The Parish Magazine of St Michael and St Chad

The Headingley Team Ministry

December 2016 60p
THE PARISH OF ST MICHAEL’S, HEADINGLEY

www.st-michaels-headingley.org.uk

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CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP
Please speak to either Janet Lewis or Geoff Marshall

THE PARISH OF ST CHAD’S, FAR HEADINGLEY

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Wonderful News for the Team Ministry

Hello, my name is Angela Birkin and I am thrilled that after I am ordained Deacon on 1 July 2017 I will be Assistant Curate at St Michael’s within the Headingley Team Ministry. Let me tell you a little about myself: I was born in Birmingham, brought up in Stoke-on-Trent, but have lived in West Yorkshire since 1983 working first as a hospital doctor, and then a GP for 27 years until I retired from medical practice in September 2013. I am married to Mark and we have two adult children, Laura who is married and lives in Pennsylvania in the USA, and Tom who has recently moved to Reading. My mother, Win, lives with us.

Medicine had been my vocation since my teenage years but by 2013 I felt very strongly that another vocation was calling. I was brought up within the Church of England, sang in the choir as a child, was confirmed at age 11, and when my husband Mark and I settled in Rawdon just before the birth of our first child we started to attend the local parish church, St. Peter’s. I was encouraged by successive incumbents to become a Parish Worship Assistant, then a Licensed Reader in 1997, and finally to consider offering for ordination. In late 2013 that felt very scary but right! I began my ordination training on the Yorkshire Ministry Course in September 2015 and have enjoyed every minute of it.

Mark and I know the Headingley area reasonably well as Mark came to Leeds University at age 17 to study Geography and is now Professor of Geography and Director of the Leeds Institute of Data Analytics. My medical practice was based in the Burley area of Leeds and I frequently got stuck in the traffic in Headingley whilst out and about on visits!

(continued over 2 pages)
GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES AT ST CHAD’S

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR  Christine Khullar  office@stchads.co.uk  274 4322

Enquiries about Baptisms, etc. should be directed to the Parish Office.

OFFICE TIMES:  9.00am - 12noon on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, closed all day Wednesday

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER  Richard Wilson  266 2823
BELLRingers  Simon Futers  230 0186
SUNDAY CLUB  3-5s  Janet Hemming  278 2735
               5-11s  Tom Lusty  278 2475
TODDLER GROUP  Tuesdays 1.15-2.45pm  Tess Mattam  0783 774 8757
SCY (YOUTH) CLUB  Steve Palmer  345 7103
BROWNIES  (Girls 7-10)  Wednesdays 6.30pm, St Chad’s parish centre
BEATHERS  (Mixed 6-8)  Emma Green  07855 282 100
CUBS  (Mixed 8-10)  Carrie Pearson  07845 651467
SCOUTS  (Mixed 10-14)  Andy Wood  368 9711
EXPLORERS  (Mixed 14-18)  Lesley Connor  274 7628
HOME GROUPS  (Wednesdays)  Mary Henderson  275 7116
‘another time’  Peter Hemming  278 2735
MOTHERS’ UNION  Elizabeth Johnson  Elizabetheden9@gmail.com  278 7990
GREEN TEAM AT ST CHAD’S  Suzanne Dalton  s.dalton@lineone.net
ST CHAD’S CHURCH SCHOOL  Headteacher: Mrs Helen Pratten  274 7110
ST CHAD’S PARISH CENTRE  Caretaker: John Mackintosh  0777 6282275
                           Bookings: Tracey Teasdale  230 7665
PARISH MAGAZINE  Distribution Secretary: Mrs Dorothy Gazey  257 8868
LUNCH CLUB  Wednesdays 12noon - 2pm  (for retired people)  Anne Wallace  274 9917
MEMORY CAFE  2nd Monday in the month, 1.30 - 3pm  Tom Lusty  278 2475
CRICKET CLUB  Paul Berry  0779 5154444
TENNIS CLUB  Neil and Margy Graham  278 6950
GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES AT ST MICHAEL’S

ST MICHAEL’S PARISH OFFICE  St Michael’s Road, Leeds LS6 3AW  275 4053

The parish office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30am - 12noon (but shut during August and on Bank Holidays)
Enquiries about Marriage, Baptisms, Banns, etc. please contact Rev’d Tony Whatmough

