

This Church lives to touch Christ and to touch lives.

In touch

Parish of South Bradford
Autumn 2010



KEEPING IN TOUCH...

After a rather long break we thought as a staff team it was time we got 'In Touch' again. I am sure the first thing most of you want to know is if there is any news on a new Team Rector. Unfortunately there is nothing to report (as of Saturday August 21st). I spoke to the Archdeacon's office last week and the message is that the vacancy is still on the Diocesan website and if no one applies in the near future the post will be advertised nationally again.

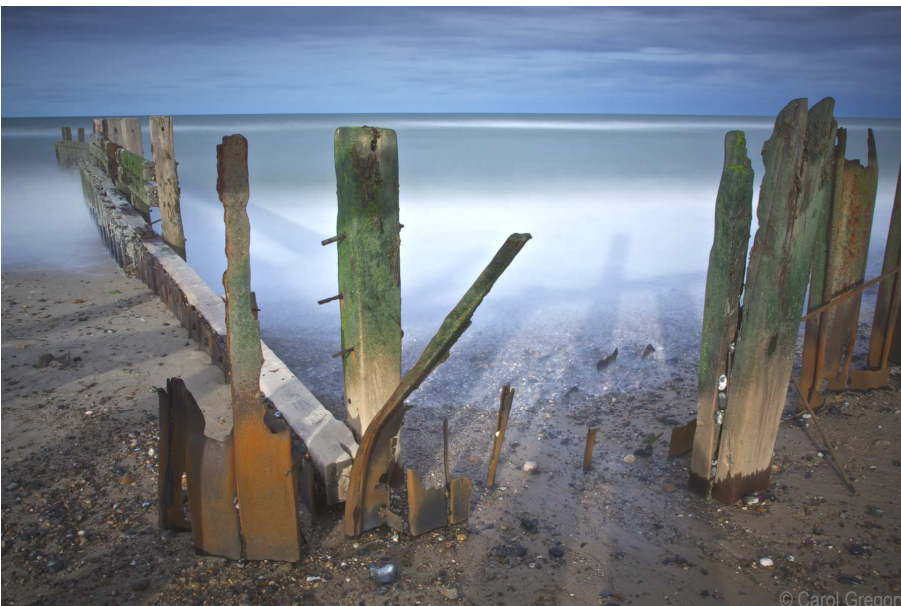
In the meantime we carry on as usual and thanks to everyone doing just that little bit extra our rotas of services and events are covered to the end of the year. I want to express my thanks to everyone who is contributing in any way, however small, to the (usually!) smooth running of the Parish.

So this issue of 'In Touch' brings you thoughts from events of the past few months and advance notice and news of things happening in the future. I don't know when the next issue will be but if you have anything you would like to contribute please let me or Ian have it and we will try to include it when the time comes.

With love

Christine Shedd

Even amongst the ruins; "Peace, be still"...



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<http://www.ephotozine.com/u86544> (to be <http://www.chaoticgarden.co.uk> - site under construction)



In Touch

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Snapshots of the Lay Ministry Course:

In the last edition we shared some thoughts from people who had begun this course.

Now the “students” have “graduated” - we asked them to look back and say what the course has meant to them:

Rev Chris Shedd lead the course and had lots of tricks up her sleeve (those who know Christine will not be surprised) to challenge us to come up with new ideas.

There were some very interesting sessions and we were all “bamboozled” for a while by Anne’s visit to the Chapel House Pub “No room at the Inn”. We finally realized that we didn’t really need any clergy – laity can manage just fine!! (Joke)

Best of all for me was the friendship, laughter and sharing of ideas between all members of the group which was a good mix of St Andrew’s, St Mary’s and Holy Trinity. I think we all grew in confidence.

 Jean

At first I was apprehensive and a bit reluctant to do it. But Chris sort of said yes for me. I thought it might be too academic for me. How wrong could I be?

Yes there is some homework and yes there is some theory but everything is done to the capability of each individuals and you are not force to do anything if you feel uncomfortable. There is worship, spirituality, fun, humour and great fellowship.

Before the course I was reluctant to read in church, now I feel more confident but not totally comfortable to read on a regular basis. Before the course I wouldn’t have dreamed to get up and lead a service or do a talk. Done both.

