



St Mary's Honley

The Parish of Honley with Brockholes

Summer 2016



St George's Brockholes



Parading the Dragon through Brockholes on St George's Day after the service in St George's Church and before the food and fun in the churchyard



A note from the Vicar

As middle-age creeps up on me, summers seem to go by more quickly than they did. Partly that may be because the passage of the years means there are fewer new experiences of which to take account. But even if it seems short, there will, I hope, be a chance for a proper rest and to enjoy some of the gifts of God's natural grace – hot weather not least among them. For many of us, summer will bring increased leisure time. If it does, rest itself is another of God's natural graces. But perhaps it would be wise to use some of the time also to consider God's saving grace? Every summer I try to read J. C. Ryle's *Christian Leaders of the Eighteenth Century*. It tells of how England was turned upside down by ordinary men who devoted their lives to teaching the Bible's message about how we can be rescued from God's condemnation through faith in Jesus Christ – and nothing could matter more. Many of them preached in the open air. One of them, John Wesley, preached in Honley Church on 30th April 1788, where he found 'a large and serious congregation' and believed 'many felt as well as heard the word'. Have you felt the word? If not, resolve this summer to do something about it. There are copies of John Chapman's *A Fresh Start* in both St George's and St Mary's. Why not take one with you on holiday? Then this summer may be refreshing not only temporally, but eternally.

Liam Beadle

Services in the Parish

Sunday

8.00 Holy Communion (St Mary's)

9.30 Holy Communion (St Mary's) [All-Age Worship on first Sunday]

11.00 Holy Communion (St George's) [All-Age Communion on first Sunday]

Evening Prayer takes place most Sundays at 6.30pm in St Mary's and 6.00pm in St George's

Wednesday

9.30 Holy Communion (St Mary's)

Future Events and Special Services

June

1st	7.30 p.m.	St Mary's	MU Branch meeting. David Worth: Volunteering in the Philippines following Typhoon Yolanda
4th	1.00 p.m.	St Mary's	Wedding of David Waters and Helen Pearson
9th	6.30 p.m.	St George's	AD: Barbecue and Games
11th	12.00 p.m.	St George's	Wedding of Ashley Bamford and Lyndsay Marston
14th	7.30 p.m.	Meeting Room	PCC Meeting
18th	1.30 p.m.	St Mary's	Wedding of Timothy O'Donnell and Michelle Campbell

July

2nd	2.30 p.m.	Vicarage Garden	Afternoon Tea for the Queen's 90th birthday
3rd	6.00 p.m.	St George's	Music and Wine evening
6th	12.00 p.m.	Durker Roods	MU Summer Lunch (see noticeboard at back of St Mary's for further info and to sign up; open to all)
10th		Brockholes	Open air joint service with Methodist Church
15th	1.30 p.m.	St George's	Wedding of Joe Tyas and Rachael Broadbent
23rd	3.00 p.m.	St George's	Wedding of Damian Quinn and Jade Pickering
31st	evening	St John's Lepton	Deanery Evening Service

Aug

3rd	7.30 p.m.	St Mary's	MU Branch Meeting. Joe Froggatt: My Life in Social Services, Part Two.
20th	11.30 a.m.	St Mary's	Wedding of Adam Rayner and Loren Muff
20th	2.00 p.m.	St Mary's	Wedding of Joe Atkinson and Philippa Traynor

Meet a member of the congregation

Hi! I'm Sam Wells and I've been a member of St Mary's congregation since I came to faith on the Alpha Course in Spring 2014. I'm married to Gareth, a surgeon, and I have two children, James, who is 7 and Evie, who is 4. I studied Music Theatre at university. I am the Let's Play leader at St Mary's and this year I have been leading the discussion groups at Alpha.

I love singing and am a member of the Huddersfield Community Gospel Choir. I enjoy the weekly meetings of our home group, which was formed after the Alpha Course I attended, where Bible study and prayer do much to strengthen my faith.



What's been happening in the parish?

Late Loves: an evening with a difference!

On Friday March 11th St Mary's Church was transformed into a cabaret style venue for a musical evening. Some 70 guests came along bringing with them their own supper (indeed most guests provided a veritable feast!) We had two extended intervals for supper to be eaten and glasses replenished. Late Loves was a celebration of the joys and perils of love "at a certain age" featuring the words and music of Rodgers and Hammerstein and Noel Coward, amongst others. The artists were Barry Clark and Janet Cowley who have both had professional singing careers with several companies including D'Oyle Carte and Opera North. Apart from the two artists, all the ticket and raffle income went to church funds with a donation of £50 to Alzheimer's Research. This resulted in £716 being raised for St. Mary's Church.