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER  Vacant

ASSISTANT CHOIRMASTER  David Walls  226 4431

VERGER  Mr Ben Ellis  278 8154 or 0773 3157702

PARISH HALL  Bookings:  Mrs Janet Lewis  275 1939

YOUTH CENTRE  Bookings:  Mrs Janet Lewis  275 1939

RAINBOWS  Lydia Mahoney  0770 7770462
Thursdays in Youth Centre, 6.30 - 9pm  lydia.mahoney@btinternet.com

BROWNIES  Please contact Helen at 37thstmikesbrownies@gmail.com

GUIDES  Please contact Hannah on hannahbithell@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL CURATES SOCIETY  Mr Ben Ellis  278 8154 or 0773 3157702

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP  Mr Ben Ellis 278 8154 or 0773 3157702

CHRISTIAN ECOLOGY LINK  Mrs Mary Duffty  278 1285

LEPROSY MISSION  Mrs Janet Lewis  275 1939

CHURCH FLOWERS  Mrs Glynis Dickson  228 0772 or 0797 4235902

ALTAR SERVERS  Mr Ben Ellis  278 8154 or 0773 3157702

BELLRINGERS  Mr Chris Bostock  226 0469

STAGE GROUP  Mrs Janet Lewis  275 1939

STUDENT AND 18+ GROUP  Rebecca Crowson  226 4431

GREEN TEAM AT ST MICHAEL’S  Luke Verrall  0774 6757929
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Wonderful news for the team ministry  (continued)
In my spare time, I enjoy Pilates, visiting art galleries, and watching Northern Ballet and live theatre especially Shakespeare. Mark and I are trying to see every Shakespeare play and are a bit stuck on Henry VI parts 1, 2, and 3!

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all next year,

Until then

With love and prayers

Angela

Angela Birkin, Assistant Curate Designate,
Headingley Team Ministry

Dates for the Diary for Christmas and the New Year

**CTH CAROL SINGING FOR WHEATFIELDS** will take place in the Arndale Centre in Headingley on SATURDAY DECEMBER 10th from 11am to approx. 12noon. Do please come along and join in. We need singers as well as collectors and leaflet distributors. Coffee and cakes available before and after the event at Headingley Methodist Church Hall.

18 – 25 JANUARY 2017 = WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

**Ecumenical Get Togethers** Wed 18, Tues 24 and Wed 25 January. Further details of venues and times to follow.

**Coffee Morning for Wheatfields** Sat 21 Jan, 10am - 12noon at St Michaels Church Hall

**United Service** Sun 22 Jan at 3pm, Headingley Methodist Church

**Confirmation service** with Bishop Paul Slater at St Chad’s Far Headingley **on Sunday 22 January at the 9.30am service.** Please pray for the candidates as they prepare spiritually for this: *Juliette James, Tom and Leanne Hawthorne, and John Bradbrook.*
St. Chad's Church of England (Aided)
Primary School and Nursery
Northolme Avenue, West Park, Leeds, LS16 5QR
Tel: 0113 2144519 / www.st-chads.leeds.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Helen Pratten
E.mail: headteacher@st-chads.leeds.sch.uk

We show dignity and respect to everyone and everything (Harry - Y5)

We learn lots of exciting things together (Ifan - Y2)

At St Chad’s we are one big family (Hannah - Y5)

We work together, we are one big community (Sarah - Y4)

St Chad’s is a happy place (Isobel - Y2)

At St Chad’s we learn in a fun way (Sarah - Y4)

Pupils' behaviour and their ability to stay safe are outstanding in lessons, in the playground and around school, where they show respect and are courteous. Ofsted June 2013

Teachers are knowledgeable and skilled and have high expectations of what pupils can achieve. Ofsted 2013

At St Chad’s we are equals (Rayyan - Y6)

We have super learning environments (Rebecca - Y6)

In the light of God, we care, we share, we laugh, we learn.
Church Services on Sundays in December

**Sunday 4 December**    **Advent 2**
- 8am  Holy Communion (BCP) at St Chad’s
- 9.30am  Parish Communion with healing ministry at St Chad’s
- 10am  All Age Eucharist at St Michael’s “Cloth for the Cradle”
- 12noon  Holy Communion at St Michael’s
- 12noon  Christingle service at St Chad’s
- 6.30pm  Choral Evensong with healing ministry at St Michael’s

