

Honley with Brockholes Parish Magazine



MARCH 2012

St. Mary the Virgin
Honley



St. George
Brockholes

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Parish Letter

March 2012

Dear Friends

Have you ever pondered on how “time” controls our lives? From the moment we open our eyes in the morning to closing them for sleep. It has come home to me again recently having spent some time in retirement and being able to be more flexible with my time, going from a fairly empty diary to one which is overflowing with dates and times!

This is because I am helping to look after St Marys and St Georges churches until a new Vicar is appointed. Therefore my time is no longer solely for my family and for myself but for many other people and Parish situations in which I now find myself. I am sure that I am not on my own and as you read this I can almost read your thoughts, you are busy too! Where is all this leading you may well ask?

Well when you read this letter we will be well in to the season of Lent which began on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Day. The church calls this a “penitential” season when we take time out to think about our spiritual lives, our relationship with God and maybe reflect on how God might want to direct us in the future and guide our thoughts and prayers.

It is often a time when people may give something up such as chocolate, alcohol or some treat or other, just for the six weeks of lent which is a good discipline if you have the will power. I don't!

I would like to suggest that rather than giving something up, *take something on*, such as supporting the LENT LUNCHESES which will be held from Thursday 23rd February until Thursday 5th April, all donations will go to “Honley Aid in Sickness”.

Why not come to the Lent courses, they have already started but its not too late to come along on Wednesday evening 7.30 pm in the Parish Room or before the Lent Lunches on Thursday morning in Church at 10.30 am.

So this Lent, let us not see time as our enemy but take time out to meet with God and to spend time speaking to God through prayer and listening for God's response in our quiet times, which we could make a priority. Once we have made time for a quiet time, it's amazing how it becomes part of our daily routine at whatever time of day or night that suits us.

Here is a lovely simple prayer from St Teresa of Avila:

"Let me not be afraid to join my life with that of God,
to empty my heart to make room for Him"

Rev Jenny Barnes

David's Installation in Cornwall

The Licensing and Installation of the Rev David K Barnes as Priest in Charge of the United Benefice of Stratton and Launcells with Budehaven and Marhamchurch, on Monday 30th January 2012 at 7.00 pm St Andrew's Church, Stratton.

(The official title for the occasion, taken from the hymn sheet for the service)

Outside it was very cold, wet and dark. Inside St Andrew's warmth, light and a heartfelt welcome awaited the 26 of us who travelled south for the event.

St Andrew's Church seemed similar in size to St Mary's but much older with no balcony. It had a beautifully carved Rood Screen and many other fine examples of ecclesiastical furniture and symbolic ornaments.

Obviously the church was full. The procession of clergy, churchwardens and choir extensive. The formalities of the legal requirements interesting; the symbolic procession to the various parts of the church more visual and spiritual, especially at the font and in the bell tower, where David had to toll the bell. The hymn "We love the place, O God" accompanied this part of the proceedings.

The youthful gaudily vestmented Bishop of Truro (whom I understand originates from Todmorden) gave a very humorous sermon, cleverly conveying the message that leadership was not about office but came from within; emphasising the importance of cooperative team work in the furtherance of The True Christian Gospel.

The hymns sung during the service were:- "All my hope on God is founded", "O Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!" and "Guide me, O thou great Redeemer". The choir sang the anthem "Canate Domino" by Pitoni.

The final ceremonial aspect of the service was the formal welcoming of David by members of the community.

It reminded me of the line up after a Royal Variety performance, when the performers meet the Queen. As my husband commented, they were not summoned forward in order of merit - because the politicians were first up! The final person called was the local undertaker - presumably in recognition of the business he brings to the four churches.

After the service we were offered a delicious array of beautifully presented refreshments. Wine and soft drinks were also served. Members of the churches came and "chatted" to we visitors/guests. I had a friendly conversation with one of the churchwardens of Launcells church, which we had visited earlier in the day. I was invited to return for the St Swithin's flower festival in the summer.

We can all be assured that David and Jean were genuinely welcomed.

Carol Hirst

Post script

These are personal reflections and I am sure that anyone wishing for further details, there are twenty-five others surely willing to recall their version of events.

Daily at noon ask God to prepare the heart and mind of our next parish priest

A Message from Father David

Sunday the 8th January was a very special day, that will be ingrained in my memory forever. It also has to be said that if my memory fails, which is very possible, it can constantly be refreshed by the DVD of the whole event. The music, the choir, the music group, the congregational singing and the whole feeling of prayerfulness which enabled my family and I to feel well and truly blessed.



