

As you probably know, singing is not allowed at present, we cannot shake hands or hug, and we will no longer be able to have coffee or mill around inside. However we will be worshipping God together, and I know that is something many of you have missed greatly.

For that reason and to make sure our arrangements work well, we plan to begin Sunday worship on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. During August, when people tend to be away services tend to be smaller.

We have decided to open Holy Trinity first, and to use Ghyll and Bracewell, which have churchyards, for funerals for the next few months. This is for several reasons: Trinity has hand washing and toilet facilities in the building and does not require people to use taxis or shared transport. We plan to have a Sunday service of Morning Prayer each Sunday in August to allow us to see how the system works.

We will have a short informal service on Wednesday morning at 10 am for the foreseeable future. This will replace the Holy Communion service previously held on Thursdays. These arrangements will allow 72 hours between services and will mean that we do not need to deep clean the church routinely.

The Wednesday service would be more suitable for those who have been shielding or are vulnerable by reason of age or illness and who do not wish to mix with those who have been moving about more freely in the community. You will be able to make your own decisions about this with care for others. The service will be similar to that held on Sundays.

We plan to have Holy Communion from the beginning of September. Again, as we did in lockdown, this will be in one kind (bread only), and we will need to have special arrangements. More of that later.

I hope that will help you to have more idea of timescales, and to prepare for church being a bit different.

More will follow in due course.

Blessings.

*Rev'd Sheena*



### BOOK RECOMMENDATION

#### ***GIVE THE BEST AWAY (by Rosemary Lancaster)***

When I was in the Gospel Mission Church, one Sunday morning a man came to talk to us. His name was John Lancaster and he had a successful business called Ultraframe. After hearing what they had done with their success, I made my mind up that if I was going to have more UPVC windows I would support Ultraframe.

Last year, Jilly, one of the people I see at Shekinah Christian Centre, had brought some books and asked if anyone would like one. I took one and discovered it was about John and his wife, Rosemary, and what they have been led to do over the years.

Born into a poor family in Clitheroe, Rosemary Lancaster was destined for something beyond her wildest dreams. Her husband, John, had no qualifications but was an extraordinary inventor. Both committed Christians, the pair suddenly became multimillionaires due to the success of Ultraframe. Starting with their employees, they committed to giving large portions of their money away. They purchased planes for Mission Aviation Fellowship and started the first village for destitute AIDS victims in South Africa.

Recognised as two of Britain's most generous philanthropists, John and Rose's story will amaze and inspire you.

If you would like to read the book, please contact me on 01282 812837.

*Barbara McCartan*

## BARNOLDSWICK

I live in a town called Barnoldswick  
 A resident for 68 years  
 I was brought from Wolverhampton  
 Because my breathing was causing me tears.

Take him to the country, the doctor said  
 There he will find fresh air  
 So we took the train to Barnoldswick  
 Because there once was a station there.

I am known to do lots of running  
 From which Barnoldswick's an ideal place  
 I began in the early 70s  
 When started the Weets Fell Race.

It was a Saxon chap called Bernulf  
 Who built a settlement here.  
 In those days they called it a Wick  
 But the name of Barnoldswick's more clear.

Here I am now living in Barlick  
 Because wherever I go  
 I say I'm from Barnoldswick  
 They reply, it's called Barlick you know!

*Robert Hargreaves*

## GIVING THANKS

**NANCY CORNTHWAITE:** Nancy Cornthwaite would like to thank all friends for the kind messages of sympathy, cards and good wishes following David's death. Thanks to all those who generously donated to the work of St Mary-le-Ghyll church.

**PAT FRANKLAND:** Pat would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and care during her recent illness and in lockdown.

