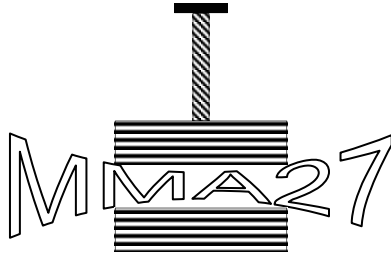


Winepress



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November 2008

'Ho! Ho! Ho!' or 'Holy, holy, holy' ?

As we approach Christmas at St Luke's, we are considering the coming of the King, Jesus Christ ('Christ' means Messiah or King), through the lens of the Old Testament book Isaiah, written around 700BC. In chapter 6 of Isaiah, we see that even the angels cover their faces and their feet in the presence of the King and are calling to one another "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." In chapter 12 of the apostle John's account of Jesus, John, speaking of Isaiah 6, tells us that Isaiah said what he did because "he saw Jesus and spoke of him."



We find in the book of Isaiah considerable detail about the identity, character and work of Jesus Christ. His work? To reveal more of God to us, to tell us about the Kingdom, to die on the Cross for the sins of his people and to rise again. God has an international rescue mission in play which spans the whole of history. And even when our lives, and the world around us, seem out of control, they are not out of God's concern or control. The Lord Almighty is in the business of redeeming lives and situations and calls us to trust him. Christmas is about 'holy, holy, holy' and also about 'hope, hope, hope'!

St. Luke's church is in the business of bringing this hope to as many people as possible. Over the past six months we have seen *Karibuni*, our toddler-friendly café, get up and running and become incredibly popular with upwards of twenty-five mums (and some dads) and many children every Wednesday.

In September we began the process of fundraising in order to improve the church building. As soon as sufficient funds are in, we will be building a new path to give wheelchair (and pushchair) access to the building, upgrading the lighting, creating a new 'worship space', and building new rooms including a kitchen and wheelchair-accessible toilet facilities.

And as we go into 2009, look out for a new midweek service at St Luke's. It will be an afternoon, after-school service pitched at younger children and their parents/carers which will include craft activities and lots of fun.



This Christmas, may you, like Isaiah, glimpse something more of how '*holy, holy, holy*' the Lord Almighty is, and how he wants to bring '*hope, hope, hope*' into your life.

TERRY CLARK

Bring and Share

I hope everyone has enjoyed the bring-and-share lunches at St James'. They have been a great success and we hope to continue them on the first Sunday of each month, when there is no evening service. Thank you to everyone who has brought food for sharing.

The purpose of these lunches is to have a time of fellowship and, with this in mind, there will be a special Advent lunch on 7th December when we look forward to and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. What better excuse for a party and to be entertained? A time of blessing for one and all! Please could I ask that you would all bring a little extra food as we have a guest speaker and visitors at St James' service that morning?

On a practical note, it would be helpful if slicing and/or cutting could be done at home as this would help us to serve the meal much more quickly.

DENISE PARRY

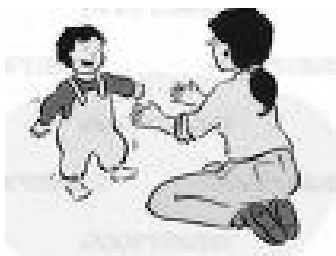
See and Know

In 1996, a mum decided to incorporate the See and Know format into the baby and toddler group run by Whitfield Parish, and it is still being used today. Children learn about God and his love using activity, singing and craft, as well as having time to play. Appealing to the senses and using a variety of topics, e.g. colours, Easter, Christmas, our families etc., we aim to have fun while learning together some simple Christian truths which are a firm foundation for the children as they grow. We learn that:

- God made everything
- God loves us, whatever and wherever
- The Bible is God's word
- It is good to care and share
- We can talk to God

Thank you to everyone who helps to run See and Know on a weekly basis and prays with us for all our children and families. It is good to welcome Mel, Ann and Jan this term.

We meet every Thursday and Friday morning during term time in the Vineyard on Charlestown Road, from 10am - 11.30 am. We also have a party at the end of each term. Those in the Summers of 2007 and 2008 were held in St James', where we had 2 bouncy castles in the church!



Our Christmas party this year will be in the Vineyard on Friday 5th December at 10am, and we will finish the term with an informal Nativity in St James' Church on Thursday 11th December. You are very welcome to join us.

(Please phone Kathy on 863586 for more information).

KATHY LEASON

Refresh FM

I currently work for the BBC and in my free time have volunteered for a local Christian radio station called Refresh FM. This runs over Easter in Manchester each year and can be heard live or through podcasts at refreshfm.org.uk. Terry Clark has kindly contributed to the 'drivetime' programme in the past, with his 'Jesus at the Movies' slot. If any others of you would like to be involved in making great Christian radio, please get in touch.



