



Grasshopper



St. John the Baptist, Hey Feb 2017
Receiving and Sharing the Love of God Everyday

Dear friends,

In my ministry I've quite often been confronted by people who accuse Christians and the church in general of hypocrisy. They do this for a variety of reasons but one reason they cite is that the church is full of people just going through the motions.

This is an observation that is sometimes made by new Christians or those who have recently returned to church life. When they start coming to church, they say, they see members of the congregation who don't seem to enter into the worship with any vigour, they don't seem to sing the hymns, they certainly don't seem to be listening to the sermon, they don't even seem to pray, and they don't seem to want to share in fellowship with their brothers and sisters. Such Christians say that many well established members of the church have apparently lost the fervour and commitment that perhaps they once had.

I think most of us have had some of these feelings and many of us still do from time to time. And when I'm thinking this way I'm also thinking to myself – "Well, they're like that, they're lukewarm about the Christian faith and about their worship. But I'm not like that. I throw myself into it, body and soul. I sing loud. I speak up in the prayers. I know the responses. I study the Bible and the faith. And I live out my religion. I give a sensible amount to the Church and to good causes."

And so it goes on. Remind you of anything? Yes. Jesus' parable about the Pharisee and the tax collector. You remember the one. Jesus depicts two characters, a Pharisee and a tax collector who go to the temple to pray. The Pharisee stands up and thanks

God that he's not like all the other nasty sinful people. The tax collector, on the other hand, stays at the back of the church – like a good Anglican – and doesn't even look up – again like many a good Anglican – and admits he is a sinner. And Jesus commends the tax collector and not the Pharisee. I must confess to you that occasionally I, probably out of the sincerest of motives, compare myself with others – just like the Pharisee – and find that they lack some important something, that by implication, I have.

So how can we overcome this tendency, which I think exists in many of us, to make judgements of this kind? The answer, surely, is that we must avoid making comparisons at all. Instead we must simply acknowledge to ourselves that each one of us is a much loved child of God, created in the divine image, and redeemed through Jesus Christ. This doesn't, of course, mean that we will not be making any judgments in this life. But what it does mean is that when we do make judgments we must never conclude that we have the one right answer. Even if we think we do something better than another person that doesn't mean we are somehow better, wiser or holier than them. We must not think that because we think we are more diligent at serving God, at giving, at attending worship, or whatever it is, that we are more important than those who are apparently less diligent, less generous or less regular. Nor should we think that because we work hard, pay our taxes, and do not claim benefits, that we are better than other people.

God loves us all equally, cares for us all with that boundless love shown in Jesus. He calls on us to try to imitate him. Therefore let us endeavour not to make comparisons but rather to remember that each and every person is a cherished and beloved child of God our heavenly Father.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul'.

*If you wish to read **Crux** the Diocese of Manchester newsletter, you will find a link to it on the newsletter page of our web site: st-john-hey.org*

Day by Day Scheme

Thank you to all those who are helping to ensure the future fabric of our church by supporting the Day by Day Scheme.

5 Feb	Birthday memories of Uncle Albert
15 Feb	Stewart & Janet's Wedding Anniversary
23 Feb	Gareth's Birthday

Recent Entries in our registers

Holy Matrimony

Please pray for those planning weddings at Hey in 2017

Sat 17 June	Alex Arundel & Sarah Hilton
Sat 5 Aug	David Clarke & Laura Miller
Sat 26 Aug	Tom Dransfield & Emma Shepard

The Faithful Departed

The under named who died on the date shown were laid to rest

21 Dec	Charles Shelmerdine
6 Jan	Raymond Buckley

"Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
and let light perpetual shine upon them"

Street Prayers

Prayers for these streets will be offered in Church on the Sundays shown

<i>Week</i>	<i>Street</i>
5 Feb	Belmont Ave Lower
12 Feb	Dovecote Lane Higher
19 Feb	Dovecote Lane Lower
26 Feb	Tottington Avenue & Summerseat Close

