

# The Saint

Benefice Magazine

2021

complimentary issue

2

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2021

Faith  
Hope  
Love

SOCIAL MISSION

MINISTRY WITH THE COMMUNITY

— THE —  
BENEFICE OF

ACKWORTH AND BADSWORTH

FAITH † HOPE † LOVE

“

#### Statement of Mission

We are a parish/benefice which has the desire to nurture a church of Faith, Hope and Love, which we can reflect God's presence, helping us to serve and transform the communities of which we are part.

**~ THE BENEFICE OF ACKWORTH AND BADSWORTH ~ Who's Who ~**

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## **NEWS - SOCIAL MISSION**

Dear Friends,

In this issue of our Benefice Magazine we think and pray for the social mission of our church. As we seek to reconnect with our community this summer, how many local people would find it easy to even venture into our church?

Dr Anne Richards, National Adviser, Mission and Publish Affairs, Church of England, recently had this to say:

"I think that churches, especially rural churches, can be sites of common ground for their communities, both physically and spiritually. A lot of people who contact me think that churches are private spaces and that they might not really be 'allowed' to walk in the churchyard or to visit the church on a casual basis. They are often surprised by the openness and welcome of churches.... Mission flourishes where our 'commons' are developed and offered. Have we developed holy habits of neighbourliness and care?"

### Reaching Out

Dear Lord Jesus, we remember the work of your disciples who served You faithfully during the early days of the Church. They went out among the people, who were often hostile, and spoke of their faith. They also encouraged others by their written testimonies. Together, they spread the word of Your teaching and of the joy of serving You, regardless of their own fate and well-being.

We ask You to help us today to continue Your work by witness and example. May we continue to draw comfort and inspiration from Your teaching, and so acknowledge and confess our faith wherever we go and to those we meet.

By Terence Trimmer

I now bid my farewell my dear friends.  
May the glorious Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you this day and forever more. Amen.

Revd. Charlene

## **Revd. Charlene Smith**

So, at the end of this month we will be saying goodbye to Revd. Charlene, to Chris and to Owen. Charlene will be taking up her new post as Chaplain to the Mid-Yorkshire NHS Trust and so leaving the Rectory and the newly established Benefice of Ackworth and Badsworth. Charlene's ministry here started in February, at the beginning of Lent, in 2018 and in the three years since then, what changes have taken place! She has shown such energy and passion for developing the role of the Church in Ackworth, quickly becoming involved in village life and events. Supporting whatever was happening... from serving refreshments as crowds waited for the Tour de Yorkshire cyclists to pass by, to being involved in the village Gala, school assemblies, functions and the Governing Body, the World Day of Prayer committee, The Royal British Legion and much more. She organised and was directly involved in the cleaning and clearing of both Ackworth churches, using her artistic skills to refresh and re-establish our places of worship, as well as officiating at christenings, weddings and funerals with such a caring ministry that many of the families involved returned to attend church services, some even becoming actively involved in church life.

Then we have all had the Pandemic situation to adjust to, of course, with churches closed, then reopened partially and all the organising of different services and planning that that has entailed. With great confidence she has been recording services in an empty church so that the congregation were still having contact with her and weekly worship. Meetings with the PCC and other groups have continued via Zoom, while all the time being busy with the usual everyday tasks that a vicar has.

We wish you, and your family, success as you all move to the next phase of your lives, Charlene.                      God Bless!

## The '70' Challenge!

Sheffield Mencap and Gateway celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year – a year that has seen it, along with other charitable organisations, face huge challenges in finding ways to support its learning disabled members and their carers.

Sheffield Mencap, whilst of course associated with national Mencap, is in fact a completely independent organisation that was set up in 1951 at Norfolk Lodge in Sheffield with the vision of providing support and services that would address all aspects of the lives and needs of those with a learning disability and their families. It has grown to offer an array of projects for carer support, advocacy, education, the arts, and the social Gateway clubs for all ages. I visited recently to see young people enjoying enthusiastically 'Shine out on Saturday', learning circus skills in readiness for a hoped-for November public performance; a 'Communicate' project for people with autism; a 'Soundbites' project with members planning and recording radio podcasts; and a support group for parents – and that's just a Saturday! Over the recent closure, fundraising and the commitment and hard work of the staff has ensured that the members and families have been supported remotely and have now been able to return with safety measures in place.