The presentation after the service was magnificent. My grateful thanks to Dean Henry, John, Clive and Margaret for their words of thanks and recognition that we had all achieved over the past 12 years. The gifts were wonderful (who else can say they have specially commissioned originals by Jeff Beaumont, Andrew Jenkin and John Dean which were all presented on the same day) and will be a constant reminder of a very special time in my life.



A couple visited my study the other day and saw the picture of the vicar on a surf board and asked if I surfed? They **obviously didn't see the pint of beer in my hand**. However I can say the picture has a minor oversight, it depicts me spilling some beer. That would never happen!

I would also like to thank everybody for the generous **cheque that was presented. I have since bought an 'iPad'** and it will be very useful as I try to keep track of where **I'm supposed to be at various times.**

I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to the catering section who did a wonderful job not just in feeding the 5,000, but feeding them magnificently (many thanks to Heather for even providing the chips).



My last round of thanks goes to each and every one of you, not just for your support on the day, as important as that was, but for your love, prayers and support throughout the last twelve years.

May God bless each and everyone of you as you seek to **further God's Kingdom where you are.**

Love and grateful thanks

David

PARISH NEWS

Funeral

St Mary's

23 January 2012

Mildred Sharpe

In March we remember in our Year's Mind

Frank Armitage	d.	9	March	1996
Audrey Alice Wigfield	d.	9	March	2007
Albert Senior	d.	14	March	2010
Phoebe Higham	d.	15	March	2007
Donald Allen North	d.	19	March	1984
Lucy Millicent France	d.	20	March	1989
Harry Thorpe Dronfield	d.	21	March	1983
Michael Fletcher	d.	22	March	2003
Philip James Taylor	d.	24	March	2006
Barbara Shaw	d.	25	March	2005
John Harry Lockwood	d.	28	March	2003
Barrie Couch	d.	29	March	2006
Margaret Green	d.		March	2010
Peggy Longbottom	d.		March	2010
John Shrigley	d.		March	2010
George Norman Buckley	d.		March	2010

Honley Coffee Wagon - Volunteers Wanted!

It has been decided to close the Coffee Wagon until the clocks go forward in the Spring. When we start again we would love to have more people join us, especially as during the summer it can be difficult to cover for people away on holiday. In the summer we meet at 7.00 pm on each Thursday evening, load up a car with drinks, hot water, table etc and take it to the top of the skate park (off Jaggar Lane) and dispense our free hot/cold drinks to the youngsters. We may only need to stay for one hour, it just depends how many youngsters are about and how long they stay. We always aim to have at least one man and two women on each team and hopefully each team only goes out once per month.

If you are at all interested in joining us please see me (tel 662209) or any of the other Coffee Wagon members.

Liz Cummings

Report on the PCC Meeting held on January 17th

Fourteen members of the PCC were present when new Chairman, Clive Waind, opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and under Matters Arising Clive Green reported that he had investigated the subject of Charitable Status and found that we need to apply for this since the Parish Annual Accounts involve a total of over £100,000. This will mean that all PCC members become Trustees.

Ian Walter's Treasurer's Report contained the information that our Common Fund for 2012 has been assessed at £70,825. He proposed that we pay £60,000 of this and more if we have a working surplus at the year end. This was carried unanimously. A proposal that we use money from the accumulated interest in the Trust Fund to pay off our Common Fund deficit from 2010-2011 was carried with 9 in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions. *(It later became clear that the Diocese would prefer us to pay this year's Fund in full rather than pay off the deficit from previous years.)*

The minutes from DCC meetings of both churches which had taken place since the last PCC meeting in September were tabled.

The meeting unanimously supported the appointment of the Revd. John Barnes as a temporary governor at Honley Junior School during the interregnum.

Some time was spent considering a draft Parish Profile prepared for St Mary's by Graham and Jane Wardman. It was finally decided that the two DCCs should meet separately to agree final drafts for each church before a special PCC meeting to combine the two on February 28th. The Parish Profile is for the information of anyone wishing to apply for the vacant post of incumbent and will be circulated to all interested persons. During discussion the PCC unanimously agreed that the post should be advertised as an Equal Opportunities one.

The date for the Annual Parish Meeting was set for Tuesday, April 24th 2012.

Cliff Green, PCC Secretary



A Wonderful Opportunity

Each year the tax office sends us a very welcome cheque (£12,500 in 2010), and what's more they are happy to do so. Gift Aid is the Government's way of encouraging us to give to charity.