Any requests for specific prayers
please ring the parish office 626 3630

Let us witness to the presence of the church to all in Hey Parish

Bible Readings

5 Feb Fourth Sunday before Lent

Isaiah 58.1-9a

Or 1 Corinthians 2.1-12

Matthew 5.13-20

12 Feb Third Sunday before Lent

Or 1 Corinthians 3.1-9

Matthew 5.21-37

19 Feb Second Sunday before Lent

Genesis 1.1-2.3

Or Romans 8.18-25

Matthew 6.25-34

Word 9.30

26 Feb Next before Lent

Exodus 24.12-18

or 2 Peter 1.16-21

Matthew 17.1-9

5 Mar First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2.15-17;3.1-7

Or Romans 5.12-19

Matthew 4.1-11

Parish Share

After the Sunday service on 22nd January, Brian Saxon (Warden) announced that St John has made full payment of the Parish Share for 2016. This is the money paid to the Diocese to cover the costs of the Diocese, to help poorer Parishes, and the cost associated with having a Parish Priest (when we eventually get one). Over and above this money, the Parish also has to provide for the running of the church buildings, heating lighting etc, and also has to save towards the cost of major repairs. The parish also has a policy of charitable giving, details of which can be seen later in this newsletter.

Diary Dates

Major events during World War 1 will be shown on their centenary date

Wed 1 Feb	10 am	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer
	11am	Holy Communion at Oakdene
Thu 2 Feb	7pm	Come & Praise!
Fri 3 Feb		

WW1 - The United States severs diplomatic relations with Germany as U-Boats threaten US shipping. Intercepted messages reveal that Germany is provoking the Mexicans into war against the US.

Sun 5 Feb	The Fourth Sunday before Lent	
	8am	Holy Communion - BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion
Wed 8 Feb	10 am	Holy Communion
Thu 9 Feb	7pm	Come & Praise!
	7.45pm	PCC
Fri 10 Feb		Hey with Zion half term starts

Sun 12 Feb	The Third Sunday before Lent	
	8am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	11.15am	Holy Baptism
Wed 15 Feb	10 am	Holy Communion
	11am	Holy Communion at Millfield
Thu 16 Feb	7pm	Come & Praise ! with Holy Communion

Sun 19 Feb	The Second Sunday before Lent	
	8am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Come & Praise!
Mon 20 Feb		Hey with Zion term restarts
Tue 21 Feb		

WW1 - The Great German Withdrawal begins. They will evacuate Serre, Miraumont, Petit Miraumont, Pys and Warlencourt, falling back 25 miles to establish stronger positions along the Hindenburg Line.

Wed 22 Feb	10 am	Holy Communion
Thu 23 Feb	7pm	Come & Praise !
Fri 24 Feb		

WW1 - Turkish retreat to Baghdad, abandoning Kut in Mesopotamia.

Sun 26 Feb	The Sunday Next before Lent
	8am Holy Communion
	9.30am Parish Communion
Wed 1 Mar	Ash Wednesday
	10 am Holy Communion with Ashing - BCP
	11am Holy Communion at Oakdene
	7.30pm Holy Communion with Ashing
Thu 2 Mar	7pm Come & Praise!
Sun 5 Mar	The First Sunday of Lent
	8am Holy Communion - BCP
	9.30am Parish Communion
	11.15am Baptism Lindup

Contacts at St John

<i>Associate Priest</i>	<i>Capt the Revd Paul Robinson</i> paul@nomoreproblems.co.uk	628 9019
<i>Wardens</i>	<i>Eddie Baines</i> <i>Brian Saxon</i>	633 2864 633 1389
<i>Administrator</i>	<i>Barbara Ballantyne</i> stjohnhey@gmail.com	626 3630
<i>Pastoral Visiting</i>	<i>Jason Robinson</i>	317 0862
<i>Editor</i>	<i>David Green</i> david@demgreen.co.uk	652 1278

Charitable Giving

The PCC decided that this year we will support these charities by sending £300 to each of the following:

Cold Nights – local charity providing clothing and warmth for local rough sleepers.

Chadderton & Oldham Voluntary Committee for Cancer Research UK – research into personalized treatments for children with brain tumours.