As a trustee, I've volunteered along with my colleagues to take part in a 70-themed challenge as I'd like to play my part in helping the projects support those with learning disabilities – one of the most vulnerable groups in society. I'm currently practising - by the end of the seventh month (and following medical advice – hopefully before my knee replacement!) I'm simply planning to use the rowing machine in my bedroom to row 70 km in stages – can you help me find 70 people to donate £1 each so that I can give a minimum of £70 to Sheffield Mencap to carry on the wonderful work they do? Thank you!  
Lynne Ward (616384)



## **HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS - SOCIAL MISSION**

### **May 13<sup>th</sup> - Ascension Day, 40 Days with the Risen Christ**

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and to have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed

continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

### **May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Day of Pentecost, Whit Sunday**

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of First fruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit – the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

### **May 30<sup>th</sup> - Trinity Sunday, celebrating our God who is Three Persons**

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are of the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

Deuteronomy 6:4: 'Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'

Isaiah 45:22: 'Turn to me and be saved... for I am God, and there is no other.'

Genesis 1:1-2: 'In the beginning God created.... and the Spirit of God was hovering...'



Judges 14:6: 'The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...'

John 1:1-3: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.'

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells His disciples: 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (the Holy Spirit) from on high.'

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that the warmth and life there as well.

*\* Details of services for High Days & Holy Days will be found in the weekly newsletter.*

### *The Parish Pump*



## **LOOKING AT GOD - SOCIAL MISSION**

Mark Waddington is the Director Wellsprings Together, the transforming communities charity of the Anglican Diocese of Leeds, and the Social Engagement & Urban Renewal Team Leader.

This year has been difficult to say the least. There is no hiding from the fact that the cost of the pandemic for many people has been life changing. Enforced isolation has brutally kept people apart; The financial impact of unemployment and the uncertainties of education have left families stressed; Child poverty is on the rise; And people who have never used food banks before are learning what it means to be dependent on the kindness of others; Deepest of all, loved ones have been lost.

The priority of Jesus was to care for the poorest and those in most need, and that whatever we do in response to His example is to point towards God. It is visible discipleship. And so, It is hardly surprising that faith groups across the UK have been at the forefront of social provision. It is calculated that up to 10 million people every year have some form of contact with church related social provision.

These bridges of friendship and service into our communities give us hope that the church is vitally relevant to the everyday lives of all people in our communities. However, a popular narrative is that the church is becoming more and more isolated in the world and culturally estranged. I think it is isolation and lack of connection that is the real and present danger in so many ways.

Last week I asked someone who did not go to church what stopped them. They said they couldn't understand the culture and what goes on in church. I then asked what we could do about it and they said that things like volunteering for activities like food banks and social drop-ins for isolated people were good because they offered a way of getting involved.

I have seen many people who have helped in church-led community activities strike up relationships which have helped them understand the faith that underpins the activity. So, I do believe our churches urgently need to explore ways of wrapping themselves into the fabric of the local community and become a positive and visible presence. To revitalise the church, we need to begin by helping to revitalise the communities to which we also belong. It is the presence of outsiders in our lives that can bring unexpected blessings. Church and community transformed together.

I guess you will be very familiar with the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, so I want to leave you with some questions inspired by that story.

There was a very big crowd of people from different places and backgrounds.

Question 1.

As we begin to gather again, who are we going to gather with? Is anyone missing or excluded?

Jesus was doing more than alleviating physical hunger.

Question 2.

What are the real needs of our community? Are there hidden needs?

The smallest gifts of the humblest among us can be used.

Question 3. How can we encourage the humblest among us to bring their gifts?

What do we already have that can be used?

The practical distribution of food required people to work together.

Question 4. Who can we work with in our community as partners? How can ideas be transformed from being MY church project to OUR community project?

The baskets of leftover food point to future possibilities.

Question 5. In what ways can we ensure that the story continues? How can we be a blessing to future generations?

The resources we have may be small but with good and generous outward looking relationships we can ourselves be transformed by working together in partnership with the wider community. Let us have hope that even if we feel our offering is small and modest it has the potential to fill baskets for future generations in ways that we cannot imagine.

Mark Waddington

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## **LOOKING AT CHURCH - SOCIAL MISSION**

### **School Mission**

The relationship between St Cuthbert's church, the local community and the Howard School is strong and highly valued. It complements our vision of Educating for 'life in all its fullness' and supports our distinctively Christian ethos.