**Sunday 11 December**    **Advent 3**
- 8am  Holy Communion (BCP) at St Chad’s
- 9.30am  Toy Service at St Chad’s
- 10am  Parish Eucharist at St Michael’s
- 12noon  Holy Communion at St Michael’s
- 3pm  “Lights of Love” service at St Chad’s, Sue Ryder Wheatfields
- 6.30pm  Choral Evensong at St Chad’s and at St Michael’s
- 8.00pm  Worship on the Edge at St Chad’s

**Sunday 18 December**    **Advent 4**
- 8am  Holy Communion (BCP) at St Chad’s
- 9.30am  Parish Communion at St Chad’s
- 10am  Parish Communion at St Michael’s
- 12noon  Holy Communion at St Michael’s
- 6.30pm  Nine Lessons and Carols services at St Chad’s and at St Michael’s

**Saturday 24 December**    **Christmas Eve**
- 4.00pm  Christingle service at St Michael’s
- 4.00pm  Crib Service at St Chad’s
- 11.30pm  Midnight Mass at St Chad’s and St Michael’s

**Sunday 25 December**    **Christmas Day**
- 8am  Christmas Communion (BCP) at St Chad’s
- 9.30am  Parish Christmas Communion at St Chad’s
- 10am  Parish Eucharist with Nativity play at St Michael’s
- 12noon  Holy Communion at St Michael’s

*NB No Choral Evensong at St Chad’s and at St Michael’s*
Vocations

A few weeks ago I was on a conference where it was pointed out that in a few years, the number of retired clergy and ministers would exceed those in office. The Archbishop of York makes a point of saying that without the ministry of the retired, the Church of England could not function. It is right that in our diocesan prayer cycle, thanks are offered for the ministry of the retired.

There are two aspects to this. First of all, the call to ministry is for life, and many who have had an active ministry are keen to continue this in retirement, though perhaps in different ways. Secondly, it is an issue that needs to be addressed, because in the fullness of time, the available retired clergy will diminish as well.

The Church of England has set a target to increase the number of clergy by 50% and to increase the number of readers and worship leaders by a similar amount. In addition, the Church wants to increase the numbers of Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic ministers in our parishes, to reflect the make-up of our congregations. We also need to encourage vocations for all ministries from women and it is good that women are beginning to take up leadership roles in the church.

We are fortunate in our parishes that each of our congregations have produced ordinands and active worship leaders. In addition, we have regularly had placements from theological colleges and courses and this benefits, I hope, both the students and ourselves.

Article continued opposite

Reader Jan Kramer with Bishop Paul at Jan’s re-licensing at St Michael’s
How do people receive the call to ministry? In as many ways as there are people! Some, like me, receive the call very early, rather like the boy Samuel. You will remember the story. He was about 12 years old, and heard God calling him in the night. He got up and went to the priest Eli, thinking it was he who was calling. Eli sent Samuel back to sleep. After this happened three times Eli realised that the voice was the Lord’s, and Samuel responded. Persistence in the call of God is a key.

This is echoed in the call of Isaiah 6:8: *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”*

But in other cases, it is other people who identify the call. There was a campaign in the Church of England a little while ago called, “A Tap on the Shoulder”, where people in congregations identify people amongst them who are already ministering in a quiet unofficial way, but need encouragement to take the next step. A story illustrating this might be the call of Nathanael in John’s Gospel: Philip goes to find Nathanael to take him to Jesus (John 1:45). Nathanael is sceptical, but when he meets Jesus, he responds to his call.

This is a matter that we need to think about all the time, not just around Vocations Sunday. As the Bishop of Guildford, Andrew Watson, said: “Every Christian has a unique part to play in God’s great plan of salvation, both through their church involvement and in their mission to the wider world.”

If you feel that God might be calling you to some specific ministry, why not talk to someone about it?

*Revd. Tony Whatmough*  
*Team Rector, Headingley Team*
Are you a Tax Collector or a Pharisee...?

The Pharisee stood apart by himself and prayed “I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, or an adulterer, like everyone else. Particularly I thank you that I am not like that tax collector over there. I fast twice a week and I give you a tenth of all my income.” Luke 18. 10, 11

The negative reaction we tend to have towards the Pharisee in the parable we have just read may not be entirely justified. That is the conclusion reached by the Jewish New Testament scholar, Amy-Jill Levine, in her book The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus. She argues that we aren’t looking at the parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee through first century Jewish eyes. We may not appreciate, therefore, how shocking it was that a tax collector would receive approval over a Pharisee.