P.O.I.N.T – Oldham based charity supporting children and young people with disabilities.

Dogs for Good – training dogs to help children overcome anxieties and encourage achievement

Mummy's Star – local charity helping pregnant mothers undergoing cancer treatment

Emmaus – a charity working to end homelessness

Terrance Higgins Trust – working to reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS

One held for emergencies.

Additionally we support:

Christian Aid Week in the spring collection raised £150.

Harvest – In October we had a double foci:

Oldham Foodbank a collection of food

Water Aid £400.

Children's Society (£200) and Francis House (£225) – Sunday School continues to raise money for Francis House and we will split the Christingle and Nativity Service collection between them as in previous years.

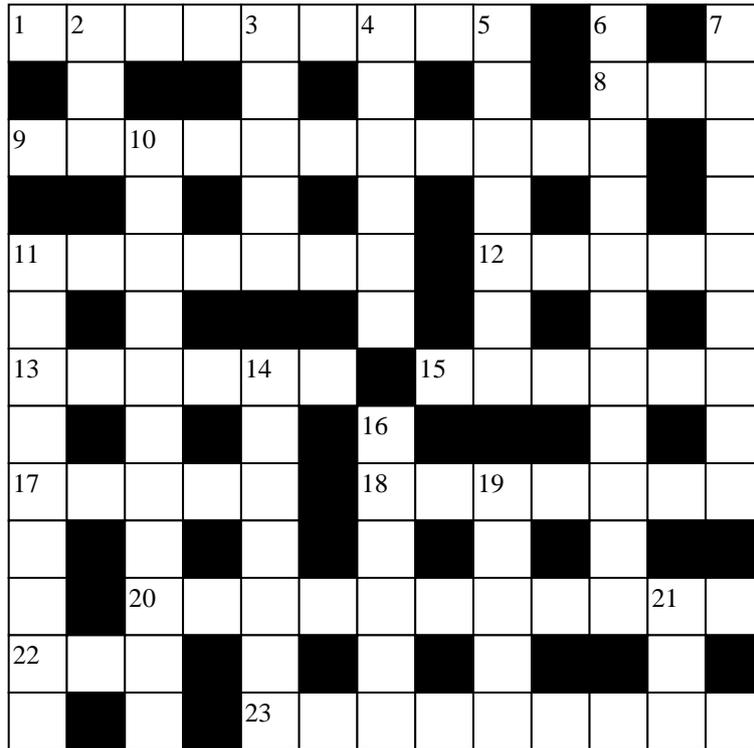
Samaritan's Purse – We are supporting them by filling shoe boxes to be sent to the most disadvantaged children in the world.

Dr Kershaw's – selling calendars in support.

Concern for the world beyond our own doors is one sign of a healthy Christian Community

THANK YOU SO MUCH
PCC Jan 2017

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD



CLUES

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Valves to control flow of water (9)	2. Brace (3)
8. Finish (3)	3. About Latin (5)
9. Two wheeled vehicles with engines (11)	4. Prairie wolf (6)
11. Determined old popstar (7)	5. Rescue of ship from sea (7)
12. Area at airport or theatre (5)	6. Account of something (11)
13. Liquid mist (6)	7. Decoration (9)
15. Part of the head (6)	10. 5ml (11)
17. Loop in a rope (5)	11. More favourable state (9)
18. Stamped mark (7)	14. Dig up (7)
20. Emergency vehicles (4,7)	16. Picture house (6)
22. African antelope (3)	19. Called for (5)
23. Advertising boards (9)	21. Encourage (3)

Solution to December crossword Across: 7. Merriest, 8. Apex, 9. Submit, 10. Tipple, 11. Combine, 13. Space, 16. Study, 17. Bourbon, 19. Blazer, 21. Casino, 23. Bowl, 24. Cupboard. Down: 1. Beaufort, 2. Tram, 3. Sextant, 4. State, 5. Bagpiper, 6. Well, 12. Bedazzle, 14. Crooners, 15. Concept, 18. Trace, 20. Loot, 21. Stop.