

Dear Friends,

When we look at the Easter story, as told by each of the gospel writers, we find that each of them is different and, yet, these stories are not contradictory in their content, they are complementary. Together they give us a more complete picture of all that happened. Not only do they complement one another, they also complement the earlier stories of the life of Jesus.



At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus made it very clear he would do nothing spectacular to impress people, or persuade them to his way of life and thinking. He would not misuse or abuse his great power. Now, as we consider the Easter story, the pattern is still the same, it was an earth-shattering event and yet there were no crowds to witness it. To begin with the revelation only came to those who were closest to him, and even they did not appreciate, at first, what was really happening. Yet, alongside this fact, there is another, and this shows us one of the most important aspects of Jesus' attitude to people, and the Easter story only serves to underline it – Jesus' concern was for the individual, and what was true some two thousand years ago, is as true today.

Mark tells of a messenger who said, "Go, tell his disciples and Peter." Only Mark mentions Peter by name, maybe as a hint that he knew Peter personally and had access to privileged information. Why should Peter be singled out this way? Is it because Peter had let Jesus down badly – he had denied Jesus three times and was full of remorse at what he had done – Jesus wanted to reassure him as well. That same reassurance was also given to Mary.

There are several 'Marys' connected with the story, but the one featured by all the gospel writers is Mary Magdalene. Like Peter, she must have felt so desperate at that time since Jesus had been the only person to really understand her and he had completely changed her life. John, in his gospel, has her waiting near the tomb when a remarkable thing happened; through her tears, she saw what she thought to be a gardener, and even spoke to him as such. It was only when Jesus simply said, "Mary!" All through his life Jesus had constantly shown his concern for, and his understanding of the individual – now that he has been 'raised' – that same sense of caring, that same concern for, and understanding of, each and every individual is even greater.

In Gary Glassman's tv film 'The Trial of Jesus' there is a striking passage in which Longinus, the Roman centurion in command of the soldiers at the cross, comes back to Pilate and hands his report on the day's work. The report is given when Procula, Pilate's wife, asks "Do you think he is dead?" "No lady," he replies, "I don't." "Then where is he?" "Let loose in the world lady, where neither Roman nor Jew can stop his truth."

From your friend and minister,

*Brian*

## **Afternoon Tea Saturday 13 April 2019**

We are hosting an Afternoon Tea on Saturday 13 April 2019 to raise money for Sale Church Funds, in the Church Lounge at 3.00pm, tickets will be £7.00. We hope that £2 will cover our costs and £5 from the sale of each ticket will go to Church. Tickets are available from Wendy or Hilary; we hope you will lend your support - Thank You.

Please note, that there will NOT be a Coffee Morning in April.

**Wendy and Hilary - Sale**

## **SASH Diary** – Forthcoming Special Events, Meetings and Services

### **April**

1 <sup>st</sup>	2.00pm	Lent Study 4 – ‘Temptation’ (Sale)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Lent Study 4 – ‘Temptation’ (AoM)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	Joint Elders’ Meeting (Sale)
6 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Messy Church ‘New Life in Jesus – Easter’ (AoM)
7 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Healing Service (Sale)
8 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Lent Study 5 – ‘Preparation’ (Sale)
9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Lent Study 5 – ‘Preparation’ (AoM)
13 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Spring Tea (Sale)
14 <sup>th</sup>		Palm/Passion Sunday
18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Communion (Sale)
19 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Good Friday Service (AoM)
21 <sup>st</sup>	8.30am	Easter Breakfast Service (AoM)
	10.45am	Easter Communion (Sale)

### **May**

4 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Messy Church ‘Pets and Peace’ (AoM)
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Rev B. Acty’s ‘Valedictory Service’ (Sale)</b>
12 <sup>th</sup>		Start of Christian Aid Week

## **Communion Fund, Sale**

March £60 donated to MS Therapy Centre in Trafford Park.

The April collection will be for WELLS FOR WILMSLOW, a local organisation supporting Wells in Africa. This charity has been chosen by Felicity Daine.

