



# Holy Trinity WATERHEAD

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**February 2022**  
**[holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk](http://holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk)**



# Services at Holy Trinity Church

**Sunday 11:00 am Parish Worship**  
**Wednesday 7:00 pm Family Communion**

**Baptisms and marriages by arrangement with the Vicar.**

**Please submit items for the March magazine by 15 February.**  
**You can e-mail files to paulmonk111@gmail.com**

## People at Holy Trinity Church

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<b>Guides</b>	<b>Karen and Lisa Cannon</b>	
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<b>Scouts</b>	<b>Mark Dickinson</b>	<b>(07976) 666 512</b>

## Letter from the Vicar

The seasons of the Church move forward. Christmas and Epiphany are past with their outward trappings of white and gold. From now until the beginning of Lent we've changed these trappings to green.

These colours have symbolic meaning. Like all festivals of our Lord, the vestments and altar cloth are white to symbolise purity and new life. The green of so-called 'Ordinary Time' reflects the world of nature, ecology, the environment and by extension everything that God has made.

The transition from white to green illustrates the wider truth that all Christians are called to take the purity and new life that comes from God coming to birth in human lives out into the world. God shares His purity and new life with us because He intends us to share them ever wider, taking the love of God we learn in Church and taking it out into the world.

We need to take God with us into the world because so much of the world is spiritually and morally in need of His new life and purity. We 'take God into the world' insofar as He lives within us, His children. And God accompanies us insofar as we can go to places and attend meetings, etc., in an attitude of prayer.

We need to actually have God within ourselves if we are to genuinely take Him with us into the wider world. No one can share what they do not first have for themselves.

The central theme of Christmas is incarnation, when God came to birth in the baby Jesus. Epiphany widens that theme as Jesus is recognised by the Magi who were Gentiles and therefore outsiders. It's now our turn to share Jesus with everyone in our own land, culture, setting, language, and context.

Therefore, as we move from white in Church to green, remember the transition it invites us to.

Wishing everyone the joy of knowing and sharing the new life that comes from knowing Jesus:

PAUL





Our former curate, the Revd Jane Hyde at her licensing service on Wednesday 5 January. She is now an Associate Priest in Middleton working with the Revd Jenni Beaumont (left).

