

grapevine

The Parish of Sandal Magna

November/December 2019

St. Helen's, Sandal • St. Paul's, Walton

Advent, Christmas & Alpha

15 December

Walton Community Carols, 11am St Paul's Church, Walton.
Carols by Candlelight, 7pm St Helen's, Sandal

22nd December

Carols by Candlelight, 11am St Helen's, Sandal
Parish Christingle Service, 4pm St Helen's, Sandal

24th December

Midnight Eve Communion, 11pm St Helen's, Sandal

25th December

Family Communion, 10am St Helen's, Sandal
Family Communion, 11am St Paul's, Walton
Community Christmas Day Lunch, 12noon St Helen's, Sandal

29th December

Parish Communion Service, 11am St Paul's, Walton

19th January

Youth Alpha begins, 6pm St Helen's Church (11+)

20th January

Evening Alpha Course begins, 7.30-9pm St Helen's Church

23rd January

Daytime Alpha Course begins, 11am-12noon
Portobello Community Centre

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Alpha Courses begin in January

The logo of the Alpha course has always been a large question mark, because it invites all who participate to ask questions about anything that concerns them. The most common questions are not easy. Why does a God of Love allow suffering? What about other religions? How do we reconcile faith and science? To these questions there are no easy answers, which is why the discussion part of the Alpha course is so important, giving us the opportunity to wrestle with difficult issues and learn together.

It's interesting that Jesus did a lot of teaching by asking challenging questions: Who do people say that I am? What do you want me to do for you? Did you never read the scriptures? Could you not watch with me one brief hour? So if you have questions or if you want to know more about the Christian faith or to be confirmed, do consider coming on one of our Alpha Courses which begin on 19th, 20th or 23rd January.

Please 'phone Rupert or Sally Martin on 01924 255441 or Marisa Kapp in the Parish Office , 01924 259966, to register your interest.

The Power of Protest

Catalan politicians who conducted an illegal referendum and unilaterally declared independence for Catalonia have been harshly sentenced to between 9 and 13 years imprisonment for sedition, which means; “conduct or speech inciting people to rebel against the authority of a state or monarch”. Sedition has an archaic sound to it. How does that differ from the protests of democrats in Hong Kong or of climate change activists in London? Nonviolent protest is a human right, and has brought about significant change such as Indian Independence, Civil Rights and an end to Apartheid. When non-violence descends into violence then it loses its moral force, and can lead to a violent reaction.

Jesus Christ was executed “for sedition, being falsely accused; *“We found this man undermining our law and order”*, but Jesus tells Peter to put his sword away, and asks those who arrest him: *“Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?”* He is still accused of disturbing the peace: *“He’s stirring up unrest among the people with his teaching, he’s a dangerous man, endangering the peace.”* Jesus’ way of challenging the corrupt authority of state and religion was nonviolent. He sided with the poor and the outcast who were being oppressed by the Romans and the religious authorities. He did so by doing ‘seditious’ things like healing people on the sabbath, and teaching in parables about God’s Kingdom.

Frederick Douglas who campaigned for the abolition of slavery, said: *“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favour freedom yet deprecate agitation are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. Power concedes nothing without demand.”* The activism of the young is a wake-up call to the powers that be.
Rupert

Images in the Bible: Light

Is light an image in itself, or something through which we are able to see the world? Perhaps it can be both, just as light is both a wave and a stream of particles. Whatever its nature, it is one of the most powerful images and metaphors in many religious texts as well as in the Bible, denoting the essence of creation and the identity of Jesus.



Raindrops on a bird's feather

The two are linked in the opening words of Genesis and the Gospel of John: *Out of the brooding nothingness, God said: let there be light and there was light.* Genesis 1:3. The Message.

The Life-Light was the real thing: Every person entering Life he brings into Light. John 1:9. The Message.

Light kickstarts creation and redemption, the work of God the Father and God the Son, and it also symbolises the coming of the Holy Spirit in tongues of fire.

It is both physical, made up of photons that bounce off objects and whose different wavelengths reflect different colours, and metaphysical, representing abstract ideas such as love, goodness, purity and life itself. Light can be outside us and within us, as Wallace Stevens writes in his poem, *Evening without Angels*:

*Light, too, encrusts us making visible
the motions of the mind.*

Light is both light to see by and light to live by; it has a practical and a moral significance. *What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by.* John 1:4 The Message.