I can’t really say I like or dislike any parts of the course because I learnt so much from each session. What the course does show is the amount of talent we have in our own individual churches but also as a Parish.

 Chas

The LMC involves taking a closer look at the various components of a service of worship and praise and learning how much potential there is for variety, simply in what we as individuals have to offer, and how best we can put our skills to use to enhance the worship experience for others.

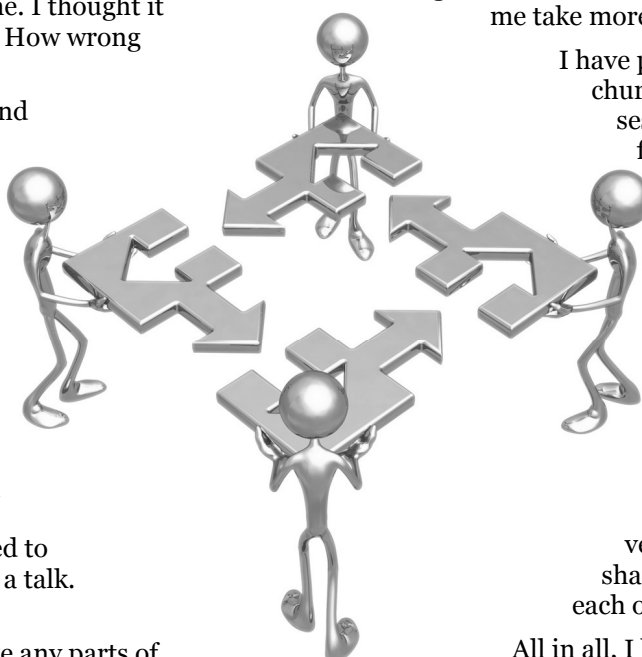
Learning about the musical influence throughout history on hymn styles was especially interesting – it seemed to highlight the importance of music in worship and praise and the fact that people like to connect with God to music that they enjoy. Music has changed immensely throughout the ages and continues to be updated to suit all popular musical genres. There is a lot more involved in hymn choosing to match a particular theme or suit a certain mood than I had imagined and focusing on hymns has definitely made me take more notice of the lyrics.

I have put myself forward to read in church and I got a lot out of the session on reading – mainly the freedom of personal expression and interpretation. We also had a session on prayers and intercession which is something I have never done before and may never do again! Some people are naturally gifted at leading others in prayer and even took an opportunity to practise their skills at spontaneous prayer (extempore). There were some very special moments as we shared our gifts (homework!) with each other.

All in all, I learned to appreciate how much actually goes into planning a service and how, together, we are able to use each others skills to achieve something that God would be proud of!


Thanks

 Lindsey



FOR OVER A CUPPA: [no prizes]

How many words can you make by tracking from letter to letter, horizontally, vertically or diagonally. You can only use each letter once in any one go and words should be 3 letters or more in length.

	L	V	I
A	H	A	T
E	R	E	S
V	S	T	F

"After ten months, eight meetings - some held during the worst winter weather for decades, and having homework set, which at least one of our number hadn't had for some fifty five years! - our Lay Leaders Course drew to a close on a most enjoyable evening in July.

We had had instruction in all aspects of service formulation and presentation, but, in my opinion more importantly, we had formed friendships on a much deeper level than we had expected and the Parish of South Bradford can only benefit from that realisation.

Do consider joining the Course starting in September, you will have your thoughts and skills questioned but will certainly enjoy your time together."

 Maurice

[cont from page 2]

Looking back over the past year, I'm glad I took up the invitation from Chris to take part in this course.

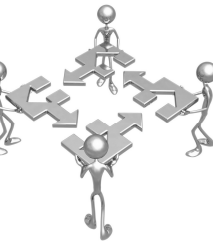
We were a group of people, drawn from all three churches, who met together once a month to explore the elements of worship. Each evening would have a different focus - music, prayer, Holy Communion, all age worship, the planning of specific services for particular seasons or special events, to name but a few.


We were usually asked to bring something along to each session, our 'homework', not an attractive thought I grant you, but the tasks were never too onerous!

Each evening seemed to produce lots of laughter, much sharing of ideas and experiences and plenty of opportunities for 'doing' rather than simply sitting and listening.