For Jesus’s first audience the Pharisee was, if it is not too generous an analogy, the equivalent of Mother Theresa. We recall that tax collectors were, in the society of Jesus’s day, agents of a foreign invading government whose job was to take money away from the local populace and funnel it towards the capital of the invading empire.

Christian readers generally presume Pharisaic evil. Luke’s Gospel doesn’t do much to persuade us otherwise. The first words of the Pharisees in Luke’s Gospel are to condemn when Jesus heals a paralytic and speaks of forgiving his sins. “Who is this speaking blasphemies: no one is able to forgive sins but God alone?”; they grumble at Jesus’s association with tax collectors and sinners. The icing on the anti-Pharisaic cake is in chapter 12 where Jesus says to his disciples “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, that is, their hypocrisy”.

So Luke sets up the tax collector to represent the good Christian and the Pharisee as the bad Jew. But is it as clear cut as that? Lets reflect on what Amy-Jill Levine has to say about this particular Pharisee through first century Jewish ears. Perhaps a different picture will emerge.
The Pharisee’s prayer begins with the words “I thank you God”. The Greek word is *eucharisto* - from which we get the word Eucharist. The idea of thanking God is a major component of most Jewish prayers, a very typical start. Our Eucharistic Prayer is rooted in a Jewish way of giving thanks, in the way Jesus himself gave thanks and encouraged his disciples to do the same. And the Pharisee’s prayer on its own terms shows no more arrogance on his part than anyone who has prayed or thought “there but for the grace of God go I”. The Pharisee’s words need not be seen to be either hypocritical or arrogant.

We now turn our attention to the punchline - that the tax collector is justified before God. Most translations have the ending of the parable as “this man (i.e. the tax collector) was the one who went home justified *rather than* the other”. However the original Greek may just as easily be translated “this man went home *more* justified than the other”. It is an entirely possible reading of the parable to end with the fact that the Pharisee is also justified. The original audience would have been be shocked that the tax collector has the greater recognition; today’s audience is shocked that the Pharisee has any recognition at all.

The Pharisee’s righteousness is never in dispute. He is described by Jesus as tithing twice as much as he is required to and fasting twice as much as he is expected to. Perhaps the Pharisee’s righteous actions have a vicarious effect and are precisely what allow the tax collector to be put into a right relationship with God. You could argue that the tax collector’s justification before God is dependent on the Pharisee’s righteousness. By analogy we might see how the righteousness of the greatest saint in the Church could work towards the redemption of the greatest sinner.

*(continued on page 6)*
The parable raises the question of who has honour in a congregation. Who are the people who are good role models if it isn’t the Pharisees? Certainly the person who tithes more than they need to, and who fasts, and who prays without asking anything for themselves is precisely the sort of member of any Church congregation that any right minded vicar adores.

I would like to stand up for both the tax collector and the Pharisee as good role models for the Church. I would like to do this by reflecting on our stewardship as a Church. We give our monetary resources to express our gratitude to God for all that God gives us: for the air that we breathe, for the warmth of the sun, the clothing that we wear, for food on the table, for family to care for us, for the precious gift of friendship to share, for the opportunity to worship without hindrance, all the freedom that we enjoy, day by day.

I would like to ask you to reflect on how much you give as part of your stewardship. Do you give generously but in a calculating way, by a regular monthly standing order, or do you give in a generous and spontaneous way, as a ‘one off’, perhaps like Zacchaeus, the repentant tax collector? Perhaps you don’t give at all?

You might enjoy reflecting on this thought - that not going to Church because there are hypocrites in it is a bit like not going to hospital because there are sick people in it. Erwin McManus said that “in some sense we are all hypocrites in transition”. We are all on a moral journey as we journey through life - away from hypocrisy and towards integrity. We are all in transition, in a process towards being less hypocritical than we were. The Pharisee in our reading today says “I thank you God that I am not like other people and particularly not like this tax collector here.”... Well I suppose that makes me a Pharisee. Helen and I choose to give £180 each month to St Chad’s PCC.
We give the same amount to a combination of other charities. The fact that I have told you that... does that make me a hypocrite - like the Pharisee - or, from a Jewish perspective, a role model - like the Pharisee?

