

# grapevine

The Parish of Sandal Magna

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

January/February 2020

## Spring Volunteers' Tea



Thanks to all our volunteers for their dedicated, faithful service, and to Cath celebrating 10 years since she became Manager.

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## Dates of our three Alpha Courses

**Evening Alpha**, Mondays, 7-9pm in the Emmaus rooms at the back of St Helen's Church: 20, 27 Jan, 3,10,24 Feb, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 March.

**Daytime Alpha**, Thursdays, 11am - 12 noon, Portobello Community Centre, 20, Portobello Rd: 23, 30 Jan, 6, 13, 27 Feb, 5, 12, 19, 26 March, 2 April.

**Youth Alpha**, Sundays, 6-7.30pm, in the Emmaus rooms at the back of St Helen's Church: 19, 26 Jan, 2, 9, 23, Feb, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 March.

Places are still available if people want to join. Please just phone the Parish Office 01924 259966. The Alpha course also doubles up as Confirmation Preparation. The Confirmation will be on Sunday 17th May, 11am at t Helen's Church.

## Christmas Carols at St Paul's

What a joyous occasion this was! It was wonderful to welcome regular worshippers from St Paul's, St Helen's, and Walton Methodists, with

members of Walton Village to our traditional service of reading and carols. More than half the St Helen's choir came and led the singing from the front, conducted by the irrepressible Ali Bullivent, giving us the added enjoyment of descants and a lovely rendition of The Angel Gabriel. There was great amusement when Ina read the story of the shepherds in Yorkshire dialect, and we followed that by singing *White Shepherds Watched* to the tune of *On Ilkley Moor baht 'at*. Many found our service very moving and stayed to share refreshments and fellowship afterwards. Can we do this again this year? Yes, please!

*Rose Lee*

May I add to Rose's lovely words a big thank you to everyone involved in creating so many beautiful, welcoming and meaningful services of worship and gifts of hospitality in both our churches, the Spring and Portobello Community Centre. *Rupert*

## Who am I and where do I fit in? John Arnold

I was born in 1941 in Macclesfield, Cheshire.

My parents were devout practising Christians and like their parents and grandparents before them, were pillars of the Parish Church of Sutton St. George, Macclesfield. My father, a silk manufacturer, was a Lay Reader for over 50 years so my involvement at church was just part of my life. As time passed, I moved from attending Sunday School to becoming a Sunday School Teacher, from a communicant to a server at Holy Communion and as a chorister, transferring from treble to bass at which time I had my eye on one particular soprano who still puts up with me after nearly 56 years of marriage!



After attending The King's School in Macclesfield I became a student at Bede College, Durham - a Church of England College of Education. I learned a valuable lesson about teaching - yes, you need to know your subject but more so, you need to know about yourself along with your strengths and weaknesses, but mostly as much as you can about the children you are teaching. During my time at Durham, I took up

and enjoyed rowing and eventually made the first eight - practice and team work at its best!

I returned to Macclesfield to teach Mathematics and Engineering Science at an all boys' secondary school. It was at this time that I became organist for some four years at St. Barnabas Church, the daughter church of St. George. This musical experience was cut short in 1968 with a move to Wakefield with Margaret, Karen (aged 2) and Simon (aged four months) for me to take up the post of Senior Master and Head of Mathematics at the newly built Eastmoor City High School. We all regularly attended St. John's Church where I became a member of the PCC.

The re-organisation of education in the City of Wakefield prompted all teachers to consider their future. I had been privileged to work in two schools with highly efficient and supportive Headteachers who encouraged me to further my career and so I applied for and was appointed Headteacher at the designated Sandal Endowed CE (Aided) Middle School (ages 9-13) - a post I held for 28 years until my retirement in 2000. This was a pleasure I shared with a team of dedicated staff, supportive parents, governors and an excellent Parent/Teacher Association in a church school with a history dating back to 1686, when Richard Taylor bequeathed money to teach six or eight poor children in the village of Sandal.

Sport, music and drama have always been important curricular and extra-curricular aspects in all the schools in which I have taught. They all contribute to lessons in life - team work again, winning and losing, playing by the rules, respecting others. I had started to promote and organise the sport of table tennis in schools in Macclesfield and then in Wakefield. In 1972, I made the mistake of attending the English Schools' Table Tennis Association AGM as an observer, only to return home having been elected General Secretary! Chairmanship and the office of President followed which led to my election as Chair of the National Council for School Sport - an office I held for 12 years. In 1993, I was asked to take on the position as the inaugural Chair of the International School Sport Federation Table Tennis Technical Commission which organised biennial World Schools' Championships. This was a marvellous opportunity to work in educational and sporting projects with schools, players and officials from over 30 countries around the world. My last competition was in Sardinia in 2012. In 2013, I was honoured to be awarded the MBE for 'Services to School Sport'. In 2018, with Margaret very much at my side in all the above, I retired from all table tennis activities during which time I had always encouraged Christian values and attitudes.