It can reveal the extremes of beauty and ugliness, but light and dark do not form a dualistic concept because darkness can never overcome light. *The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.* John 1:5 The Message.

John goes on in his Gospel to reveal the overcoming of darkness by light. The restoring of sight to the blind man reveals the power of God, and shows that the blind man has greater insight than those who can see. Jesus identifies himself with the light: Jesus said, *'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'* John 8:12.

John also equates the betrayal of Jesus by Judas with the coming of darkness. *Judas, with the piece of bread, left. It was night.* John 13:30. In the other three Gospels the crucifixion is shrouded with darkness, and the resurrection depicted in the supernatural light of an angel. *His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.* Matthew 28:3.

The appearance of Jesus to Paul on the road to Damascus is described as a vision of light that literally blinded him: *About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me. My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.* Acts 22:6, 9,11. The Message.

Light can be both Theophany and Epiphany, a revealing of God and a revealing of Christ. It is one of the attributes of God who *wraps himself in light as with a garment.* Psalm 104:2.

There is an image which has a proleptic, scientific accuracy, describing God, *who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.* 1 Timothy 6:16. The speed of light cannot be exceeded, so if God is light then he cannot be approached or surpassed, and exists beyond the space-time continuum.

Light is one way in which God's glory is revealed, in the giving of the law to Moses, and the consecration of the temple of Solomon.

Light reveals the glory of God in the transfiguration of Jesus' face, the brightness of his clothing, and the radiance of the enveloping cloud.

Light has a moral dimension emphasised by Jesus: *The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.* Matthew 6:22.

Light has a missionary dimension as Jesus calls the disciples *the light of the world*, to shine that light into the world, and not to hide it away.

Paul calls us to be *children of light*, to put on the *armour of light* and to *walk in the light*.

Light has been the subject and the medium of great artists such as Rembrandt and Vermeer, described by Robert Lowell, in his poem, Epilogue:

*Pray for the grace of accuracy Vermeer gave
to the sun's illumination stealing across a map.*

It comes as no surprise to find that the greatest number of references to light come in the poems of the Book of Psalms.

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. Psalm 36:9.

You are radiant with light, more majestic than mountains rich with game. Psalm 76:4.

The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent. Psalm 104:2.

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 119:105.

Whether in poetry or prose, as physical images or metaphysical ideas, light permeates the imagery and theology of the Bible, and is embodied in the person of Jesus Christ. *For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.* 2 Corinthians 4:6.

Wherever you are in your life's journey, may you discover the light of Christ this Christmas. *Rupert*

Opening of the Refurbished Portobello Community Centre

The refurbished Portobello Community Centre was reopened on Saturday 12th October in glorious sunshine. Sally Martin told the story of the Centre over the last 30 years, its role at the heart of the estate, and the bright future that lies ahead. Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the party.

All the main groups that use the Centre were represented:
Inspiring Community Youth Groups,
Fusion Youth Group for those with Autism and Aspergers,
Portobello Craft & Camera Group,
Strong Tower Christian Centre,
Stride Theatre Group,

African Forum,
CAP Lounge Drop in with Lunch.

A big thank you to all those who made this possible, especially Matt Taylor of ATP Builders for the excellent work they did, David Cross for the beautiful new graffiti wall with the help of a team of Portobello children, and David Penney for the stylish gates.

The project has been overseen by Portobello Community Forum, who will run the Centre, and the building will also house the office of the Christians against Poverty Debt Centre.

The next big celebration will be the Centenary of the building of the Portobello Estate in 1921, the first in Wakefield.

Walton Colliery Memorial

A moving ceremony was held on 19th October at Walton Colliery Nature Park, to dedicate a Memorial Pit Wheel to commemorate all the people who worked at Walton Colliery (Sharlston West) 1890-1979, and to remember the five men who lost their lives in the Walton Colliery Disaster in an explosion at 10 East Face on 22nd April, 1959.