Which are you? Are you going to be overcome with gratitude to God – like the tax collector in the parable that Jesus told today - and give the two thousand pounds in one go, or are you going to be a Pharisee, being very calculating and organised, and set up a standing order? By the way, in this parable there are only two options, Pharisee or tax collector. There are no bystanders who thought “Ooh I don’t know, I don’t think I’ll give anything”.

Most of us to be honest have reservations about tithing. We can think of all those things we could be spending our money on. Or we could think, “No, I may be a hypocrite, but to give at least makes me less of a hypocrite than not giving at all”.

We celebrated St Luke’s Day on 18 October. As individuals we need to be healed of our self sufficiency and to start giving in a way which reflects that God gives us everything, nothing less than our creation and preservation at every moment, let alone our redemption. So please consider giving in such a way that reflects God’s own generous heart. You can’t take it with you. Amen.

*A few people asked if I would put a sermon preached in October into the bumper edition of the magazine, so here it is…*

*The article seems topical enough: last week parishes in the Diocese received news that the parish share has gone up for most Churches by 15%. The St Chad’s parish share has gone up by approximately £15,000 to £117,680 for 2017.*

Revd. Tom Lusty,  
Team Vicar, Headingley Team
Children at Shire Oak enjoy creative teaching and high quality learning. All our children are encouraged to fulfil their potential in a happy, safe and nurturing environment. We express our Christian values in a sensitive way while at the same time welcoming families of different faiths and beliefs. Children at Shire Oak recognise their responsibilities towards each other, the local community and wider world.

Teaching and learning
Our aim is for all children to make the best possible progress through high quality teaching and learning. We ensure children develop the key skills they will need for later life. We provide all children with a broad and balanced education that meets their particular needs. Children and staff are encouraged to be creative in all areas of learning. The school works closely with parents/carers; we recognise that children are more likely to fulfil their potential when we work together.

A happy, safe and nurturing environment
Staff and pupils show mutual respect for each other. We enjoy a stimulating and purposeful atmosphere in school. Our school is a happy place; children know that their concerns will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Children learn to be good friends, to care for each other and work cooperatively. School provides a safe and secure environment in which children learn to deal with risk appropriately. We expect high standards of behaviour from all members of the school community.

Children develop an understanding of right and wrong
Children are supported to play an active part in the life of the school. Children develop the knowledge and skills to make positive life choices. Through sharing and celebrating different faiths, children develop an awareness of the role of spirituality in everyday life.

The school and the community
Children are encouraged to play an active part in the locality and develop an understanding of their role as global citizens. The school works closely with partners from our local community to provide a wide range of learning experiences. We actively promote environmental sustainability in all aspects of school life.

Your editor this month has been: Revd Tom Lusty
Jenny Wren’s Jottings

Bird of the month: Yellow Hammer
(6.5 inches / 16.5cm, weight 21 g)

It is a long time since I heard this brown backed, yellow breasted bunting’s song “A little bit of bread and no cheese”. In winter they flock with other seed eaters and JG was very fortunate recently to see one with such a group at Eccup!

Thanks for all your sightings - good birdwatching in 2017!

Hedgehogs are declining but the ‘introduced’ ones in the Western Isles have caused problems with the local birds and are being removed. Our nephew and his grandchildren went to the local refuge and adopted two! They set them free but haven’t seen them since.

Jenny Wren

St Michael’s Green News

Don’t forget Christian Aid’s Stamps for Trees in Africa (to prevent desertification). Please give your Christmas stamps to me or put them in the Church drawer. Thanks. Mary Duffy.

Did you know...?

...That the St Chad’s Parish Centre Bar is open every Monday evening so why not come and enjoy a quiet drink, meet friends, make friends? No gaming machines, no piped music, no TV ... just a good old-fashioned way to support the Church and the community?
Communion and the Common Cup

One of the key principles of the reformation in the Anglican Communion is the sharing of the wine as well as the bread. This is usually done by using one cup. The retired bishop of Ottawa, John Baycroft, wrote the following:

“The cup is also important. Jesus took one cup and gave it to all of his disciples to drink. Perhaps it was the cup of Elijah from the Passover ritual but it was certainly a single cup. Jesus did not merely pour wine into the disciples’ individual cups and tell them to take a drink.

There is a powerful challenge here. We are reminded of the agonizing decision that faced Jesus when he was praying before the crucifixion: ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.’ (Matthew 26:39).

