



Grasshopper



St. John the Baptist, Hey May 2016
Receiving and Sharing the Love of God Everyday

Dear All

The Church Calendar in May moves from Easter to Pentecost and in the Seasonal Calendar we also move from Spring towards Summer and hopefully some warm weather after a bizarre April of winds, rain, hail and more cold weather.

This year we began our Easter Service with 'A Service of Light'. With the church in darkness we Processed the Easter candle, lit from the embers of a fire, from outside the church door towards the altar, the candle marked with the nails representing the wounds of Christ. From the Easter candle, the candles on the altar were lit and everyone in the congregation had a candle lit. Thankfully with no burnt hands or hair set on fire!

The symbolism representing Jesus, after his crucifixion on Good Friday, bringing his 'light' into the world by his glorious resurrection on Easter Saturday Evening and Sunday. That light has now spread to some 1 billion people around the world, who will have celebrated Easter this year. This seems to justify the work of the Holy Spirit who came to those early disciples on the Day of Pentecost 2,000 years ago. "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind and filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." (Acts chapter 2 Vs 1 - 4).

It is with this idea of members of the Church being invigorated and motivated that I want to turn our attention to for the rest of this letter.

Over the last few weeks churches have gone through the rigours of Annual Meetings. These meetings are important bridging events in the church year. Within the meetings, what has passed is remembered and given thanks for, whilst the future to come is prepared for. As we start this month of May can I thank each and every person who has either remained on or has newly joined our PCC. Your role is an official one, the body you have joined plays a vital role in the day to day running of our lovely church and also is the council that is legally responsible for the financial affairs of the church parish and the maintenance of its assets, such as church and church hall and promoting the

mission of the church. From the start your role will require you to seek wisdom and strength from the Lord, so we must all pray for each other for what lies ahead of us.

Remembering and giving thanks for the past and praying for wisdom and strength for the future remains a constant in the Christians life. The past for Christians is 2000 years old and recorded, the future is the next 2000 years and is unknown, uncertain and impossible to predict. As we look out across the world we see the Christian faith being threatened in so many different ways.

There are many groups these days that are trying to squeeze the life out of the margins of the church and communities, by using all their dark talents, in particular with acts of terrorism. The margins I speak of can be identified in the smaller Christian communities across the world. The sadness of Christian persecution is as diverse as it can be. It manifests itself in the vulgar, sleep disturbing, horrific attacks that we are seeing in the Middle East and elsewhere through to the subtle whispers of secularism in the West.

Through the world's media, in this digital age, we now also hear the cries of the Christian persecuted, yet ironically it is the world's media that leads and criticises the Christian church when it stands by its beliefs. The Christian faith conquered the world and has made it a better a more wholesome place to live, even if we don't always get it right.

This is the global stage, but we are also affected much closer to home, we can think of our Parish of St John's and its surrounding community, which we are very grateful for, especially the work that Richard has done over the many years that he has led as Parish Priest and Team Rector.

In the months to come, there will be many changes taking place at St John's although we would like a smooth transition of leadership and services here. Many aspects of the future of St John's will be very noticeable, especially as Stephen prepares to leave for his own Parishes in Rochdale and then the retirement of Richard.

And what happens then? The answer to this is 'We' happen. There is no easy way of saying it, but we will all be required to use our Spirit given gifts to sustain, nurture and even grow our church congregation in the years to come.

As you know I will be the only remaining Ordained Priest at St John's, but what many of you may not realise is that when I wear my collar, I am doing this as a 'volunteer' to the leadership of the Church. I am not an employee or paid by the Diocese. I have a daytime job just like many of you and I am also an employee of the Ministry of Defence as the Cheshire Garrison Chaplain for Army Regiments in the North West and this role is also quite demanding.

What this means for me and for you is that I cannot do it on my own, I am not Richard's replacement and inevitably will need help from every person in the congregation to contribute your time and talents to ensure a thriving future for our parish until decisions are made to eventually introduce a new stipendiary Priest into the Parish.