During the course of the year we were all encouraged to attend a service in each others churches. Everyone agreed how much they'd enjoyed sharing worship in a different church and how much variety was on offer within our parish.

Thanks to Chris and to all those who came to share their experiences and expertise. Thanks too to the rest of the group who helped make the course so enjoyable.



 Christine Haley

It was with some reluctance that I embarked on the Lay Ministry Training course which started in Autumn 2009. But once committed to attending I found the instruction was both interesting and challenging. Although Christine Walker was a good and interesting speaker I found the most difficult topic for me was Music/Hymns, trying to choose appropriate music for specific occasions when I can't bring tunes/melodies to mind. Whereas, for me, the easiest session (or at least the preparation for it as I couldn't attend on the night) was entitled "What to do when the Vicar rings 9.00am Christmas morning to say she can't take the service!" I saw this primarily as an administrative problem which is an area where I have some experience.

But my offering in the session on Reading seemed to get the most response from the other candidates. I started this by simply talking to the others about a conversation I'd had with the landlord of the Chapel House Inn about a young couple (the woman being heavily pregnant) staying overnight in the pub car-park one winter's night when the woman gave birth to a baby boy. I went on to say that three men working overtime up the hill at Odsal had seen a light and heard a voice telling them to visit the baby, born at an inn, etc. I completed this adaption of the nativity by painting a verbal picture of a mother, father and infant in an open van and surrounding them were three men, a dog, a cat and even an owl standing around, all lit by a bright star!

I feel the Lord has used this course to give me confidence and bring me to a point where I am willing to be used by Him within the life of the church.

 Anne Pyne

The course came to an end with uplifting service at Holy Trinity where The Ven. Paul Slater, Bishop's Officer for Ministry and Mission, commissioned the fifteen who had completed the course as Lay Leaders across our parish of South Bradford.

Having read their comments if you would like to have a go at this course please contact me immediately as we are due to start in the third week of September.

 .. Chris' Shedd

Remember, Remember...

... no, not the 5th of November
This Year, Remembrance Sunday falls on 14th November, and each church in the parish will be marking this important date; when we remember not just those from the two great wars of last century, but those too who have given their lives in more recent times:

In particular Holy Trinity this year is, as well as holding their Uniformed Parade Service, hosting the Act of Remembrance by the local branch of the Royal British Legion.

How will you "Remember"?



A Silent Sermon

A vicar went to visit a parishioner who had stopped coming to church. He found him sitting alone by a blazing fire, and was gestured to a comfortable armchair. The two sat in silence watching the flames.

After a while, the vicar took the tongs, carefully picked up a blazing coal and placed it on the hearth all alone. He said nothing but the two men watched as the coal lost its glow and became cold. Still nothing was said, but when it was time to leave, the vicar stood up and put the dead coal back into the fire, where it soon began to glow and burn again.

At the door, the man turned to the vicar, with tears in his eyes, and said; "Thank you for your fiery sermon. I will be back in church on Sunday."

Farewell Bishop David

On July 11th (the night of the World Cup Final) Gordon, Jeanette and I went to Bradford Cathedral along with hundreds of others from all over the Diocese and from all over the country for the Farewell Service for Bishop David and his wife, Gill, prior to their retirement a few days later.



We sang great hymns; Sing of the Lord's goodness, Down the mountain the river flows, Here is love vast as the oceans, The Lord s my Shepherd and, finally, Love Divine.

We heard 2 Bible readings; Ezekiel 14: 1-12 and Revelation 22: 1-5, reminding us of the river of God's love and cleansing life and spirit.

We enjoyed items from the cathedral choir, a dance sequence from TranscenDance, songs from Ben Mussanzi and family from the Congo. Prayers were led by 4 Canons emeritus.

Most interesting to me was what we learned of what has been going on, and is still going on, around the Diocese; work in the community on the Holme Wood Estate, Youth Work in the small parishes in the Dales, the youth church named "Sorted" which meets weekly in a skateboard park and schoolroom in Ravenscliffe – a "church" without a building but drawing the disaffected youth and helping them to turn their lives around as the find Jesus and come off drugs and crime.

We learned about the Inn churches project run last winter in 7 churches and providing beds, meals, clothes, a haircut, medical support, advice on housing and benefits, and friendship to 47 people who sleep rough on Bradford's streets; and we learned of the ministry of the City Chaplain and the Street Angels.