**WITH GRATEFUL THANKS TO THE HEALING PRAYER GROUP** - one family, living elsewhere, have responded this way:

*I would just like to thank the Church of England for praying for us. I have just finished my treatment for cancer, my husband had a stroke during treatment and I lost my only child to leukaemia nine years ago.*

*Without prayers and people like yourself praying for us, we would not be where we are today.*

**PRAYER QUADRUPLETS:** *In their own words, these are the thoughts of a prayer group who came together by phone during lockdown to pray for others and to support each other.*

**FLORENCE:** Covid-19! Little did we know how much it was going to change our lives. Not only our way of life but our spiritual life too.

We thought our faith was strong but little did we know how much our faith was about to be tested.

Revd Sheena asked the congregation if any 3 people would get together in groups of triplets to keep in touch with each other, pray together and support each other. Theresa, Barbara and I began our group as 3 but soon we were joined by a fourth member, Anna. We began each morning at 9.30 am with a copy of Morning Prayer and a copy of prayers to be used in the service, each one of us in our own home. Thanks to Revd Sheena for the Bible notes, etc.

At first we prayed for our clergy, our families, each other and our church family. Then things began to change. We found ourselves phoning each other about people who needed prayer. Every day each group member had been asked for prayer for someone with the virus or other illness, hospital treatments and peace of mind after the loss of a loved one or friend.

We pray daily for our hospitals, doctors' surgeries and all staff members, and all other services. It seems that our lists grow longer day by day.

Our faith grows ever stronger as we think we are perhaps being used as a channel for the Lord's work at this time. When people ask "where is God in all this?", our answer is "He is here now as always". We have seen this as people contact us to let us know how their prayers have been answered, not all of them perhaps, but those that have been have been quoted by people concerned as a miracle. We have asked the people who asked for prayer to give thanks to the Lord for his help and blessing.

As for the four of us, we pray as usual and thank our Lord for his way of telling us to let people know. He is here as always in the midst of this epidemic, still working miracles and answering prayer in his time and not in ours, if we only go in faith in the strength of the Lord.

Thank you team for your loving care and support.

**HERESA:** When lockdown came it seemed sudden and scary. Bringing with it a strange new world and new catch phrases – social distancing, lockdown, key workers, Stay home – stay safe – save the NHS.

No schools, no shops, no work for many, no grandchildren to look after, no church, no service, no connection. Everything had come to a shuddering standstill with a profound feeling of “what do we do now?” I felt a bit at a loss.

But then came the connection. Revd Sheena, to whom I am eternally grateful, posted a service sheet (one of many) through my door, along with a booklet, explaining about prayer triplets. Florence and I talked on the phone and straight away we felt this was what we were being prompted to do. Barbara joined us to make the triplet and then Anna joined and we became four, adding another link and strengthening the connection of support and prayer.

Without the support and strength the group has given me I would have felt lost and adrift. I have felt not only a sense of purpose but a sense of closeness with God spiritually and a sense of peace, during what has been a challenging lockdown at times. I also found that my sense of helplessness and also a kind of guilt at not being able to be out there physically helping and actively doing, as others were, had transformed into a source of support and strength for others through prayer within our group.

**BARBARA:** “Good Morning, this is your 9 o’clock call”. No this was not from BT. It was from Anna from church. She is part of the prayer team consisting of Florence, Theresa and me. We contact one another every morning to check how we are and if anyone needs prayer. I was delighted at the safe arrival of Baby Orla and made a card from all of us.

Being on my own, Anna phoning me has helped every morning. Her cheerful voice sets me up for the day. It’s wonderful how the Lord has answered our prayers and given us encouraging scriptures.

**ANNA:** What has it meant to me living in the past few weeks? It’s been strange and wonderful!

Thanks to Sheena for her encouragement with the Bible notes, updates and praying in groups. Somehow I joined Barbara, Florence and Theresa – thanks for having me girls!! As we started to pray for people, at 9 am our phones were red hot. The Lord showed us how powerful he is. He gave us verses of scripture to share with each other, which encouraged us too. Our lists seemed to grow each day and the verses kept coming. At times we laughed and cried and felt in pain for those who needed help and healing. Jesus never disappoints, he never leaves us or forsakes us and at his timing he answered our prayers. We have knitted together as a group and the Lord has blessed us with each other. What a privilege it has been.

