

Dear friends,

Peace be with You

I hope that you had a good, if very different Easter. At this time of the year we are thinking about the resurrection appearances. One of the things that comes up time and time again is peace. Jesus, in different situations says, 'Peace be with you.'

We often associate peace with tranquillity and stillness, but it is strange when you look out onto empty streets and lack of traffic. Things are still and quiet – but is that peace. When we look at the reasons behind the quiet, the stillness belies what is actually happening in world. There may be quiet on the outside – but what is happening on the inside? The corona virus and its impact, worries about finance, our economy, isolation and thoughts about our own mortality are only a few of the worries in our minds.

"The word 'worry' is derived from an Old Anglo-Saxon word meaning to strangle or to choke.

Peace, on the other hand, can be defined as tranquillity, freedom from disturbance and agitation such as fear, terror, anxiety or stress. The Hebrew word for peace, shalom, means wholeness, harmony and completeness.

A child I once taught in Y6 (10/11 year old) wrote a poem about peace.

Peace is when it is still and quiet and you can hear the birds singing.

Peace is being beside a beautiful lake.

Peace is when my brother and sister stop arguing.

Peace is when I am snuggled up reading a book.

Peace is when I play the piano. I forget everything else.

Peace is how I feel after I have told my mum what I am worried about.

Peace is when I have done something wrong and said sorry.

Peace is when you are inside and watching a storm outside.

Peace is when I feel a smile inside me.

Peace is when you feel happy with yourself, your friends and the world.

It's lovely, isn't it. I particularly like the last two lines. It is the idea of wholeness and completeness – shalom. We can identify with all those feelings. Jesus says,

‘peace be with you’. And yet Jesus takes our knowledge and understanding of peace and says that his peace is a peace that the world can’t give.

In this current situation, we need this peace more than ever – a peace that stills our hearts, minds and souls. It doesn’t mean that the situations that we face will just ‘disappear’, but that peace enables us not just to cope, but to know that God is with us however difficult the circumstances are.

‘Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you: Not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.’

I thought I walked this earth alone,
Beneath my burdens bowed,
Until I found I could not bear
Their weight and cried aloud.

And echoing from the darkness
That had framed my solitude,
I heard my cries ... first soft and low,
Then gaining magnitude.

I prayed for peace within my soul,
Deliverance from the night.
And finally, in the distance, I
Beheld a flickering light.

‘The light grew strong and stronger still,
Til it enveloped me.
The rays were warm and comforting.
I felt my anguish flee

*‘Let not your heart be troubled,
Neither let it be afraid.
For I have known and loved you long
Before this world was made.’*

*‘Peace I leave with you, my peace
I would to you impart.
And you shall seek and find me
When you seek with all your heart.’*

The voice spake from deep within.
I felt his calm o'er take me
With newfound faith, I knew at last
My Lord would not forsake me.

From this day forth, I'll walk with God'
My Saviour by my side.
Alone no more, His helping hand,
Will ever be my guide.

My you know the peace of Christ with you through these difficult times –
peace of body, mind, heart and soul.

Keep safe.

Every blessing,
Deborah

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

CALENDAR FOR MAY

The calendar for May is very limited as public church services have been suspended until further notice.

The weekly service sheet will continue to be provided by email, on our website and via Facebook. It will be the opportunity to reflect on the readings.

Sermons will be on the website.

The magazine will continue to be produced and delivered by email.

We will continue to live stream on our Facebook page:

- Morning Prayer daily at 8.30am,
- Compline daily at 8.30pm,
- Wednesday services at 10am,

- and some of our Sunday services at 9.45am.

Other Sunday services will be recorded in advance and published to the website and Facebook page at 9.45am.

We have a WhatsApp group for any prayer requests that you may have.

If you have any donations for porch boxes, please leave outside Church until 10.30am on Thursday mornings.

If we can help in any way, please contact Revd. Deborah on 0161 773 2698 or Revd. Sue on 07761 565428.

Please look after yourself and each other.

