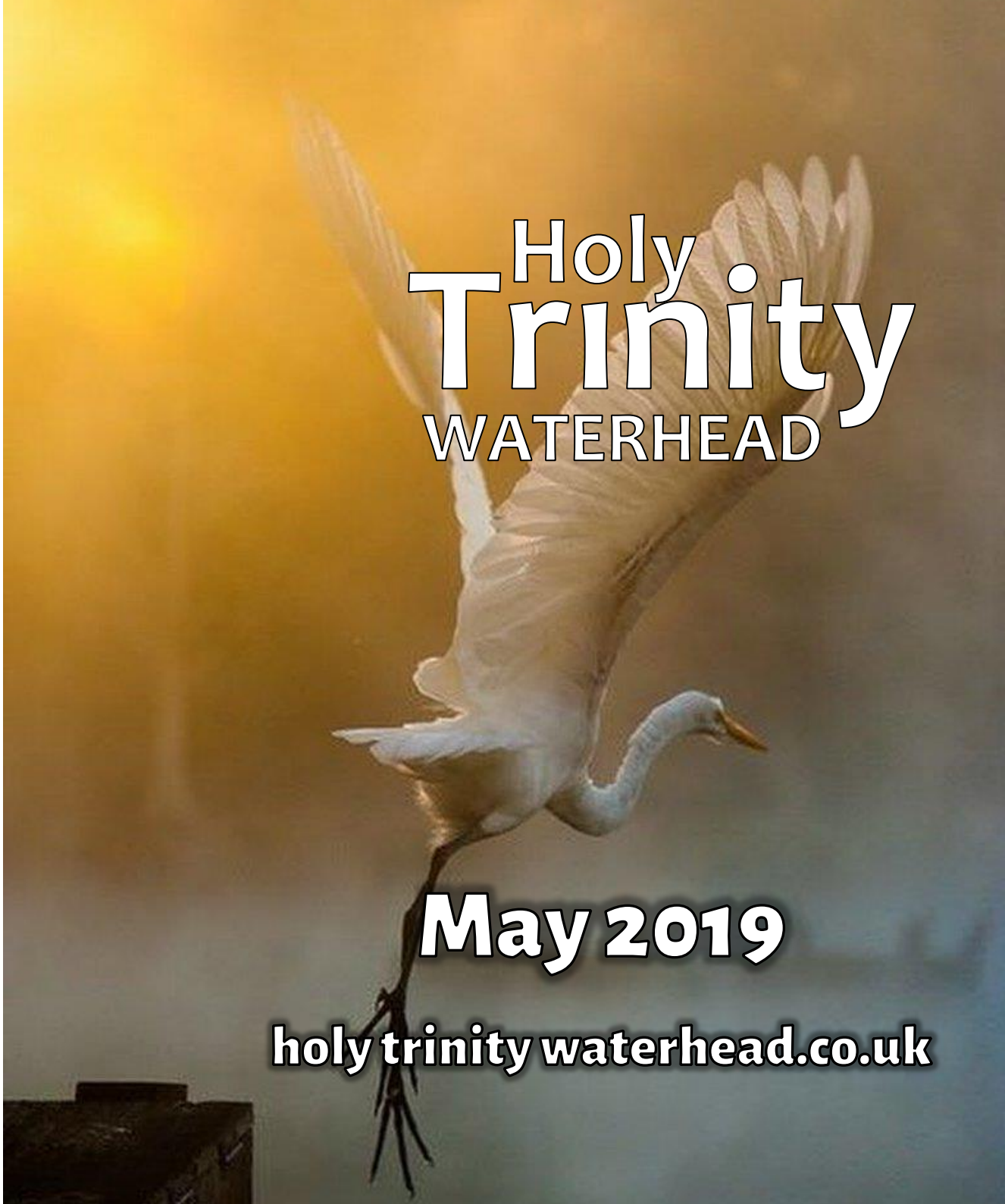
Suggested donation 50p



Holy Trinity WATERHEAD

May 2019

holy trinity waterhead.co.uk

Services at Holy Trinity Church

Sunday	11:00 am	Parish Worship
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Family Communion
Thursday	9:30 am	Morning prayer in the vestry

Baptisms and marriages by arrangement with the Vicar.