Gift Aid allows us to reclaim the tax you have already paid on your giving. As long as you have paid enough tax - on a salary, a pension, an investment or indeed any other income or on a capital gain – we can reclaim an extra 25p on every £1 you give. This is at no further cost to you.

All we have to do is prove that we have had the money from you. To qualify it must be given via the weekly envelope scheme, a standing order or inside a yellow Gift Aid envelope. You complete one simple declaration that remains valid, until you cancel it. For "one-off" gifts, the declaration is on the front of the Gift Aid envelope. Remember - money placed on the Collection Plate does not qualify and is a missed opportunity.

If you do pay tax, please use Gift Aid to maximise the benefit of your giving.

Please ask and we will be pleased to help on this or any aspect of giving.

Clive Green and Roger Kenworthy - Parish Giving Officers



ST. MARY'S CALENDAR

MARCH

Friday 2	2.00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at St Mary's (all welcome)
Sunday 4		2nd Sunday of Lent
	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	Family Service + Holy Baptism
	6.30 pm	Parish Eucharist
Wednesday 7	9.30 am	Holy Communion followed by Pastoral Care Prayer Group
	7.30 pm	Lent Course - Parish Room
Thursday 8	10.30 am	Lent Course - Church
	10.00 am - 11.30 am	Coffee Morning
	11.30 - 12.45 pm	Lent Lunches in Parish Room
	1.30 pm	Baby and Toddler Group
Friday 9	7.30 pm	Hand Chimes Rehearsal

Sunday 11		3rd Sunday of Lent
	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer
Tuesday 13	7.30 pm	Finance & Property Meeting
Wednesday 14	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Lent Course - Parish Room
Thursday 15	10.30 am	Lent Course - Church
	10.00 am - 11.30 am	Coffee Morning
	11.30 - 12.45 pm	Lent Lunches in Parish Room
	1.30 pm	Baby and Toddler Group

Sunday 18		4th Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday
	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	Family Communion (no Children's Club) with Infants School Choir
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer
Tuesday 20	7.30 pm	D C C Meeting
Wednesday 21	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Lent Course - Parish Room
Thursday 22	10.00 - 11.30 am	Coffee Morning
	10.30 am	Lent Course in Church
	11.30 - 12.45 pm	Lent Lunches in Parish Room
	1.30 pm	Baby and Toddler Group
Friday 23	7.30 pm	Hand Chimes Rehearsal

Sunday 25**5th Sunday of Lent - Passion Sunday**

	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday 28	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Lent Course in Parish Room
Thursday 29	10.30 am	Lent Course in Church
	10.00 - 11.30 am	Coffee Morning
	11.30 - 12.45 pm	Lent Lunches in Parish Room
	1.30 pm	Baby and Toddler Group

APRIL - Sunday 1**Palm Sunday**

	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	9.30 am	Parish Eucharist for Palm Sunday
		No Evening Service
Wednesday 4	9.30 am	Holy Communion followed by Pastoral Care Prayer Group

Christingle

A big thank you to everyone who organised, participated in and contributed to the Christingle Service. We raised £224.57 for the Children's Society - this will be gratefully received by them for the continuation of their important work. Thanks again.

Heather Ambler and Helen Sanders

Helpers' Rota

	<u>Service Type</u>	<u>Sidespeople</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Intercessors</u>	<u>Serving Coffee</u>
Mar 4	Family Service	Cynthia Hepper Elaine Shaw	Kirsty James	Graham and Jane Wardman	Margaret Jenkinson Shirley Mitchell
Mar 11	Parish Eucharist	Olivine and Kevin Radford	Jennie Waind	Diana and Huw Griffiths	Kath Kennedy Janet Sykes
Mar 18	Mothering Sunday	Diana and Charles Kaye	Bob Etherington	Jean and Leslie Chadwick	Cynthia Hepper Elaine Shaw
Mar 25	Parish Eucharist	Andrea and Clive Green	Jane Wardman	Angeline Baker	Diana and Charles Kaye
Apr 1	Parish Eucharist	Angeline and Richard Baker	Lucy Brooksbank	Graham and Jane Wardman	Linda and Joe Froggatt

HONLEY NEWS

St Mary's Electoral Roll

It is time for the annual revision of the Electoral Roll. The current roll will be on display at the back of church from Sunday 11 March to Sunday 25 March. Please check your details on the roll.