## Answers to the Bible quiz on page 12

### Old Testament

There are 39 books

The longest book is Psalms

Approximately 1100–1300 years

The shortest book is Obadiah

### New Testament

There are 27 books

The Third Letter of John is the shortest

The longest book is Acts

# Bible readings for February

## Sunday 30 January

### Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

First: Ezekiel 43:27 — 44:4

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 13:1–13

Gospel: Luke 2:22–40

## Sunday 6 February

### Fourth Sunday before Lent

First: Isaiah 6:1–8

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Gospel: Luke 5:1–11

## Sunday 13 February

### Third Sunday before Lent

First: Jeremiah 17:5–10

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:12–20

Gospel: Luke 6:17–26

## Sunday 20 February

### Second Sunday before Lent

First: Genesis 2:4b–9, 15–25

Epistle: Revelation 4

Gospel: Luke 8:22–25

## Sunday 27 February

### Sunday next before Lent

First: Exodus 34:29–end

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:1–4:2

Gospel: Luke 9:28–36

## Wednesday 2 March

### Ash Wednesday

First: Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

Gospel: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

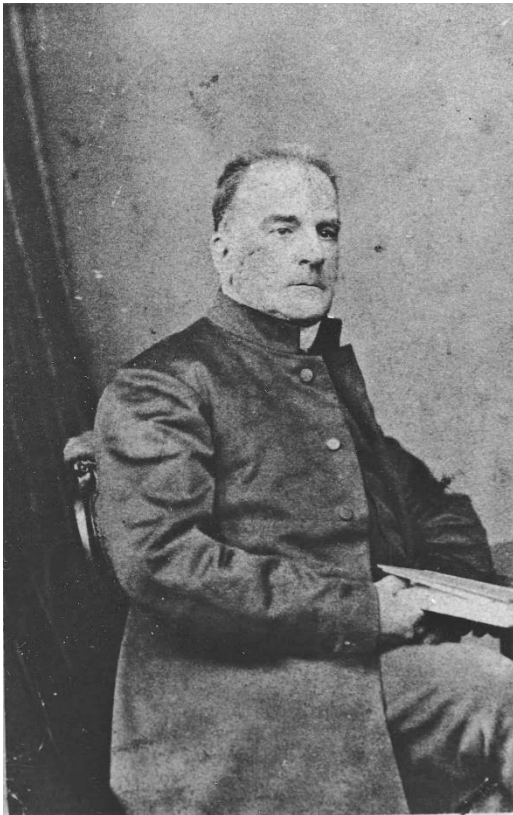
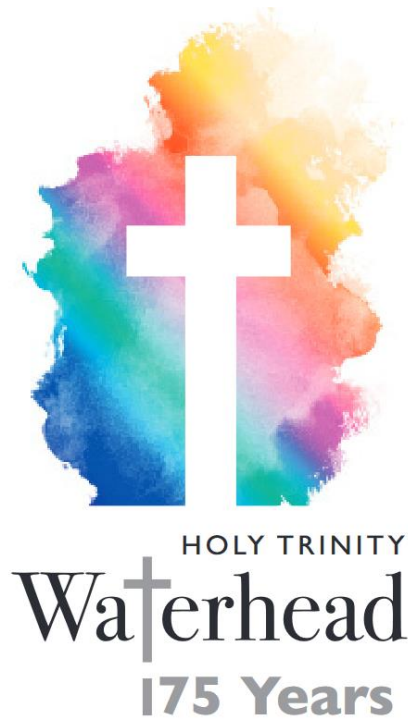


'I blame this on manna-made climate change!'  
(with apologies to Numbers 14)



## From the archives

The first Vicar of our Church was the Revd Patrick Reynolds, in 1847. He was previously curate of Blackly Church. Parliament paid his stipend but Reynolds had to finance the new Church. Amazingly, he laid the first stone within three months of arriving here. He wrote a total of 4,800 begging letters, and raised the astonishing sum needed of £3,780 5s 6d. He also built the new *Waterhead National School* that opened in 1852 as a joint day- and Sunday School. He also helped found St Thomas' Moorside as a daughter Church.



This photograph of Vicar Reynolds must have been obtained before he left the Parish in 1854, even then a mere 16 years after photography was invented.

That the church could afford a photograph of its minister demonstrates that Oldham was then a town of great wealth.

## From the Parish Registers

### Christian Funeral

Thursday 6 January

Friday 14 January

Monday 24 January

Thursday 27 January

Barry Harvey, at Oldham Crematorium.

Dorothy Fletcher, in Waterhead Church followed by a committal at Oldham Crematorium.

Joyce Booth, at St Barnabas Church followed by a committal at Oldham Crematorium.

Joan Patrician Bradley at St Barnabas Church followed by a committal at Greenacres Cemetery.



'Look at the fancy Joseph tree!'  
(with apologies to Genesis 37:3-36)



## Background to climate science

Science proceeds through a combination of experimentation to collect information (which we might call 'data' and 'evidence') and comparing this information with ideas that help explain these observations (which we usually call 'theories' and 'models').

The scientific models describing climate change are evolving with time because scientists continually collect ever more information. Scientists continually adjust and improve their models, refining them until the model can better explain the information. It's likely the model is essentially correct when it can explain the information. Climate science is close to reaching this state of understanding climate change.

The information on climate change describes a model in which pollution is damaging the climate at an ever-increasing rate. Climate scientists believe it is possible to halt climate change, but they also believe the necessary timescale is urgently short — probably only a few years. None of the current models allows any doubt about these consequences. The only serious doubt concerns the timescales at which these events will occur.

If the changes to the amounts of pollution entering the atmosphere do not decrease drastically during this short timescale, climate scientists believe that the earth's climate may never recover, or it may require thousands of years after humankind has become extinct.

## The climate-change model and ecology

Many kinds of pollution exist such as light-pollution, plastic, litter, and gas-based emissions. This discussion concentrates on the gases that enter the environment and cause it damage.

Pollution can occur naturally, but most of it is a result of human activity. The amount of natural pollution has not changed much over time, but the amount of human-made pollution has increased considerably since the Industrial Revolution about 250 years ago. The observed large increases in pollution are therefore the result of human activity.

The amount of human-made pollution in the world shows no sign of decreasing. It might even be increasing.

Pollution has increased the average temperature of the world's atmosphere. This rise in temperature has itself changed the world's climate. That is why the world is experiencing storms of greater violence and more hurricanes, and disturbed patterns of rainfall (more / less rain per annum in different parts of the world, in different seasons, etc.). These changes in climate affect all living things that live on the earth.

This conversion of ice to form water is causing the level of the sea to rise. Millions of people living in low-lying islands and coastal regions are at risk of becoming homeless as their homes become submerged. Stated differently, millions of people will have to migrate elsewhere, to higher ground.