We still have much to do in planning and action but most of all in prayer and I'd like to start with a prayer. So please join me;

Dear Father,

Hear the prayers of your faithful, open the eyes of the blind to your Glory and soften the hearts of the malicious. Strengthen your church here at St. John's as we face the unrecorded future that is its history to come. Grant o Lord to the faithful of today courage to play their part in the making of that history.

And may the peace of the Lord be always with us all. Amen

Your servant in Christ



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Recent Entries in our registers

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.

9 May - In memory of Annie Bennett - her birthday

15 May - Remembering Dorothy Ranson with love and gratitude

16 May - In memory of Elsie & Edward Clague

19 May - Remembering Joan & Eddy's Wedding anniversary

29 May - Bryn's birthday

3 June - Loving memories of Richard on his birthday

Holy Matrimony

Congratulations to Rebecca & Andrew Birch on their marriage we wish them every happiness

Please pray for those planning weddings at Hey this year

Sat 21 May - Neil Hartley & Helen Williams

Sat 18 June - Andrew Reilly & Patricia Tattersall

Sat 6 August - Michael Bearpark & Natasha Birchenough

Sat 13 August - Bradley Parry & Hannah Garside-Coneron

5 November - Leighton Toms & Carla Loftus

Street Prayers

Please join us if you can especially if you live in the street being prayed for.

Check the pewsheet for details of where / when to meet.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Street</i>
1 May	Den Hill Drive & Fern Close
8 May	Claytons Close
15 May	The Rise
22 May	Ivy Green Drive
29 May	Pineway
5 June	Peels Avenue & Lathom Hall Avenue

Any requests for specific prayers please speak to the clergy

Let us witness to our faith publicly and make the church real for everyone.

Holy Baptism

We welcomed into our worshipping community

26 March Eleanor Scarlett Schofield
Daughter of Jonathan & Tracie Schofield



Eleanor

3 April Emilia Heap
Daughter of Robert & Lucy Heap

23 April Daniel James Fothergill
Adult baptism

24 April Jake Brian Fothergill
Son of Daniel Fothergill & Kimberley Saxon



Emilia



Jake

Flowers

If you would like to donate towards the provision of flowers in church, please speak to Margaret Harrison.

WWI War Dead

The only great Naval Battle of WW1 was in the North Sea, off the Jutland Peninsular. It occurred when, on 30 May 1916, the entire British Grand Fleet, was ordered to sea to intercept the German High Seas Fleet leaving the Baltic, which it did on 31st May. Two sailors from St John's lost their lives in this Battle.

OS Harry S Hodgkinson, aged 18, J/36663 OS HMS Indefatigable, of 25 Stamford Rd, Lees. Son of Adam & Emma Hodgkinson. Died Jutland 31.05.16: Remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

HMS Indefatigable was a battle cruiser of the Royal Navy and the lead ship of her class, built in 1911, with a revised protection scheme and additional length amidships to allow her two middle turrets to fire on either broadside.

When the First World War began, Indefatigable was serving with the 2nd Battle cruiser Squadron in the Mediterranean, where she unsuccessfully fought German Imperial Navy ships as they fled towards the Ottoman Empire. The ship bombarded Ottoman fortifications defending the Dardanelles on 3 November 1914, then, following a refit in Malta, returned to the United Kingdom in February where she rejoined the 2nd BCS.

Indefatigable was sunk on 31 May 1916 during the Battle of Jutland, the largest naval battle of the war. Part of Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty's Battle cruiser Fleet, she was hit several times in the first minutes of the "Run to the South", the opening phase of the battle cruiser action. Shells from the German battle cruiser Von der Tann caused an explosion ripping a hole in her hull, and a second explosion hurled large pieces of the ship 200 feet (60 m) in the air. Only two of the crew of 1,019 survived.

PO John J Pilley, aged unknown, J/476 PO HMS Invincible. Died Jutland 31.05.16: Remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

On 31st May, Rear-Admiral Hood took his three battle cruisers ahead of the Grand Fleet. At about 2:30 pm, Invincible moved to intercept seven enemy ships steering north, their attempt to escape through the Skagerrak, at the mouth of the Baltic.

