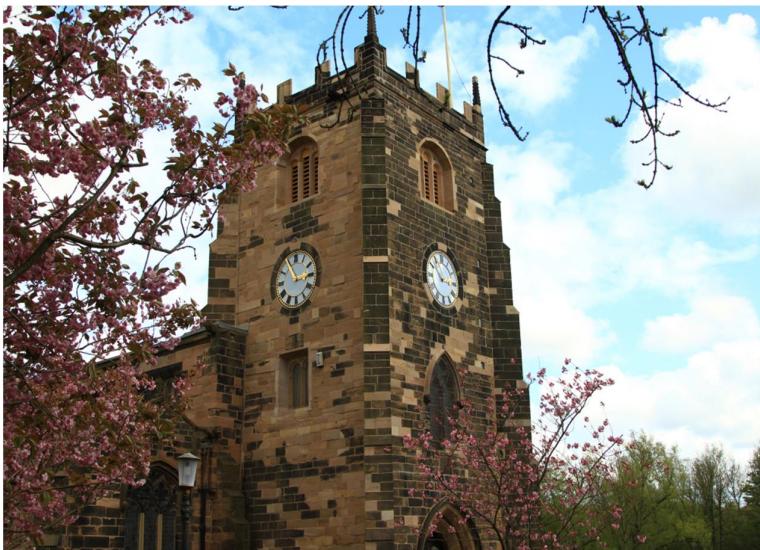


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May-June 2019

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The screenshot shows the homepage of the church's Facebook page. It features a profile picture of the church building, a large 'Welcome!' button, and sections for 'Events', 'Photos', and 'Groups'. The page has over 1,000 likes.

Check out our website:
www.radcliffeparishchurch.com

Here you can find out what is happening as well as regular services and groups that meet, contact details and help and support. There are also photographs of events as well as the church and grounds.

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Welcome

At the end of March, I was struggling, trying to come up with an introduction to the May/June issue of our church magazine. Consulting the church calendar, the obvious topic was the Ascension of Christ celebrated on May 30th. His Ascension is also coupled with his coming again.

On Saturday 30th March, I was scrolling through the TV Guide on cable, trying to find something to watch. Stopping on a film which was to be shown on the Paramount Channel later that evening. Clicking on the information button, the film's content intrigued me.

“An airline pilot and an investigative reporter, try to solve the mystery of the disappearance of hundreds of millions of people from countries all over the world, young and old, including, babies and young children.” This included passengers disappearing from their seats on planes, new born babies disappearing from their hospital cots, people from all walks of life just disappearing with no apparent cause.

One thing they all had in common, all their clothes and possessions which they wore or had on them at the time remained where they had once been. Panic ensued, as people gave in to primeval fear and reverted to the law of the jungle, looting, violence, destruction and generally resorting to the edict of everyman for themselves. What had happened? Alien abduction or something else totally beyond most people's understanding.

During the course of the film, it became clear. The film was about the second coming, those that were taken were believers and innocents, those left, deemed unworthy of entry into the kingdom of God. At the end of the film, I pondered what would happen, if it happened in our lifetime.

How many of us, would be left behind?

“And you shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.” (Matthew 24:6-8).

The Day and Hour Unknown

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.”

“Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So, you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” (Mark 24:36-44).

The film was “Left Behind” (2014) starring Nicholas Cage.

PG

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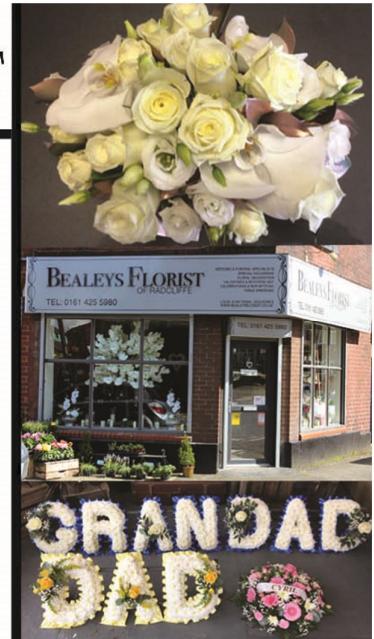
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Easter Egg Auction

On Sunday 7th April, after the Family Friendly Eucharist Service, our annual Easter egg auction was held. Over previous weeks congregation members, had very kindly donated Easter eggs to be auctioned on the day.

Due to the generosity of the congregation in bidding for the eggs, the event raised £125 towards church funds.

Thanks, are extended to all those who donated eggs and made winning bids, without your assistance, the event would not have been so successful.



Birthday Celebration



Members of Radcliffe Hall and St Mary's Ladies Group, meet to celebrate the birthday of Barbara Greaves and Yvonne Woolstencroft.

On Tuesday 26th March, members of the Radcliffe Hall and St Mary's Ladies Group met at the Toby Carvery, Bury Bolton Road, Bury, for lunch, to celebrate the 85th birthday of Barbara Greaves (second right) of St Mary's Parish Church, Radcliffe and the 70th birthday of Yvonne Woolstencroft (third right) a group member.

Notre Dame

We weep for you our lady,
As your body brightly burns.
Your spire, once reaching to the sky,
Now crumbled to the earth.
Your treasures, which for centuries,
Have stood the test of time.
Now sadly turned to ashes,
As your people, cry out why.
Your city stands in silence,
Its people in despair.
Their hearts are badly broken,
Seemingly, crushed beyond repair.
A city, now in turmoil,
Its beating heart now still.
Its residents, now wonder,
If their God, has left their side.

But fear you not,
You men of Gaul.
Your lady, will arise,
Like a phoenix, from the ashes,
Turn her face, towards the skies.
And choirs of heavenly angels,
Will sing her praises loud,
And multitudes of pilgrims,
Flock, into her waiting arms.
Proclaiming in strong voices,
The glory of the Lord.
For the restoration of their lady,
And the healing of their hearts.

©Peter Gorman 15th June 2019.

Written on the evening of 15th June, following the tragic event unfolding in the city of Paris, where the Cathedral of Notre Dame, a symbol central to the religious beliefs of the people of France, was engulfed in flames.

WAG's Noticeboard

WAG's are a group of women who meet once a month either for a social event or some kind of activity to help the community. It is a very relaxed fun group who are always looking for new members, there is no age limit.

Our next events:-

May 10th – Meal out at Radcliffe Market Friday Food Night
June (tbc) – Alzheimers Society Cupcake Day

GARDENING TIP



May

Save the **rain water**. Ensure you have a working system, like water butts, to collect all the rain water that falls throughout spring & it'll prove invaluable in the long run

June

If you want to prune or shear your evergreens, do so as soon as the new growth starts to turn a darker green.

