

Sunday 12th March 2017

2nd Sunday of Lent

9.00 Holy Communion led by Rev. Stephen Hannam
10.15 Parish Communion led by Rev. Stephen Hannam

Sidesmen: Janet Thain, Audrey Belcher and Barry Belcher
Readings: Genesis 12: 1 - 4a Holly Mason Page 13
Romans 4: 1 - 5, 13 - 17 Graham Readshaw Page 1131
John 3:1-17 Christine Wilson Page 1065
Prayers: Allen Smith
Chalice : Allen Smith and David Marshall

Please note photography of all kinds is not allowed in all services

Please contact Rev. Marion Russell (713386) on worship matters (weddings, baptisms, funerals, personal support and prayer).

For administrative matters contact the Church Wardens David Marshall (718182) or Hilary McCarthy (537399)

Website e-mail Alan Hoggard alan.hoggard@blueyonder.co.uk to promote events or information for the website.

Please send newsletter items to David James (01484 715197) or email davidjict@gmail.com by N.B. 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and information to add to the website: www.stjohnsrastrick.org.uk

For young children and carers we have a crèche in the Lady Chapel. There is also a children's area at one side of Church with books, toys and service-relevant materials where they can sit and colour. Bible toys may be taken to 'pews' during the service, then returned to the Children's area.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS: Please save used postage stamps for Overgate Hospice and put them in the magazine box.

WE ARE PLANNING AN AWAY DAY, called **GROWING ALOUD**, for both of our churches to get together in the lovely setting of Gildersome Parish Church. Easy directions will be provided and car shares organised. This will be on **Saturday 13 May**get the date in your diary now! It should start around 10.00 am and we will be away for 4.00pm. Lunch in the form of something like jacket potatoes with a tasty casserole will be provided along with the usual coffee and biscuits at regular intervals! The day will be an opportunity to be together and to share experiences and ideas and to realise that there are no 'right answers' in how to grow our church.

HALIFAX LONG MARCH : The final stop of the 26 mile walk is at St Johns (after 18 miles) Volunteers are needed to steward from 3am to 10am on Easter Monday morning. Our main tasks will be to direct people from the end of Gooder Lane and to serve refreshments. Everything is provided we just required volunteers to offer a few hours of help.

There is a sign up on the sheet at the back of church which is split into 1 hour time slots. You don't have to stay all night, you can select a time slot which suites you. This year walkers are being able to raise funds for the charity of their choice although the registration fees and any surplus does go to Christian aid. If anyone is encouraged to walk all or part of the distance for St Johns then that would be great. More details from Alan Hoggard or www.longmarch.org.uk

FREEWILL OFFERING ENVELOPES 2017/18 :The freewill offering envelopes for the new financial year will be available at the back of Church from Sunday, 19 March 2017 and will commence on Sunday, 9 April 2017.

Gift Aid users – please take the box set allocated to you by name.

Unnamed boxes are available for general (Non-Gift Aid) use, anyone wishing to discuss Gift Aid or regular giving by standing order should see Cherry Fancourt or Gerald Savage.

THE FORM INCLUDED WITH MARION'S RECENT LETTER is the latest issued by HMRC and is required to be completed before future claims can be made. The Church's claim covering the period July to December 2016 is ready to be submitted but requires completed forms to be returned before so doing. We would be grateful for a speedy return of forms to Church, Cherry Fancourt, Gerald Savage or Alan Hoggard as appropriate. Thank you.

LENT LUNCHESES – Come and Enjoy a Lunch of Soup, Roll, Tea/Coffee – this will be **FREE OF CHARGE** but a donation towards our Mission Giving this year, Crosslinks, would be much appreciated.

WE ARE OPENING THE CHURCH during lunches so we need someone to be in there to show people round or just to make sure all is okay. It would be good if a man could do this – dates 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March 4th April. Thanks Cherry.

LENT APPEAL 2017 : This year, during Lent, we are supporting Crosslinks, which is an international mission society with its roots in the Bible. It works largely within the worldwide Anglican Communion. Please take a labelled jar from the table and return it around Easter time with your donation.

THE NEXT TABLE TOP SALE AND COFFEE MORNING will be held on Saturday 11 March from 9.00 am to mid-day in St John's Church Hall. If you would like to book a table (£9.00) please speak to Rosemary or Norman Lake (01484 710339). We are also collecting items to sell on the Church stall (no electrical items or household linen please).

LENT GROUPS :This year we are to look at a course looking at how Christianity has been deepened and enriched from encounters with people from other religions. This course looks exciting and different from courses we have done in the past few years. There will be five weeks of House Groups starting Monday 6th March. A Sixth Joint Group to be held on Monday 10th April, at St Matthew's Parish Centre at 6.30pm with a Bring & Share Meal. A leaflet giving details of the venues and times of the groups can be found in Church. Please ask a Sidesman or Church Warden for a copy.

SPRING CONCERT SUNDAY 19th MARCH AT 7.30 PM. After the successful New Year concert the Orchestra of Square Chapel will perform in our Church again while the Square Chapel in Halifax is renovated along with the Piece Hall. Tickets are £10 and £5 for students in full time education. This is a very popular orchestra so make sure you get your tickets early. There will be a bar before the concert when the doors open at 7.00 pm and during the interval. **Tickets will be available from Christine James.**

PLEASE SEE TREVOR LEWIS about application forms for the ELECTORAL ROLL. They need to be completed by Sunday 9th April.

NEWSLETTER ALTERATIONS : If anyone changes their church duties please let me know so the details can be corrected. Thank you. David James.
Please send newsletter items to David James - davidjict@gmail.com - or 01484 715197 by 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

DIARY 2017

7th March	Lent Lunch
8th March	10.30 am Holy Communion
10th March	7.30 am Morning Prayer
11th March	Table Top Sale
14th March	Lent Lunch
19th March	7.30 pm Orchestra of the Square Chapel - Spring Concert
20th March	Beer and Banter @ The Globe - A Life in Training
17th/18th April	Halifax Long March
13th May	Parish Away Day to Gildersome Parish Church

A Prayer for Our Church

God of Mission

Who alone brings growth to your Church,

Send your Holy Spirit to give

Vision to our planning,

Wisdom to our actions,

And power to our witness.

Help our Church to grow in numbers,

In spiritual commitment to you,

And in service to our local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayer for Growth: As we near the end of the themed Sundays looking at the growth prayer line by line, and its meaning and implications for us, please think about what has struck you or touched you, what has inspired you or challenged you, the things that have opened your eyes to more than you'd thought of, or ideas from before that have come to the surface again. On Sunday March 5th, Marion will gather these ideas for us to discuss and explore in the service and beyond that. Come willing to speak your contribution, or write it down to pass to Marion on the day, or phone or email beforehand. We look forward to growing together through this.