We drink from a common cup as a strong symbol of unity and our willingness to accept each other. We share our love and lives as we share the cup. The cup of love and unity is unavoidably a cup of sacrifice”.

This has not always been the case and is different in various church traditions today, yet the common cup is a powerful symbol. Indeed it can sometimes be called the loving cup. Lichfield Cathedral has one for the lay clerks of the choir, the Rummer Cup, used in their annual dinner.

People are sometimes concerned about hygiene and the chalice. A few years ago the House of Bishops produced a document about this which included the following advice:

Research on the chalice as a possible means of transmitting other types of infection has shown that the risk is extremely small. This can be reduced even further by the application of normal rules of hygiene:

1. A chalice of gold, silver or other suitable metal is to be preferred to pottery, particularly unglazed pottery.
2. The rim of the chalice should be firmly wiped with a purificator after it has left the lips of each communicant. The same part of the purificator should not be used repeatedly, nor should it be allowed to become sodden.

3. Anyone with cuts, sores or abrasions on their lips should receive communion by intinction or in one kind.

They also stressed that the communion vessels should be washed in hot water after each service.

It has become increasingly common, particularly in the USA, for people to hold onto the wafer and dip it into the chalice. There are risks associated with this - fingertips are known to be far more prolific carriers of germs: to dip one’s fingers into the cup is in fact far less hygienic than receiving directly from the cup.

So if you prefer for whatever reason to dip or intinct the wafer in the wine, please be careful that your fingertips do not touch the wine.

Tony and Tom
**St Chad’s says ‘No’ to Fossil Fuels**

St Chad’s is one of more than 3,500 UK churches to have joined the National Clean Energy Switch - either switching electricity from fossil fuels to renewable energy providers or having pledged to do so.

St Chad’s made the move on 1 October 2016 to using green electricity provided by Ecotricity in both the Church and Parish Centre as part of the The Big Church Switch, an initiative run by overseas development charities Christian Aid and Tearfund. The charities are inviting UK churches and individuals to embrace clean power and turn their backs on fossil fuels.

St Chad’s via its Green Team has been championing environmental issues for many years and sees climate change as affecting us all. It is therefore important to do our bit and to encourage others to do so. We are pleased to join the other hundreds of churches across the UK which are switching to renewable energy. We are making these changes to help protect future generations, to help safeguard our world and to stand in solidarity with poor communities worldwide who are already experiencing the harmful impacts of climate change.

Dr Mike Willison

**St Chad’s Mothers’ Union News**

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 8th December at 2pm** and we are holding a Christmas celebration with seasonal refreshments and carols. All welcome. For further details contact Elizabeth, Branch leader, on **278 7990** or email Elizabeth at elizabetheden9@gmail.com
News from St Chad’s Bell Tower

The weekend of the 18-20th November was the Leeds Branch and District quarter peal weekend, to encourage as many towers as possible from the Leeds area of the Yorkshire Association to ring a quarter peal, giving ringers the opportunity to ring something for the first time, with support from more experienced ringers. With the conductor being away over the weekend, it was decided that we would start early and ring a quarter peal in place of our Thursday practice night. We invited Jon Tarry, a ringer from Chapel Allerton, to come and ring the treble with us, giving him more experience in the method. After a couple of ‘practice starts’ and turning the heating off on what was initially a cold night, we successfully scored the following quarter peal:

Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers St Chad, Far Headingley
Thursday 17th November 2016 in 46 minutes (18-2-13 in Eb)
1272 Spliced Treble Bob Minor - 1032 Kent Minor
and 240 Writtle Minor, 20 changes of method.
1, Jonathan Tarry 2, Elizabeth A. Johnson
3, E. Anne Futers 4, Christopher Baird
5, T. Simon Futers 6, Alan G Futers (Conductor)

Rung for Leeds Branch Quarter Peal weekend on the back 6.
First Quarter of Treble Bob - 1
First Quarter of Spliced Minor as Conductor - 6
1st blows of Writtle for all. [I just put the articles in. Ed.]

This was another quick performance on our heaviest 6 bells and was a good start to open the weekend. At the time of writing on Monday evening, 5 quarters were successful across the weekend, with a couple more planned extending the weekend. If anyone would be interested in learning to ring, feel free to get in touch with us, then maybe next time a Quarter is rung by a local band, we could have the full glorious sounding peal of 8 going together.