Our God is so strong and so mighty there is nothing he can’t do. Praise the Lord!

## MINDFULNESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The subject of mindfulness has come to the forefront over the last few years. I confess I have not explored or practised it, however, during this year's BBC Springwatch programme, I was inspired by some of its content.

This year, no large BBC outdoor production. No huge vans and caravans full of technological equipment, just the presenters in their own environment, giving us close glimpses of wildlife that has been allowed to get on with its own business, uninterrupted. How beautiful was that?

It was the very short mindfulness clips that inspired me the most. No air traffic, no road traffic, no human activity, just wildlife photographers who used only their cameras and the sound of Mother Nature. This made me think, why don't we take more time out in our daily lives to experience such peace and tranquility?

We are very fortunate to live surrounded by beautiful countryside, but there are places of beauty and tranquility to be found anywhere if you seek them out. Near my son's home in Birmingham are the Martineau Gardens; a community project and charity, focusing on wellbeing. Here in the heart of a big city is an oasis for wildlife, a haven of tranquility and a destination for an outdoor escape.

Thinking about how nature is so beneficial to our overall health, this brings me to ask the question "what can we do in our own church environment to create havens for peace beyond the church door?" This is especially relevant when our indoor worship is so restricted.

This brings me to 'Caring for God's Acre'. This is a movement which began in 1997. The base is in Shropshire and from there volunteers work nationally to support groups and individuals to investigate, care for, and enjoy burial grounds. Their motto is 'protecting wildlife, preserving heritage, involving people'. I believe we have an opportunity here. Do we want a manicured outdoor space that is aesthetically pleasing to ourselves, or a haven of tranquility that is also protecting nature?

In this time of global crisis, we have so many obstacles to overcome that environmental projects are not at the top of the agenda. Coronavirus is not defeated. However, the Diocesan Environment Department, headed by Jemima Parker, has environment champions, people with experience who can visit and offer help with projects. Next year, when grass cutting contracts are being considered may be a time to think about leaving areas where wildlife can thrive. Birds, insects and wild flowers do not appreciate a manicured lawn, neither does the term rewilding mean an untidy overgrown space.

For me, spending time with Mother Nature is calming and spiritually rewarding. God's green acre is there waiting for us, and our wildlife needs us. All lives matter.

*From Lois Green, Parish Environment Representative*



## BRACEWELL CHURCH

The church has been cleaned according to Diocesan requirements and we are investigating if it will be possible to decorate the walls and ceiling, whilst all the loose furniture has been removed, which will give us a nice crisp church when services resume.

The zoom services have worked well but it is not quite the same as worshipping together in church and then chatting afterwards. Being able to sit down for 5 mins before the service starts in your everyday working clothes is very relaxing, as long as Darrell takes off his overalls. I do not miss the weekly ritual of preparing, making sure the church is clean and ready for worship, then the distance I have to travel to get there,

There are perks to lock down but only if you live in the middle of nowhere like us. I have enjoyed the Wednesday afternoon chats with lots of reminiscences of Barnoldswick past. We should now be able to visit each other in small groups, get dressed up and enjoy tea and cakes.

The lock down period has meant an intense attack on our several lawn and garden areas, which was helped by the dry weather we have had. The lawns have had a lot of attention removing all the moss and weeds, now they look quite pristine. New beds have been developed and tubs, planted with various vegetables and soft fruit. The beetroot I planted turned out to be light orange in colour and we have just had the first one, unusual but alright.

We even got around to redecorating the living room, only a spring clean and a coat of emulsion though but it lifts the spirits, when it is new and sparkling.

Life would have been a lot different without the dry warm weather in April, May and part of June and of course without phone calls and Zoom. We are looking forward to meeting everyone properly again.