The children have been learning about the Eucharist in school and it was an honour to welcome Bishop Tony Robinson and Reverend Charlene into school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Bishop Tony, supported by the Worship Group, led a special admission service for all children and staff where he admitted a number of children to Holy Communion. This was part of our preparation for our first Eucharist.

It is important to us that every child should feel a sense of inclusion so we have considered carefully how this can best be achieved. It doesn't mean that each child receives bread and wine, but that inclusion is achieved in other ways, so that the children are made to feel welcome and part of the proceedings.

Children and staff found the experience to be enriching and positive, adding an extra dimension to worship. 'It made me feel more connected to God.'  
Pupil (School Reflection Book)

Following the service, Bishop Tony and Reverend Charlene were shown around school providing an opportunity for the children to ask questions. We were very impressed with some of the thoughtful and inquisitive questions being asked.

As part of this strong relationship with the church, we are looking forward to sharing our first service of Holy Communion (Eucharist) together at the Howard School in June. This is an important time for the school and parents to reflect on this important aspect of our school life.

*Michael Walker, Headteacher Howard Ackworth Church of England Junior School*

## **A Grand Day Out**

Most of us enjoy a trip out occasionally to get a change of scenery and to see new things. Other times, we undertake a journey because we need to get somewhere in particular and here in Badsworth we're pretty much the same. Opportunities for travel have recently been very limited but as things improve then our scope to look further afield will hopefully increase. So in view of that, a little while ago we invested in one of those new fangled electric vehicles. It's a bit different to the norm though as it's battery is charged by the aspirations of residents, so that provided we can maintain a positive momentum, we don't need to worry unduly about running out of power.

The other thing that's a bit special about this car is that it's a partnership

vehicle, so it's been adapted for a co-driver and we've already given it a spin around the block with the Church when we worked with them on the "Yew tree" project in St Mary's Churchyard to make it a focal point for community activity. Based on that success, we had another outing with the Church when we needed to find a home for the village defibrillator which, as a result of that partnership working, is now housed in the Church porch. This was more akin to a trip to the coast and the traffic was a little heavier than we had anticipated but overall we had a grand day out.

That's the thing about collaboration – if we get it right, we can open up a range of possibilities that can make a real difference. Possibilities can transform lives and transform communities.

The Church are well placed, due to their position within the community and the assets that they hold, to potentially be great partners in such ventures and this would undoubtedly have a unifying effect across the community.

However, if we are to undertake a long and arduous journey, such as with the proposal for an out of village parking area, then we all need to understand what will be required before we set off.

The last time we embarked on such a trip, we were late leaving and then the driving style made our travelling companions a little queasy, so that wasn't ideal. Additionally, someone kept grabbing the handbrake and when we did eventually start to gather some pace, we weren't sure of the route and ended up getting lost. The car got stuck in mud so we had to abandon it and walk home - I don't think any of us would want to do that again!

But life's a learning process and building relationships based on mutual trust and understanding can yield lots of positive outcomes. We've made changes to the type of vehicle so hopefully we won't have any range anxiety. It hasn't got any brakes, which means we won't waste a lot of energy with stop/start but we will need to anticipate the road ahead and drive accordingly. There is no reverse gear, so it can only go forward but that means we need to avoid cul-de-sacs and if the vehicle does get bogged down, then we all need to get out and push.

So in summary, a forward thinking Church could be the partner to help bring

about the positive change that we all want and hopefully there will be recognition on their part of the value of such an arrangement. Benefits that may accrue from being involved as a partner and key player could be important elements in the Church mission.

As with all travelling companions though, they need to be chosen carefully because if progress is unduly slow, then the goodwill from residents that has been nurtured will start to be dissipated and without that we won't have any charge to drive our partnership vehicle forward.

And with a flat battery, none of us are going anywhere.