The change in global climate is causing the extinction of many species. The resulting changes to the earth's biodiversity is itself changing habitats and threatening the food chain we all depend on. Millions of people will starve or must migrate in search of enough food.

Scientists believe that reversing the changes caused by the rise in average global temperature is unlikely within a viable timescale. Permanent damage to the world's ecology seems increasingly likely.

## Responding to climate change

Humans create the pollution that is causing climate change. The only solution is to decrease the amounts of pollution that humans create. No other option will make a big enough change.

Governments and organisations such as schools and churches often set emission targets. These goals help measure the amounts of pollution they produce and help when quantifying their success in decreasing the amount of pollution they create. Many organisations want a target of 'net-zero' which means the amount of pollution generated is the same as the amount of pollution removed. All targets require that an emitter knows how much pollution they create and will take into consideration many factors. Commonly, the measurable factors will include buildings, travel, diet, etc.

Humans have many ways of decreasing the amounts of pollution they cause. The simplest way to decrease the amounts of pollution we create is to stop those processes that involve burning. To that end, almost all forms of travel must decrease very significantly — in particular, all forms of air travel and, to a lesser extent, the use of petrol or diesel-consuming vehicles. Those vehicles remaining will need to be small and powered by electricity. The energy we consume for heat must stop using gas. Householders and organisations must switch their energy supplier to a source that is renewable.

In summary, all humans must stop consuming and wasting the resources of the world. All of us must therefore learn to reduce and therefore adapt what we do; reuse and therefore mend rather than buying new; and recycle.

*All these statements can be fact checked from reputable sources.*



Rosa Louise McCauley was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, on 4 February 1913. Her parents separated shortly after her younger brother was born.

Her mother was a teacher so the family valued education. Rosa moved to Montgomery, Alabama, and eventually attended high school there. Schooling was segregated, so her school was only for non-white students. She left at 16 to care for her dying grandmother and, soon thereafter, her chronically ill mother.

In 1932, at 19, she married Raymond Parks, an older, self-educated man who worked as a barber and was a life-long member of the *National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People* (NAACP). He supported Rosa in her efforts to earn a diploma. Rosa began work as a seamstress.

The couple were respected members of Montgomery's large African-American community which fought the local segregation laws that made daily life so difficult. For example, coloured people could only attend prescribed schools, drink from specified water fountains, and borrow books from a 'Black Library.'

Rosa joined the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP in 1943 and became its secretary. Her husband feared for her safety and discouraged her.

Rosa became famous on Thursday 1 December 1955. She was 42 and was taking the bus home. Non-white residents often avoided public transport because the 'Negroes-in-the-Back' policy was demeaning. Nonetheless, 70 percent or more riders on a typical day were African-Americans. Rosa was one of them.

Montgomery laws were contradictory: one promoted segregation while another said no person (white or black) could be asked to give up a seat even if there were no other seat on the bus available.

At some point during the journey, a white man entered the bus and found there was no seat in the designated 'white-only'. The driver told the riders in the four seats of the first row of the 'coloured' section to stand, in effect adding another row to the 'white' section. Three people obeyed and Rosa did not. A stand-off ensued and two police officers arrested her.

Rosa was not the first non-white person to be arrested for refusing to yield her seat on a Montgomery bus. Nine months previously, a 15-year-old named Claudette Colvin was also arrested for the same offence.

### More information

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/rosa-parks>

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2013/02/01/february-1-2013-the-rosa-parks-papers/14627/>

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1995-01-21-me-22523-story.html>

'People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired,' Rosa wrote later in her autobiography 'but that isn't true. I was not tired physically ... No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.'

News of Rosa's arrest spread fast. Many in Montgomery's non-white population boycotted public transport on the day of Rosa's trial. She was found guilty, given a suspended sentence, and fined.

The boycott was larger than even optimists anticipated. Local Church ministers used the momentum to form the *Montgomery Improvement Association*. Its leader was a newly appointed Baptist minister named Martin Luther King Jr.

Legal action went through the courts all the way to the US Supreme Court and, a year after the incident, the Court ruled that bus segregation was not constitutional. Rosa was soon known as 'the mother of the civil rights movement.'

Over the next half-century, Parks became a nationally recognised symbol of dignity and strength in the struggle to end entrenched racial segregation. In fact, she experienced continuing harassment and eventually had to move.

In the years following her retirement, Rosa travelled widely to support civil-rights events. She wrote an autobiography *My Story*.