If any of your details need changing, please fill in an amendment slip. If you are not on the roll and would like to be, please fill in an application form. Please return all completed slips/forms to Jane Wardman by the end of the morning service on *Sunday 25 March*.

Amendments/additions will then be made and the new roll for 2012 will be displayed from Sunday 1 April to Sunday 22 April when it will be removed for the AGM of St Mary's Church.

Thank you to everyone for their help with this.

Jane Wardman - Electoral Roll Officer, St Mary's

Queen's Diamond Jubilee - special weekend

To mark the Jubilee St Mary's is holding three special events. A special service will take place in church on Sunday 8th July at 10.00am. During Friday 6th July - Sunday 8th July there will be a Flower Festival staged by Pennine Borders Flower Club and the Ladies of St Mary's Church. Musical and social events are planned throughout the weekend to celebrate the Jubilee.

On Saturday 7th July there will be St Mary's Jubilee Street Market which will take place in Church Street starting at 10.00am and will be offering, among other things, a wide variety of food, drink and crafts plus activities for children. Anyone wishing to have a stall should, as soon as possible, contact: C. Green at 24 Marsh Gardens, Honley, HD9 6AF or by tel: 01484 664277 or via email honleystmary@ntlworld.com (Members of the congregation who are running a stall for St Mary's should take a form from Church). There will be competitions for the most Regal Stall and also for the best dressed stallholder in a fashion of the last 60 years.

Clive Waind



The 2011 AGM took place on 8th February when twenty two members heard reports about the accounts and the various activities during the year. Thanks were expressed to all who had contributed to the running of the Branch, especially to Pat Green who is retiring as Branch Leader. In 2012 the Branch will be run jointly by six members of the Committee - Pauline Adams, Jean Chadwick, Alison Dean, Andrea Green, Shirley Mitchell and Jennie Waind. There is a vacancy on the Committee, if you are interested please let us know.

On behalf of the Branch, Andrea presented Pat with a plant and thanked her for the many years of hard work and dedicated service. The meeting continued on the theme of National Marriage Week with Members bringing wedding gifts and talking about them. We are fortunate to have so many members and such good support - long may it continue.

The 2012 programme is being distributed. Copies are available for non-members who are most welcome at any of our meetings.

- There will be no meeting in March to give members the opportunity to join the Lent Course.
- The Women's World Day of Prayer is to be held at St Mary's on Friday 2nd March at 2.00pm.
- The Deanery Lady Day Service is at Newsome Church on Monday 26th March at 7.30pm. This will sadly also mark the closing of their Branch. Please try to support this event and if you require transport contact Beth on 665898.
- The April meeting on the 4th will be held at 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm in the Parish Rooms to prevent a clash with the Lent Course. The afternoon will be spent working on Action and Outreach projects with knitting, sewing and filling bags for the refuges and prison. Please come along and join in the fun.

The Fundraising Focus for this year is "Family Life Programme in Uganda" and you will be hearing more about this during the coming months. The Spring IN TOUCH magazine is out now filled with lots of interesting news and information.

Andrea Green, MU Correspondent

ST. GEORGE'S CALENDAR

MARCH

Friday 2 2.00 pm Women's World Day of Prayer at St Mary's

Sunday 4

11.00 am *2nd Sunday of Lent*
Café Style Worship at the Village Hall
followed by a Light Lunch

6.00 pm **Compline**

Wednesday 7 7.30 pm Lent Course - St Mary's Parish Room

Thursday 8 10.30 am Lent Course - St Mary's Church

6.30 pm A D Youth Group meets in Church

Sunday 11

11.00 am *3rd Sunday of Lent*
Parish Communion

6.00 pm **Sung Evensong**

Wednesday 14 7.30 pm Lent Course - St Mary's Parish Room

Thursday 15 10.30 am Lent Course - St Mary's Church

Sunday 18

11.00 am *Mothering Sunday*
Family Communion Service

6.00 pm **Compline**

Wednesday 21 7.30 pm Lent Course - St Mary's Parish Room

Thursday 22 10.30 am Lent Course - St Mary's Church

Friday 23 7.00 pm Village Trust Family Beetle Drive with
 Supper in the Village Hall