Hood continued on course until 5:40 when gunfire was spotted in the direction to which his light cruiser Chester had been dispatched to investigate other gunfire flashes. At 5:53 Invincible, and the other two cruisers, opened fire on Wiesbaden. The German ships turned for the south. The British ships caused some damage to the German vessels. At 6:21, the Invincible joined with other British ships, to attack the Lützow and Derfflinger inflicting considerable damage. But at 6:30 Invincible abruptly appeared as a clear target before the two German ships which fired three salvos each at Invincible and sank her in 90 seconds. At least one 305 mm (12-inch) shell from the third salvo struck her midships 'Q' turret. The shell penetrated the front of 'Q' turret, blew off the roof and detonated the midships magazines, which blew the ship in half. Of her complement, 1026 officers and men were killed, including Rear-Admiral Hood. There were only six survivors picked up by HMS Badger.

Diary Dates

For the next 5 years major events during World War I will be shown on their centenary date

Sun	1 May	The Sixth Sunday of Easter
	8am	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer
	9.30am	Parish Communion
Mon	2 May	<i>Bank holiday</i>
Tue	3 May	5-6pm Young people's Confirmation preparation
Wed	4 May	10am Holy Communion - BCP
	11am	Holy Communion at Oakdene
	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Thu	5 May	Ascension Day
	7pm	Come & Praise! Holy Communion
Sun	8 May	The Sunday after Ascension
	8am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion
Tue	10 May	5-6pm Young people's Confirmation preparation
Wed	11 May	10am Holy Communion
Thu	12 May	7pm Come & Praise! with Holy Communion
	7.45pm	Full PCC meeting
Sat	14 May	10-noon Adult Confirmation Group preparation - vicarage
	2-4pm	Adult Confirmation Group preparation - vicarage
Sun	15 May	Pentecost
	8am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Come & Praise!
	11am	Leave with band to walk to Lees
	Noon	CT Whit Service at Leesfield
	2.30-4.30pm	Adult Confirmation Group preparation - vicarage
Tue	17 May	5-6pm Young people's Confirmation preparation
Wed	18 May	10am Holy Communion
	11am	Holy Communion at Millfield & Medlock
	7.30pm	Choir practice
Thu	19 May	7pm Come & Praise!
	7.45pm	Wedding rehearsal
Sat	21 May	12.30pm Wedding Neil Hartley & Helen Williams
Sun	22 May	Trinity Sunday
	8am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	11.15 am	Holy Baptism
Mon	23 May	7.30pm Archdeacons visitation - St James' East Crompton
Tue	24 May	7 pm Confirmation rehearsal
Wed	25 May	10am Holy Communion
Thu	26 May	7pm Come & Praise!
Fri	27 May	Hey with Zion ½ term starts
	7pm	Parish Confirmation
Sat	28 May	2pm Wedding Andrew Reilly & Patricia Tattersall

Sun 29 May **The First Sunday after Trinity**
 8am Holy Communion
 9.30am Parish Communion plus First Communions.
 11.15 am Holy Baptism

Mon 30 May *Bank holiday*

Tue 31 May

WW1 - May 31 & June 1 - The Battle of Jutland. The German High Seas Fleet is forced to retire despite inflicting heavier losses on the Royal Navy (14 ships and 6,100 men), but the German fleet remains irreparably damaged for the rest of the war.

WW1 - Death recorded on this day a century ago and named on our memorial: **Ordinary Seaman Harry Simms Hodgkinson, Petty Officer John Joseph Pilley**

Wed 1 Jun 10am Holy Communion - BCP
 11am Holy Communion at Oakdene
 7.30pm Choir practice

Thu 2 Jun 7pm Come & Praise!
 7.45pm Full PCC meeting tbc

Sat 4 Jun

WW1 - The Russian Brusilov Offensive begins on the Eastern Front. It nearly cripples Austria-Hungary out of the war.

Sun 5 Jun **The Second Sunday after Trinity**
 8am Holy Communion - BCP
 9.30am Parish Communion
 11.15 am Holy Baptism

WW1 - TE Lawrence aids Hussein, Grand Sharif of Mecca, in the Arab revolt against the Turks in Hejaz. Lord Kitchener sails for Russia on board HMS Hampshire. The ship is mined off Orkney and Kitchener is lost along with 643 other crewmen and general staff.