Rosa was a life-long member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which said that faith requires people to act in the world. Her 1995 book *Quiet Strength* focuses on the role that her Christian faith played throughout her life and the way her strength came from God.

She died in October 2005 aged 92 and was the first woman in US history to lie in state in the US Capitol.

# Rosa Parks



# Introducing the Bible

Bible means 'books' because it not a single work, but a library of 66 books. The Bible is sub-divided into two long sections that we call 'testaments.' This word is best translated as 'a promise with a guarantee.'

**Can you fill in the blanks?** The answers appear on page 4.

## The Old Testament

- It includes \_\_ books.
- It was written by a many people over a period of about \_\_\_\_ years.
- We do not know the names of most of its authors.
- It was completed about 200 BC so two centuries before Jesus was born.
- The longest book is P \_\_\_\_\_, with 150 chapters — one of which is 176 verses long and one is only 4 verses long.
- The shortest book is O \_\_\_\_\_, which is less than 600 words long.



## The New Testament

- It includes \_\_ books.
- It was written by a small number of people over a period of about 45–80 years.
- We know the names of most of its authors, but not all.
- It was probably completed in about 110 AD, so about 75 years after Jesus died.
- Its longest book is the \_\_\_\_\_ at 28 chapters.
- Its shortest book is the \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of \_\_\_\_\_ at just over 300 words.

T	A	G	C	M	U	H	A	N	T	M	E
I	L	E	V	I	T	I	C	U	S	A	P
T	U	N	B	S	U	L	T	M	N	L	H
U	K	E	X	O	D	U	S	B	A	A	E
S	E	S	P	M	V	K	M	E	M	C	S
H	D	I	S	A	M	E	M	R	O	H	I
A	I	S	A	I	A	H	L	S	R	I	A
C	E	F	L	I	R	J	O	H	N	Q	N
I	H	G	M	W	K	X	Y	A	X	T	S
M	A	T	T	H	E	W	Z	A	A	R	S

## Find the following books

Books in blue are in the **New Testament**

Books in brown are in the **Old Testament**

ACTS	AMOS	EPHESIANS	EXODUS
GENESIS	ISAIAH	JOHN	LEVITICUS
LUKE	MALACHI	MARK	MATTHEW
MICAH	NAHUM	NUMBERS	PSALM
ROMANS	TITUS		



# Literature type

When reading a verse or passage in the Bible, one of the most important questions we should always ask is: 'What *type* of writing is this?' We speak of the kind of **literature type** (which is also called **genre**).

## Type

**Rules and regulations:** the **Law**. This class of literature can also include *liturgy*.

**Biographies**  
Mainly the four books concerning Jesus' life, which we call the *Gospels*.

**Prophecy** (e.g. the works of Isaiah) which record the times when God spoke directly to his chosen people, the Hebrews. Much of the prophecy in the Old Testament is written in the form of poetry, so its images are highly metaphorical and can be very difficult to understand.

**Poetry** Psalms is a good example. Hebrew poetry is beautiful, but is written in a heavily stylised form. It is sometimes difficult to understand wordplay in translation.

**Narrative and history**  
A fact-based use of language.

**Metaphor and parable:** exploring reality with pictures and images. 'The kingdom of heaven is like ...'

**Letters** to people or to groups of people in local churches:

- To named individuals such as Titu
- To churches e.g. Romans.
- To all Christian believers e.g. the letter of James.

### Psalm 23

Type =

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
- <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

### Exodus 20

Type =

- <sup>1</sup> God spoke all these words ...
- <sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before me.
- <sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them ...
- <sup>7</sup> "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. <sup>8</sup> "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>12</sup> "Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup> "You shall not murder.
- <sup>14</sup> "You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup> "You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup> "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour. <sup>17</sup> "You shall not covet.

### Luke 19

Type =

- <sup>1</sup> Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and very wealthy. <sup>3</sup> He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.' <sup>6</sup> So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.
- <sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to mutter, 'He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.'
- <sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

### Philippians

Type =

- <sup>1</sup> From Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons. <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Examples of literature type





**Colour this page**

This picture shows Simeon and Anna and the baby Jesus. You can find the story in the Bible, in Luke 2:22–40.

## February wordsearch



**Find the following words in the wordsearch above**

Blessings, Candlemas, Candles, Christian, Church, Feast, February, Forty days, Holy Day, Jesus, Light, Mary, Presentation, Ritual, Second, Temple, Traditions, Winter.



# Thank you...

As we approach Candlemas, and after my first few weeks of ministry in a new place, I send you all greetings from Middleton.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank you again for your gifts, cards and messages of love and support and especially for the truly beautiful white designer stole that both churches presented to me at my last service.