Please submit items for the June 2019 magazine by 15 May. You can e-mail files to paulmonk111@gmail.com

People at Holy Trinity Church

Vicar

The Revd Dr Paul Monk
St Barnabas' Vicarage, Arundel Street, Oldham OL4 1NL
T: (0161) 624 7708 and E: paulmonk111@gmail.com

Assistant Curates

The Revd Denise Owen (Vicar of St Thomas' Church Moorside)
Tel: (0161) 652 0292 and E: therevd.dowen@yahoo.co.uk

The Revd Jane Hyde
Tel: (07734) 886 893 and E: janehyde10@hotmail.com

Wardens

Duncan Goodman	(07470) 149 744	
John Wolstencroft	(0161) 620 2401	
Readers	Ruth Lees	(0161) 624 0777
	Rosie Kingham	(0161) 652 4265
Organists	Carl Roberts	(07748) 476 264
	Rosie Kingham	(0161) 652 4265
Administrator	Sarah Gura	(07843) 178 762
Church Secretary	Lynne Schofield	(07804) 094 457
Church Treasurer	Vicky Heaton	(07906) 077 058
Gift-Aid Secretary	Ruth Lees	(0161) 624 0777
Parish Hall Manager	Naomi Parkes	(07907) 410 606
Sunday School	Yolanda Ryder	
Rainbows	Sarah Wilson and Natalie Morris	
Brownies	Val Lees and Moira Belcher	
Guides	Karen and Lisa Cannon	
Beavers and Cubs	Lee Thompson	(07907) 907 354
Scouts	Mark Dickinson	(07976) 666 512

Letter from the Vicar

A kind of limbo surrounds everything.

During the fifty days of Easter, the first disciples were often with Jesus, lost him at the Ascension, and then reunited with His Spirit at Pentecost. Similarly, during the month of May, we live in the hinterland between Jesus' death and resurrection (in April), and his Ascension and the return of His Spirit at Pentecost (in June). It feels like everything is the same yet nothing is the same.

This period between Easter Day and Pentecost is a metaphor for our Christian life. There is a sense that we have been redeemed by the Cross yet are waiting for the Spirit to confirm that gift. As a great saint once said: we have been forgiven, we are in the process of being forgiven, and we hope that one day we shall be forgiven.

As we explore forgiveness, we soon find our faith flitting into and out of focus. This adjusting of spiritual focus is God's way of stripping away that which is not of Him and replacing it with something more real.

Stated this way, the task of the Easter season is to explore our own forgiveness as a way of growing into discipleship. He wants us to take small steps of faith. While each step can feel like a huge risk, in fact the recent knowledge of the empty Easter Cross acts much like a safety net: He makes it safe for us to grow toward Him.

Wishing you joy as you grow into His forgiveness

PAUL

Forthcoming services and events

Confirmation classes

Confirmation classes start on Tuesday 7 May at 5:00 pm. We meet at St Barnabas Church in Clarksfield (OL4 1NL). Each class requires about an hour each. Subsequent classes occur each Tuesday at the same times.

Archdeacon's Visitation

On Monday 20 May, the Archdeacon of Rochdale, the Venerable Cherry Vann, holds her visitation at our Church.

All Wardens must attend, and all PCC members and sides-people are invited to come. The service starts at 7:30 pm.

Ascension Day

Ascension Day occurs on Thursday 30 May. We celebrate with a Eucharist in the Church at 11:00 am. All are welcome.

Pentecost

Whit Sunday occurs on Sunday 9 June. The normal Sunday service will occur at 11:00 am as usual. At 2:00 pm, we meet in Church for a short service. We then walk to Ash Square for the main service. Finally, we walk to St Barnabas for a barbecue.

Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday occurs on Sunday 16 June. We will hold our annual Gift Day during the service, and follow it with a faith lunch.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that, if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