*Cllr Peter Smith, Chairman Badsworth Parish Council*



## **A Request from Badsworth**

*Whilst thinking of what to say in this edition it occurred to me that when in St Mary's helping to clean over the last few months, there have been a few local walkers passing the doorway who pop their heads in church to say hello, which is always lovely. A few times people have stopped for a chat and stated they would like to help, but don't know when or how.*

*We are always happy to have volunteers, even if it's a one off, you don't have to attend St Mary's Church services, but if anyone wants to help in any way with the church, centre or garden at the centre, we would be very grateful.*

*Since becoming a church warden, I have realised just how much work there is to do, obviously not on my own, we have a great team, but it's a small team and with a grade I listed church and grade II listed centre (which are very old) there is always something.*

*We are hoping to try and put together a fabric committee - if you or you know of anyone interested in old buildings do get in touch, you don't have to be a PCC member just have an interest. We have lots of work to consider at this time and are hoping to start this with lighting and a sound/loop system in the next few months.*

*One of the larger projects has been the desire for a toilet and small kitchen within the church - one which would not alter the outside/inside character of the building.*

*One last note - I am happy to announce that Alison Ferguson is now joining me as a Church Warden, who many of you may already know.*

*If you do want to get in touch with myself or anyone else at St Mary's our details are in the porch area of the Church.*

*Karen Barker  
Church Warden*

## What is “Sanctuary”?

The dictionary definition of ‘*sanctuary*’ is a place refuge or safety from pursuit, persecution, or danger – and the original meaning, in the Biblical sense, means a consecrated place or shrine.

For 12 church members in early February this year, it meant switching on, logging in, and meeting up on Zoom with Revd. Charlene to explore what **Sanctuary** meant.

The Sanctuary Course is an eight-part course for small groups designed to raise awareness and start conversations in local churches regarding mental health. It offers communities a base of shared knowledge and the opportunity to discover a common language for talking about mental health. Topics covered included: mental health and mental illness, stigma, the recovery journey, companionship, self-care, and the role of community. Each theme is covered from a psychological, social, and theological angle, and each session includes a short film that tells the story of a person of faith with mental health challenges. The course includes a downloadable coursebook and an audiobook for those who would prefer to listen rather than read. There is no homework, but it was recommended that we read the short sessions before each group gathering. The Sanctuary Course is intended for educational purposes only and the information provided is not a substitute for medical or therapeutic advice.

The films used in The Sanctuary Course captured the experiences of individuals in their own words, and many of the stories we heard were sad, tragic in some cases, and raised emotions and memories for quite a few of us. The episodes reflected real people in real life – and of course we ourselves were all feeling quite fragile in many different ways, given that we were into a Total Lockdown of society in the dark, dismal winter months.



However, there were 'upsides', it was not all gloom and doom!

It was a good opportunity to meet and chat with friends each week (especially when there was absolutely no chance of going out anywhere!) as well as sharing thoughts and experiences about the topics. In our group there were several members who had a 'professional' knowledge and experience in mental health issues which was helpful to the rest of us. Of course, mental health and illness – just as physical health and illness - affects us all, no-one can be untouched, particularly during a pandemic. We all know that plenty of sleep, good food and exercise are all good for our wellbeing – but along with grief and anxiety come many difficulties for the individual and their friends and family.

The final session, a 9<sup>th</sup>, was an extra that had been added to cover the problems and issues of COVID 19. A recent poll found that 56% of US adults have experienced at least one symptom of poor mental health related to their stress over the current crisis, and mental health hotlines are reporting call volume increases as high as 1,000%. The statistics are similar in Canada, where half of all survey respondents reported that their mental health has declined since the beginning of the outbreak. Clearly, there is a great need for mental health awareness, education, and resources. The ways that we understand and process our experiences of COVID-19, both as individuals and as communities, will have long-term implications, and our churches can play a key role in supporting those who are feeling bereft or anxious.

What we do, as a church, to address these questions is up to us.

But, if we hold regard for the overall health of our congregations, we must give this due consideration and thought **and do something!**

*Jane Gosney, Benefice Weekly Newsletter and Ackworth  
Congregation Member*

## **LOOKING AT THE COMMUNITY - SOCIAL MISSION**

Social Mission?

Some people might question what social justice, or social action, or social mission has to do with the church. Many people question the church's interference in matters which are often seen as political rather than anything else.

But my answer to those question and those people would often be to refer them to Luke chapter 4 verses 16 -20.

Here is a description of Jesus going to the Synagogue in Nazareth, his home town, standing and reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
Because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To let the oppressed go free,  
To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour”

And after reading this, he sat down, and everyone was staring at him, wondering what was going to happen next.