As some of you will have heard me say on that occasion, it will be perfect to wear as I baptise new disciples into the Christian family to which we all belong. It was blessed by Paul at Holy Trinity and I was able to wear it most fittingly the Sunday after on the Feast of the Baptism of Christ as I presided at a Eucharist in Rochdale. Its first 'proper' outing will be at a Christening towards the end of January and I am sure to remember you all as I administer this most important Christian Sacrament.

I'd also like to thank those of you who were able to attend and support me at the joint licensing of myself and my new 'boss' Jenni. It was a keenly anticipated occasion by those who had been waiting for a new ministry team for many months, indeed, so excited was one of the Churchwardens that he had been counting down the 'sleeps' until we arrived ... rather like a child at Christmas!

The service itself was very special, and thank you Paul (who 'gave me away') for your generous and complimentary words as you introduced me to the Bishop and the congregation.

I hope and pray that St Barnabas and Holy Trinity and the other churches in the Oldham and Ashton Deanery—specifically Mission Community 4 (that's you!) will flourish as new and exciting Holy-Spirit-inspired initiatives are developed. May God be with you as you journey on ...

Revd Jane





God, the source  
of all insight, whose coming  
was revealed to the nations  
not among men of power but on a  
woman's lap: give us grace  
to seek you where you  
may be found, that the wisdom  
of this world may be humbled  
and discover your unexpected joy.

**Candlemas**  
by Janet Morley

Candlemas  
by Sarah Baldwin

## Candlemas

The Church celebrates Candlemas forty days after Christmas Day. It therefore occurs on 2 February which, this year, falls on a Wednesday.

Candlemas remembers the story of Anna and Simeon in Luke 2:22–35. It's often called the Feast of the Presentation, because it describes Jesus' parents taking their first-born son to the Temple in Jerusalem to be dedicated to the service of God while still a very young baby.

The Feast of the Presentation is one of the oldest festivals in the Christian church. We know it's been celebrated in Jerusalem since the fourth century but it may have been celebrated elsewhere before then.

The feast is often called 'Candlemas' from the Song of Simeon (which we also call the *Nunc Dimittis*) which forms a central part of the story. It describes Simeon describing Jesus as 'a light to lighten the gentiles and a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.' Gentiles and Israel together represent *everyone*. And God's Glory in the Old Testament, and often the New, is manifested as visible light—think of the Transfiguration. This hymn therefore describes Jesus as a source of spiritual light to all people of faith.

When the name was coined, the simplest source of light was the common candle, so candles because a visual metaphor for the way the light of Christ banishes spiritual darkness.

The name 'Candlemas' actually means 'celebration of candles.' As well as remembering Jesus as the light of the world, Candlemas was the occasion when candles were blessed. Worshippers took all their candles for the coming year to their Church where they were blessed.

Often Christians would say a simple prayer to 'Jesus, light of the world' each time they lit one of their blessed candles, asking God to protect their lives and homes, and banish the darkness they feared.

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;  
A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel. *Luke 2.29–32*

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever.  
Amen.





Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. This year, it occurs on Wednesday 2 March. It therefore makes sense to think even now about our Lenten observances.

Lent is an opportunity for solemn self examination. Each question needs to be framed in terms of our Christ-like-ness, or lack of it. That is why the central image of the Ash Wednesday service is drawing a cross on each worshipper's forehead. It acts like a filter between the world as we perceive it and our mind.

A common practice during Lent is giving up something we usually take for granted. For example, we eat less or eat more plainly. There are three good reasons to do so:

1. We express our solidarity with the poor and marginalised—those who cannot eat well or enjoy luxuries because they cannot afford to.
2. Practising self-denial helps build spiritual resilience and self discipline. Those habits can then be applied to all other aspects of the spiritual life.
3. We may save money, for example by buying simpler food we spend less at the shops. The money we save can go toward a cause that helps spread Godliness.

Therefore, a month before Lent formally starts, please start thinking about how you intend to grow spiritually this year. How do *you* intend to live a holy Lent?

**Please join us as we celebrate Ash Wednesday  
at St Barnabas at 2:00 pm.**

## How can I live a holy Lent?



## Did you know?

But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.' Isaiah 43:1

The Angel said, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.' Luke 1:13

Gabriel said [to Joseph], 'Mary will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' Matthew 1:21

The Jewish people took great care when choosing a name when a child was born. They asked God what traits they thought He wanted their child to grow into. The chosen name was considered to be prophetic and predictive, so they named a child 'Wisdom' if they wanted it to grow up to be wise. They might call a child 'Mercy' or 'Merciful' to illustrate the concept of mercy. Some African countries still use this idea.