Future dates

Sun 12 Jun **The Third Sunday after Trinity**
 Queen's Official 90th Birthday - Garden Party / Fete with band

Principal Festivals	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ash Wednesday	10 Feb	1 Mar	14 Feb	6 Mar
Easter Day	27 Mar	16 Apr	1 Apr	21 Apr
Pentecost	15 May	4 Jun	20 May	9 Jun
Advent	27 Nov	3 Dec	2 Dec	1 Dec

Bible Readings

1 May Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16.9-15

John 5,1-9 or
John 14.23-29

8 May First Sunday after Ascension

Acts 16.16-34

John 17.20-26

15 May Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21

John 14.8-27

Word Acts 2.1-21

Theme - The language of God

22 May Trinity

Proverbs 8.1-4, 22-31

Romans 5.1-5

John 16.12-15

29 May First Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 8.22-23,41-43

Galatians 1.1-12

Luke 7.1-10

5 Jun Second Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 17.17-24

Galatians 1.11-24

Luke 7.11-17

Thoughts as retirement approaches

Our celebration of Easter 2016 has come and gone as has the annual parochial church meeting. Whilst I have been here 17½ years this was my 18th Easter celebrated at Hey having arrived in the February of 1999. Each and every Easter has been a time of great joy and hope - some have been more difficult than others such as in 2000 when my mother died on the Good Friday. I have to admit it was tough continuing to lead the worship and preach at all the services over that weekend. But in many ways it was made easy as I was preaching about the Resurrection, the joy of Mary when she finally recognized the Risen Lord outside the empty tomb, the excitement and wonder of the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus.

I have had the honour and privilege of journeying alongside parishioners and their families and many others with no direct church connection at the time of tragedy and death. So often we feel as though we are staring into a black and empty pit, devoid of any hope, a complete feeling of emptiness, hopelessness and helplessness, often doubting the existence of God. "Why has God allowed this to happen - I thought he was meant to be a loving God" is a phrase / question I have often been asked. As you know all too well I am no scholar so I have to admit the truth which is, of course, that I don't know the answer. I can only give an answer which I believe to the very core of my soul. And the answer is this, that I believe in a God that is love and when you really love somebody you give them total freedom. Freedom to do good things and even the freedom to do terrible things. Freedom to create and freedom to destroy. If God stepped in every time we strayed towards the wrong path and nudged us back in line we would not have freedom but we'd be controlled robots, with no free will. That is not love in action that is control and abuse in action - and sadly I have seen relationships in which that has been the case. "Ok I get that but why earthquakes?" is often the follow up question. Again I don't have the answer but I believe that even creation, the constant and continuing evolving of creation isn't absolutely perfect - there are tiny faults, hair line imperfections which can come together to set off a tragedy - it is part of what it is to be human - life can be and is tough at times.

And yet surrounding all this is a God who has experienced what it is to be human. I could not believe in a God "out there" looking down on a suffering world, a world that he had not experienced. In his humanity, as Jesus Christ, God experienced here on earth what it is to be human - he / she knows what it is to lose a parent, those close to him, perhaps even a sibling. He knows what it is to be shamed and vilified, to be spat at and hated, to be marginalize and abused, to feel different and not accepted, to

be driven out of town, to be betrayed by a loved one, to be wrongly accused and tortured, to be nailed to a cross, even to question his own faith. Now that is a God I can believe in - a God that loves me so much that he stands along side me not just in the good times but even closer in times of distress and loneliness, a God who has been raised to new life and a God that will one day raise each and every one of us to that new life. For me that is the Easter message not for just one day of the year but a message, a reality that is for every moment of every day.

Sadly I will not be part of your Easter 2017 celebration but as Paul says in this month's letter "we" (that means you !) will "use our Spirit given gifts to sustain, nurture and even grow our church congregation". The light of Easter will continue to shine in Hey.

So in all the joys and all the sorrows of life, in all the good times and all the bad times, each moment of each day may the promises of Easter to be a reality in your lives - today, tomorrow and the years to come. God be with you all.