MAY AT ST.GEORGE'S CHURCH, SIMISTER

Hi Everybody

I hope you are all safe and well and keeping in contact with everyone. Life is very different at the moment, if you have any problems, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me and I will try to help.

Saturday, 25th April would have been Festival Day, we will definitely have a great celebration when Coronavirus is over!!!

At this time in your prayers will you please pray for those who are sick remembering especially:-

Tom Porter, Joyce Roebuck, Tony Anderton, Mary and Colin Hargreaves, Rita Evans, Val Albrow, Barbara Cass, Sheila and Eric Harrison, Bob Hardy and Revd. Deborah.

All our church families, own friends, relatives and mankind.

Anniversaries of death. There will be no flowers in church

In May we remember:-

Bernard Stansfield, Ann Anderton, Arthur Knott, Dennis Saville and Joyce Hall.

In June we remember:-

Mary Cole, Edith Kavanagh, Ena Heywood, Jean Simpson, Linda Shaw, Marjorie Crompton, Arnold Smith, Jack Davidson, Wendy Jehu, Alice Farrar and Jean Mason.

Keep safe and happy everybody, Joan and Carol

*Share a thought
Look at this day,
For it is the very life of life
In its brief course lie all
The verities and realities of your existence:
The glory of action,
The bliss of growth,
The splendour of beauty
For yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a
vision.
But today well-lived makes
Every yesterday a dream of happiness,
And every tomorrow a vision of hope
Look well, therefore, to this day.*

From the SANSKRIT

St. Margaret's Church REREDOS FLOWERS



There are no flowers in church at present



Jakes String Band has been booked for Thursday May 21, but we have to wait and see whether Lockdown will have been lifted by then.

Meanwhile, our best wishes to you all and we do look forward to being able to continue with our other planned events, later in the year.

AFTERNOON TEA

You are warmly invited to 'virtual afternoon tea on Saturday 2nd May at 2.00pm. The idea is to have a sandwich, cake or scone and a cup of tea (or a glass of wine/prosecco) either in your house or garden. If you want to dress up, please do so.



If you have the facilities to do so, please take a photograph and E-mail it to me (deborah.sandercock@hotmail.co.uk or WhatsApp) and we can put them on our Facebook page. The important thing is that we are able to do something together at the same time but in our own homes and at the same time, have some fun. Something to put in the diary.

If you are getting food for someone, why not buy a small cake or scone so that they too can join in.

Although we will be on our own, we will be together as we enjoy our afternoon tea.

Rev Deborah

Making ends meet

In these very unusual times, it has been lovely to see the church community working hard together to support each other in all the different ways we can – social media, the phone and by post. Could I ask you to spare a moment to give some thought to the way that we as a community contribute financially?

For some people these times are difficult, especially if you are self-employed, or laid off work without furlough arrangements. Or you may have to support a family member in these circumstances. For others of us, though, our income remains the same, but we find we are spending less money. I am saving on hairdresser, lunches out, theatre tickets, bus fares... there's quite a list when all the entertainment outside of the home reduces to walking. (I have bought new socks!) Meanwhile my pension remains the same. So whereas some people are in a position to contribute less to the church, I am in a position to contribute more.

Although some church expenses are less, the bills are still coming in. Insurance, for example, is the same whatever the situation with services. Other expenses, for instance posting the magazine to those without internet access, are new ones. Meanwhile there are no church collections and no baptisms or weddings, and no hall bookings.

If you have envelopes which you normally bring to church, please continue to fill them each week, or if it is easier write a cheque for several weeks, and then bring them to church when it opens again. Even better, switch to a standing order where the money goes directly to the church bank account and eases the burden on those who count and bank the cash. Don't forget that if you pay tax Gift Aid costs you nothing, and increases the value of your donation to the church. Hedley Cox can tell you how to go about these things. His number is 0161 766 4041.

If you are in the fortunate position of being unaffected financially by the current conditions, perhaps you could consider a one-off donation as well.