*Freda Pilkington*

At last the churchyard mowing has been sorted out and we hope to have it looking ship shape again this year. It had grown so long in April and May that it will take several weeks to sort it out. We have a willing if small band of helpers when it is lawn mowing time, tidying up the fringes - new helpers welcome - contact Darrell on 07756670102.

### Next Bracewell PCC meeting

We are now having our meetings on Zoom on the last Tuesday in the month. If anyone has anything they would like the PCC to discuss, please let Valerie or Freda know in good time so that it can be put on the Agenda.

### **100 club winning numbers:**

**March: 95, 15 & 89**

**April: 75, 60 & 20**

**May: 86, 18 & 11**

**June: 74, 92 & 26**

*New members needed - contact Keith or Rita Garrett: Phone no: 01282850624*

Reader Ministry  
Year 2 Term 3

I have just finished the third term for this year and the end of my second year of training.

Due to Covid-19, I have been attending study days virtually, through the 'Big Blue Button'. Through this, I can see the lecturers, any PowerPoint slides and also type any questions or comments which can be seen instantly by the lecturer and other students. The module this term has been 'Foundations for Ministry and Mission in Context'. This should have been a placement module, but obviously I haven't been able to visit any other churches so have written about Holy Trinity. The module has taken the form of a portfolio of 5500 words, and has required me to write on a variety of issues, including completing a church audit, reflecting theologically on our church and its engagement in mission in the world, writing a critical reflection on my understanding of my vocation, and critically examining the approach to leadership and teamwork in our church. There has been a lot of reading and research to do and it has been challenging at times but it has given me the chance to reflect deeply on our church and how it engages in mission.

There has recently been a change to the title of 'Reader Minister'. I shall no longer be known as a Reader but as a 'Licensed Lay Minister' (LLM). This seems to be a better name as 'Reader' can be a bit misleading.

My third (and final!) year starts in September. I don't know yet whether I will be attending study days in person or via the Big Blue Button. I have missed the contact with my friends on the course and so hope we will be back at Mirfield.

*Louise Firth*

**FACE MASKS**



Louise has been making reusable washable face masks from soft patterned cotton. They are available for children as well as adults (and men as well as women). They cost £5 each and are available from Holy Trinity. All proceeds will go to church funds.

**PRAYER DIARY FOR AUGUST 2020**

- 1 Bishop Nick, other Bishops and clergy during these difficult times
- 2 Members of the congregations in our three churches
- 3 NHS workers, doctors, nurses, secretaries and cleaners in hospitals
- 4 Revd Sheena and churchwardens meeting weekly for guidance on coming out of lockdown
- 5 People admitted to hospital for Covid-19 and other illnesses
- 6 Bereaved families experiencing social distancing
- 7 The national situation concerning the coronavirus
- 8 People who are vulnerable, countries with inadequate care and the homeless
- 9 Louise Firth continuing her Reader Ministry course online
- 10 The economy of the World as we come out of lockdown
- 11 The Prime Minister and members of Parliament making decisions for our country
- 12 Revd Sheena and people attending funerals at Ghyll and Bracewell
- 13 Protection for carers and people who live in homes for the elderly
- 14 Those people supporting the West Craven Foodbank
- 15 Safety for people and families taking holidays abroad
- 16 Young people and their use of leisure time
- 17 Readers and intercessors in our churches
- 18 Finance situations after lockdown, John Fiddler, Colin and Darrell
- 19 Ellen and Les Martin celebrating their Silver Wedding today
- 20 Local tradespeople and shopkeepers
- 21 Children and parents enjoying summer breaks in this country
- 22 The unemployed and their families
- 23 All churches and clergy in Barnoldswick at this time
- 24 Students and how it will affect their studies and future careers
- 25 Revd Sheena and members of the Bracewell PCC
- 26 Revd Sheena and members of the Barnoldswick PCC
- 27 Freda and Darrell Pilkington celebrating their Diamond Wedding today
- 28 The Police coping with violence during uncertain times
- 29 Our local GPs and those working in our health centres
- 30 Those people living alone and the housebound
- 31 Teachers and children hoping to return to school in September

**Deuteronomy 31:8 (NRSV)**

It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

## OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

Oh no, not another article about money! I'm afraid so.