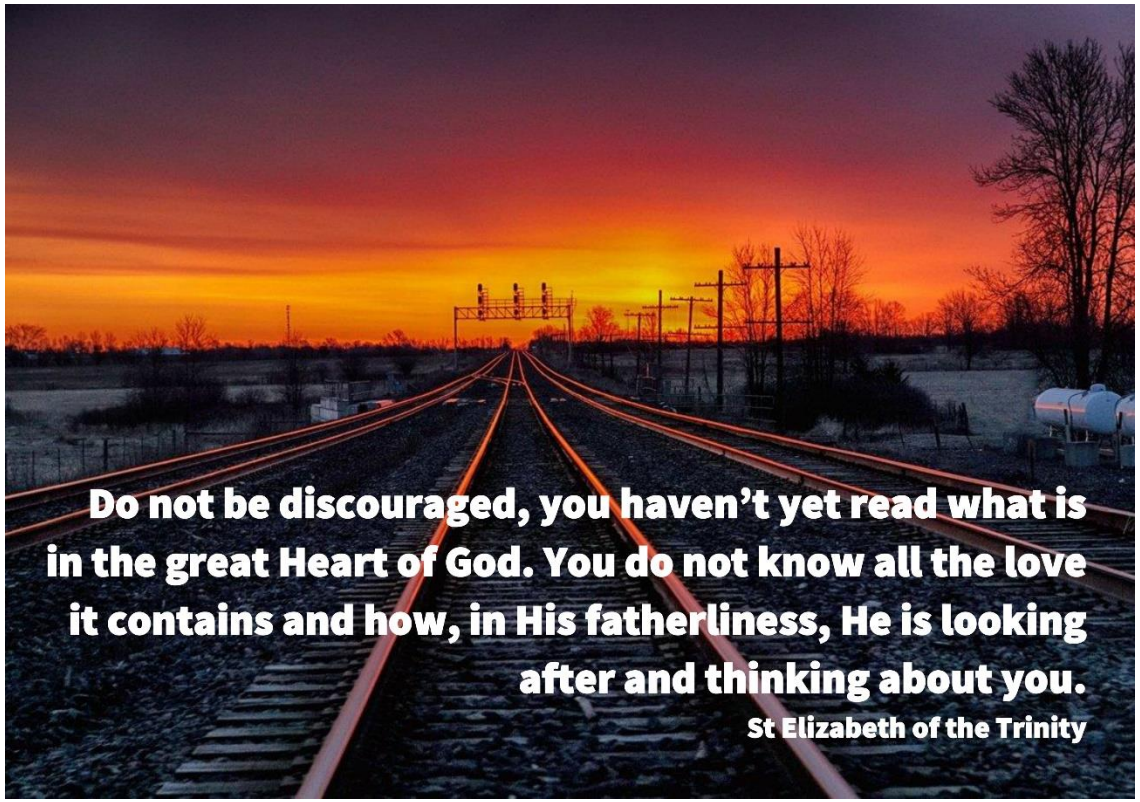
I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton : Thoughts in Solitude

Photo by Stu Moors

2019 dates for your diary

Saturday 27 April	7:00pm for 7:30 pm: **Quiz Night**, at Waterhead Hall. Tickets cost £5, which includes supper.
Saturday 11 May	7:30 pm: Concert by **the Tame Valley Brass** in the Hall. Includes supper.
Monday 20 May	7:30 pm: **Archdeacon's Visitation** at Waterhead Church.
Tuesday 21 May	7:30 pm: **Full meeting of the PCC** in the Church.
Thursday 30 May	11:00 am: **Ascension Day** at Waterhead Church.
Sunday 9 June	11:00 am: Service for **Pentecost** and later the **Whit Walk**.
Friday 21 June	7:00 pm: Annual **Confirmation service** (please note the change of date).