It is not so much a matter of requesting donations for a good cause, but pulling together to contribute to the ongoing expenses incurred in keeping our two beautiful churches open as places of worship and centres of fellowship and pastoral support for each other and the local community.

Rev Sue



32 Grasmere Road
Haslingden
Rossendale
Lancashire
BB4 4EB

27 April 2020

GENERAL APPEAL - 2019

St. Margaret's CE Church, Prestwich and St.
George's Church, ~~Simister~~

Dear friends,

It is with sincere appreciation that we send this letter of thanks to your church members, for your wonderful support throughout 2019 which is most gratefully received.

With all the regular gifts of food, toiletries, financial contributions and help from around the Borough, we know that all your gifts will go a long way to helping us to service a growing need in future months.

So, it is a great joy that we are able, to say a very big...

THANKYOU !

The need of course never goes away, but is with us all year, every year. We are at this point a long way away from our target hope – *"to be able to close the Porch operation because the need has gone away"*. Unfortunately, that target is nowhere in sight, ~~at this time~~, despite the "prosperity" that we associate with the United Kingdom, in common with many western nations.

We look forward to the extra contributions that we have had in past years over the Easter, Harvest and Christmas periods, and of course the continued and important regular weekly contributions that many organisations (schools, churches and businesses) have made over recent years.

2020 of course, due to the Coronavirus, will be a difficult period for Porch, as many of our regular sources are no longer active, albeit temporary, due to the closure of churches and schools, and many businesses. We are finding though, that many extra financial and food donations etc., are coming in from other sources.

More than ever, we thank you so much for your kindness, your generosity and your care.

Sincerely,

Alan Wood

Secretary

[Porch Boxes- Reg. Charity 1089998](#)

Dial -in service

Thanks for those who dialled in to the first trial of our afternoon service for everyone who has a telephone of any description! People have expressed appreciation that they had the opportunity to worship with others for the first time in a few weeks. We did have some teething troubles with a less than perfect connection. I experimented after the service and found that a different number worked better. So, let's try this next time.



Phone **0208 080 6592** from any phone.

A voice will ask for the meeting key. For security purposes I am not putting that here. It is the same number every time for the Sunday afternoon at 3.00 service. If you don't have it, ring me.

Enter the number followed by # (hash).

Ignore the message about personal ID. Enter # again.

You should then find that you can hear me, and anyone else who has dialled in.

If when you dial the phone number the reception is bad, don't bother to put in the meeting key but start again and try one of these numbers:

0330 088 5830

0131 460 1196

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

0208 080 6591

It may be that different ones work better on different days.

We shall say together the first part of our usual Sunday service, from the beginning to the Peace and then ending with the Lord's Prayer and blessing. Do join us. The dates are

May 10th and May 24th

June 7th and June 21st.

The lines will be open at 3.00, and the service will start at 3.10 to give everyone a chance to dial in.

Don't hesitate to contact me for help – including before 3.10 on the day. If it's not working for you, you can put your phone down at any time.

Rev Sue

Can't wait until our next phone in-service? Hear a 2-minute message from Archbishop Justin on a free phone number then

Press 1 for a talk about a hymn

Press 2 to listen to a hymn

Press 3 for prayers

Press 4 then 5 for the Church of England weekly service

Press 4 then 6 for the Church of England morning or evening prayer



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

During this pandemic, it is good that we try and ensure that we have good mental health. The church of England has a booklet that can be downloaded from the diocese of Manchester. There ideas for a whole range of themes and some practical suggestions of things to 'have a go' at. The one below is on the theme of self-isolation.

SELF ISOLATION

Self-isolation is much talked about as a way of protecting ourselves, and one another, from coronavirus. Even for those of us who like solitude, this can be too much of a good thing. For others, the thought of being cut off from others for a long time is little short of soul-destroying. Isolation can be a cause of anxiety, fear and depression.

As the coronavirus crisis has developed through Lent, it is timely to recall the isolation that Jesus experienced when arrested, and to remember the enforced isolation of many around the world who are in prison for what they believe in.