Alan Futers
CHRISTMAS AT ST MICHAEL’S

DEC 4TH 10am  ALL AGE WORSHIP

‘CLOTH FOR THE CRADLE’

4.30pm.  ‘LIGHTS OF LOVE’, WHEATFIELDS

-----------------------------------------------

DEC 18TH 6.30pm  SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

-----------------------------------------------

DEC 24TH  SAT 4PM

CHRISTINGLE

11.30PM  MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST

DEC 25TH 10am  PARISH EUCHARIST

FOR CHRISTMAS DAY
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Peter Hemming – and others

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Anne Richards, an advisor for mission theology in the Church of England, has written a great book entitled ‘Children in the Bible’. It was shortlisted for the Michael Ramsey Prize. It didn’t win, but it gets my vote for a book that makes you think again about God and children in the light of considered reflection on biblical texts.

In one key chapter, she argues that God commissions children, and children speak prophetic words to their families and communities. God calls them as children, not to be precocious children aping adults but with their own age-related integrity. Too often in churches we love to hear from children because they are young and well meaning. We must remember that they are commissioned by God and bring their own perspective – and that is why they are called.

Children’s vocation is possible because God is with them... God called Jeremiah when ‘only a boy’. Although he feels unprepared, the point is that God is with him as he seeks to live out his call, and supports him in the tasks set before him when he struggles. This call narrative offers a partnership between prophetic vocation and God. It is not unfair to commission children and nor is it asking too much. There is a strong biblical precedent for it.

Children say things we find it hard to hear... Consider the child Samuel called to service by God in the temple. He is given a hard message to pass on to his priestly mentor. Samuel has to tell Eli that because Eli has failed to stop his sons from breaking temple laws, they will be punished. How hard it must have been for Samuel. Eli already knows that he is allowing wrong things to happen. As a priest, he knows that God sees all things and that he will be judged; but it is a child who is called to speak words of truth to him so that he cannot ignore them any longer.
Perhaps there are echoes of this role in the voices of children who speak out about abuse that they or others have suffered. They speak out knowing that a person who has power over them will be challenged. They speak out to ask for protection; they also speak prophetic words to the community. They call us to keep all children safe, to not overlook unsafe practices, and to not fail to see abuse because an individual has an important role in the community. They have a commission to seek their own salvation and the welfare of the community.

*God’s commission has to be seen in context...*

David uses his child-like skills to defeat Goliath. If he had been given adult tools of war, such as armour or a sword, he would not have succeeded. As a shepherd boy, he already had all he needed to fulfil God’s calling. God does not expect children to be capable of adult behaviour. In fact, God calls children because they are children.

*Children can blindside us and surprise us....*

If we impose adult rules, we can crush their calling and make them grow up too soon. We must trust them to be children and also find ways to build a kingdom fit for children where their prophetic voices are heard.

So if you are attending a nativity play, listening to children at a Gift Service, or as part of a project like Kidz Klub, be ready to hear what is really being said...

*Dr Helen Reid*

Extract from an article in the winter edition of *CITY Theology*, the magazine of The Leeds Church Institute. The article is based on the book *Children in the Bible* by Anne Richards - published by SPCK in 2013; also on a discussion with the Leeds North and East Circuit Preachers Study Group in November.

Deadline for copy for the next edition: **Monday 23 January**
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‘From the Registers’

**Baptisms**

**20th November**  
Alexander Robert Bentley, son of Anthony Bentley and Rosie Darlington  
*at St Chad’s*

**6th November**  
Marshall George Maynard  
*at St Michael’s*

**Weddings**

**12th November**  
Nicola Jayne Sellers and Matthew William Regan  
*at St Chad’s*

**18th November**  
Josie Danielle Sykes and Steven Phillip Hazelgrave  
*at St Chad’s*

**19th November**  
Claire Elizabeth Geeson and James Neil Booth,  
*at St Chad’s*

**Funeral**

**18th November**  
Andrew Paul Walker, former St Chad’s Chorister,  
aged 74,  *at St Chad’s*

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Where have all our Churches gone?

The other day, my memory wandered back to Farnworth, the town of my birth. Then a UDC, it is now part of Bolton and was and is the location of Bolton’s major Maternity Unit. Then I focussed in on St Peter’s Church, Farnworth, where my parents were married in 1940, where I was christened in 1943 and where we visited regularly. A huge brick barn of a place, a floor, four walls, a roof, a raised bit at one end and two corners cut off for use as Vestries. It had the architectural charm of a home built Pig Sty, even so, it was truly a House of God.