This brings me back full circle to playing the organ again after a 50 year gap (although I did occasionally play at the School Carol Service). In spite of deteriorating hand/eye co-ordination and rusty fingers I am thoroughly enjoying this new challenge!!!

How about time for relaxation? Margaret and I enjoy getting away from it all in our caravan. Our favourite site is at Broadway in the Cotswolds, adjacent to the GWR Heritage Railway. What would I take with me for a rainy day? Cryptic crosswords or factual books such as 'Black Box Thinking' by Matthew Syed - a book about How to Fail (Successfully). Favourite films would be 'Chariots of Fire', 'Ben Hur' or 'The Dam Busters'. I have a broad taste in music from Classical, particularly pieces for the organ, to Gilbert & Sullivan Operas .... and am happy to watch most sports on TV.

## Images in the Bible: Camel



Camel outside the Monastery of St Catherine, Sinai

When you think of camels, you imagine them traversing the silk route laden with precious cargo; or the Magi and their retinue travelling from Persia; or Lawrence of Arabia, riding in triumph through Wadi Rum. Camels are indispensable to the Middle East. The dromedary has been used for a variety of purposes, including travel, trade, ploughing, and warfare, as well as providing milk, meat, wool and leather. Its endurance and the ability to go without water in a hot climate has enabled nomadic desert tribes to survive for centuries.

Ownership of camels was a sign of wealth as we see with the arrival of the Queen of Sheba: *Arriving with a very great caravan – with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones – she came to Solomon and talked with him about all she had on her mind.* 2 Chronicles 9:1. The Message

Job's restoration is signified by his herds of livestock being restored: *The Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys.* Job 42:12

Camels are associated with the wild and rugged appearance of the prophets, Elijah and John the Baptist, who both wore clothing made from camel's hair. Camel hair is light, and has low thermal conductivity and durability, and is suitable for the warm clothes, blankets and tents needed to survive the hot days and cold desert nights.

In the New Testament, the camel is used by Jesus twice to challenge conventional thinking, with a humorous use of hyperbole: *You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.* Matthew 23:24

The camel as the largest animal in the region is contrasted with the smallest insect, a gnat. Jesus shows up the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, who will quibble about some minor infringement of the Law, while turning a blind eye to far more serious abuses. The same use of creative exaggeration is used when he says: *Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices – mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practised the latter, without neglecting the former.* Matthew 23:23

Humour is often used to undermine those in power. Think of the cartoons of Gillray mocking Napoleon and the Prince Regent, or Charlie Chaplin in *The Great Dictator*, or Steve Bell exposing the absurdities of modern politicians. Then there is the rise of memes on the internet, ridiculing those in power. Humour is difficult for people who take themselves too seriously, to counter.

Jesus' second mention of a camel is connected to the impossibility of rich people entering the Kingdom of God, by contrasting the largest creature with the smallest aperture, the eye of a needle. In this scene you have to read between the lines to understand the humour. The Gospels are so condensed we have to sometimes convert them into the equivalent of a film script.

Jesus says with a serious face: *It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.* The disciples don't get it; they look at each other and ask earnestly: *Who then can be saved?* Jesus bursts out laughing: *It's only impossible humanly speaking. That's the point. We all need God to enter God's kingdom.* The disciples begin uneasily to smile before all joining in the laughter. Cut to Judas who is not amused and says to himself: *This is beyond a joke. He's not the Messiah. He's a very annoying impersonator.* Rupert

## The Uniqueness of John's Gospel

We will be looking at the Gospel of John in our sermon series beginning in February. In this article, Ben Godwin sums up the distinctive character of the Gospel.

The Gospel of John is distinct from the "synoptic Gospels" (Matthew, Mark and Luke), so called due to their similar content. The synoptics cover many of the same miracles, parables and events of Jesus' life and ministry. There is a lot of overlap, repetition and even some parallel passages that are nearly identical. Generally speaking, the synoptics tell us what Jesus said and did; John tells us who Jesus is. The synoptics focus on the signs and sayings of Christ; John emphasises the identity of Christ. Early church father Clement of Alexandria called John "the spiritual Gospel" because of its deep insight into the divinity of Jesus.

Here are some of the unique features of John's Gospel: There are only eight miracles recorded in John, six of which are peculiar to the book. Contrast that with Mark who describes twenty miracles and mentions ten more. In John they are called 'signs' which point to the identity of Jesus and provide the structure of the first part of the John's Gospel chapters 1-11. There are no parables in John, compared with about fifteen in Matthew, nine in Mark and over thirty-five in Luke. Over one-third of John's Gospel (chapters 12-19) covers the last week of Jesus' life.

The I am statements of Jesus are distinctive: I am the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the True Vine. In John's writings, you find a direct connection between Jehovah I AM in the Old Testament and Jesus I am in the New Testament. ure; He always has been, He always is, and He always will be God.