Parish Church of St Mary Baptismal Font

For many decades the old font has lain inside the Parish Church of St Mary, in two pieces. The font possibly dates back to the middle 17th century, although it cannot accurately be dated, as it does not have any date marks, before being replaced by the current font in 1858.

Traditionally the font would have been situated near the front door to the church. This would not have been at the current church entrance; the porch having been constructed sometime later.

The original entrance was positioned on the southside of the church, the new 19th century font possibly occupying its original position. After the 19th century font was installed, the original font was moved outside and placed where the memorial garden is currently situated. Understandably the ravages of time and weather, contributed to the deterioration of the font and its eventual separation into two parts, possibly by vandalism. On which it was moved back into the church.

For many years, Mrs Barbara Greaves has tried to gather support for the font to be repaired and reinstalled in one piece within the church. In March this year, she achieved her objective, the font having been put back together into one piece by Kennedy Memorials, Cemetery Road, Radcliffe and placed in pride of place in the porch entrance, where it can be used to hold flower displays.



The Isle of Mannan

Part Three

Following Charles Stanley's death in 1672, he was succeeded by his first son William, when he died in 1702, he was succeeded as 10th Earl of Derby by his brother James. It was he in 1704, who settled the dispute with tenant farmers, which by then had lasted over 30 years, by entering into an agreement which was embodied into an Act of Settlement. This Settlement, gave tenants possession of their estates in perpetuity, subject to the payment of a fixed rent and a small fine when on death it was passed on by succession. This was so important to the Manx people that they referred to it as their "Magna Carta".

As years passed and the value of the estates increased, the rent payable became so small as to be nominal. In 1916, tenants were given the right to extinguish the rent charge, by purchase.

In the years following the Settlement, smuggling in the Isle of Man increased considerably. So much so, that by 1765, it was impacting on the amount of revenue collected in excise duty. This could not be allowed to continue and in 1765, Parliament in Westminster, passed the Isle of Man Purchase Act, in which it bought the rights of the incumbent Lords of Mann the Duke and Duchess of Atholl, including the customs revenues for the sum of £70,000 sterling, granting them an annuity and allowing them to retain their manorial rights. This continued, until they sold them for the princely sum of £417,144 in 1828.

Prior to the Isle of Man Purchase Act, Tynwald, the Isle of Man seat of government, passed all laws relating to the island including subject to the approval of the Lord of Mann, its finances. On the purchase of the island and in particular after the Smuggling Act of 1765, Parliament at Westminster legislated in respect to customs, harbours, merchant shipping and measures of a general character. They occasionally inserted clauses into the legislation allowing them to enforce penalties, if they were contravened. They also assumed control of the island's customs duties.

This had the effect of modifying the unwritten constitution of the Isle of Man. However, its ancient laws and tenures (i.e. the right of individuals to own or lease land), remained unchanged.

However, the purchase of the island did have its downside, although the hereditary Lords of Mann very rarely acted as model rulers, most of them took some part in the island's governance and the interests of its inhabitants. Under for want of a better word, home rule, the island's affairs were controlled by officials, who considered the inhabitants to be a troublesome nest of smugglers, from which to extract as much revenue as possible.

Between 1793 and 1826, the situation was eased to a degree, when John Murray, 4th Duke of Athol, served as Governor. Though he did quarrel with the House of Keys, the island's representative Parliament and was more concerned with his own monetary interests, he did on a few occasions promote the interests of the islanders.

After his departure from the office of Governor, the English officials resumed total control, but showed more consideration than before. Smuggling had been checked, not suppressed but by this time had all but disappeared. Manx revenue, was producing a large increasing surplus, as a result, the Isle of Man was viewed more favourably. In 1837, 1844 and 1853, the Manx people made representations to British Ministers, resulting in a more generous custom's tariff and the occasional financial assistance in the building of public works.

After 1866, the Isle of Man obtained a measure of home rule and made significant progress, towards establishing a prosperous community. In the course of a few hundred years, it had moved from a relatively poor agricultural community, in large ruled by an absentee Lord of Mann, to whom the population was subservient. Into an island which was beginning to determine its own future and reap the benefits of its increasing wealth and place in the evolution of the ever increasing industrial, inventive and world dominating renaissance changing the face and fortunes of mainland Britain.

In Part 4, we will see, how the Isle of Man, benefited from Victorian and 20th century tourism and ingenuity, the introduction of a thriving offshore financial centre and how as we now enter the second decade of the 21st century, the Isle of Man's economy is progressing.

PG

Soup and Roll

On Wednesday 20th March, after the Wednesday morning eucharist at St Mary's, the members of the congregations of the Parish Church of St Mary, St Thomas and St John Church and members of the Radcliffe Hall and St Mary's Ladies Group, joined together in church, for a Soup and a Roll morning. As usual, there was also a liberal amount of cake available as afters, a tradition of St Mary's.

The event took place between 11am and 1pm, and was attended over the period by 30 plus people. A well supported raffle and tombola was held, which when added to ticket sales, contributed to a wonderful total of £163, being raised for the St Mary's church fund. Thanks go, to all those who attended and who prepared and donated food for the event.



Parish Register May & June



Holy Baptism

May 19th ó Harley Rose Hockey-Howarth
26th May ó Reuben Christopher Philip Jones
16th June ó Olivia & Sophia Bridge



Wedding
25th May ó Olivia Jane Norman & Lee Donahue

Funeral

What's Happening.....