Bible readings for May

Sunday 5 May

Third Sunday of Easter

First: Acts 9:1–6
Epistle: Revelation 5:11–14
Gospel: John 21:1–19

Sunday 12 May

Fourth Sunday of Easter

First: Psalm 23
Epistle: Acts 9:36–43
Gospel: John 10.22–30

Sunday 19 May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

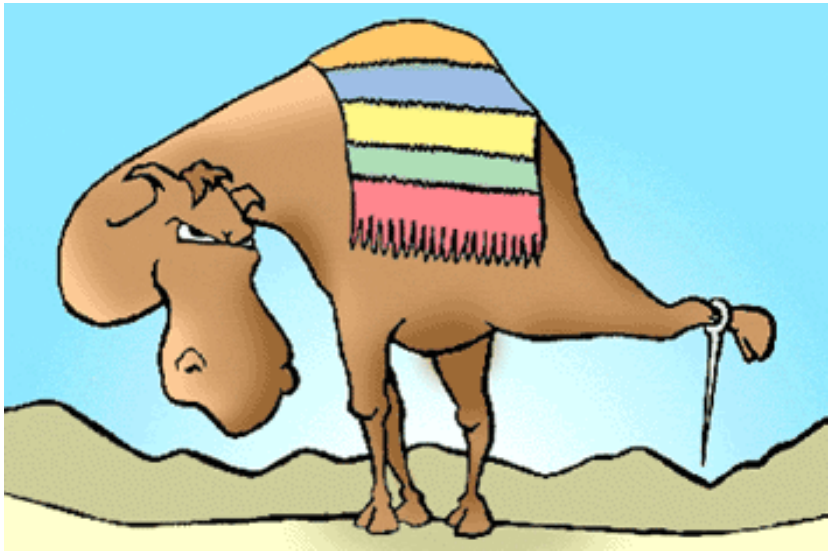
First: Acts 11:1–18
Epistle: Revelation 21:1–6
Gospel: John 13:31–35

Sunday 26 May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

First: Acts 16.9–15
Epistle: Revelation 21:10,22–22.5
Gospel: John 14:23–29

These readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary



Amir couldn't get much of his camel through the eye of a needle … and he was using a pretty big needle.
(With apologies to Mark 10:25.)

Introduction Haggai is the tenth of the twelve prophets in the Old Testament. These twelve prophets are sometimes called 'the minor prophets' because their writings are brief rather than a consequence of their importance. Haggai is the second shortest book in the Old Testament (only Obadiah is shorter), and is quoted in the New Testament once (Heb 12:26).

The book consists of four prophecies delivered over a four-month period during the second year of the Persian King Darius I the Great (521 bc).

Author Haggai was a prophet (1:1). His name means 'festal', maybe suggesting he was born during one of the three great pilgrimage feasts. His ministry was short, lasting only four months. There is some evidence that Haggai witnessed the destruction of Solomon's temple (2:3) but, if so, he must have been in his 70s when writing. Alternatively, a different Prophet took his master's name for this book.

The date The book of Haggai was written 70 years after the exile. The book was compiled soon after the events in the book occurred.

Background King Nebuchadnezzar deported the Jewish people to Babylon in 597 BC following his first invasion. A second major deportation occurred in 586 BC soon after the Jerusalem Temple was destroyed.

Much later, in 538 BC, King Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylon (2 Chron 36:21–24, Ezra 1:1–4). He adopted a policy of local identity and self-rule, and allowed the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem. Cyrus told them to rebuild their temple (Ezra 1:2–4; 6:3–5), so this period is known as the Second Temple period. The Second Temple was began in 520 BC under King Darius of Persia and completed in 516 BC. The Books of Nehemiah and Ezra also describe the Restoration of Israel.

The governor of Judah, Zerubbabel, and Joshua the Priest led about 50,000 Jews back to Jerusalem. They immediately started rebuilding the Temple, and completed the foundation within two years (Ezra 3:8–11). Their success upset their Samaritan neighbours who feared the political and religious implications of a thriving Jewish state with a rebuilt Temple. The Samaritans opposed the project, and managed to halt work until about 520 BC when Darius the Great became King of Persia (Ezra 4:1–5,24).

The Book of Haggai Haggai's prophecy is a two-fold challenge to Israel after the Exile in Babylon: they must remain faithful to God and must rebuild the temple (Ezra 5:1–2; 6:14).

Haggai was sure that Babylon was able to conquer Israel because its people had broken their covenant with God. He therefore challenged the exiles to choose obedience and repent. He condemned injustice and idolatry, and reiterated the laws of ritual purity, telling the people to humble themselves and reject injustice and spiritual apathy. He reminded the would-be rebuilders of Jerusalem to give God their allegiance and build the Temple before they started constructing homes for themselves.

Haggai assured the returning exiles that if they repented, God would fulfil His promise to establish a New Jerusalem and would defeat evil from among the nations.

The book of Haggai

For more information, please read:

https://thebibleproject.com/explore/haggai
https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/intro-to-haggai
http://biblescripture.net/Haggai.html
https://www.bible-studys.org/Bible Books/Haggai/Book of Haggai.html
https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Book-of-Haggai

Oscar Romero

Oscar Arnulfo Romero was born into a family of ten in 1917, in El Salvador. His father was in charge of the local telegraph office. Sometimes the young Oscar helped his father to deliver telegrams. He learned to be a carpenter, making tables, chairs and doors. He was a quick learner and talented, but it surprised no one when the young Oscar said he wanted to be a priest.