There is a stark contrast between Jesus' confident assertion in John's gospel that, even when deserted by all his disciples, he will not be alone, because the Father is with him, and his desperate cry from the cross in Mark's gospel: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15.34) Perhaps the different Gospel writers emphasised what spoke most powerfully to them – confidence or vulnerability? Or perhaps it reflects the difference between theory (the things we know are true) and painful experience, with all the confusion and emotions that it evokes? Or, perhaps it is more about appearances? Jesus – appearing and feeling forsaken, is not alone. The disciples – scattered to their homes, have isolated themselves from God.

It is easy to say, "You are not alone; God is with you." It is not easy to live with isolation from the warmth of human company. However, isolation is not really, or only, about how many other people are in the room or house with us. It has more to do with who is in our hearts and minds, and how we may reach beyond the confines of rooms and homes to connect with those we love

A "Have a Go" habit: Praying in isolation

- There are different ways in which people experience isolation: socially, physically, emotionally, spiritually. Who do you know who is isolated in these

ways? Remember them (in thought or prayer) each day, as an affirmation that they – and you – are not alone.

- Use the internet to find out about the plight of Christians, and other religious minorities, around the world who are isolated because of their faith. Whether in prayer, giving, or writing letters and e-mails, be “with” them.
- We are fortunate in the 21st century. With phones, tablets, and the internet, we can break barriers that would previously have been insurmountable. Can you reach out and have a conversation with someone who may struggle on their own today?

Rev Sue

Alleluia

Alleluia!
Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed!
Alleluia!

This is indeed the Alleluia season.

There are many, many pieces of celebratory church music that have just the one word – Alleluia – and since this magazine issue is going out predominantly online*, I thought this would be a good time to showcase some of them.

Simple Chants:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrlcX1BNlp8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7s0Rb0I9GE>

Victoria Alleluia:

– the original: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVunI7DAYhs>

– and adapted for Maggie’s Music Makers: <https://youtu.be/SdupFnJ1MGI>

Taizé Alleluia #7 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0i5vFQwBQE>

Taizé Alleluia #11 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTgoPHHa_do

Taizé Alleluia #17 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hs6NN3lp_Go

Boyce Alleluia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvMJr8COq4>

African Alleluia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V01rP51Fq7Y>

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pbNBKK2jA0>

Hallelujah Chorus (Handel) <https://youtu.be/Ag6CYY0cbFc>

Carol P

*For those of you receiving this issue by post, I'll play these pieces to you when we're all back together again.



MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is cancelled for the foreseeable future. It will resume as soon as it is safe to do so, and dates will be posted here as well as via the parish Facebook page.

Prayers for the Parish

Day	Please pray for people who live in.....	
1	St. Margaret's Rd, St. Margaret's Cl.	Clergy of the Parish
2	Polefield Rd, Heywood Rd, Perrymead, Daneshill Rd	Reader, ALMs
3	Bury Old Rd, Carver Av, Park Rd	P.C.C. Members, Sub-Committee Members

4	Roseland Dr, Freshfield Av, Brooklawn Dr, Woodgate Dr, Lynton Dr.	Lay Eucharists Ass., Crucifer, Acolytes.
5	Sunnyfield Rd, Mardale Cl, Parkville Rd, Oldfield Rd, Mount Rd	Wardens, Sidespeople Volunteers
6	St. Joseph's Av, Peveril Cl, Ferndene Av, Usk Cl, Neath Cl.	Readers and Intercessors
7	Raglan Av, Tamworth Av, Penrith Av.	Prestwich Mission Partnership
8	Derby Rd, Ludlow Av, Walker Av, Taunton Gr, Carrisbrook Av	Sunday School, St. Marg. Pre-school, Toddler Group
9	Warwick Av, Carlisle Cl, Barnard Av, Kenilworth Av, Arundel Av.	Uniformed Organisations
10	Sandgate Rd, Oak Ln, Thatchleach Ln, Conway Av, Hardmans Rd., Hazel Ave	Churches Together
11	Stanway Rd, Ridge Cres, Ridge Gr, Hazel Rd.	Espresso Church
12	Glebelands Rd, Nursery Rd	Maggies Music Makers – Organist /Pianist
13	Lilac Gr, Ash Gr, Lime Gr, Cedar Gr, Pine Gr, Maple Gr, Willow Rd, Elm Gr. Birch Gr, Laburnum Gr.	Mothers' Union, Social Circle Craft Group
14	Poppythorn Lane, Guest Rd, Pennant Dr. Newlands Dr. Sunningdale Dr.	Peregrini & Wholeness/Wellbeing Groups
15	Langley Rd, Langley Av, Langley Gdns, Langley Hall Rd, Orford Rd.	Cleaning Teams, Gardeners, Flower Arrangers