Dates for your diary

May

| | |
|------|--|
| 1st | 10am Wednesday Eucharist at St Marys followed by refreshments. |
| 3rd | 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd |
| 4th | 12pm Team intercessions at St TJØS |
| | 9.30pm Morning Prayers at St TJØS followed by coffee morning |
| 5th | 10.30am Family Friendly Sunday Eucharist |
| 7th | 7.30pm Healing service at St TJØS |
| 8th | 10am Wednesday Eucharist at St Marys |
| 10th | 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd |
| | 12pm Team intercessions at St TJØS |
| | 6.30pm Pilgrims Course at St TJØS |
| 11th | 9.30am Morning Prayers at St TJØS followed by coffee morning |
| | 11am-1pm Saturday café at St Marys |
| 12th | 9.30am Sunday Eucharist at St Marys |
| 15th | 10am Wednesday Eucharist at St TJØS |
| 17th | 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd |
| | 12pm Team intercessions at St TJØS |
| 18th | 9.30am Morning Prayers at St TJØS followed by coffee morning |
| 19th | 9.30am Sunday Eucharist at St Marys |
| 22nd | 10am Wednesday Eucharist at St Marys |
| 24th | 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd |
| | 12pm Team intercessions at St TJØS |
| 25th | 9.30am Morning Prayers at St TJØS followed by coffee morning |
| 26th | 9.30am Sunday Eucharist at St Marys |
| | 3pm Food & Friendship at St Philips |
| 29th | 10am Wednesday Eucharist at St TJØS |
| 31st | 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd |
| | 12pm Team intercessions at St TJØS |
| | 6.30pm Pilgrims Course at St TJØS |

June

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 1 st | 9.30pm Morning Prayers at St TJØS followed by coffee morning |
| 2 nd | 10.30am Family Friendly Sunday Eucharist |
| 4 th | 7.30pm Healing service at St TJØS |
| 5 th | 10am Wednesday Eucharist at St Marys |
| 7 th | 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd |
| | 12pm Team intercessions at St TJØS |
| | 9.30am Morning Prayers at St TJØS followed by coffee morning |
| 8 th | 9.30am Sunday Eucharist at St Marys |
| 9 th | 10am Wednesday Eucharist at St TJØS |
| 12 th | 10am Wednesday Eucharist at St TJØS |
| 14 th | 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd |
| | 12pm Team intercessions at St TJØS |
| | 6.30pm Pilgrims Course at St TJØS |
| 15 th | 9.30am Morning Prayers at St TJØS followed by coffee morning |
| | 11am-1pm Saturday café at St Marys |
| 16 th | 9.30am Sunday Eucharist at St Marys |
| 19 th | 10am Wednesday Eucharist at St Marys |
| 21 st | 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd |
| | 12pm Team intercessions at St TJØS |
| | 6.30pm Pilgrims Course at St TJØS |
| 22 nd | 9.30am Morning Prayers at St TJØS followed by coffee morning |
| | 11am-3pm Saturday Fayre at St Marys |
| 23 rd | 9.30am Sunday Eucharist at St Marys |
| 25 th | 10am Wednesday Eucharist at St TJØS |
| 28 th | 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd |
| | 12pm Team intercessions at St TJØS |
| 29 th | 9.30am Morning Prayers at St TJØS followed by coffee morning |
| 30 th | 9.30am Sunday Eucharist at St Marys |
| | 3.30pm Food & Friendship at St Philips |



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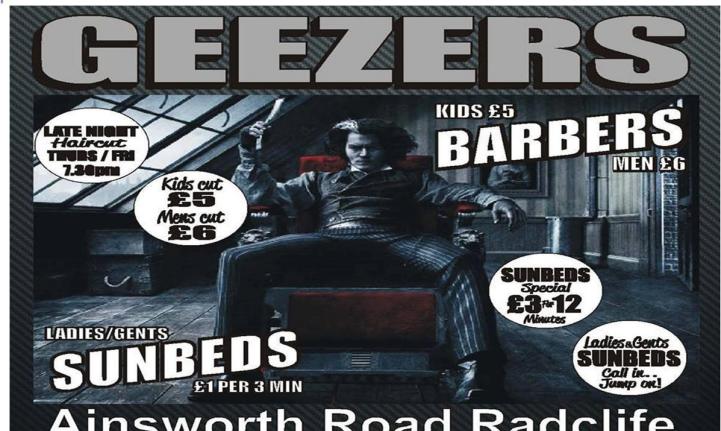
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Cinderella

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The Chestergate Air Raid Shelter, Stockport.



The layout of the underground tunnels forming the Chestergate Air Raid Shelter. The ladder shaped section represents the original tunnels excavated in 1939, the additional tunnels in a slighter darker red, were the extensions dug out in the winter of 1940.

On the evening of 6th March, the Radcliffe and St Mary's Ladies Group, visited the Chestergate Air Raid shelter in Stockport. The entrance to the tunnels was via a small museum gift shop, opposite the Merseyway Shopping Centre. The ladies and I were on a private evening guided tour and once all visitors were accounted for, we were on our way, guided by a larger than life very knowledgeable tour guide, who kept us entertained with his jokes, songs and anecdotes, as we spent the next 2 hours touring the tunnels.

Stockport County Borough Council, as part of the Manchester area, following the Air Raid Precautions Act of 1937, was charged with the responsibility of providing safe refuge for its residents in anticipation of air raids in the event of war. Just prior to this the council had demolished properties on the southside of Churchgate for road widening works, uncovering cellars and tunnels which had been dug into soft sandstone cliffs of the Mersey Gorge. These, to local councillors seemed to provide an ideal opportunity to provide a safe haven from the dangers of aerial bombardment, for the people of Stockport, deep underground. Work started in September 1938, phase 1 being opened by the Mayoress on 28th October 1939.

After the official opening, open days were held for the local populace both to satisfy their curiosity and allay their fears as to their safety should the tunnels be needed. The tunnels were 7 ft high, 7ft wide and approx. 40ft underground, with an original capacity of 3,850. Whilst work was underway, excavation started on a further 4 sites in the Stockport area, none of which, were physically linked to each other.

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Each shelter intended to serve residents in its immediate vicinity. The idea being that they would continue their normal lives and only enter the shelters when the sirens started. Once the all clear sounded, they were expected to return to their normal routines.

The first bombs were dropped on Stockport on 2nd October 1940, after which more sustained nightly bombings started taking place, resulting in the tunnels being occupied for up to 16 hours at a time. People were travelling to the Chestergate shelters from surrounding areas, because they were regarded as being safer. Indeed, enterprising companies laid on buses to transport people to and from the shelters from as far afield as Altrincham and Sale. As a result of this the tunnels were extended in the winter of 1940 by 1,600 yards, increasing the capacity to 6,500.

How were the tunnels laid out?

Originally the tunnels had benches laid out on each side, supposedly with each yard's length of tunnel accommodating 6 people 2 seated on each side and 2 standing. In 1940, with the increase in night bombing raids and more people staying overnight, the council provided 3 tier bunk beds down one side, to make things more comfortable. In the 1940's smoking was a more acceptable pastime than today, most adults being smokers. A consequence of this was that the top foot or so of the tunnels were filled with dense smoke. This was accepted as being the norm.