## **Nancy**

## **Churches Together in Sale 2018**

Here are some highlights from Michael Riley's Chairman's report. They show how active CTiS has been throughout the last year. We have ten member Churches; all parts of Sale, which includes Brooklands, Ashton-upon-Mersey, and Sale Moor are represented.

At last year's AGM, Alastair Cutteridge, Associate Pastor of The Life Church on Washway Road, outlined proposals to set up a local Debt Advice Service as a Partnership between CAP (Christians Against Poverty) and Churches in the Sale area.

The work of the Food Bank, so regrettably necessary these days, has gone from strength to strength, supported by a very loyal team of volunteers.

Homelessness continues to be the topic of much discussion at meetings. Rev. Barbara Sharp has pursued TMBC with particular concerns relating to the Amblehurst Hotel, and Joan Tanner has successfully negotiated a voucher system to provide a two-course meal and a hot drink at the Restaurant at Fiona Gardens.

The "Open the Book" project which takes a Dramatic Presentation of a Bible Stories into local primary Schools, continued during the year.

The Quarterly Services provide the opportunity for us to share and experience each other's traditions and styles of worship. The 7pm start time allows many to come who would otherwise be present at services in their own Places of Worship. At one, the 'United Christian Singers' presented "A Journey of Hope". At Choral Evensong at St. Paul's Parish Church we were joined by the Chester Cathedral Nave Choir. The third Advent Taizé Service at St. Joseph's, proved ever popular and has now become an annual event.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018, ran from January 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> with the theme 'That All May Be Free'. Mid-day services were held

in a variety of Churches across Sale, and there was a United Evening Service.

The Pentecost Service was held at St. Joseph's in the School Garden. The Service was promoted on BBC Radio Manchester, and there was a good attendance.

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June we held an Ecumenical Day Trip to New Brighton. We had a full coach, it was a very enjoyable day. Also, in June we had a presence at the Sale Festival – Lions Fete; we had two Gazebos, offering a variety of activities for children, which were well received by both children and parents.

We were pleased to welcome Graham Baker to our August meeting. Graham is the new Ecumenical Facilitator for Greater Manchester Churches Together.

Sale Remembers – an evening of Music, Poetry and Drama, concluding with a Civic Act of Remembrance to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War, was held at St. Paul's Parish Church on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Representatives of all faith communities were invited.

A wreath for CTIS was laid at the Annual Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial outside the Town Hall. The attendance at the Service, appeared to be greater than ever. Two thousand orders of service were printed, with only a handful remaining after the Service.

The Blessing of the Crib took place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December. The Choir of St. Joseph's Primary School turned out in good numbers to sing Christmas carols. For the first time this was held in the evening, and after negotiation, we were able to use inside the Town Hall for refreshments and children's craft activities. It was felt this worked much better than at a lunch time, and made the event more of an occasion.

***(From Michael Riley's Chairman's Report)***

## Churches Together in Sale 2019

We have lots of dates in 2019 when we can witness to Christ together; let's all do it! Please note especially:

**Our next quarterly service will be on** Sunday 31 March – at Trinity Methodist, 7pm (Mothering Sunday)

**Open the Book:** the team of 3 men and 7 women from Sale URC, Trinity, and St. Anne's are presenting bible stories at St. Anne's Primary once a week with great success.

**Food Bank:** Trafford South Foodbank, in particular St. Francis' distribution centre at Sale Moor are showing a greatly increased use of the Foodbank. Also, a "**Bread & Butter project**" now operates out of St. Francis on Wednesdays, but significantly has not impacted at all on numbers at the Foodbank.

The **open-air Pentecost Service** will be on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 3pm at St. Francis Hall Church, Budworth Road/Norris Road, Sale Moor. The Salvation Army Band has, again, agreed to support the event.

**Annual Away Day:** The Coach Trip will be on Wednesday 19 June, and will head to North Wales, visiting just one church in the morning to hold an act of worship. Lunch will be at Llandudno Golf Club.