John didn't begin his Gospel with the birth of Christ like Matthew and Luke. Instead, he went all the way back to the origin of time: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* (Jn. 1:1). John revealed the divinity of Christ in the very first verse of his Gospel. Jesus did not become the Son of God when He was born 2,000 years ago. He has always been the eternal, pre-existent Son of God. He became human in Mary's womb—"The Word became human and lived among us" (Jn. 1:14). Matthew traced Jesus' ancestry back to Abraham (Mt. 1:1), Luke traced it back to Adam (Lk. 3:38), but John traced it back to God the Father in eternity. He disclosed how Christ predates time and creation and was a co-Creator with His Father: *He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.* (Jn. 1:2-3). Paul echoes these words: *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible* (Col. 1:14-19).

John highlighted people to whom Jesus revealed his Messiahship. Nicodemus (3), the Samaritan Woman (4), Martha (11), Mary Magdalene (20), Peter (21). He also included subtle statements when Christ revealed His divinity: *I and my Father are one* (Jn. 10:30) and *He who has seen Me has seen the Father.* (Jn. 14:9). John clearly stated the purpose of his Gospel: *These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.* (Jn. 20:31). John used some form of the word "believe" 98 times in his account proving that faith in Jesus is essential for salvation.

At the Last Supper, John laid his head on the chest of Jesus and heard the heartbeat of God (Jn. 13:23-25). The synoptic Gospels mainly tell us what Jesus said and did. John's Gospel written nearly 30 years later, digs deeper and shows us who Jesus is. John started as a fisherman (Ac. 4:13), but after spending extended time with Jesus, he became a man on a mission to tell the world about the one he met on the shores of Galilee who transformed his life and is able to transform ours.

## Thank you from Derek Coombes

I would like to thank all those who attended my 90th Birthday party in St Helen's, and those who signed the beautiful card. Thank you for all your help and encouragement.

# The Spring: Dates for your Diary

23, 30 Jan, 6 Feb &-8.30pm CAP Money Course.  
25 Feb. Shrove Tuesday Pancakes  
23 April Spring Fashion Show.

## Calling any aspiring organists

St. Helen's and St Paul's Churches are looking to increase the number of people playing the organ for the Sunday morning services. Could you help? Do you know of anyone who would help - a pianist who might like to try their hand at playing an organ (you do not have to use the pedal board)? Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested. *John Arnold*

There are also opportunities at St Paul's to play the piano for worship. If you are interested please contact Margaret Walker, 07799217904.

## Children are welcome here

We welcome children and families to learn and grow together with Jesus. We learn through fun experiences and worship on Sundays.

**10.45am Worship, 1st, 3rd, 4th Sunday** with children's groups, Scramblers & Climbers, 0-4 years with an adult. Explorers, 5-7 years, Adventurers, 8-10 years, Pathfinders - Secondary School children.

**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.

The **Youth Group** for Secondary School Children will be meeting for an Alpha course on Sunday evenings 6-7.30pm. contact Liz Rowe 250636.

# Worship

<b>26 Jan</b>	Theme	<b>The Conversion of Paul</b>	
	9.15am	Morning Prayer	St Helen's
	10.45am	Family Communion	St Helen's
	11am	Morning Praise	St Paul's
<b>2 Feb</b>	Theme	<b>Gospel of John 1</b>	
	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
<b>9 Feb</b>	Theme	<b>Gospel of John 2</b>	
	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
<b>16 Feb</b>	Theme	<b>Gospel of John 3</b>	
	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
<b>23 Feb</b>	Theme	<b>Gospel of John 4</b>	
	9.15am	Morning Prayer	St Helen's
	10.45am	Family Communion	St Helen's
	11am	Morning Praise	St Paul's
<b>1 Mar</b>	Theme	<b>Gospel of John 5</b>	
	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
<b>8 Mar</b>	Theme	<b>Gospel of John 6</b>	
	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

## 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. <a href="mailto:marisa.sandalmagna@gmail.com">marisa.sandalmagna@gmail.com</a> .
Choir	To join please 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
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	Meets 2nd Monday in the month. 7.30pm St. Helen's. Contact Gill Heap, 01924 250103.

Parish Office	Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, & Room Lettings. St. Helen's, Barnsley Road, Wakefield WF2 6EJ. <b>Open Tues, Wed, and Thurs, 9am-12 noon</b> , or by appointment with Marisa Kapp. <b>Tel. 01924 259966</b> . Access is down the path through the green door. <a href="http://www.sandalmagna.com">www.sandalmagna.com</a> <b>sandalmagna@gmail.com</b>
SHYP (St. Helen's Youth Project)	Children's Co-ordinator, Laura Truter Youth & Community Co-ordinator, Sally Martin Mobile: 07910558139. <a href="mailto:sallymartinpcf@gmail.com">sallymartinpcf@gmail.com</a>
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	Revd. 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, Jonathan le Couteur.

*those who have recently lost loved ones, especially the friends and family of*: Terry Lowe, David Colley and Tony Gilman.

*those recently baptised*: Daniel Wodi.