Sunday 25

11.00 am *Passion Sunday*
Parish Communion

6.00 pm **Compline**

Wednesday 28 7.30 pm Lent Course - St Mary's Parish Room

Thursday 29 10.30 am Lent Course - St Mary's Church

APRIL

Sunday 1

11.00 am *Palm Sunday*
Family Communion

6.00 pm **Compline**

BROCKHOLES NEWS

A D

A bitterly cold night and some people involved in a parents' evening at school – so maybe not so many will turn up? Wrong – 19 eager beavers piled into church on Thursday 9th February all set to have fun with a St Valentine's Day theme. Discussion took place and thoughts shared about how we all depend on other people in our lives and people depend on us. This will be reflected on the collage at the back of church. Valentine's cards were produced with 'loving' care! But it wasn't just a visual experience as everyone had the chance to roll out heart shaped biscuits, decorate them and pop them in our 'mini' oven. They smelt really good. We welcomed Barbara who, with Verena, ran this Baking Bonanza'. A few games here and there and then it was time for home. Next month's meeting is March 8th when the creative skills will be utilised for Mothers' Day gifts.

Sue Clay, Caroline Lee, Verena Wood and Kate Drake.

Special Events

Our regular worship is of course the cornerstone of St George's Church, but there are one or two dates you might like to note when something 'different' will be happening. These dates are for everyone so please come along.

- Sunday 4th March** Our 2nd Café style service and snack lunch.
(Village Hall) 10.45am Coffee followed by 11.15am Service
St David's Day theme suitable for all the family, then soup,
sandwiches and hot dogs.
- Sunday 18th March** Mothering Sunday
- Sunday 29th April** St George's Day Event
- Sunday 6th May** A welcome return visit for an afternoon concert
by the Northern Spirit Singers.
More details later.
- Sunday 13th May** Celebration, during and after the service to
mark AD's 10th Birthday.

News from Brockholes CoE(C) School

Hello from everyone in Reception Class. We are always very busy learning both inside and outside the classroom. The children have really enjoyed learning around the story of 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson. They have made story maps and written sentences to go with their map. They have acted out the story wearing animal masks outside in the copse and really got into character.

In ICT they have been learning to email their class friends and teachers...yes they are only 4 and 5 years old! The class computer technician is always on hand to help out anyone who needs it (and she is only 5). The children are very confident in using the computer.

We have been reading the story of 'The Little Red Hen' and the children wanted to taste different breads from around the world. We spent one morning tasting and deciding what our favourite ones were. All children enjoyed white bread, chapattis, baguette and bagels. Tiger bread and brown bread came a close second and oat and honey bread came last. We were all very full up that morning!

We have created a reading den in the classroom and everyone has chosen their favourite book. We are really focusing on reading and stories as it is the year of reading in school. The children have started a reading award scheme and one child in the class has already earned her bronze reading award.

We have also been looking at and naming 2D and 3D shapes. The children really enjoy painting, sticking and drawing and will use the creative area at any given opportunity. They have discovered the sequins and glittery pompoms so these have been used to make some beautiful creations.

P.E. is the highlight of the week. The children love getting all the apparatus out and jumping off beams, boxes, swinging and climbing on ropes and travelling on, through and under equipment.

As you can see the class has been extremely busy since Christmas and have learnt lots of new things. They may be the youngest in the school but they work extremely hard and have lots of fun too.

Clare Thomas, Headteacher Brockholes School

OTHER ITEMS

Men and women

Three men were hiking through a forest when they came upon a large raging river. Needing to get on the other side, the first man prayed, "God, please give me the strength to cross the river." Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs and he was able to swim across in about two hours, having almost drowned twice.

After witnessing that, the second man prayed, "God, please give me strength and the tools to cross the river." Poof! God gave him a rowing boat and strong arms and strong legs and he was able to row across in about an hour after almost capsizing once.

Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man prayed, "God, please give me the strength, the tools and the intelligence to cross the river." Poof! He was turned into a woman. She checked the map, went one hundred yards up stream and walked across the bridge.

Parish Pump



How God works

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?"

Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, he must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

Parish Pump

Is it still winter, where you are?

There are seasons in the year and there are seasons in our lives. Things don't grow in winter, they endure and wait until the Spring, the season of growth. Sometimes our lives can be like that: everything shuts down around us and no matter what we attempt, it will not grow.

This does not mean God has deserted you. For just as nature needs times of shut-down, so our seasons of outward barrenness can enrich our inner lives: we lose pride in our ability to run our lives, and increase our dependency upon God.

Paul says 'Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us. (2 Corinthians 4:17) In other words, these afflictions are only temporary. Take heart: just because you cannot alter something does not mean that you can't survive it! If you can't alter it, outlive it! Be like a tree. In the winter it does not even attempt to grow leaves. Instead, it sheds all unnecessary outward commitments, and refurbishes its strength on the inside. It may look dead, but it is most certainly not; it is preparing for the next season of fruitfulness.