(Jenny Lockwood)

Marriage Preparation Course

Spring arrived and with it, the wedding season. We were delighted to welcome seven of the nine couples who wished to marry in St. Mary's and St. George's this coming summer. We, Graham and Jane Wardman and Richard and Cate Ashley, delivered the course over two evenings, 11th and 25th April in St. Mary's Parish Room. Tables were set for each individual couple with flowers, candles and delicious snacks, accompanied by wine and soft drinks. We wanted the couples to feel important and to appreciate that the evening should be not only informative but also enjoyable. The course was delivered by the team who explored issues ranging from 'Why Marry?' to 'Thinking about the In-Laws' and 'Communication'. Throughout the evening the couples were given time to discuss these and similar topics between themselves. There is no open forum feedback so couples are able to be frank and open without fear of having to reveal anything to the other couples present. The last part of the evening was very special in that we were able to talk in terms of the love of God and the blessings of a Christian marriage.

(Cate Ashley)

St George's Day

On Sunday 24th April the Dragon Parade through Brockholes, which followed the short church service in St George's, attracted plenty of followers. The colourful parade made its way back to the church where Hade Edge Brass Band continued to play, the barbecue provided delicious food and the games and face painting provided entertainment for the youngsters. The beautiful flower arrangements in the windows of St George's, provided by local organisations, were greatly admired, as was the impressive St George banner made by Sue Clay. As always, this event brought together residents of Brockholes for a joyous celebration of Saint George.

(Jane Wardman)

Mothers' Union

Honley MU has recently been privileged to hear two world-renowned experts talking about their respective fields. Richard Ashley gave a fascinating, illustrated talk in March on the subject of "Managing Flooding". Richard is a leading expert in this area and we learned much about his experiences in academia and advising national and global bodies on this subject. It was worrying to realise there is no overall co-ordinated strategy for water management in this country; however, we gained an appreciation of how we, individually, could take practical measures which could impact positively to alleviate flooding in the future. At the May meeting, Terry Kelly gave an extremely interesting talk on "My Life with Birds". An appreciative audience learned a great deal about Terry's passion of breeding, showing and judging Fife canaries. We learned about the subtle differences that can make one bird stand out over another in competitions and the significant price breeders were prepared to pay for the best birds. Terry fascinated his audience with details of the lifecycle of the birds and the meticulous attention to details involved in line breeding.

(Alison Dean)

AD at St George's

At the meeting on 12th May there was much fun with tie-dying!

(Kate Drake)

Prayers

The summer is a good time for thanksgiving. You may wish to use the General Thanksgiving: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and all humankind. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and the hope of glory. Give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be sincerely thankful, so that we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Recent Sermon

[John 14.8-21]

Playing hide-and-seek with small children is not hard. They don't hide very well! Many people think God is playing hide-and-seek, and that unlike small children he does it well. The apostle Philip thought that: he said to Jesus, 'Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.'

Jesus responded by telling Philip that God has revealed himself through Jesus, that he would reveal himself to Philip (and to us) by the Holy Spirit, and that when we have seen God, we are led by God's grace to obey him.

1. We see God through Jesus

Jesus is God in person. 'God is Christlike, and in God there is no unChristlikeness at all.' (Michael Ramsey) When Jesus speaks, it is God who is at work (v. 10). It is the same today: when the words of Jesus are spoken, God is at work – whether the words spoken while he was on earth, or the prophetic word about him in the Old Testament, or the apostolic word about him in the New Testament. When you read your Bible, whether alone or with others, God is doing his work.

2. We see God by the Spirit

Jesus promises Philip that he will ask the Father to send 'another Advocate' – the Spirit of truth. The Holy Spirit speaks on behalf of the risen Jesus. He spoke to the apostles, reminding them of what Jesus said. He speaks to us as we hear the words he breathes out for us in Scripture (2 Timothy 3.16). Not everyone hears God speak in this way, for the world cannot accept the Spirit (v. 17).



3. We see God as we obey

Truly to love Jesus is to obey his commands (v. 15). To see God through Jesus by the Spirit, we must obey Jesus (v. 21). Such obedience is not the same as the exertion of worldly effort: 'One minute's obedience to Christ is worth infinitely more than striving, even to the point of exhaustion, in the wisdom and energy of the flesh.' (David Watson)

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Next newsletter September 2016: Items for publication by 15th August to Jane Wardman musjub@btinternet.com