With the help of Tess Thewlis from The Message Trust, I made a documentary about Christians working in prisons and with ex-offenders. We visited a young offenders' institute where a man had been inspired to change his life through the work of Youth For Christ and the testimony of Lyn Connolly. Lyn and Mick's son was murdered in Liverpool in a random attack, but they chose to forgive the killers and Lyn now visits prisons, sharing her experiences. Her story of forgiveness is just one of many we heard; Christians are doing challenging but life-transforming work here.

Unbeknown to me, the steering group at Refresh FM entered the programme for a Jerusalem Award to celebrate Christian broadcasting and I was short-listed for 'Under 25 Producer'. On 25th September a few of us from the team went to London for an award ceremony. My category was last, and by then I was so nervous I was shaking. When it was announced that I had won, I got the only cheer of the night (from the rowdy people at Refresh!). It was a great experience.

The award goes to everyone who worked on the documentary: the presenter, Tess, Reflex, the Greater Manchester Community Chaplaincy and Lyn Connolly from IMPACT. Good stories keep people listening to the radio, and those we featured shared the message of hope for prisoners and for all people who need to know that they can be forgiven and walk in new life with God.

ABIGAIL THOMAS

Memories of an Octogenarian

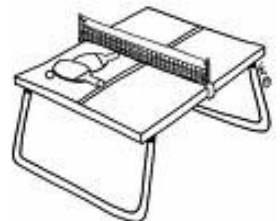
In the morning service on Sunday 3rd August 2008, Terry announced that I was 80 years old. He asked me how long ago I started coming to St. Luke's, and when I said "74 yrs", I was greeted with a round of applause. A young lady sitting in front of us said, "If you've been coming that long you must have a story to tell," so here it is!

My brother Stanly first took me to church when I was six years old to meet Mr Harry Dane, the organist & choirmaster. He said I could join the choir as a probationer once I had learned the basics. These included such things as when to stand, sit or kneel; being able to follow the service in the prayer book; being able to find the hymns in the hymn book and the psalm in the Psalter, a book containing all 150 psalms and chants melodies. The trouble was, these were numbered in Roman Numerals, so I quickly had to learn how to read them. I became a probationer at the age of seven and soon became a chorister. I made many friendships and felt a sense of pride at being a member of the church choir.



Special services for Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday, Easter, Whitsuntide, Sermons Sunday, Harvest and of course Christmas, meant much hard work learning all the music, but it was very enjoyable. Choir practices were on Tuesday and Friday nights and before service on Sunday.

In the days before everyone had a television, the church offered us entertainment and many social activities. On Monday and Thursday nights I played badminton and table tennis in the big school with a group called Y.P.F. (Young People's Fellowship).

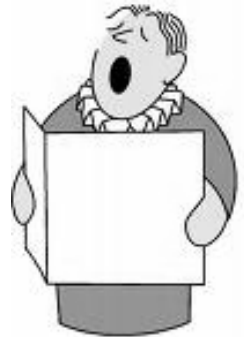




On Saturday night in the school we usually had a social or old time dancing, whilst in the little room was a whist drive with as many as twenty tables.

In the time I have been at St. Luke's, we have had six vicars and at least fifteen curates come and go, all of whom we were pleased to see, and each with their own opinion on how the church should be run. After 44 years at St. Luke's, the Rev. Wolfgang Werwath decided that evensong was to be withdrawn due to falling numbers in the both the choir and congregation.

At this time I left St. Luke's choir and joined Whitfield choir where Philip Hall was the organist and Lynne Barber the choirmaster. This was an excellent choir; we sang evensong in Manchester Cathedral and had the pleasure of Derrick Cantrell, the principal organist at the cathedral, coming to play at Whitfield on special occasions and particularly on Christmas Eve for our Carol Service.



Sadly, Philip had to leave due to ill health and two years later Lynne took a teaching post in Lancashire. After the next organist left, Mr Lobb said his wife would play the organ for services. Unfortunately, she was a doctor and not always available, so the choir folded.

What a pleasure and privilege it has been to sing with these two choirs for 55 years, singing praises to the Lord and hopefully giving pleasure to the congregation. On my return to St. Luke's, I was invited to join the choir again, but as I had other commitments I could not attend the practices so declined the invitation. So, for the last twenty years I have joined my wife Sadie in the congregation where we both hope to spend a few more years more.

BERNARD BRUCKSHAW

BIG Cellar Alterations

BIG at St. Luke's church has always faced the problem of having to meet off-site. For many years the group of teenagers has been allowed to use the home of the Booths on Lord Street, for which Gill and Sandy are owed a huge 'Thank You!'

A potential solution to this problem was spotted by Terry Clark. There has always been a large space under the church where the boilers are housed. Recently, whilst work was being done to upgrade the heating system, the opportunity to make use of some of this space presented itself. The dingy cellar was cleared of rubbish, divided into two to leave a separate boiler room and meeting room and then boarded and plastered. The meeting room was equipped with audio visual aids and games consoles to help create a relaxed, fun learning environment.