There were interviews and video sequences to illustrate the work being talked about. It was inspirational and should surprise and future aspirants for the vacant post who might think that Bradford is all about riots, crime and a derelict city centre!

Finally, presentation were made and very moving tributes given thanking David and Gill for their work with other faiths in the city and their mediation at the time of the riots, for David's work on a variety of committees and boards, for their pastoral work, their hospitality, their hands-on ministry and their obvious love for, and interest in, every member of their flock.

The was a video link from the Bishop of the Sudan; and the Bishop of our link Diocese of South West Virginia and his wife had come in person to share in the service.

David and Gill were presented with a gift of £4,000 collected in the Diocese, and, as the Telegraph and Argus reported, to be given by them to the Good Morning Teacher project which the Diocese sponsors in the Sudan.

We came away excited, moved, made proud by all that we had learned and sad that this was David's last service, conducted in his inimitable style!

They will shortly be setting up their new home in Beverley – not a peaceful retirement as they will be in earshot of Beverley Minster whose bells chime every 15 minutes!

We shall miss them and their ministry. We pray for them and for those whose job it will be to appoint a successor. A hard act to follow!

 Dorothy.

[Photograph taken by David Lee; obtained from Bradford Diocesan Web Site (www.bradford.anglican.org) with kind permission]

From a Reader

- in Training:

Hello Everyone

I thought I would bring you all up to date with how my Reader training has been going. I have now finished my second year of training and I begin my final year in September.

Although I have found the course quite challenging, and studying has been difficult at times, I have enjoyed learning about the different aspects of theology and ministry. I have also enjoyed meeting and studying with fellow Christians from all over the diocese.

The academic study however, is only one half of the course; there is also the practical side which involves leading worship and preaching. Over the last year I have been privileged to be allowed to preach in all three churches and, whilst I found the experience a little daunting, I was touched by the welcome and encouragement I received from everyone.

Finally I would like to say a big Thank You to everyone who has given me much needed support and encouragement over the last two years, and I would also be grateful for your prayers over this coming year.

God Bless,

 Diane Berry



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
READERS

**Need to contact God?
try using:**



Source: <http://www.i-heart-god.com>

A Taste of... Christmas!

Sorry, but it has to be done...

We know it is still 3 months away but, because we are not 100% sure that we will produce another "In Touch" before Christmas is upon us, we thought you might like a sneak peek at what we will be doing to celebrate.

This is not the final programme and there will, doubtless be other events hosted by the other churches in the area. We intend to publish the Christmas "Menu" in time for Advent Sunday at the end of November.

But, here for your delight and wonder is a sample:

Advent Sunday

The Posada start their journey(s).

Posada

As last year the Holy Family will, during Advent, be making their journey around the parish, stopping each night with a different family. Look out for the lists where you can sign up to offer accommodation.

Christingles & Nativities

Various dates and times

Carol Services

12th December—St Andrew's

19th December—In the Park at Oakenshaw, plus indoors at both St Mary's and Holy Trinity

The Night Before

11.30pm Holy Trinity will be holding a traditional Midnight Communion.

9.00pm St Andrew's & St Mary's will each be celebrating with a "Bethlehem Mass"; earlier in the evening but timed to coincide with midnight in the Holy Land

On The Day

Each Church will host a Family Service of Holy Communion in celebration of Christ's birth

Details of the Christmas services and events will also appear on the website [www.southbradford.org]

Prayer Walking:

God said to Abram, 'Now go through the length and breadth of the land, for I will give it to you' (Gen. 13: 17)

God said to Joshua, 'Every place where you set your foot is yours. I have given it to you' (Joshua 1: 3)

Prayer Walking is not a new idea! There are many examples in the Bible of people being told by God to pray for places and those who live there.

Usually we pray for our parish, our city, our country and the wider world from behind the walls of our churches and our homes, but during the month of August members of our Ministry Team and others set out to walk round every street in Low Moor, listening, looking and praying as we went.

We wondered what people would make of us as we walking in the white T-shirts that Angela had printed for us with our Prayer Walking logo. Would they think we were training for a marathon or did we look like a team of double glazing salespeople?