The recent COVID outbreak has impacted very much on our finances. Quite apart from the additional cost of cleaning and preparing to open, we have entirely lost our opportunity for planned fundraising this year. Notably the Action of Promises, and the Shop in the Square. Our current cash flow situation is of concern.

We are fortunate to have two excellent financial gurus - Colin who was treasurer for many years, and John Fiddler who brings a background in financial management. Without their help, things would be much worse and John in particular has been working with the Diocese to see if we can find a way forward with deferred Share payments.

Although we have capital it is tied up in restricted funds - funds which cannot be used for anything other than building maintenance. It is fantastic to have had such generous benefactors and a number of key legacies. It means we do not need to worry about fabric repairs at our older churches too much, but it does little to support ongoing running costs, and work within the community. Our grass cutting bill at Ghyll for example is very large.

We are heading for a £9000 deficit by the end of the year. Giving has fallen by half over the last six months. We will not be able to carry on like this indefinitely.

The Diocese will be looking at how to help small churches like us – we are by no means alone - but it is unlikely there will be a big financial bailout. It is more likely to be a deferred Share payment. Our Share for this year is £36,000 - £3000 a month - and we simply do not raise this kind of money. We have struggled in the past and now COVID has highlighted the problem.

We intend to apply for a post COVID grant and there is some possibility of renting out rooms at Holy Trinity in the future. But for now, we have need for money for simple day to day running costs. We are trying to make it easier for people, and our finance team, by encouraging electronic giving. Please contact John or Colin if you would like to know more.

I know these are difficult times for everyone and I understand that for many people, if your families need support at this time, this is a priority. But if you feel you could give a little more, or you would like to speak to someone about making a cash gift in the most effective way, or you wish to leave a small legacy in future, please speak to Colin Sagar (01282 812831) or John Fiddler(07808122547). The Barnoldswick PCC account is with Yorkshire Bank, Nelson: Sort code: 05-02-22 Account no: 36201828.

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

*Rev'd Sheena*

## Gazetteer of Supportive Local Businesses

### **Home Security Solutions Alarm and CCTV Installers**

Edward Mason: [Info@homesecuritysolutions.co.uk](mailto:Info@homesecuritysolutions.co.uk) 01282 881688

### **Electrical & Electronics**

Garry's TV Service & Repairs: 29 Rainhall Road, Barnoldswick 01282 816077

### **Financial Advice**

Peter Pickup: The Rainhall Centre, Barnoldswick 01282 812520

### **Florists**

House of Flowers: 2 Frank Street, Barnoldswick 01282 812052

### **Funeral Services**

Briggs & Duxbury: The Butts, Barnoldswick 01282 812384

Helliwells: 30 Church Street, Barnoldswick 01282 851937

Windles: Sherbrooke, Skipton Road, Barnoldswick 01282 813345

Williams: 65 Gisburn Road Barnoldswick (Mob: 07975586094) 01282 786360

### **Monumental Masons**

T Rayson: 401 King Causeway, Brierfield 01282 616459

### **Heating, Plumbing and Electrical Installations**

Alex Leaver: [alex@leaverheating.co.uk](mailto:alex@leaverheating.co.uk) (Mob: 07754712518) 01282 816648

### **Opticians**

Vision Express: 45 Albert Road, Barnoldswick 01282 813322

James Bontoft: 23-25 Rainhall Road, Barnoldswick 01282 853223

### **Schools**

Church School: Kelbrook Road, Barnoldswick 01282 813014

### **Solicitors**

Walker Foster: Craven House, Newtown, Barnoldswick 01282 812340

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*Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the magazine  
– keep sending your articles for future magazines*

**August 2020**