



# Outreach

The Parish Newsletter of St. James Church, Briercliffe

Available on our church website, [www.briercliffestjames.co.uk](http://www.briercliffestjames.co.uk)

Issue 2 - November 2020



Welcome to the second edition of **Outreach**, packed with information and wonderful stories of life and hope.

## The Season of Remembrance

The clocks have changed, and the nights are soon dark. The leaves have turned, and autumn is upon us. November is here and with it, the season of remembering – All Souls' and Remembrance Sunday. And this year, especially, amidst the challenges of Covid-19, we are called to remember all who in times past we have loved and lost; all who in conflicts past have given of their lives in the service of justice and freedom; all who, across the world, have died with coronavirus. In remembering them we also remember Jesus who suffered and died for us so that, at the last, we might be reunited with those we love in the nearer presence of God.

***At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.***

## News Update

The long delayed Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October, after postponement from April. The meeting saw 2 Parochial Church Council members stand down, Audrey Holdsworth and Donna Taylor. Janet Hartley, Shane Hartley, Alec Oldham and Pam Vincent were elected and Joanne Harrison was re-elected. Jennifer Bolton, Debbie Hallam & Christine Hewitson were invited to attend PCC meetings with a view to being elected to full members of the council at the next APCM. Thanks go to the retiring members for their valued service.

At the Vestry Meeting the two current Churchwardens stood down and Andrea Bettany and Chris Holdsworth were duly elected.

## Retiring Churchwardens

Special thanks and appreciation for their hard work go to Alec Oldham and Sheila Scott.

Alec has given thirty years of tremendous service as Churchwarden under five vicars. Only he could tell you of the many and various jobs he has undertaken. What we have all seen is his care and diligence in overseeing the maintenance of our ageing building, professional paperwork for services and the Church Magazine, immaculately written registers and all church supplies in place, to name but a very few.

Alec retains the roles of Parish Administrator & Team Coordinator and Treasurer/Finance Team Coordinator.

In her own words Sheila says, "I have been a warden here at St James Church for three years. Although it is a very responsible job, I have enjoyed being at the centre of things and helping to make decisions. I could not have done the job without the help of Alec, and I need to say a big thank you to Father Paul for making my task so easy and to the congregation who have helped me along the way."

Sheila retains the roles of Flower Arranger, leader of the Cleaning Team, member of the Pastoral Team and Sacristan Team.

Both Sheila and Alec will be supporting the new wardens as they grow into their roles.

## A visit from the Bishop of Burnley on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October

Bishop Philip conducted both the 9.00am. and 10.15am. services. In his sermon he had the congregation thinking about the purpose of the church, particularly here at St. James, whilst we are in the process of appointing a new vicar at this difficult time. He discussed this a little further, after the 10.15am service, with the PCC. Interviews, for a full-time post, are due to take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> November.

In the meantime please join us in our Prayer for a New Vicar;

Heavenly Father, we pray for the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we prepare for the appointment of a new Vicar to serve this parish. We pray for our Parish Representatives and all who will be involved and that a candidate may come forward who will be a blessing to us and to this community. Amen.

## News of our younger members

### Two Junior Sacristans

Charlotte del Strother

"I am 10 years old and attend St James Lanehead school where I was recently made Head Girl. My hobbies include playing football, rugby and riding my bike. I am the new junior Sacristan for Thursday Worship. The job involves preparing the altar for communion: making sure there is enough bread and wine, the candles are lit and that everything is in the correct position for the service. I am enjoying learning more from Father Paul about the role."



Oliver Turner

Oliver is 12 years old and attends St Christopher's C of E High School Academy. He too enjoys setting up and clearing the altar - at the Sunday 9.00-am service. He says, "It has really helped boost my confidence around new people as I'm quite a shy person."

My favourite hobbies are: archery, walking and dodgeball and I've recently developed a liking for table tennis."

### Another new role

Jennifer Bolton - Children's Champion

In her own words; "As a Children's Champion, my role is to talk with children and young people and ensure that their perspectives and wishes are reflected. I aim to develop provision for children and young people within the areas of worship, welcome nurture and mission. I will regularly attend PCC meetings to ensure that the presence, needs and interests of children are recognized and promoted within the parish. I am here for the children and young people to talk to and be a friendly, familiar face for them."

### Family Worship and Communion – Thursdays at 6.30pm.

Various activities and themes in worship have been explored in October; please go to the church website to see what is coming up in November.

### Harvest Festival

This year's celebrations were inevitably very different from last year, with gifts in the form of donations to the Bishop of Blackburn's Appeal and Safenet (Women's Refuge) which were blessed at the altar.

To begin the Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 10.15am service the small choir sang a verse of 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter' and included John Rutter's arrangement of 'For the Beauty of the Earth.'

We continue to support Burnley Food Bank and donations can be left at the Spar Shop, 146 Burnley Road, Harle Syke. A member of the church delivers the items to the central distribution centre.

### St. James Lanehead C of E School

Go to our website and click on the link to read the latest news from our church school written by Mrs. Dugdale, Headteacher.



### Christmas Craft Stall

There will be a Christmas Craft table, at the back of church, from Advent Sunday (29<sup>th</sup> November) and throughout December. All proceeds are for church funds.

Handmade goods can be donated during these services in November: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>. Please put items in the box provided, at the back of church, sealed in plastic with a visible price tag and any necessary information.

For more information please contact Sheila Scott on 01282 430360

### Pastoral Work

Members of the Pastoral Team have been contacting church members, by telephone, during October.

If you would like to receive a call please ring our Parish Pastoral Assistant, Janet Hartley, on 07947 217947

Interim Vicar: Rev'd. Paul Payton - Email: [frpaulp@yahoo.com](mailto:frpaulp@yahoo.com) - Mobile 07866696891

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