Crofton Silver Band set the scene with beautiful music; Mark Blount, Chair of Working for Walton welcomed everyone and thanked the many people who have helped bring this project to fruition; Trevor Chalkley, of the National Mining Museum, gave a fascinating account of the history of the mine; the Vicar of the Parish, Rupert Martin, gave the dedication, (*see below*); the Memorial Wheel was unveiled by Terry Lloyd, former Collier at Walton Colliery; and the Mayor of Wakefield, Cllr. Charles Keith, made a heartfelt speech to conclude the ceremony.

Dedication

This wheel represents the ongoing memory of Walton Colliery and the people who worked here from 1890-1979. In the beautiful landscape of this Nature Park it is important to have a visible sign of all the buildings that once stood here; the winding gear, the chimney, the outbuildings and the terraced houses on Spike Island. It is important to have above ground something that reminds us of the shafts and tunnels underground, and the camaraderie of those who worked the seams. Above all it is essential we remember the lives of those who lived and worked in this vital part of the village of Walton, and to honour those miners who are here today.

We remember all those who died while working in this mine, including four members of the Ray family who died in 1914, 1944, 1957 and 1959. In particular we remember the five miners killed in the Walton Colliery disaster of 22nd April, 1959; Wilfred Wardle, Laurie Coe, Charles Ray, John Rothery, William Hudson.

We honour their memory and their courage, which represents the courage of every man and boy, some as young as 14, who chose to go down into a place of danger for the sake of their family, their community and their nation.

Today I also want to draw attention to the fact that on our Parish War Memorial are the names of 12 coal miners who died in World War 1; 9 from Walton, 2 from Sharlston and 1 from Crigglestone. Mining was a reserved occupation, but many men chose to enlist and nearly one half of those from this village who died in WW1 were coal miners, who went from pit to trench and never returned.

We honour them today alongside all those who died working here, and alongside that who lived and worked here for many years, providing fuel for the nation and food for their families, enduring the hard work with grit and courage, enjoying the camaraderie with loyalty and humour, contributing their energy and vitality to this and other villages during the life of Walton Colliery up to this very day.

Rupert Martin

The Spring Dates for your Diary

15th Nov - Tearfund's Big Quiz

10th Dec - Christmas Lunches begin - Booking essential.

Children are welcome here

At St Helen's we welcome children and families to learn and grow together with Jesus. We learn through fun experiences and worship every Sunday.

10.45am Worship, 1st, 3rd 4th Sunday with children groups, Scramblers & Climbers - 0-4 years with an adult. Explorers - 5-7 years, Adventurers - 8-10 years, Pathfinders - Secondary School
4pm Families@4, every **2nd** Sunday. A time for young families to share and have creative worship together. We start with tea and cake followed by worship. Together we make crafts, listen to stories, sing, dance and have fun. This where we especially welcome Baptism families to enjoy being a family together in their parish church.

Children Society Boxes

Thank you to everyone who have brought their box back for emptying. Rose is still waiting on a number of boxes to be returned for counting. Please contact Rose on 250829 if you need any help with getting your box to church.

Worship

17 Nov	Theme	Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians 5	
	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Helen's
	10.45am	Morning Praise	St Helen's
	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's
	6pm	Soul Space Quiet Hour	St Paul's
24 Nov	Theme	Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians 5	
	9.15am	Morning Prayer	St Helen's
	10.45am	Family Communion	St Helen's
	11am	Morning Praise	St Paul's
1 Dec	Theme	Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians 7	
	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Helen's
	10.45am	Morning Praise	St Helen's
	11am	Morning Praise	St Paul's
	6pm	Contemplative Prayer	St Paul's
8 Dec	Theme	Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians 8	
	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Helen's
	10.45am	Café Church	The Spring
	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's
	4pm	Families@4	St Helen's

15 Dec	Theme	Carol Services	
	11am	Walton Village Community Carols	St Paul's
	7pm	Carols by Candlelight	St Helen's
22 Dec	Theme	Carol Services	
	11am	Carols by Candlelight	St Helen's
	4pm	Parish Christingle Service	St Helen's
24 Dec	Theme	Christmas Eve	
	11pm	Midnight Communion	St Helen's
25 Dec	Theme	Christmas Day	
	10am	Family Communion	St Helen's
	11am	Family Communion	St Paul's
	12noon	Community Christmas Lunch	St Helen's
29 Dec	Theme		
	11am	Joint Parish Holy Communion	St Paul's
5 Jan	Theme	Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians 10	
	9.15am	Holy Communion	St Helen's
	10.45am	Morning Praise	St Helen's
	11am	Morning Praise	St Paul's
	6pm	Contemplative Prayer	St Paul's

Provision for Children on Sunday

St. Helen's Children and young people are welcome to our services. Creche and Groups 1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays during the 10.45am service; on 2nd Sunday we have Families@4pm for children & parents, with tea, sandwiches, cake and creative worship.