This month, reflect on your life, and try and trace your past seasons. Have you been in a long dark winter in your life? You can grow patience, endurance, and sink your roots deep in God's faithfulness. Trust him, and stay close to him, and he will make you fruitful once again, in his timing.

Parish Pump

Commonwealth Day – 12 March

On 12th March about two billion people from every continent, faith and ethnicity, will remember that they are 'related' to each other. Every year, on the 2nd Monday in March, the existence of this vast, diverse global family of 54 countries (the Commonwealth), is celebrated.

2012 is a special year, as it will also kick off the Commonwealth celebrations for Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. As UK Monarch, she has been Head of the Commonwealth for 60 years.

Parish Pump

I See Jesus

I saw Jesus last Sunday.
He was teaching a Bible class.
He didn't talk real loud or use long words,
But you could tell he believed what he said.
For just a minute, he looked like my Bible teacher;
But it was Jesus ... I could tell by his loving voice.

I saw Jesus yesterday.
He was at the hospital visiting a friend who was sick.
They prayed together quietly.
For just a minute he looked like Brother Jones;
But it was Jesus ... I could tell by the tears in his eyes.

I saw Jesus this morning.
He was in my kitchen making my breakfast, and fixing me a
special lunch.
For just a minute he looked like my Mum;
But it was Jesus ... I could feel the love from his heart.

I see Jesus everywhere,
Taking food to the sick, being friendly to a newcomer
and for just a minute,
I think he's someone I know;
But it's always Jesus, I can tell by the way he serves.

*By Summer Waters aged 11, of New Zealand
Submitted by Denise Jackson, from a notice at Christ Church, Ilkley*

Giving Shoes

With every pair of shoes purchased, TOMS (a shoe brand) will give a pair of new shoes to a child in need. This charity programme started in 2006 and since then, over 1,000,000 pairs of shoes have been donated to children in need in over 20 countries around the world, in partnership with humanitarian and health organisations.

More information is available at the following website:
<http://www.toms.co.uk/our-movement/movement-one-for-one>

Betty Staniforth and Suzanne Dufton

Make Way For Mum

It's possible to make a few fairly specific forecasts about Sunday March 18th. The most certain is that all over Britain mothers will receive cards, the best ones being home-made with crayons or felt pens and featuring hearts and smiley faces. There may well be presents, too, carefully if clumsily packaged and containing perhaps chocolate, cosmetics, handkerchiefs or funny aprons.

From a more senior source (if the recipient is lucky) might come some flowers, a book, some perfume, or a subscription to a fashion magazine. If, however, he's got it wrong (as he usually does) she might find herself with a toaster, a new iron or even a season ticket for the local football club. It's Mothers' Day!

Of course, as far as the Church is concerned it's nothing of the kind. It's 'Mothering Sunday'. Yet it did all start in church long ago, with a Lesson for the 4th Sunday of Lent which included the phrase 'Jerusalem which is above, the mother of us all' and a tradition of welcoming apprentices home halfway through the Lenten fast, bearing simnel cakes for their mothers.

But then the greeting card industry got interested, the occasion spread to America and it was suddenly big business. Of course it's more than that. It's also an opportunity to recognise that mothers tend to play a rather big role in everyone's life and to say 'thanks' to them. On the whole, Mothering Sunday/Mothers' Day is definitely a 'good thing'.

It's also quite a good thing for the church, because families like to come together on this particular day and often posies of flowers are provided for the children to give to their mums (and grandmas too). Because the following weekend is the feast of the Annunciation (the angel Gabriel telling Mary that she was going to have a baby), preachers may justifiably point out how crucial the role of motherhood is in the whole Christian story. Paintings and stained glass windows of the Madonna and Child remind us that, just like all the rest of us, Jesus had a mother who fed and nurtured him, guided him through the years of childhood and stood by him later on when things were dark and dreadful.

Canon David Winter, Parish Pump

Grandad was babysitting when he heard his little grand-daughter muttering the alphabet over in hushed tones. "What are you doing?" he asked her. "I'm praying," she replied. "I can't think of the right words so I just say all the letters. God will put them together for me 'cos He knows what I'm thinking."



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Material for Publication

All contributions to future editions of the Magazine welcome.

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Deadline for the April issue:
Wednesday 14th March

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