There were tool sheds sited at intervals along the tunnels, containing sets of tools. Whilst the tunnels were 40ft deep, what if they were not deep enough, tools were available to dig themselves out. There was a hospital in the tunnels, ostensibly for minor ailments, cuts and bruises etc. There are no records of anyone dying in the tunnels but one birth was officially recorded. The baby was a boy and at the time of writing is still alive in his eighties, living in Australia.

The Women's Voluntary Service ran a canteen providing hot tea and basic refreshments to people. The tunnels were nicknamed the Chestergate Hotel, initially the tunnels had chemical toilets, which were spaced out, to provide conveniences for each 100 people. To us now, this might seem to be very unsanitary. However, it has to be remembered that most people had outside toilets many communal, so this was not an unusual arrangement. Later on, flush toilets were introduced to complement the cold running water which was already available.

Wardens, were a combination of security officer and friendly neighbour. They had their own warden stations, strategically placed around the tunnel complex. The wardens had powers of arrest and one warden station was designated as a cell to accommodate any unruly individuals. On some occasions, gangs of young men would come in, after spending time in the local hostelry. If they got a bit boisterous, the leader would be taken away and placed in the cell, instead of being transported to the local police station during an air raid. He would be let out the next morning after everybody had exited the tunnels. Initially, some bright sparks took advantage of this, to get a room to themselves for the night. After a few weeks, they were rummled, made aware of dire consequences if it continued and the practise soon stopped.

The Chestergate Air Raid Shelters, were restored and opened to the public on a regular basis in August 1990. Escorted public and school tours are available during the day and private tours taking in areas of the tunnels not open to the general public are available on selected evenings.

Radcliffe Hall and St Mary's Ladies Group

Last year, the ladies enjoyed the adventures of Betsy, a rather dim and simple scullery maid, who worked in a Stately House. They were treated to a very funny rendition of life below stairs, as Betsy recounted the goings on, of the staff below stairs and the interaction between them and the people they encountered.

They enjoyed the experience so much that they invited her back to speak to them again. Only this time, she had somehow managed to get herself a job as a housekeeper. The phrase "heavens to Betsy" springs to mind.

On Wednesday 10th April, she took a day's holiday to speak to them again. When she emerged from her dressing room, otherwise known as the vestry, one couldn't help thinking that she had come straight from a funeral, as she was dressed head to toe in black. In fact, it must have been preying on her mind, note the e not to be mistaken for an a, although as we were in church, it could be classed as an excusable mistake, as she kept alluding to it by making a comment that she looks as if she had just come from a wake.

Anyway, she went on to explain, how she a simple scullery maid, simple being the operative word, managed to bag herself, my word nor hers, a housekeeper's job. Having fallen foul of a rule or two, the mistress of the house was advised that she should go to the local rectory for bible study classes. Well, safe to say, she was more than a tad out of her depth, having a great deal of difficulty getting to grips with the meaning of the scriptures, especially the story of Adam and Eve.

When asked by the Rector, whether she understood, she replied that for the life of her she couldn't understand why, Eve had given her cherry away for an apple, when she could have had the whole orchard. It didn't come as a surprise that she was banished from the bible study group, the Rector, arranging for her to go to a retired minister for instruction, telling her, that he liked to quote the scriptures.

So, in order to try to make an impression on her first visit, she decided to read the scriptures, not all of them mind, she decided just on the book of Job. This was when the misunderstanding happened.....

When she arrived at his house, she was just about to knock on the front door, when she was accosted by a rather grubby man with a huge marrow. Well, she couldn't look him in the eye, she couldn't take her eyes off his marrow. Now I want you to imagine standing in front of you is a big country yokel, with a very broad accent, "Are you here for job" he says, Betsy in all innocence answers yes, thinking it's a good thing I read up on him. "It's no good knocking on front door" he says, you're best going round to back door. So that's what she did.

On knocking on the door, the door was opened by an elderly stern looking woman, Betsy asked to speak to the Master, "Are you here for the job" she asked, "yes", said Betsy "well it's me you have to speak to, come in and sit down"

Well as I've said, Betsy was never the brightest kid on the block, so when she was asked for her references, she was rather dumbstruck, dumb in her case being the operative word. She was thinking to herself, what can I say. Well, in modern day idiom you could say she had a light bulb moment. She decided, that she would recount all Job's better characteristics, well the woman, was most impressed and told her she had the job.

It was at that moment, it dawned on her that it wasn't Job that she was asking about it was job and she had just been offered the job of housekeeper. Suffice to say, she didn't have a clue what a housekeeper's role was, for want of a better word she winged it, managing to give the impression that she knew what she was doing.

So that was how, poor little simple scullery maid Betsy, found herself as a housekeeper and somehow managed to keep the job.

All, who were there, were royally entertained, and there was a great deal of laughter, during the evening. Everyone was left looking forward to Betsy's further adventures as she has been booked for next year. Guess what, she's only gone and bagged a rich husband now that will be worth turning up for.

PG.

Radcliffe's Railway Stations – Part 1

Radcliffe, before Dr Beeching's cuts decimated the railway structure in the United Kingdom, once boasted 5 railway stations within its boundary and was served by 3 distinct railway lines, which converged on the centre of Radcliffe. The railway companies which ran the lines were originally, the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway and the East Lancashire Railway, both companies went through a number of mergers over succeeding years, eventually becoming part of British Railways London Midland Region, on 1st January 1948.

Radcliffe New Station (later Radcliffe Central).



Radcliffe Central circa 1971 after uplifting of the track to Bolton Trinity Street via Bradley Fold and Darcy Lever.



Aerial photograph of Radcliffe Central in 1935, showing west line to Bolton and east line to Bury Knowsley St

Radcliffe New station was opened on 1st December 1879, on the south side of Spring Lane by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. The purpose being to open a second route between Bury and Manchester which would also serve Whitefield and Prestwich. It also provided a direct route to the Bolton to Bury line via a western link from Radcliffe Central via Ainsworth Halt, joining the line between the stations of Bradley Fold and Black Lane.

The new station consisted of 4 platforms, platforms 1 (down line) and platform 2 (up line) to Bradley Fold station linking to Bolton and platforms 3 (for Bury) and 4 (for Manchester). Also provided were extensive goods facilities. By 1895, the station was providing 30 weekday services evenly split between both routes, with reduced services at the weekend.

In 1913, it was decided to electrify the line between Manchester Victoria and Bury Knowsley Street with the line becoming operational on 17th December 1916. At which time, the line between Bolton Trinity station and Manchester Victoria ceased to run. Passengers to and from Bolton using the line from Bolton to Radcliffe, changing at Radcliffe to continue their journeys to and from Manchester.