Oscar entered a local seminary at the early age of 13. Later, when his mother was ill and they needed money for medicine, Oscar left the seminary for three months to work in the gold mine in Potosí, where he earned about 4p a day. He returned to the seminary, then completed his studies in Rome. He had to wait a year to be ordained because he was younger than the required age. His father and brother died while he was in Rome.

Oscar was ordained in 1942, and returned to South America to become a parish priest in Anamorós. He moved to San Miguel, where he remained for 20 years. He embraced a simple lifestyle and was soon famous for his sermons but also did a lot of parish work visiting prisons, organising catechism classes and working with others in the Church to provide help and food for the poor.

Oscar was appointed secretary of the Bishops' Conference for El Salvador in 1966, and became an auxiliary bishop in 1970. In 1974, he was appointed Bishop to the poor, rural region of Santiago de María. He became Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977.

Oscar Romero's ministry was distinguished by a particular attention to the most poor and marginalised. In a famous sermon he asked, 'When I help the poor, they call me a saint. Why then, when I ask why they are poor, do they call me a communist?'

All this time, violence was increasing in El Salvador as the United States funded right-wing extremists to counter the 'communists' they feared south of their border. Soon, the El Salvador government were killing those who stood up for their rights. Death squads committed murder in the cities while soldiers killed as they wished in the countryside.

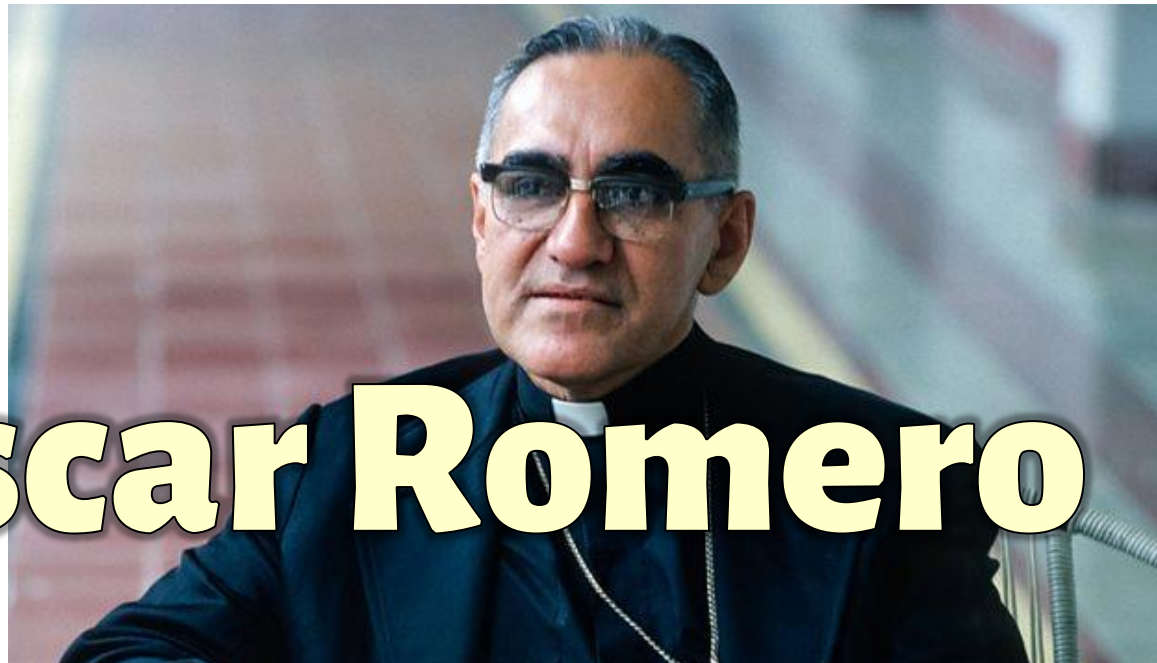
Oscar continued to speak out against social injustice, poverty, assassinations and torture. He demanded justice and recompense for all the atrocities committed by the army and police, and he set up projects and pastoral programmes to support the victims. He became a catalyst for radical moral prophecy both inside the Church and out. The press attacked
him vehemently and called him a communist. He knew his life was in danger but he continued.