16	Heys Rd, Gilmore Dr., Newlands Dr.	Healing Team, Tea & Coffee Makers
17	Parrenthorn Rd, Turnbull Av	Magazine Team
18	Holyrood Ct, Holyrood Gr, Holyrood Cres, Holyrood Cl.	Ecumenical Links Interfaith Links Community Links
19	Milton Rd, Merton Rd, Knight's Cl., Cotswold Cl., Kenyon Lane, Henry St	Pastoral Groups, Lay Visitors, Healing Ministry, Car Drivers
20	Hastings Rd, Malvern Cl, Orangehill Rd, Peach Av, Kings Cl, Cromwell Dr.	Members in care homes & hospital. Housebound.
21	St. Austell's Dr, Noreen Av, Willingdon Dr, Henry St, Albert St, Russell St.	8.00am Congregation at St. Margaret's
22	Bailey St, Recreation St, Hampden Rd, Brandram Rd, Princess St, Albert St.	9.45am Congregation at St. Margaret's
23	Heaton St, Naseby Close, Gilmore Dr. Orford Rd	11.15am Congregation at St. George's
24	Chatsworth Av, Oaklands Dr. Hill Top Av, The Heys, Penrhyn Dr.	Wednesday am, Congregations
25	Polefield Hall Rd, Polefield Circle, Polefield Grg, Polefield Gdns, Polefield App.	Thursday Evening Visitors & Visitors to Vicarage & Church
26	Cuckoo Lane, Cuckoo's Nest, Mount Rd, Sandgate Rd.	Messy Church -St.M & St. G Family Social Group
27	Beeston Gr. Harlech Av, Hastings Av, Hastings Cl.	St. Margaret's School, Heaton Park CP, Prestwich Prep,

28	Drouchts Ln, Farm Ln, John St, Wilton Ct, Croft Av, Nutt Ln, Old Hall Ln.	Parrenthorn HS, Prestwich Arts Coll.
29	Simister Lane, Corday Ln, Westholme Rd. Thornley Rd.	All residents in Simister
30	Simister Green, Mount Pleasant, Blueball Ln, Simon Ln	St. George's DCC Teapot Time Group
31	All areas outside the Parish Boundary where members of our Church Family live.	Those who work in our community; Emergency services.

OUR DAILY BREAD

May 2020



May Day is thought to symbolise the transition between spring and summer and the celebrations held every year are believed to bless crops and planting with good luck for the coming months. Lord we ask your blessing on all gardeners, farmers, nursery growers all who work the land for our beauty. Amen

Friday 1st Philip & James Apostles

Almighty Father, whom truly to know is eternal life: teach us to know your Son Jesus Christ as the way, the truth, and the life; that we may follow the steps of your holy apostles Philip and James, and walk steadfastly in the way that leads to your glory.

Saturday 2nd

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here. Be still, stop, listen to your Lord God.