**Greater Manchester Churches Together:** Graham Baker, the new Ecumenical Facilitator in Greater Manchester Churches Together, says there is a new Twitter account for GMCT. For anyone who uses that - the address is: **@GreaterChurches**, or you can google:

**<https://twitter.com/GreaterChurches>**.

**Lily Lloyd**

## Flower List for Ashton

April	7 <sup>th</sup>	Blank
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Linda & Dave Harper
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Blank
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Blank

## **Pleasant Tuesday Afternoon (PTA)**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> Tenerife with Karen & Chris  
9<sup>th</sup> Beetle Drive  
16<sup>th</sup> Easter Service with Revd Brian Acty  
23<sup>rd</sup> TBC  
30<sup>th</sup> Lunch @ Fiona Gardens. We hope you will join us at  
12 mid-day. You will be most welcome.

**Kathrine Paxton.**

## **PILATES – (Mat)**

Monday Nights @ 6.45pm.

Come along and join us. Get your muscles back in order and feel so much better.

For more information and cost contact **Pat Joyce** on 969 0715.

## **What is a mum?**

- A *MUM* is the one who believes in you more than anything.
- The *ONE* who cares for you and about you all through your life.
- She is the *ONE* person you can count on to help you out, back you up, and never let you down.
- There really is no one else as *KIND* and generous, as patient and helpful, and as warm and understanding as a *MUM*.

**(Contributed by Ivana Spencer)**

## **Happiness and Goodness**

The happiest people don't have everything; they just make the best of everything they have.

Never regret being a good person to the wrong people.

Your behaviour says everything about you and their behaviour says enough about them.

***Anonymous***

## Messy Church Ashton on Mersey March – “Love your World”

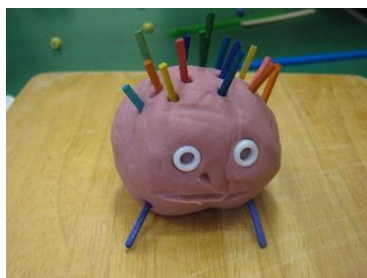
This month’s theme gave us opportunity to think about loving ‘Our World’. We encouraged children to talk about what this actually



means. How it includes each other, all other animals (large and small), plants, the environment, in fact the whole planet. Wow! We do cover some deep

meaningful stuff through play and

creativity, however children are always receptive to listen and learn. As always there were various craft and practical activities to choose from for our families and plenty of mess.



Through the crafts children made a giant ‘Creation Noticeboard’ by colouring in stencils of numerous plants and animals and placing them around a picture of the earth held in God’s hands as they talked and thought about all the organisations that care for wildlife around the world.



Furthermore children made bowl bugs and told us all the mini beasts they knew, made icing fruits in lots of lovely colours (good enough to eat), and made bird feeders to help the birds at this time of year when there may not be as much food for them naturally. All these activities gave opportunity for children to reflect on



ways they could help our world too. For our very young friends we set up a play table with toy wild animals to help them think about what animals need to survive. Though some of the monkeys and tigers did get involved in some anthropomorphic stories including going to the shops or school (a good imagination is so important to foster as children relate things to their own life experiences). Children could then use playdough to make their own animals to look after. We took photos of their creations which they will pick up next time. Brian helped children to finish decorating our banner which involved sewing on lots of different animals. You will be able to appreciate the finished article hanging up as you come in through our church entrance.



Brian also led the celebration talking about our beautiful world, recognising it is not perfect with poverty, famine, war and pollution. Notwithstanding Brian told us that it is still our role to love and help look after it the best we can as it is a gift from God. He finished the session with a song related to this theme which gave the children lots to think about.



All in all, it was another great session with our Messy Church family. The afternoon goes far too quickly for us all, with some children not wanting to leave, and stay for more!

The next session is Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April. We would love to see you and can assure you that you will be made most welcome. Messy church is for all ages, so come along and join us 3 till 5pm. See more of what we get up to on Facebook:

[@Messy Church AonM](https://www.facebook.com/MessyChurchAonM)

**Helen Priestman - Ashton on Mersey**



# Places in the Bible Word Search



P U M X M P B O D Z H T D Q H  
J N A Y K E H Z B N E O B T J  
V E M S I C L H T G A N K H J  
D C T O I B V A E W V E E A A  
O Y Y R D I P T S V E D K R R  
V Q E P X O H S O U N E K R B  
C J Y S R S S Y H B R K U O C  
U Y B R E U L E B A B E Z M J  
Z T T M S C S T B D Z T J O B  
F U A M E H E L H T E B R G I  
V N Z P X I U H Q X C D S X W  
E E V M M N M S G Y A D C H M  
Y A B A A S H S F N Q E D T Y  
Y B I E L I P J B Z O J B O K  
C X X V R C Z I S R A E L A C