The cellar was officially opened to BIG at the Children's Celebration Service in July and has been its home ever since. It has provided a place the young people can call their own. BIG meet there on most Sunday mornings where they play and pray.

Recently, the cellar was the venue for an alternative Halloween party, attracting youth from as far away as Oldham, as all members of BIG were encouraged to invite a friend. Everyone who attended commented on how much they enjoyed the evening. More parties and activities are planned, including a Christmas Party following the Carols by Candlelight Service on the 21st of December.

The new-found space has also been found useful for other functions. Mid week activities at St. Luke's are on the increase and space is becoming limited, so the cellar has also been called into use for the weekly prayer meeting. No doubt it will also prove useful in other ways in future.

MICHAEL TAGG

The Streets of San Francisco

As a church we support the work of Frances with the homeless in San Francisco. Here's an extract from a recent letter:

A friend said something to me about the pressures of the earth and what can come up from underground. I thought of the snowdrops I saw last Christmas and how they must have trusted that there was air sitting above the snow and that even if they hurt on their rise to the world above that their struggle was not in vain. Indeed, quite the contrary.



The hope of those living around me on the streets has often been battered, yet it will continue to grow, just like those snowdrops. It can sing a strong song, but usually we don't hear it because it's on a street that we won't go near (or if we do, it's to pass out our aid, not our listening ears.) Yet it needs to be heard.

"When it's genuine, when it is born of the need to speak, no one can stop the human voice ... every single one of us has something to say that deserves to be celebrated or forgiven by others."

Eduardo Gidleano

(Author of 'The Celebration of the Human Voice')

Drugs, streets and jails are home for many friends out here; ones who appear as if they don't have it together. I feel prejudices must be overcome in order that these people really be heard. I pray for open eyes and ears as I continue to live and share life with those the Lord has placed in mine. I hold great hope and anticipate wonderful times ahead in the months and years to come.

Thank you for your thoughts, your love and support.

FRANCES HARRIS

Renewed Acquaintance with God

Seven weeks in hospital began when my GP sent me for tests because I was suffering from light-headedness and what felt like someone pressing on both sides of my head. I was admitted, underwent tests for the next three weeks and finally diagnosed with auto-neuropathy, the wasting away of nerve endings.

Looking back, God had in part prepared the way for me to cope with my time in hospital. When my sister died in February,



Alyson Stevens and her love for God gave me strength to cope and started me thinking that perhaps I had drifted away from him. Before becoming ill, I had just started attending church again after a long absence and was half way through the Alpha Course, which had put me back on track with him. Whilst in hospital I turned to my Bible and read John's Gospel. I felt humbled by the ministry of Jesus.

I prayed for healing and God was certainly there with me. The hospital staff were loving and caring, and seeing an old friend from St James' on the same ward brightened up my time and made me realize just how much I missed church. I was able to pray for several elderly patients during my stay.

Though not fully well yet, I have eventually been able to return to work part-time. I have also resumed the Alpha Course and feel truly blessed when reading God's word. I took part in the Holy Spirit Day and really felt his presence. I am so glad that I have come to know him more and continue to be encouraged by him; he has certainly touched my heart. As the days pass, I thank him for helping me through this illness and pray for his continued love.

LINDA HYDE

It is always worth remembering that the lives of newcomers and visitors to our churches can be changed by the reception they receive from us. It is heart-warming to discover that they are being encouraged by groups such as the Alpha Course and supported by church members when they are going through difficult times. This is how the body of Christ should function when it get things right - for the good of all and the glory of Jesus.



Notice Board

WEDDING

At St. James'

29th Nov

Benjamin Andrew Gillooly
and Sarah Anne Gilligan



FUNERALS

At St Luke's

25th Nov Connie Bradshaw

BAPTISMS

At St. James'

23rd Nov

Daniel Thomas Fielding
Tom David Alexander Bracey

At St James'

11th Sep Murial Miles
31st Oct Percy Phillips
4th Nov Gloria Rodgers
7th Nov Peter Knightbridge



At the Crematorium

4th Nov Marjorie Raistrick

winepress... is a magazine serving the Christian congregations in Whitfield Parish, Glossop (MMA 27).

It is published every two months and distributed free of charge.

Please take only **1** copy per household to keep down wastage.

We rejoice that our local church has experienced so much growth in recent years. A multitude of dedicated groups has sprung up to cater for every aspect of Christian life, all age ranges and a whole array of interests.



With so much growth, it can be difficult to keep track of what's happening. The aim of this publication is to transmit information between congregations and to keep everyone up to date with who's doing what, and where. Each issue will spotlight different groups, report on recent events and bring a roundup of news.

We need your input...



Do you have newsworthy items from your congregation for inclusion in winepress? Would you like to report on what your group is doing, or would you like to recommend it to others? Have you an inspiring story to tell?

Please submit articles to winepress@glossop.org
or phone Beverley on 862105.