On 11th September 1933, Radcliffe New station was renamed, Radcliffe Central. On 21st September 1953, British Rail closed the line from Radcliffe Central to its connection to the Bolton to Bury line. This left platforms 1 and 2 without regular passenger trains although they were used for excursions and holiday trains. In 1958, a rebuild was started with completion on 5th June 1959. The new station only had 3 platforms, the up platform to Bury becoming platform 1, the down platform becoming platform 2 with the former platform 2 Bradley Fold platform becoming platform 3. With the closure of the Bolton link platform 1 was no longer in use.

New electric trains were introduced on the line in 1959. However, after the Beeching Report in 1963, the Manchester Victoria to Bury Line was earmarked for closure. Following public opposition, in 1966 the line was reprieved. In 1971, Radcliffe Central was simplified to Radcliffe.

In the 1980s, plans were introduced to create a metro style tram system to link the towns forming the Greater Manchester Metropolitan area. The Manchester Victoria to Bury line was chosen to be a part of the Metro network. The line between Manchester Victoria and Crumpsall was closed on 13th July 1991 for conversion to tram use, followed by the rest of the line on 17th August. On that date Radcliffe ceased to be a railway station. On 6th April 1992, the Metrolink from Manchester Victoria to Bury opened and the former Radcliffe Station became a stop on the line.

Radcliffe Bridge Station



Radcliffe Bridge Station was opened on 28th September 1846 by East Lancashire Railway Company, when public services, started running between Manchester and Rawtenstall. At this time Radcliffe Bridge and Radcliffe were separate villages about half a mile apart. The station was located to the north of the River Irwell between Sion Street Bridge and Green Street Bridge immediately south east of Grundy Street. Within 40 years the 2 villages had been merged as local industries, principally bleaching, cotton spinning, weaving and coal mining, swelled their populations.

There were two platforms and a siding on the west side of the tracks, the station building being on the east side of the line on the southbound platform. At the time of opening 5 trains ran in both directions on weekdays with four on Sundays. A major source of revenue at Radcliffe Bridge station was the movement of cattle, which were off loaded at the goods yard, herded and driven through the town to the abattoir.

On the 13th May, the East Lancashire Railway Company was taken over by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, which used the route through Radcliffe Bridge to Manchester as an alternative to the congested Manchester to Leeds line. The line was also used for holiday traffic.

When the LYR opened Radcliffe new Station in 1879, people preferred to use the new line via Whitefield and Prestwich. Although Accrington line trains still used Radcliffe Bridge which was then known by locals as Radcliffe Old station. Over the years, there were many merges of railway companies owning the line, until finally on the 1st January 1948 it became part of the nationalised British Rail.

On 7th July 1958, Radcliffe Bridge was closed to passenger traffic as Radcliffe New station now known as Radcliffe Central, had become Radcliffe's main railway station. Trains however did continue pass through the station on the service between Manchester and Colne until 3rd December 1966, when the line was closed.

No trace of the station now remains, the site of the old station was on the south side of a bend on Pilkington Way, which cuts through the line of the railway. The station site was on the south side of Hutchins Way. This is now a wooded area which has been landscaped.

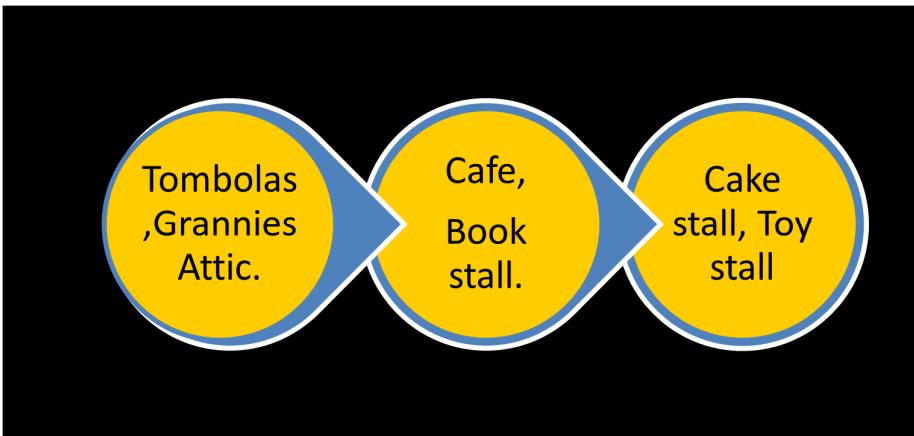


Radcliffe Bridge Station

Part 2 to be included in the next issue



**Parish Church of St Mary
Close Park
Annual Summer Fayre.
Saturday 22nd June.
12am-3pm.**



Raffle and much more

**Radcliffe Team Ministry
Parish Church of St. Mary, Radcliffe
Parochial Church Council Minutes 26th March 2019,
7.30pm**

Financial:

Jean gave out financial statements to all present for the year end 31st December 2018 and explained the monthly budget for the church and how the income does not cover the expenditure. We are not financially sound but we are getting by. She also went through the Utilities (E-on, British Gas), Fees, Building Fund and Restricted / Designated fund accounts, Parish share payments and Magazine status. Jean said money held from the insurers for beyond economic repair was now at approx £15,000 and stressed that for all other repairs to the church, payment will be made directly from the insurers.

Jean said the Parish Share is currently under review. The question was asked should we be paying the full amount as we have had no incumbent for 16 months a situation, still on going?

The answer was the Parish Share is used to pay all stipendiary, training and the pension funds.

The PCC expressed how grateful they were for all Jeans hard work.

Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult statement/ policy.

It was **agreed by all present** that we use our current policy's.

Wardens Report:

- Still awaiting written quote from Bagnalls regarding the painting of ceiling but we now have the quote from Lloyd & Smith. JABA has given his recommendation to use Lloyd & Smith for the work. The faculty for the ceiling has been completed. Deborah has still not received the quote from Bagnalls despite numerous contacts. It was agreed at January's PCC meeting to go with Lloyd & Smith. We now need to contact the insurers to see if they will give the go ahead to let them do the work without the quote from Bagnalls.
- Panto - confirmation has been received from the Panto Bus, booked, for 08/12/19 at 13:30pm.
- As we did not appoint a new Vicar after the interview on 14/02/19, new requests have been sent out for cover from June 19. We now have the following cover:

02/06/19 – Revd. Peter Reiss

07/07/19 – another email has been sent out, no response as yet.