What Jesus was reading here, is sometimes called his manifesto. This is the beginning of his ministry, and he

is telling everyone, what he is going to do. And this statement is all about social action, social justice, social mission.

Jesus knew that many people in the society of the day needed help. There were those who were ill, and had no-one to care for them. There were those who were oppressed, or abused, by individuals, or the system of tyrannical rule. There were those who were trapped by their social position, unable to better themselves. In this passage, Jesus says he has come to help those people, and to help ease their troubles. This is social action, and social mission. If this was the mission of Jesus, then surely it should be the mission of the church as well.

Currently we are looking at how we might be able to develop our faith community and our buildings to join in this mission of Jesus, through teaching, and through prayer. But most of all through action. We have already begun some of this work, as we organised ourselves with others, to help and support those in need during the lockdowns of the last twelve months. But we are sure there is much more that could be done.

My prayer is that we will be encouraged, and enabled to step in to the future with faith, and join as a community in helping those who need help, through social action and mission.

Rev'd Paul Fox

## **Recipe: Honey and Lavender Blancmange**

An excess of milk led me to create Honey and Lavender Blancmange (if you have no lavender, then orange zest or whisky are also good). Think of this with a rhubarb compote.

### **Ingredients**

*1.5 pts (850ml) fresh milk*  
*2 teaspoons dried lavender*  
*3 tablespoons (45g) cornflour*  
*2 tablespoons (30ml) honey*  
*2 oz (60g) unsalted butter*  
*1 teaspoon vanilla essence*

### **Method**

- 1 Place the milk and lavender in a pan. Slowly bring it to the "scald" point (not boil) and set aside to infuse for 30 minutes, then strain.
- 2 Mix a little milk with the cornflour to a paste. Combine with the rest of the milk and the honey, return to the pan, and slowly bring to the boil, whisking as it thickens.
- 3 At thick-cream consistency, reduce the heat and simmer for a couple of minutes more.
- 4 Stir in the butter and vanilla until all combined, then pour into small dishes or ramekins and re--frigerate.
- 5 For a bit of fun, rinse the cups with cold water, pour in the blanc-mange, chill until set, and run a knife round the edge to turn out.

*This recipe was written by Simon Walsh and originally appeared in the Church Times.*

## **PRAYERS & POEMS - SOCIAL MISSION**

### **Matthew 45.31-40**

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

### **Prayer for courage**

Father God

Give us the strength to accept the things we cannot change,  
the courage to change the things we can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Amen

### **Prayer for justice and love**

Father God,

your Son Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.

In his resurrection he restores life and peace in all creation.

In a world of sadness and tears, show us your joy.

In a world of hatred, show us your love.  
In a world of despair, give us hope.  
In a world of disbelief, give us faith.  
Give us power in your world to make a difference  
and stand up for justice.  
Amen.

If you love the justice of Jesus Christ more than you fear human judgment, then you will seek to do compassion. Compassion means that if I see my friend and my enemy in equal need, I shall help them both equally. Justice demands that we seek and find the stranger, the broken, the prisoner, and comfort them and offer them our help.

*Mechtild of Magdeburg (1207–82)*

*Justice is a certain rectitude of mind whereby a man does what he ought to do in the circumstance confronting him.*

*St Thomas Aquinas (1225-74)*

*We find rest in those we love, and we provide a resting place in ourselves for those who love us. St Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)*



## **A Poem from Cyprus**

Ten little Christians, standing all in line,  
One disliked the preacher, then there were nine.

Nine little Christians stayed up very late,  
One slept on Sunday morning, then there were eight.

Eight little Christians on the road to heaven,  
One took the lower road, then there were seven.

Seven little Christians got into a fix,  
One disliked the music, then there were six.

Six little Christians very much alive,  
But one lost interest, then there were five.

Five little Christians wishing there were more,  
Got into a quarrel, then there were four.

Four little Christians cheerful as can be,  
But one lost his temper, then there were three.

Three little Christians knew not what to do,  
One joined a curling club, then there were two.

Two little Christians as hard as granite stone,  
Differed from each other, then there was one.

One lonely Christian won his neighbour true,  
Brought him to Church, then there were two.

Two eager Christians, each one won more,  
That increased their force, then there were four.  
Four sincere Christians working in full spate,  
Each won another one, then there were eight.  
Eight committed Christians – quite a decent team,  
Worked so well together they raised it to sixteen.