Psalm for this week is 119 v 1-24

Sunday 3rd

'But I must gather knots of flowers, and buds and garlands gay, for I'm to be Queen o' the May, mother, I'm to be Queen o' the May.'- **Alfred Lord**

Tennyson

Monday 4th

Grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference. **Reinhold Niebuhr**

Tuesday 5th

Loving Lord, I offer you today, my thoughts, words and actions. Help me to heed the promptings of your Spirit. Amen

Wednesday 6th

God has given you something you can give back to the world-in a way no one else can. "Give generously, for your gifts will return to you later." **Ecclesiastes 11:1**

Thursday 7th

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. For all eternity, God's love endures forever.

Friday 8th Julian of Norwich

Most holy God, the ground of our beseeching, who through your servant Julian revealed the wonders of your love: grant that as we are created in your nature and restored by your grace, our wills may be made one with yours, that we may come to see you face to face and gaze on you for ever.

Saturday 9th

I have engraved you on the palm of My hands; your walls are ever before Me. **Isaiah 49:16**

Psalm for this week is 119 v 25-48

Sunday 10th

Grant us grace, O Father, not to pass by suffering or joy without eyes to see. Amen

Monday 11th

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him. **1 Corinthians 2:9**

Tuesday 12th

Focus on God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit – Ask Him to be part of your day and to bless your day whatever it may hold. Amen

Wednesday 13th

Grant us a vision Lord, to see what we can achieve; to reach out beyond ourselves; to share our lives with others; to stretch our capabilities; to increase our sense of purpose; to be aware of where we can help; to be sensitive to your Presence; to give heed to your constant call. Amen. **David Adam**

Thursday 14th Matthias the Apostle

Almighty God, who in the place of the traitor Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the Twelve: preserve your Church from false apostles and, by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers, keep us steadfast in your truth.

Friday 15th Summer skies

Wisps of white up in the blue, swirled 'round like angel wings, is the sky that makes us pause and look and a bird stops and sings.

Summer skies change constantly; we think we've seen the best and then, in awe, we look again as another painting crests.

Saturday 16th

Sand between your toes...ocean breeze...blue sky...glorious gifts from a generous God. *The earth belongs to God! Everything in all the world is His!*

Psalm 24: 1

Psalm for the week is 119 v 49-72

Sunday 17th

God, you are the light of the world, you are the peace we yearn and long for: help us to live in your light and share your peace. Amen

Monday 18th

"A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay; a swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon; a swarm of bees in July is not worth a fly." - **Rhyme from England**

Tuesday 19th

Worry has the capability of ruining a perfectly good day! Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

Matt 6:25

Wednesday 20th

Nothing will separate us from the love of God. Let's live like we believe it!

Thursday 21st Thy Kingdom Come – 21st-31st May

Light up the world in prayer.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3.16-17

Friday 22nd

O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, here my prayer: When I call, answer me –
O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer; Come and listen to me.

Psalm 130.

Saturday 23rd

Loving God, thank You for the way You love us. Please help me by the power of Your Holy Spirit to love as You love. Amen

Psalm for this week is 119 v 73-96

Sunday 24th John & Charles Wesley

God of mercy, who inspired John and Charles Wesley with zeal for your gospel: grant to all people boldness to proclaim your word and a heart ever to rejoice in singing your praises; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Monday 25th The Venerable Bede

God our Maker, whose Son Jesus Christ gave to your servant Bede grace to
drink in

with joy the Word that leads us to know you and to love you: in your goodness grant that we also may come at length to you, the source of all wisdom, and
stand

before your face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord

Tuesday 26th First Archbishop of Canterbury

Almighty God, whose servant Augustine was sent as the apostle of the English people: grant that as he laboured in the Spirit to preach Christ's gospel in this land

so all who hear the good news may strive to make your truth known in all the world; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord

Wednesday 27th

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **1 John 4.7**

Thursday 28th

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. **1 John 3.16-18**

Friday 29th

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8.37-39**

Saturday 30th Social Reformer

God of compassion and love, by whose grace your servant Josephine Butler followed in the way of your Son in caring for those in need: help us like her to
work
with strength for the restoration of all to the dignity and freedom of those
created
in your image Amen