The death threats multiplied and the atmosphere was charged. In a sermon on 23 March 1980, Oscar ordered the army to stop their killing. He said, 'In the name of God, and in the name of this suffering people whose cries rise to heaven more loudly each day, I beg you, I implore you, I order you, in the name of God, stop the repression!' He was murdered the very next day while celebrating Holy Communion in the chapel of the Hospital of Divine Providence. Many believe his murder was funded by the US Government.

His funeral was celebrated on Palm Sunday. He was later declared a martyr of the Church, beatified in 2015 and canonised in 2018.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

http://www.romerotrust.org.uk/who-was-romero
https://cafod.org.uk/News/International-news/Oscar-Romero-life-timeline
https://www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-commemorations/commemorations/st-oscar-romero



On 29 March, a group of us from Church went to Mirfield Monastery to experience a quiet day, and what an experience it was! This was my first quiet day with the church. It was certainly memorable. We had the opportunity to sit in the services and partake in the Eucharist which was held in their astonishing Church. The remarkable service was sung by the brothers. As well as this beautiful service, we were delighted with a talk by Father Aiden, who discussed his nearly sixty-year time as a monk at Mirfield.

To top it off, I sat in their beautiful garden, reflecting on my faith and my relationship with God. It was an opportunity to discuss, reflect and take that one step away from everyday life.

It is an experience I will never forget, and I hope I have many more to come with St Barnabas.

Kirstie Chapman

Quiet day in Mirfield

The high altar at the community of the Resurrection, Mirfield

Inclusive Church

We live in a world of glorious diversity. The Bible describes the Church as a worldwide communion of believers where 'there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus' (NIV, Galatians 3:28). The PCC has been exploring how we can be more inclusive and has recommended that we join a movement named Inclusive Church.

Inclusive Church is an educational charity (no. 1102676) founded in 2003. Although Anglican in origin, it now works with churches of many different denominations, encouraging them to explore ways in which they may become more inclusive. Churches that register with Inclusive Church are asked to adopt the following Statement of Belief.

We believe in inclusive Church — Church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

As you can see, the statement expresses the strong conviction that the Church is for all people regardless of gender, race or sexual orientation. It calls on the Church to act justly, particularly in the appointment of clergy and bishops regardless of gender, race or sexual orientation. It calls for us to read the Scriptures rigorously and to respond to God's Word intelligently and thoughtfully so that we can use Scripture with deep understanding, care and dignity and not as a weapon for condemnation.

Churches that become members of Inclusive Church are asked to display the logo above, as designed by Martin Gwilliams. As people walk past our Church or look us up on the internet, they can see at a glance that we are willing to welcome anyone and everyone to share in the love of God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jo Monk

Church and Parish news

From the registers

Holy baptism

Sunday 7 April	**Jenson Michael AGER**
Sunday 28 April	**Skyler May SMITH**
	Ava ROWLATT
	LilyMae ROWLATT

Concert

The Tame Valley Brass Ensemble return to the Parish Hall for a 'Music for May' concert on Saturday 11 May (see the poster below).
All are welcome. The £5 entry fee includes the price of supper.

From the memorial book

1 **Eva Buckley** died this day 1976. Our memory of you is like the heart of a rose. The longer it lives, the sweeter it grows.

5 **Frank Kirkpatrick** died 1993 age 80 years. 'Loved and remembered always.'

8 **Thomas Metcalf Pollard** died 1933. 'TREASURED MEMORIES.'

12 **James Harrison Fitton** Born 15 September 1912, died this day 1988.

13 **Jack Battersby** A beloved husband, dad, grandad and father-in-law, died this day 1997. Loved and Remembered Every day.

16 **Norman John Taylor** died this day 2002. Never more than a thought away. Loved and remembered every day.

17 **Frank Feber** died this day 1979. BELOVED BY ALL.
Roger Wynn died 1996 aged 49 years. Only a thought away—affectionately Remembered.

18 **Albert Feber** died this day 1945 CONSISTENTLY STEADFAST
Phyllis Wrigley Born 19August 1909, died this day 1982. Loved and remembered always: Peter.

19 **Frank Hanson** died 1994. 'Loved and remembered always.'

20 **Joseph Henry Nicholson** died 1986. Remembered as a Loving Father and Grandad – Loved and missed.

25 **William Woodworth** died this day 1991, his 38th birthday. In loving memory of a dear Godfather and very special friend. 'Sadly missed.'