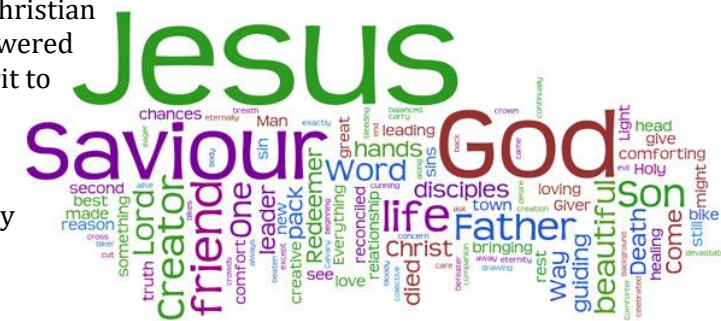
The name 'Jesus' is a Greek translation of a Jewish name: Joshua, which means 'The Lord saves.' And John is a Greek translation of 'Johanan' which means 'God is gracious' (or 'God gives grace'). Jesus did literally bring salvation through the Cross; and John the Baptist did truly demonstrate the grace of God through the promise of forgiveness, as symbolised by washing sins away at baptism.

Christians have adopted some of these ideas about names. For example, until quite recently, a person took a new name when they were baptised, hence the concept of a 'Christian name.' We see this in the baptism liturgy when a priest first names the person before baptising them. saying: 'X—, I baptise you ...'

Christian names were usually chosen with the hope that a person would be like one of the saints or a friend known to be a good Christian.

Second, all of us have a new name following baptism. We are 'Christian.' That name points to Jesus whom we follow. He saves us through the Cross. We seek to copy him in the way we choose to live.

Thirdly, being a Christian means we are empowered by God the Holy Spirit to be more truly ourselves—the person God wants us to be. That's what 'called by name' really means.





# Prayer

## for February

### Giving Glory to God the Trinity The Doxology

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

The word *doxology* come from a Greek word meaning 'glory.'

We say these words at the end of a psalm or other holy songs from the Bible. Saying the doxology reminds us to give glory to God rather than to ourselves or other people. It also tells us that God is a Trinity. Giving each of them glory in turn tells us that each of the three persons is equal. That reminder is particularly important if we generally prefer to think of God as Father, or as Son, or as Holy Spirit rather than as a Trinity of three persons.

Some Christians say the doxology after other prayers, after reading a passage from the Bible, and at other times in the day. And some Christians pray the doxology on its own.

# Church diary

## for February

Sunday 6 February 11:00 am: The Bishop of Middleton, the Rt Revd Mark Davies, will lead our service.

Wednesday 2 March 7:00 pm: Ash Wednesday service (which includes ashing)





AGE UK  
REGISTERED



CCTV  
ALARMS  
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# HANDY MAN SERVICE

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Moses turned water into blood to  
save the people.  
Jesus turned water into wine,  
and then turned that wine into his  
own blood to save the people.

Anon



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News of the success of Moses' mother's 'basket plan' sparked what would later become known as 'The great baby rush.'  
(with apologies to Exodus 2:1-9)