04/08/19 – Bishop of Bolton, Mark Ashcroft

01/09/19 – Revd. Elaine Larkin

06/10/19 – Revd. Joanne McKee

03/11/19 – Archdeacon Jean Burgess

- The gardener has completed the one month visit to cut the grass and has applied the weed killer to kill and slow the growth of the grass.
- Sound system, CD eject button is now working, it wasn't broken but locked. See AP5
- Collection Box – With all that has happened between November PCC meeting and January's standing committee has not met so no decision yet. On going
- The faculty for the Re-Order repair work has been submitted.
- The question was asked regarding water levels and the pump in the cellar. The drains are still being looked at by the architect and Drain Consultants Ltd. Hopefully work can start shortly.

A.O.B

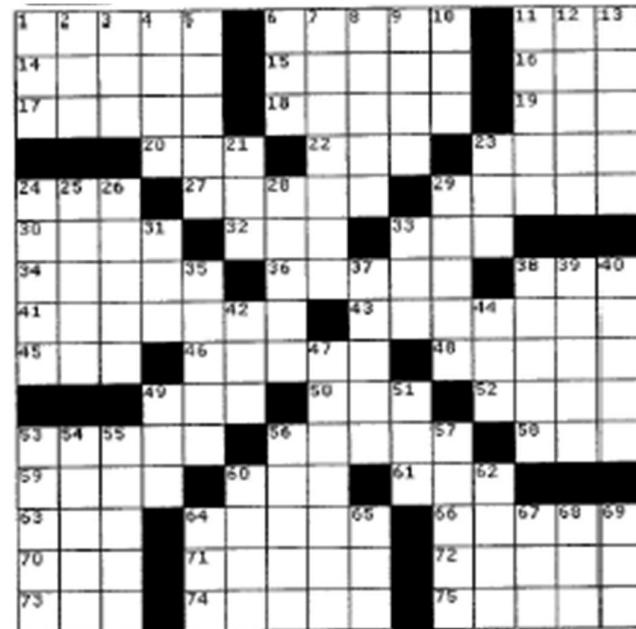
- Wednesday service will be at St Thomas's, Elizabeth is still unwell with the flu.
- Margaret, Social Committee: 5 people have volunteered to help with events. Pat said to add her name.
- Peter: Date for the Summer Fayre 22nd June.
- Peter: Heritage Weekend, This needs registering by 1st May. It was decided not the have a theme this year. The dates are needed so we can choose which weekend.
- Barbara: Carol Kemp has now finished and has copies of the St Bartholomew Booklet. A date was discussed to present Jean Howard with a copy: 4th August chosen.
- Peter: requested permission to put a border of flowers in the grass at the side of the lych gate. Everyone approved.

Action Points

AP3 March

Peter will go on line to Tesco, to see if we can be one of the charity's in the "place a token" scheme for pantomime finance.

CROSSWORD



| ACROSS | DOWN | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 False name | Jesus | 29 Grill | 68 East northeast |
| 6 Waste meat | 43 Island near Taiwan | 31 Unrefined metal | 69 Radiation dose |
| 11 American Kennel Club (abbr.) | 45 Rested | 33 Chinese cooking pan | |
| 14 Dog | 46 Urgent requests | 35 Plentiful | |
| 15 Completely | 48 Lawful | 37 Unsuccessful | |
| 16 Neither's partner | 49 Boxer Muhammad | person | |
| 17 Path | 50 Scarlet | 38 Mother of Ishmael | |
| 18 Trash | 52 Biblical weed | 39 Informed | |
| 19 Anger | 53 Filthy __ | 40 Witch hunting city | |
| 20 Part of a min. | 56 Wife of Abraham | 42 Samuel's mentor | |
| 22 MGM's Lion | 58 Rapid eye movement | 44 Fisherman's tool | |
| 23 Run away | 59 Wild | 47 Language of Jesus | |
| 24 Compass point | 60 Levee | 49 Noah's __ | |
| 27 Spanish coins | 61 Naught | 51 Tribe of Israel | |
| 29 Man shall not live by __ alone | 63 Compass point | 53 Alleys | |
| 30 A Roman emperor | 64 Moses' mountain | 54 Planet's shadow | |
| 32 Possess | 66 African country | 55 Intimidated | |
| 33 Contorted | 70 Bard's before | 56 St. Nick | |
| 34 Musical production | 71 Active | 57 Rear ends | |
| 36 Ice house | 72 Artemis | 60 Bowl | |
| 38 Owns | 73 Melancholy | 62 Roman thirteen | |
| 41 They visited | 74 Wallop | 64 Looked | |
| | 75 Two __ (has two faces) | 65 Annoy | |
| | 25 Old photo color | 67 Tribe of Israel | |
| | 26 Nab | | |
| | 28 Pigs | | |

For crossword solution see page 35

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CLASSICAL TIMES



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St Matthias, Apostle, Feast day 14th May.

St Matthias was, according to the Acts of the Apostles the apostle chosen to replace Judas Iscariot following Judas' betrayal of Jesus and his (Judas') subsequent death. His calling as an apostle is unique, in that his appointment was not made personally by Jesus, who had already ascended into heaven, and it was also made before the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the early Church.

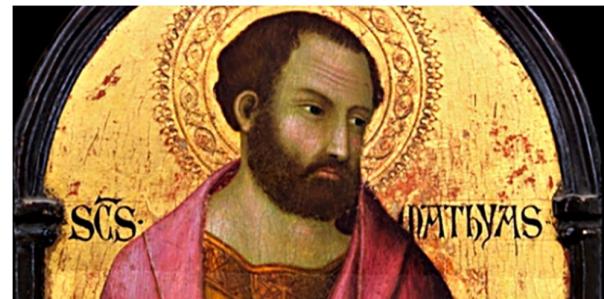
There is no mention of a Matthias among the lists of disciples or followers of Jesus in the three synoptic gospels, but according to *Acts*, he had been with Jesus from his baptism by John until his Ascension. In the days following, Peter proposed that the assembled disciples, who numbered about one hundred-twenty, nominate two men to replace Judas. They chose Joseph called Barsabas (whose surname was Justus) and Matthias. Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias, so he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

There are various ancient accounts of Matthias's life and death, the tradition of the Greeks says that St. Matthias planted the faith in the area of Cappadocia, central Anatolia, Turkey and on the coasts of the Caspian Sea, residing chiefly near the port Issus.