St. Paul's welcomes children with a Kids' Corner during services

Youth Group, Secondary School Children, contact Liz Rowe 250636.

Information & Regular Events

Room Hire	Contact the Parish Office 259966 for bookings of: The Barnabas Rooms, St. Paul's, Walton, WF2 6JU The Emmaus Rooms, St. Helen's, Sandal, WF2 6EJ.
Bell-ringing	Practice night Wednesdays at 7.30pm at the Parish Church. Contact Margot Cutt on 01924 255918.
Boogie-Woogie Toddler Group (term time only)	Thursdays - 9.15am, at St. Paul's. Contact: 0 - 5 years Co-ordinator), Marisa Kapp Tel. 01924 259966. Email. marisa.sandalmagna@gmail.com .
Choir	Practice Fridays 7.30pm before 2nd & 4th Sunday in the month. Contact Andrea North 01924 251646.
The Spring - Cafe & Shop	Open from Tuesday-Friday 10am-4pm and Saturday 10am-2pm. 299 Barnsley Road. 242593
Groups	Want to join a Group? Please contact Rupert & Sally Martin, 255441.
St Paul's with St Helen's Mothers' Union	St Paul's 7.30pm in The Barnabas Rooms, Walton on the 3rd Monday of each month. Contact Rose Lee on 01924 250829 18 Nov Remembrance, 16 Dec Christmas meeting
Open Doors	Tuesdays 10-11.30am. At Walton Methodist Church Shay Lane Walton. Join us for coffee & chat.
Toddle-In Toddler Group	Tuesdays - 9.15am at St. Helen's Church, Sandal. Contact Denise Chivers on 01924 259966
Women's Fellowship	Contact Judith Parkin 256045. 2nd Monday in the month. 7.30pm St. Helen's. 11 Nov 70th Anniversary, 11 Dec Christmas Lunch at The Spring
Parish Office	Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, & Room Lettings. St. Helen's, Barnsley Road, Wakefield WF2 6EJ. Open Tues, Wed, and Thurs, 9am-12 noon , or by appointment with Marisa Kapp. Tel. 01924 259966 . Access is down the path through the green door. www.sandalmagna.com sandalmagna@gmail.com
SHYP (St. Helen's Youth Project)	Children's Co-ordinator, Laura Truter Youth & Community Co-ordinator, Sally Martin Mobile: 07910558139. sallymartinpcf@gmail.com

Office Business on Sundays	Please contact the Churchwardens: Craig Orr, 250262; Brian Pratt, 240311; Andrea North, 251646
Pastoral Ministry	For visits and Pastoral Care, point of contact: Margaret Walker. Tel.07799217904/01924 248513.
Vicar	Rev. Rupert Martin. Tel. 01924 255441.

Prayer Times ~ All Welcome

Tuesday-Saturday at The Spring 9.45am -10.00am
 Wednesdays at St. Paul's, Walton 9.00am - 9.30am
 Thursday Portobello Community Centre 10.30am - 11.00am

Prayer in times of special need

If anyone needs special prayer, please contact me on 07799217904 or 248513 and you will be included in the next Grapevine. If you know anyone who is in need of prayers for healing, and they would like to be included on this list, please contact me. *Margaret Walker*

Focus for Prayer

Please pray for:

those in need of healing:

Betty Richmond, Pat Manners, Trevor Thompson, Daniel Stead, Paul Morris, Alan Leading, Martin Porritt, Barry Lord, Renee Thorndike, Val and Tony Gilman, Jonathan le Couteur.

those who have recently lost loved ones, especially the friends and family of: Elizabeth Ann Sapi, John Cutt, Philip Robinson.

those recently baptised: Riley Smith, Charlotte Harrison, Florence Watson, Cooper Caddick, William Wagstaff, Ava Murrell.



Sally Martin speaking in the refurbished Portobello Community Centre