26 **Thomas Huttley** A faithful servant of the church for many years, died 1995. Lovingly appreciated by his family.

26 Birthday memories of **Betty Wadsworth.** A loving mother, a devoted grandmother and a true friend, gone from our lives but not from our hearts.

30 **Fred Adams** died this day 1995. 'Loved and Remembered Every Day.'

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WORDSEARCH

BIBLE STORIES AND EVENTS OCCURRING IN MAY: ASCENSION DAY, VISITATION OF MARY TO ELIZABETH

SAINTS AND SPECIAL PEOPLE WE REMEMBER IN MAY: ALCUIN, ATHANASIUS, BEDE, JAMES, JULIAN OF NORWICH, JUSTIN, MATTHIAS, PHILIP, SUNDAY, JOHN WESLEY

Curate's Corner

In just over a week, I'm going to Rome! I've been a couple of times before and done the whole touristy 'three coins in a fountain' bit (which obviously worked), but this time it will be more of a pilgrimage, as the itinerary includes visiting important sites of special significance to Christians.

Among other things, we will be visiting Mother Theresa's little cell at the Convent of the Missionaries of Charity, where one of the sisters who knew her, will address us.

Slightly off the usual tourist route, we will be going to one of Rome's earliest churches — the Church of Saint Paul at the Three Fountains (Chiesa del martirio di San Paolo alle Tre Fontane) where tradition tells that, because Paul was a Roman citizen, he was beheaded rather than crucified. The story was passed down that his head bounced three times on the ground, and at each spot a spring appeared.

We will also visit the Basilica of Santa Croce where various relics collected by the Emperor Constantine's Mother Helena are to be found. These include the panel which was hung on Christ's Cross; two thorns from the Crown of Thorns; part of a nail; the index finger of St Thomas; and three small wooden pieces of the True Cross.

Rome, the 'Eternal City', has been a sacred place and internationally important city since ancient times. It is a place St Peter and St Paul visited and where they died and, of course, many early Christians were martyred for their faith and for refusing to worship the Emperor.

In the words of Pope Benedict: 'To go on a pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe.'

My hopes for this visit are that it will be refreshing and holy: a chance to relax and enjoy fellowship with my fellow 'pilgrims', but also a time for prayer and meditation as I continue to prepare for my ordination to the priesthood next month.

Please pick up one of my 'Ember' cards at the back of church (which has details of the 'when' and 'where' of the ordination service) and hold me in your prayers .... thank you.

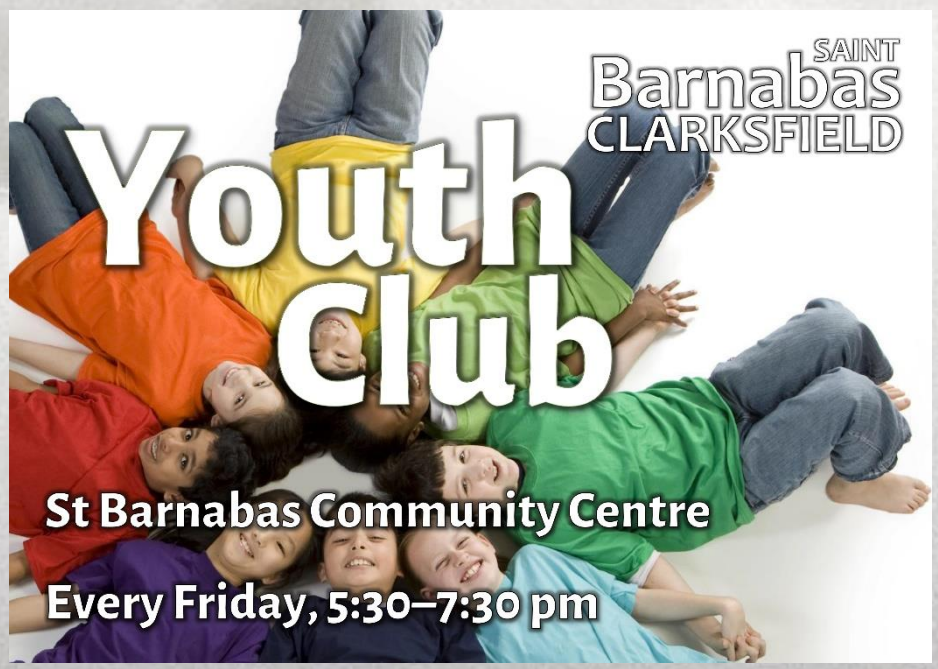
Revd. Jane

THE WEDDING AT CANA

CAN YOU SPOT THE 20 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO PICTURES?