The first thing we noticed was how quiet the streets were. On the first fine summer evening we hardly saw a soul. Where was everyone? Behind the doors of their neat houses, maybe tending their beautiful back gardens, but little sense of community and neighbours spending time with each other.

An afternoon walk showed us more children and adults out and about, but still little of the business of times gone by. Not too long ago Low Moor and Hill Top were buzzing with a wide variety of shops, pubs, clubs, mills and a cinema. People shopped daily and locally, meeting neighbours as they did so. Now we jump into our cars and travel long distances for our entertainment and do our shopping in distant supermarkets or on the internet. There is little opportunity to share news with those who live around us, or to learn if their lives had their problems. We live in isolation and our neighbours are strangers who drive past our homes.

As we walked we invited God into Low Moor, we prayed for his blessings on our parish, we prayed for those who lived in the houses we passed, whose who work in the industrial premises, those who come into the parish each day and those who drive through it on their way elsewhere.

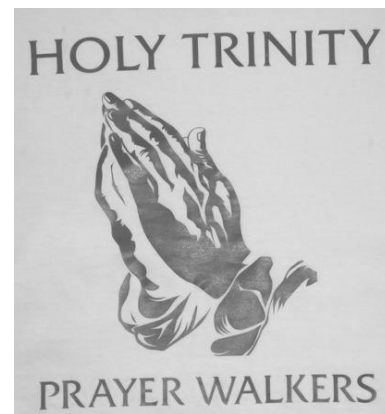
We prayed for the young, the old, the housebound, the sick, the needy, the anxious; for derelict buildings and wasteland to be reclaimed so that the area might be prosperous and fruitful. We prayed for empty houses to be taken by those whom God will draw to our parish and that newcomers will be welcome and help to build up the community. We prayed for God's protection for the parish and its people and that his will be done and his kingdom come here.

If you live in Low Moor, or work in Low Moor or simply travel through ... we prayed for you.

Prayer walking is done in silence, it is non-confrontational and unobtrusive but we believe, and others have proved, how effective it is. We invite and encourage all out readers to pray as you walk or drive around your neighbourhood and watch the results!

May walls come tumbling down!

Yours in Christ



 Dorothy

Parish Picnics:

Plans for a holiday club in the parish just haven't seemed to work out for the last two years – not enough helpers, too many people away on the planned week and so on! With this in mind a very successful alternative was offered this year.

On four Wednesdays of the school holidays there was a Parish Picnic from 10.30 a.m. - 2.30 p.m. at different venues. Parish members and church contacts were then invited to come to as many or as few as they would like. Everyone was welcome – the kids, the grandkids, the grandparents – even well behaved dogs! All that was needed was to bring a picnic. Although each place had a cafe to buy refreshments, along with a children's play area and somewhere to walk round and play, needless to say bats and balls were brought along for team games.



The numbers each week varied but a great time was had by all who came – even when the weather was a bit soggy! The picnics proved a good opportunity to get to know one another better and to provide the children with a place to play, keep busy and look around.

The venues were as follows: Wednesday 28th July – Oakwell Hall in Batley, Wednesday 4th August, Pugney's Country Park, Wakefield, Wednesday 11th August, Shibden Hall, Halifax and Wednesday 18th August Temple Newsam in Leeds.



Looking Ahead

Bacon Butties & Books:

2nd Saturday of the Month
Next ones: 9 Oct & 13 Nov
10.00am : Holy Trinity.

Guest Speaker:

The Ven. Dr. David Lee,
Archdeacon of Bradford
St. Andrew's
10.30am : 26th September

Harvest Services:

Holy Trinity
10.00am : 26th September
St. Andrew's
10.30am : 3rd October
St. Mary's
10.30am : 3rd October

Scarecrow Festival:

St. Mary's
12.noon-5.00pm : 3rd October
[The Harvest Family Service also has a Scarecrow theme]

Dedication Service:

Holy Trinity
10.45am : 24th October

Guest Speaker:

Bishop Colin Buchanan

Remembrance Sunday:

14th November 2010.

Concerts:

St. Mary's
The Clifton & Lightcliffe Band
7.15pm : 20th Nov. : £ t.b.c
St Andrew's
"West Yorkshire Brass Band"
7.30pm : 30th Nov. : £ t.b.c
Holy Trinity
"BASF Community Concert"
7.15pm : 13th Dec. : £ Free

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