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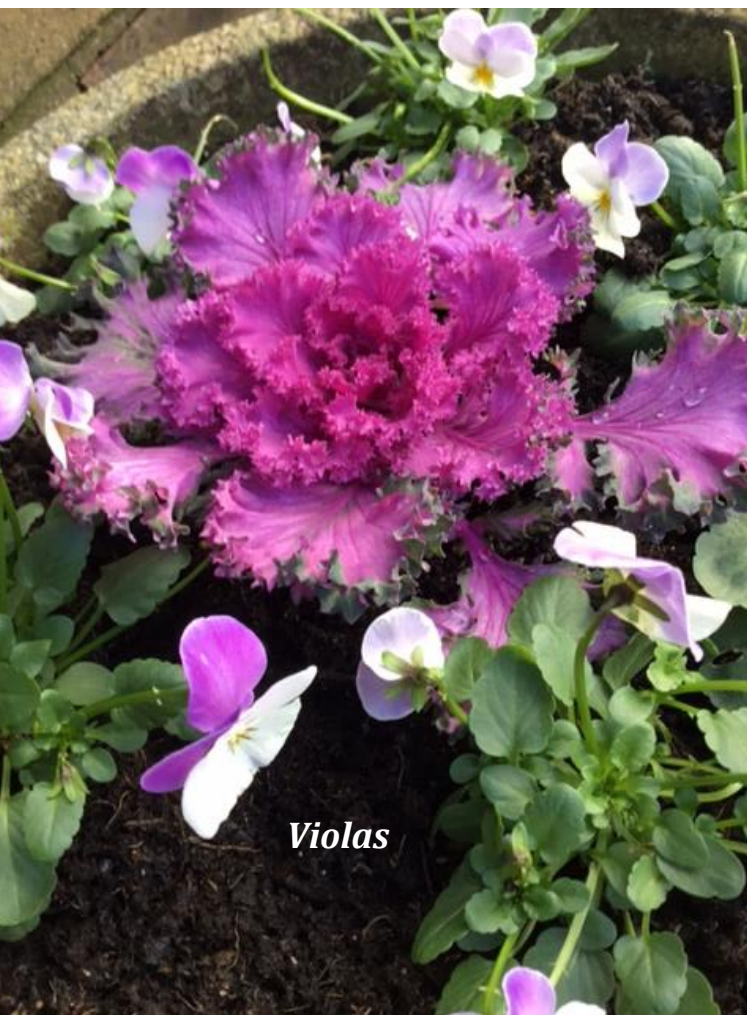
At the top of the golden steps stands a sturdy stone bridge bearing the chiselled inscription Oldham Corporation Waterworks. Adjacent to the bridge and in the direction of the treatment works a cluster of ash tree

# Evidence

seedlings are destructively sprouting from the stone-work lining the channel, levering out blocks laid during the nineteenth century. Many of the ash stems have died and as I peered from the bridge on the afternoon of 28 December I disturbed a kingfisher which was using one of the dead twigs as a perch. The bird flew off along the channel following a dead straight line. With the wings a semi-transparent brown blur the back of the bird held all the turquoise colour and in perfect winter light this seemed to glow and shimmer as the bird streaked towards

the treatment works. Such was the intensity of colour that it was possible fancifully to imagine fragments of turquoise pigment dispersing from the back of the bird to dissolve into the air.

In front of the RSPCA centre on the River Medlock embankment there are several long-dead elm trees, doubtless knocked out by the beetle-spread fungus Which causes Dutch elm disease. At the beginning of January I was watching a Jay pecking at one of these when it probed beneath the flaking bark for insects or anything edible. The



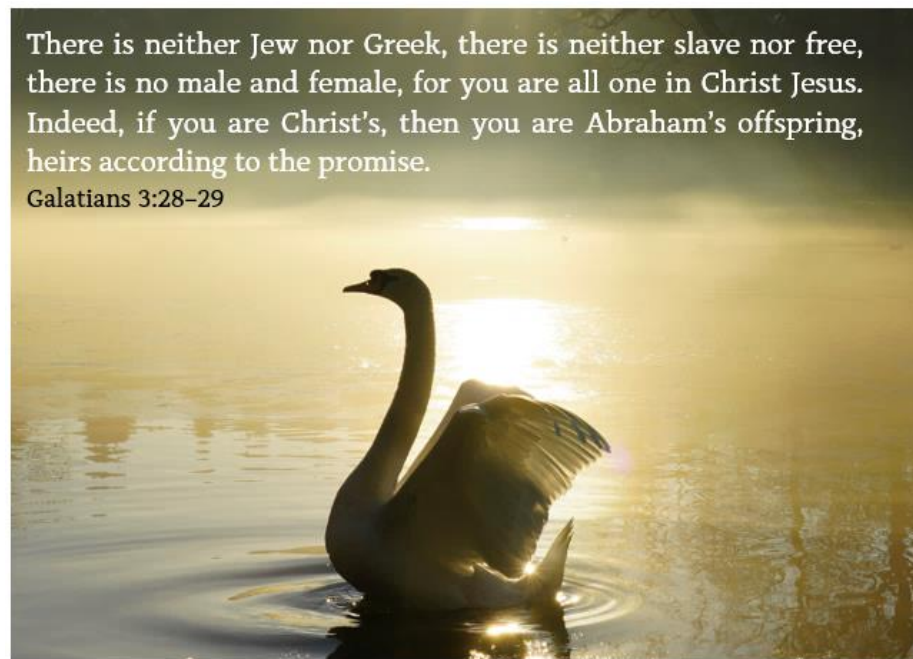
Jay was the first large and colourful bird that I learnt to recognise. While not particularly interesting when seen flying overhead in small groups making their harsh and grating squawk they are striking when the whole bird can be seen. Dusky pink with a white rump and beautiful blue flashes on the wings. I always think of this colour as Wedgewood blue after the famous Jasperware ceramic items of that shade.