Richard

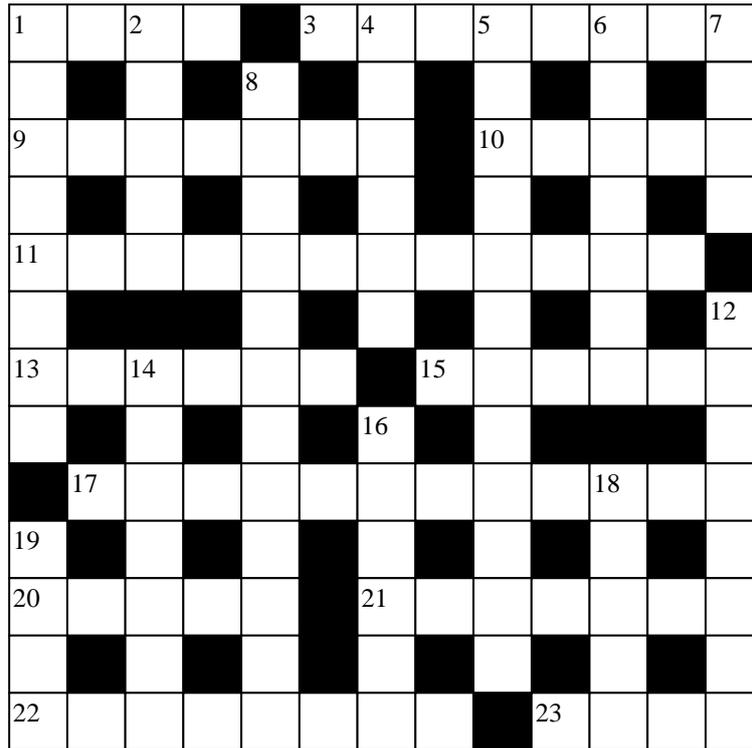
Easter Lilies



Thank you to those who donated lilies
in loving memory of:

Karlis & Zenta Birznieks,
John & Myra Bradley,
Sybil Buck, Brian Clegg, Kenneth Dunkerley,
Margaret & Harry Crompton,
Bill Cullen, William Cullen & Reg Firth,
Douglas Drake, Dorothy Elstub & Eric Elstub,
Joy & Raymond Evans, Roger Farrand,
Ronnie & Flora Giles, Alan Goldthorpe,
Nicola Graham, Jack Harrison,
Barbara & David Hawkins, Sal & Joe Hibbert
Sam & Emily Hindley, John & Stuart Hindley,
Stuart Hurdus, Lily Jolley, Hetty Jones,
Elsie Noble & Muriel Lawton, George Makinson,
Michael Gaynon, Albert Hacking, Michael Molloy
Vernon Robinson, Arthur & Annie Thomas,
Roy & Evelyn Winterbotham, John Wood

MAY CROSSWORD



CLUES

ACROSS

1. Inflatable mattress (4)
3. Put one's mind at rest (8)
9. Put to practical use (7)
10. Joint (5)
11. Patio door (6,6)
13. Type of street (3-3)
15. Handsome young man (6)
17. Delicate perfume (3-2-7)
20. Goodbye (5)
21. Rituals (7)
22. Troubadour (8)
23. Happy (4)

DOWN

1. Vaulting game (4-4)
2. Mistake (5)
4. Bestows (6)
5. Coloured window (7,5)
6. Anon (7)
7. Uniform (4)
8. Club game (5,3,4)
12. Evaluated (8)
14. Delight (7)
16. Frozen water hanging (6)
18. Low sound of hostility (5)
19. Cool and collected (4)

Solution to April crossword. Across: 1. Robust, 4. Stocks, 9. Rolling Stones, 10. Trefoil, 11. Leave, 12. Final, 14. Brief, 18. Ember, 19. Stoical, 23. Grand National, 22. Hidden, 23. Redeem. Down: 1. Rarity, 2. Bulletin board, 3. Sligo, 5. Titular, 6. Convalescence, 7. Sister, 8. Agile, 13. Abridge, 15. Length, 16. Essay, 17. Slalom, 20. Olive.

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