According to Nicephorus, Matthias first preached the Gospel in Judaea, then in Aethiopia (In an area now known as the Caucasus, which incorporates Modern Georgia, Romania and parts of Russia) and in the region of Colchis, now in modern-day Georgia and was there stoned to death. A marker placed in the ruins of the Roman fortress at Gonio (Apsaros) in the modern Georgian region of Adjara claims that Matthias is buried at that site.

An extant Coptic, *"Acts of Andrew and Matthias"*, places his activity in "the city of the cannibals" in Aethiopia. The *Synopsis of Dorotheus* contains this tradition: "Matthias preached the Gospel to barbarians and meat-eaters in the interior of Aethiopia, where the sea harbour of Hyssus is, at the mouth of the river Phasis. He died at Sebastopolis, and was buried there, near the Temple of the Sun. Alternatively, another tradition maintains that Matthias was stoned at Jerusalem by the Jews, and then beheaded. According to another account by Hippolytus of Rome, Matthias died of old age in Jerusalem.

It is claimed that St Matthias the Apostle's remains were brought to Italy through Empress Helena of Constantinople, mother of Emperor Constantine I (the Great); part of this relics would be interred in the Abbey of Santa Giustina, Padua, and the remaining in the Abbey of St. Matthias, Trier, Germany. According to Greek sources, the remains of the apostle are buried in the castle of Gonio-Apsaros, Georgia.



Church Magazine Order Form

There are a number of ways you can receive your copy of the church magazine.
Please select your preferred option from those given below .

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Address/Email address:.....

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if you live outside the parish.

Made payable to the Parish Church of St Mary, Radcliffe.

Please tick the box if you are happy to be contacted about future church events

Just for Fun

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Church school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large tray of apples. A nun lettered a note and posted it on the apple tray:

"Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving along the lunch line, at the other end was a large tray of chocolate chip cookies. A girl wrote a note, which she put next to the tray of cookies,

"Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

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Mothers' UNION
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Events

June 24th 7.30pm Meeting at Parish Church of St Mary.
Talk by Philip Gooderson.

Radcliffe Hall & St. Mary's Ladies Group

Upcoming events

Date

8th May

9th June

Event

Flower arranging demonstration by Jackie from Bealeys Florists

Day trip to Chester

Richard Anthony's



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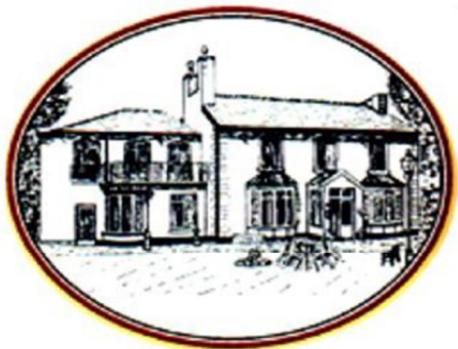


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Crossword Solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| A | L | I | A | S | O | F | F | A | L | A | K | C |
| 14 | P | O | O | C | H | F | U | L | L | N | O | R |
| 17 | R | O | U | T | E | T | R | I | P | E | I | R |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | S | E | C | | | 21 | 22 | | | 23 | | |
| 24 | S | S | W | P | E | S | O | S | | B | R | E |
| 30 | N | E | R | O | W | O | N | W | R | Y | | |
| 34 | O | P | E | R | A | I | G | L | O | H | A | S |
| 41 | W | I | S | E | M | E | N | O | K | I | N | A |
| 45 | S | A | T | | | 46 | 47 | 48 | | 49 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 49 | A | L | I | R | E | D | | | 50 | 51 | 52 | |
| 53 | L | U | C | R | E | S | A | R | A | H | | 58 |
| 59 | A | M | O | K | | 60 | D | A | M | N | I | X |
| 63 | N | B | W | | | 64 | S | I | N | 65 | 66 | 67 |
| 70 | E | R | E | | | | A | S | T | I | N | G |
| 73 | S | A | D | | | 74 | W | H | A | 75 | 76 | 68 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 69 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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Chicken**

Ingredients

*Grapeseed, rapeseed or vegetable oil
1 medium onion
4 cupfuls of cooked rice
4oz of grated cheese
Plain crisps
1 tin of condensed mushroom soup
Some button mushrooms chopped*

Method:

*Add tablespoon oil to frying pan and heat.
Add chopped onion and cook.
Add condensed soup to frying pan.
Add tablespoon of mayonnaise.
Add tablespoon of lemon juice.
Add chopped button mushrooms.
Add 3-4 cups of cooked chicken, chopped up small.
Mix altogether.
Empty contents of frying pan into shallow dish.
Sprinkle grated cheese on top and add crushed crisps.
Cook in oven for 30 minutes.*

So much more than plants

Since it was purchased in 2013, as an addition to the well-established family business at Summerseat, Bradley Fold Garden Centre has become a focal point for the residents of Bradley Fold and beyond to meet friends and relatives for lunch or just a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and a cake. However, Bradley Fold Garden Centre is not just a pleasant place to while away a few hours in convivial company, it is so much more.

It offers a large variety of products, from plants to pets, giftware to garden sundries. It also houses within its walls, an Edinburgh Woollen Mill concession, to support its own range of very stylish women's clothes and accessories. More recently, Bradley Fold has added its very own butchers within its thriving food department, stocking fresh locally sourced produce.

From field to fork, their food undergoes quite a journey before it reaches our plate. Nowadays, as a population, we are asking more questions about the traceability of many different products, especially meat. In our supermarkets, there is access to a wide range of meat products, but as to where they come from and their freshness, we as consumers are left very much in the dark. Bradley Fold is passionate about championing local farmers and giving their customers the opportunity to support local businesses. Their beef has been sourced from a farm in Bury, the lamb from a family member's farm in the Trough of Bowland. The pork comes from a farm in Cheshire and is exclusively outdoor bred, and the chicken has the British Red Tractor label (The Red Tractor Label, lets shoppers know that each chicken is traceable, safe, and farmed with care).

The Butchers counter incorporates a dry ageing cabinet. For those of you that are new to dry ageing, this is a way of drying meat using the right balance of temperature and climate. During the dry-ageing process, moisture is drawn out of the meat. This intensifies the flavour of the beef. On top of that, the ageing process causes the beef's natural enzymes to break down the connective tissue in the meat, making it more tender. What a great way to enjoy a juicy steak!