Sixteen earnest worker doubled six times more,  
Raised the mighty army to one thousand twenty four.

Quite a Church Full !!!!

With thanks to the Church of St Andrews in Kyrenia, Cyprus

## BOOK REVIEWS - SOCIAL MISSION

### City of God: Faith in the streets, by Sara Miles.

This is a book that has been on my shelf for years. I met Sara back in 2014 at a conference in Manchester she was attending. She has a great story to tell of social action in practice and how the power of the Gospel can transform lives. *Revd. Charlene*

#### **From Amazon:**

City of God is a moving and prophetic account of the divine in daily life, of God finding us no matter where we are, and making us new. It reveals that the simplest things in life are brimming with the mystery of God's grace.

It tells the story of one day in Sara's ministry: Ash Wednesday, when she carries ashes out of church to public places including bus stops, bakeries, beauty shops, fast-food joints and street corners; marking the foreheads of strangers with the sign of the cross, and offering blessing to waitresses and drunks, mothers and babies, believers and doubters alike. Sara pioneered this practice which is now taken up by many different churches to mark the beginning of Lent.

Sara explores the profound spiritual meanings set loose by touching the forehead of a stranger and paints a vivid, moving and unforgettable picture of the hunger and search for God and for meaning that is taking place all around us.

city of god

faith in the streets



SARA MILES

*Sara Miles offers us a glimpse of how  
being Christian both can & should  
transform the world*  
JAMES ALISON



**This Is God's Table: Finding Church Beyond the Walls, by Anna Woofenden**

This is a book which I was asked to pre-read before its release. Anna is a good friend of a colleague of mine, I was struck by Anna's beautiful journey of discovery as she literally plants a church in an old unused, unloved space in the middle of the city. *Revd. Charlene*

**From Amazon:**

This is the story of an audacious journey. It's the story of what happens when people garden, worship, and eat together, and invite anyone and everyone to join them. In *This Is God's Table*, writer and pastor Anna Woofenden describes the way that the wealthy and the poor, the aged and the young, the housed and unhoused become a community in this once-empty lot. Together they plant and sustain a thriving urban farm, worship God, and share a weekly meal. Together they craft a shared life and a place of authenticity where all are welcome. Readers of Nadia Bolz-Weber, Sara Miles, and Diana Butler Bass will find here a kindred vision for a church without walls. As churches across the Western world wither, what would it take to find a raw, honest, gritty way of doing church--one rooted in place, nurtured by grace, and grounded in God's expansive love? What would it take to carry the liturgy outside the gates? What if we were to discover that in feeding others, we are fed?

This is God's table. Come and eat.





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## THE BENEFICE OF ACKWORTH AND BADSWORTH

### **Statement of Mission:**

*'We are a parish/benefice which has the desire to nurture a church of Faith, Hope and Love, which we can reflect God's presence, helping us to serve and transform the communities of which we are part.'*

### **Private Prayer:**

The churches are open for private prayer on the following days

Sunday	8.30am – 10am All Saints' Church
	3.30pm – 4.30pm All Saints' Church
Thursday	10am – 12noon All Saints' Church
	2pm – 4pm St Cuthbert's Church

### **Regular Service Times:** *(when the churches are open for public worship)*

8.30am Eucharist All Saints'
9.30am Eucharist St Cuthbert's
10.30am Morning Worship All Saints'
11am Eucharist St Mary's
3.30pm Afternoon Worship All Saints'

### **Baptisms/Weddings:**

Enquiries about weddings, banns of marriage and baptisms, please contact 01977 599979 or 07874 607148

### **Book of Remembrance:**

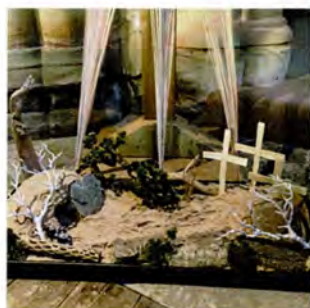
If you would like your loved one's name adding to our Book of Remembrance, please contact Lynne Ward (Ackworth) 01977 616384 or Margaret Spacey (Badsworth) 01977 648491.

### **'Little Friends' Mother and Toddler Group:**

At the present time there is no mother and toddler group meeting under the currently restrictions.

Please contact Jackie Fox for further information 01977 613834.

# EASTER 2021



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