Psalm for this week 119 v 97-120

Sunday 31st Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Almighty God, by whose grace Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary and greeted her as the mother of the Lord: look with favour on your lowly servants that, with Mary, we may magnify your holy name and rejoice to acclaim her Son our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Sing a song of May-time Sing a song of Spring;
Flowers are in their beauty; Birds are on the wing;
May time, play time, God has given us May time;
Thank Him for His gifts of love; Sing a song of Spring –
Let us thank God for all our blessings not just in May but throughout our
year.
Creation is a wonderful thing to behold**



Maggie's Music Makers

For fairly obvious reasons, we are not physically meeting at present. Instead we are meeting via Zoom for weekly singing practices every Wednesday from 5.30-6.30pm in the comfort of our own homes.

Articles for future editions of our parish magazine should be emailed as an attachment (Word doc, A4, portrait, no columns) to stmargaretsprestwich@gmail.com no later than:

June Magazine
July Magazine

24 May
28 June

Large print version of the magazine. We are planning to produce a larger print version of the magazine. If text this size easier for you to read, let whoever brings your magazine know.

Out of the Mouths of Babes/Something to make you smile.

Most of you will know that I was in education prior to becoming a priest. Children are innately curious, open, spontaneous and honest. Here are some of the amusing things that have been said to me.



- We took our year 6 children to Dovedale in the Peak District. One of the activities was a seven-mile walk. It was a beautiful walk along the River Dove and River Manifold, plus a hill or two. About two miles into the walk one of the children said, 'are we nearly there yet? My feet are just not made for walking!'
- On the same trip we went to visit a farm, specifically to see the cows being milked. We had prepped the children up before going, told them about what we were going to see, primed them with questions, read the riot act about behavioural expectations and were fairly confident that they would do us proud. We went into the milking area and the farmer explained what was going to happen. There was silence from the children as the milk began to fill the containers. When it was all finished the children clapped. The farmer asked if there were any questions. One little boy put his hand up and asked, 'why have cows got so many widges?'
- We were doing a nativity play and had got to the point when the angel Gabriel had visited Mary. It was such a lovely scene as the angel Gabriel glided on stage in a beautiful white dress topped with a gold tinsel halo. She arrived in front of Mary and said, 'You are going to have a baby and you are going to call him' and then there was complete silence. She had forgotten the name of the baby. All the staff around were mouthing the name 'Jesus' in the hope that the angel would hear. Gabriel started again. You are going to have a baby and his name is'. At this point the staff and most of the audience called out in a loud voice, 'Jesus'. I presumed it was stage fright rather than the lack of teaching!
- I used to be a RE inspector for the diocese (when it was SIAS). The idea was to go into Church of England schools to assess where they were in terms of ethos, Christian leadership, RE and worship. I went into a Reception classroom where a child was playing with the sand and water. The children had obviously been primed that a visitor was coming into

school. As I knelt down to join her playing with the sand, she said to me, 'are you God?'

I replied emphatically, 'no'. She then said. 'well you look like God'.

I asked, 'well, what does God look like?'

'God has hair like yours and wears glasses' was her quick reply.

'How do you know what God looks like?' I asked.

'God is all around us and in us and so he looks a bit like all of us doesn't he', she answered, with a look that said, 'do you not know that!'

That was me told!

- I was on placement when the school I was at had an OFSTED inspection. The inspector came into my reception class and were doing free play. For some reason the were playing funerals and taking turns to be the one who was 'dead' by lying on the floor. One of the children went up to the inspector who was sat on a chair taking notes and said, 'We are playing being dead. Do you want to play? You can be the one who is dead!' I had to turn away and smile. For some reason he didn't want to join in the game!
- A year 1 class were doing some creative writing about 'Little Red Riding Hood'. Little Red Riding Hood had 'red shoos' (shoes), a 'red dres' (dress), a 'red hud' (hood) and 'red tits' (tights).

I think I'll finish there!

Do you have 'something that can make us smile' that can go in the next magazine?