Bradley Fold, have gone back to traditional butchery, that is they actively source their produce direct from local farms. They are involved in the transportation and slaughtering of the animals, seeing the whole process through to ensure standards are as high as possible in both animal welfare and quality. Also ensuring that they know the full traceability of the meat they produce, only using the full carcass. They do not buy boxed meat from wholesalers to sell on their counters. The meat they buy is from farms, where they are actively involved in the rearing of the livestock, or comes from the Garden Centres own family farms. The lambs come from Sam's Auntie in Clitheroe, the beef from his grandfather in Bury, as well as milk and cream. The pies are his grandmother's and mother's own recipes. Sausages, burgers and pies are produced in house on a daily basis. We also cure all of our bacon and hams not many shops can say that.

They are proud of their vast range of ready meals which is under continuous development and are actively sourcing new recipes, which will change with the seasons, allowing customers to enjoy a positive shopping experience when they visit this evolving family business. From pensioners, singletons, families, to empty nesters, enjoying the freedom afforded them by children now raising their own families. Customers can buy as little or as much as they need.

Many of their customers come in on a daily basis, buying a couple of sausages, a few chops or a couple of burgers, just for their immediate needs.

Prices are very competitive, because meats are sourced from local suppliers, costs can be kept down, offering the highest quality for the best prices.

Bradley Fold have recently introduced their own fruit and vegetable displays, again sourcing their produce from local providers. They are also proud to say, that the meals and snacks provided in their very popular café, use the meats and vegetables sold on their premises.

However, Bradley Fold Garden Store is not all about plants and food. Although they do have an extensive range of annual and perennial plants, bushes and trees for sale. You can also find a wide range of garden furniture in store, together with all the ancillary products you would normally expect to find in a garden store.

There is also inside a wide selection of pets available from birds, reptiles to rabbits and hamsters, and all manner of accessories to keep your pets happy. It is also a nice place to bring young children and introduce them in a safe environment to some of the cuter species of the animal kingdom.

There is an excellent handicrafts section, which includes, wools, haberdashery, handicraft and artists materials, everything you may need to pursue your hobbies.

Other areas include a wide range of greetings cards, children's toys, household furniture and accessories, beauty products and perfumed candles for ladies to wander through at their leisure, having deposited their other halves to have a beverage in the café or wander outside amongst the many plants on display.

All in all, the perfect place to while away a few hours and relax in enjoyable surroundings.

PG



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prayer

It can be a struggle sometimes to think about who or what you can pray about. Below is a suggested list for the month. It includes those from our Book of Remembrance & the Saints for the month.

Book of Remembrance

May

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 3 rd | William Roberts |
| 4 th | Julia Rhoda Simms |
| 19 th | Diana Sayers |
| 22 nd | Clarence Jackson |
| 23 rd | Ruth Gardner |
| 26 th | Norman Parton |

Saints Days

May

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 1 st | Philip & James Apostles |
| 2 nd | Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, 373AD |
| 4 th | English Saints and Martyrs of Reformation Era |
| 8 th | Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer, c 1417 |
| 14 th | Matthias the Apostle |
| 20 th | Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804AD |
| 24 th | John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, Hymn writers, 1791 and 1788 |
| 25 th | The venerable Bede, Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, 735AD |
| 28 th | Lanfranc, prior of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Scholar, 1089AD |

June

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 9 th | Fred Simmons |
| 21 st | Geoff Layton |
| 22 nd | Brian Mulholland |
| 23 rd | Bessie Clegg |
| 25 th | Ellen Howarth |



May Readings

5th May

Third Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 9: 1-6 (7-20)

2nd Reading: Rev 5: 11-end

Gospel: John 21:1-19

12th May

Fourth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 9: 36-end or Gen 7:1-5, 11-8, 8: 6-8, 9:8-12

2nd Reading: Rev 7 9-end

Gospel: John 10:22-30

19th May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 11:1-18, 17-18

2nd Reading: Rev 21:1-6

Gospel: John 13: 31-35

26th May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Ezek 37:1-4 or Acts 16:9-15

2nd Reading: Rev 21:10, 20-22

Gospel: John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9





June Readings



2nd June

Seventh Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Ezek 36:24-28 or Acts 16:16-34

2nd Reading: Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-end

Gospel: John 17:20-end

9th June

Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

1st Reading: Gen 11:1-9 or Acts 2:1-21

2nd Reading: Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21

Gospel: John 14:8-17, (25-27)

16th June

Trinity Sunday

1st Reading: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-5

Gospel: John 16:12-15

23rd June

First Sunday after Trinity

1st Reading: Isaiah 65:1-9

2nd Reading: Acts 13:14b-26 or Gal 3:23-end

Gospel: Luke 1:57-66, 80

30th June

Second Sunday after Trinity

1st Reading: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-end

2nd Reading: Gal 5:1, 13-25

Gospel: Luke 9:51-end



The Parish Directory

Who's who at the Parish Church of St Mary, Radcliffe.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Team Rector | Vacant | |
| Team Vicar | Rev Elizabeth Binns MBE | |
| Verger | Mrs V Beal | 0161 766 9504 |
| Organist/Pianist | Mr P Brown | |
| Church Wardens | Mrs D Tokaryk | 0161 724 4116 |
| Lay Assistants | Mrs V Beal, Mr W Boote, Mrs J Howard, Mrs D Tokaryk, Mewish Nasir, Jean Robinson | |
| Intercessors | Miss J Boote, Mrs V Ormrod, Mewish Nasir | |
| Electoral Role Secretary | Miss J Boote | |
| Child Protection Officer | Mrs D Tokaryk | |
| Flower Arrangers | Mrs B Greaves, Mrs P Rigby | |
| Baptism Visitors | Mrs B Greaves, Mrs P Rigby, Mrs D Tokaryk | |
| Junior Church Leader | Vacant | |
| Magazine Committee | Mrs V Ormrod, Mr P Gorman | |
| Weekly Newsheet Editor | Mr P Gorman | 0161 723 4965 |
| Magazine Editors | Mr P Gorman | Mrs V Ormrod |
| | Email: p.gorman4@ntlworld.com | vxormrod@hotmail.com |
| Parochial Church Council | | |
| Members | Mrs L Higham, Mrs P Rigby, Mrs M Mort, Mrs P Holt, Mrs V Ormrod, Mrs B Greaves, Mrs E Embrey, Mrs P O'Dwyer, Mrs J Robinson, Mr P Gorman | |
| Vice Chair | Mrs J Robinson | |
| Secretary | Mrs C Clegg | |
| Treasurer | Mrs J Robinson | |
| Assistant Treasurer | Mrs V Ormrod | |
| Deanery Synod Representatives: | Mrs J Robinson, Mrs V Beal | |