Moving forwards, I saw St Philp, Bolton, where I grew up, attended and taught in the Sunday School, Served and sang in the Choir. I loved and love this tiny Church. It is not much bigger than St Chad’s Lady Chapel. The present building replaced a ‘Tin Church’ on the same site and is one of several Lancashire Churches built to the same bog standard low cost design of Mr E H Lingen Baker.

I have written before about how many Churches there were near to home and I got to thinking again about them. Bolton, pre 1974, was a very large town of some 180,000 inhabitants. It is now even bigger having subsumed all the neighbouring UDCs. Now, walking has never been one of my favourite sports and I have never been a particularly fast walker. Even so, just about everywhere in Bolton that I needed to go to was within a half hour’s walk from our house.

My Primary School was two minutes away and that was if I had to stop to wait until a car had passed on the one road that I had to cross. Secondary School was twenty minutes away (ten by bike going by a different safer route), as was the Town Centre. Anything further, we went by bus. For example to my favourite Park, Moss Bank Park, a real treat that, they had Guinea Fowl in a cage and a huge Rock Garden with a myriad of paths. As an avid reader of Eagle and Dan Dare, the surface of Venus was more familiar to me than most of Bolton. Some areas of town I only visited in fear and trepidation, armed with directions from my Gran (who knew everybody, everything and everywhere), to go to be tested for one of my Cub Interest Badges.
Let’s return to a circle thirty minute’s walking time from home. In there were Holy Trinity (whose Primary School was attended by my cousins and whose organ was sold to Portsmouth Cathedral), St Mark’s, St Simon and St Jude’s, St Michael and All Angels, St Bartholomew’s (where I was confirmed, my cousins were christened and my Uncle was Churchwarden until they closed it, knocked it down and built a playground).

St Bede’s (not the Venerable Bede’s, Vicar the Revd Craster Pringle, father of the actor Bryan), George the Martyr (named for George Marsh, burned at the stake under Mary Tudor), Emmanuel, St Philip’s, Bolton Parish Church, St George’s, another Church on Moor Lane (in my youth, the base of our Rural Dean a figure only slightly less God-like than the Bishops of Manchester, Hulme and Middleton. Three Bishops running the huge, in population and area, Diocese of Manchester), two more churches on Deane Road (long gone) and Deane Church itself, one of the oldest in the North of England. Fifteen Churches, all with their own Vicar - some actually had Curates.

It was not only the Anglicans who had Churches in this area. There were two Roman Catholic Churches. One of these, St William of York was built when I was a teenager, previously services were held in their Primary School. (Money for building was raised by the Parish Priest working out how much each of his flock could afford and going round knocking on doors until he got it).

Two Methodist churches were virtually side by side. Splitting these two directions would lead to a Congregational Church. Here I made my Primary School thespian debut aged five: “Here am I a Christmas tree, standing all alone, waiting for the presents I will bear ‘til Christmas Day. Hush (spoken without the aitch) here they come.” No wonder Sir Ian McKellen learned so much about acting when we met at Secondary School. Ian is actually four years my senior, although he did Direct my definitive portrayal of Sharkey Joe in “Captain Scuttleboom’s Treasure”.

When I did a half-hearted Google the other day, I could only find four or five of these Churches and only a couple of these actually had a Vicar. Where have they all gone? Admittedly some will now be Mosques or Temples as my old area is now the centre of residence of Bolton’s inhabitants of Asian descent. Materialism and Sunday morning football practice will have accounted for some more. But not most of my list above. Somehow, somewhere, main stream branches of Christianity have simply disappeared.

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Thank you

Donald and I send greetings from Oxford and wish to thank everyone at St Chad’s for our wonderful send-off and gifts. The magnificent ceramic patio container (blue is my favourite colour) and tulip bulbs will be a constant reminder of the fellowship of St Chad’s.

The fabulous chocolates kept up our spirits during the sad days of packing up our house and the lovely card with so many messages and good wishes is very touching.

As we stood in St Giles for the Remembrance Day Service this morning, I thought of everyone by the War Memorial on the Otley Road and Yorkshire did not seem so far away! We are enjoying being close to our family and busy planning the urgent work to be done in our new home.

Suzanne Dalton

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