One day I noticed a weasel darting across the path and down a bank. While camera traps have made it possible to study the behaviour of this tiny carnivore they are not otherwise easy to observe because they run everywhere. They need to search out a lot of prey, principally voles and mice, to maintain their high-energy lifestyle. I watched as the creature emerged from a hollow at the base of a tree, scurried to investigate the fronds of a male fern, dashed into a badger sett and out again, fast sprint under a moss-covered fallen tree trunk, emerge from the other side and vanish. Birds are also taken as prey, and someone living at Grasscroft told me that he had seen a weasel repeatedly entering the spaces in his stone-built garden wall. Close observation revealed that hibernating frogs were the object of the weasel's interest and could be readily pulled out for an easy meal.

A neighbour has kindly given us some violas and ornamental cabbages. The violas have a simplicity and charm which make them 'amongst the most delightful of all plants growing wild and in the garden' as one writer of yesteryear put it. They thrive in containers and being tough shrug off much hard weather.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free,  
there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.  
Indeed, if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring,  
heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:28-29



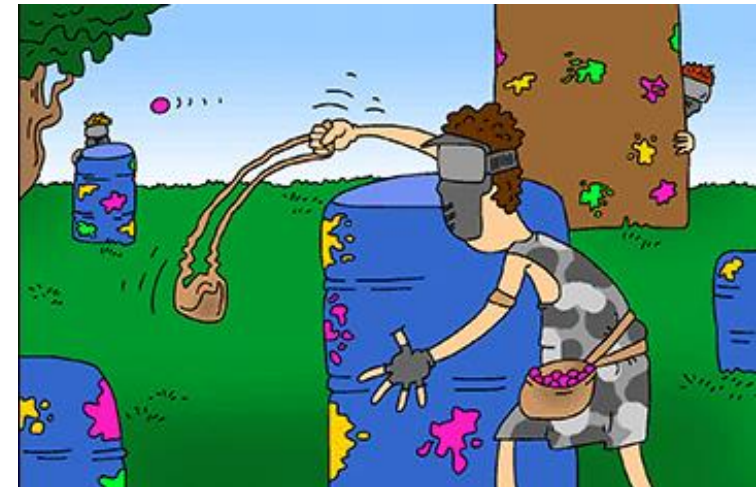


# From the memorial book

- 1 **Doris McCormick** died this day 2010. 'Always a kind word, always a smile.'
- 2 **Kenneth William Shaw** died in 1981 'Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.'
- 5 **Florence Belshaw** died this day 2004. In memory of a dear Mum. 'Good night and God bless.' Daughters Audrey and Joan.
- 7 **Emma Ribchester** died 1991 'In heavenly love abiding.'
- 10 **Fred Tomlinson** died this day 1995. 'Always in our thoughts.'
- 13 **Edith Alice Nicholson** died 1991 aged 65 years. 'In Loving memory of a Dear Mother and Grandmother.'
- 14 **Sgt Kirt Connell** died tragically this day 2015 aged 33. Always remembered.
- 15 **Nora Robinson** Beloved Wife and Mother. Died on this day 1982 aged 83 years.
- 16 **Trevor Crossley** died this day 2010 aged 66 years. Loved and thought of every minute of every day. MC.
- 18 **William Dalton** died 1937. His years were short numbered, yet his kindness is remembered.
- 19 **Mary Berry** nee Gartside died this day 1998. Widow of Frank Berry who died January 1979. R.I.P.  
**Elsie Prendergast** – a special mum and grandma. Loved and remembered forever.
- 22 **Fred Lees** died this day 1986. Never more than a thought away. Loved and remembered every day.  
**Frances Cheetham (Nancy)** died 1991. A tireless worker for the church.  
**Esther Pollard** died 1960. 'In heavenly love abiding.'
- 25 **Muriel Fitton** died 2006. Former Chorister and Sunday School Teacher. Also Organist at St Catherine's Church, Old Colwyn, for 32 years.
- 28 **John Illing** Dearly loved Son, Brother, Uncle and Treasured Godson, died this day 1995. 'Called to Higher Service.'
- Cecil Buckley** a beloved husband and dad, died this day 1953 aged 57 years. Will always be remembered and loved by his family.



**There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**  
**Galatians 3:28**



**The shepherd boy David was particularly good in the paintball arena.**  
(with apologies to 1 Samuel 17)





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