Concert

Advance notice: the Marshall family will hold a concert in memory of Costella Marshall. The service is in Glodwick Church.



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Evidence

I have seen a few early butterflies this spring — small tortoiseshell, peacock, orange tip, but perhaps the finest was a male specimen of the brimstone butterfly fluttering strongly near the water treatment works. I watched it settle on a dandelion, a beautiful clear yellow insect against the deeper yellow of the flower. (Brimstone is an old name for sulphur, a yellow chemical formerly much used in horticulture.)

The butterfly depends on a very limited range of caterpillar food plants and one of these, a small tree called alder buckthorn, has been used as part of the vegetation screening the rear of the treatment works building. I see perhaps two or three a year but a book from 1895 suggests that brimstone butterflies were then abundant, 'One of the commonest of our native butterflies, this, like numberless other very common things, is also one of the loveliest, both in the graceful outline of its wings, and in the lively hue that overspreads their surface.'

One of the great audible pleasures among many making up the soundtrack to spring is the call of the curlew. No man-made instrument could imitate such joyful rolling cadences. There has been great concern about declining numbers of the bird but this morning I called at Denshaw reservoirs in the hope of hearing them and was not disappointed. On arrival I could also hear the cheery piping of an oystercatcher. From the roadside I could see two of these flying round above the water looking very smart in their black and white plumage with contrasting red bills. I walked on for a while listening for another sound. Eventually it came through — the song of a skylark. Skylark numbers are also in steep decline (because of changes in agricultural practices). There is something irreplaceable about their optimistic buzzing song and it always reminds me of my childhood when we lived near the marshes flanking the Thames estuary. Attempts had been made to drain the land and when disturbed, herons would rise from the wide ditches that had been dug. Unusual plants grew there in salt-laden silt and marine worms made soft popping noises. In the right season, from a small speck very high up, could be heard the skylark's distant song.

Last month I expressed a wish that green woodpeckers would once again be heard in our locality. Wishes do sometimes come true and their shrill laughing call can currently be heard against a thrush-generated background near the upper Strinesdale reservoir.

Skylark

Church diary

May 2019

Weds 1	9:00–10:00 am: **Scripture breakfast** at St Barnabas. 7:00 pm: **Family-friendly Communion**.
Thurs 2	9:30 am: **Morning prayer** in the Vestry.
Sunday 5	11:00 am: Service for **the Third Sunday of Easter.**
Tuesday 7	7:30 pm: **Home group** at 4 Heather Close.
Weds 8	9:00–10:00 am: **Scripture breakfast** at St Barnabas. 7:00 pm: **Family-friendly Communion**.
Thurs 9	9:30 am: **Morning prayer** in the Vestry.
Saturday 11	7:30 pm: Concert by **the Tame Valley Brass** in the Hall. The ticket price includes supper.
Sunday 12	11:00 am: Service for **the Fourth Sunday of Easter**.
Weds 15	9:00–10:00 am: **Scripture breakfast** at St Barnabas. 7:00 pm: **Family-friendly Communion**.
Thurs 16	9:30 am: **Morning prayer** in the Vestry.
Sunday 19	11:00 am: Service for **the Fifth Sunday Easter**.
Monday 20	7:30 pm: **Archdeacon's Visitation** at Waterhead Church.
Tuesday 21	7:30 pm: **Full meeting of the PCC** in the Church.
Weds 22	9:00–10:00 am: **Scripture breakfast** at St Barnabas. 7:00 pm: **Family-friendly Communion**.
Thurs 23	9:30 am: **Morning prayer** in the Vestry.
Sunday 26	11:00 am: Service for **the Sixth Sunday of Easter.**
Weds 29	9:00–10:00 am: **Scripture breakfast** at St Barnabas. 7:00 pm: **Family-friendly Communion**.
Thurs 30	11:00 am: Service for **Ascension Day** in the Church.

June 2019

Sunday 2	11:00 am: Service for **Seventh Sunday of Easter**.

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