BABEL

BETHLEHEM

CYPRUS

EDEN

GETHSEMANE

GOMORRAH

HEAVEN

ISRAEL

JERICHO

JERUSALEM

JORDAN

SODOM

## Churches Tackling Poverty in Sale

As many of you already know, we at Sale Church are supporting (financially) the Debt Centre initiative, that eight Churches in Sale have been setting up for the past twelve months. As your Church Representative on the Steering Group, I am pleased to tell you that a Debt Centre Manager has now been appointed – Debbie Walters. Debbie started her new job on 4<sup>th</sup> March, and has undergone training at CAP Head Office in Bradford.

The launch of our new Debt Centre will take place on **16<sup>th</sup> May** with a celebration and commissioning event; guests will include Mike Kane MP, members of the Local Clergy, the Mayor of Trafford along with various departments from Trafford Council, who we hope will be able to signpost the Debt Centre here in Sale.

Debbie Walters will be coming to speak at the September Meeting of Church & Society, if you would like to hear more about the Debt Centre please put the date in your diary – **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September**. Thank you on behalf of Churches Tackling Poverty in Sale for assisting to fund this much-needed initiative.

### Hilary – Sale Church

## Dorothy's Memory Café

We continue to grow week by week. We now have six long tables with small table extensions and most weeks these are filled. Tuesday afternoon goes something like this:



Guests arrive from 12.30pm (!) and are served drinks and cakes immediately. Many have been coming so long that they know which table they want to sit at and who will join them. Conversations begin immediately either with the volunteers or with one another.

On the tables is a selection of activities: special jigsaws, word searches and Sudoku, dominoes and, of course, “Yellow Brick Road”, our weekly news sheet written by Alasdair. Also, at each table is a realistic soft toy dog. We started with just one but it was in such demand we now have a tribe of them!

The first Tuesday of each month, at about 1.30pm, Hilary takes the chair for the much-enjoyed fun bingo session.

We celebrate birthdays with an individual cake and candle and song.

At 2.15 every week, except one, we have a community singing session. Doreen Rudd or Marjorie McConnachie accompanies the singing. This is one of the most important parts of the



afternoon. Memories are triggered by old songs; guests sing even though they may not have spoken all afternoon; tears fall .... For example, whilst singing Lilli Marlene, a carer wept remembering the girl his wife (now living with dementia) had been.

Once a month we have a chair exercise session led by Karen Tynan, who is specially trained to work with groups like ours. It always goes with a swing as Karen chooses appropriate music people can sing to.

At 3.00pm our guests leave expressing gratitude for the welcome and what it means to them.

**Margaret Argyle**

## **May SASH**

Please let me have copy as usual by the second Sunday in April (Palm Sunday): the 14<sup>th</sup>, so that it can be printed the following week.

**Keith**

**P.S!**

## **Church & Society**

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April we look forward to welcoming to our meeting **Rachel Reid – Fernandez**, who will tell us about her charity

### **“The Bread and Butter Thing” in Greater Manchester.**

The charity is building a membership model, whereby families with low disposable income will be offered the provision of a basket of services i.e. weekly supply of fresh food, to help that income go further, in return for a low membership fee. We currently operate within Greater Manchester. We meet at 2 p.m. in Sale Church lounge for one hour, and everyone is very welcome.

**Keith Argyle**

## **Soup and Pudding Lunch**

Thank you to all who attended the Lenten Lunch on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was lovely to have so many there who looked to be enjoying themselves. Many thanks also to Lily, Wendy, Ellen and Keith for being waiters for the day and to all who helped clear up afterwards and put the furniture away. You will be as pleased as we are to know that we raised **£355** for Christian Aid.

**Viv Humber & Margaret Argyle.**

## **Easter Week**

See the land, her Easter keeping,  
Rises as her Maker rose.  
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping,  
Burst at last from winter snows.  
Earth with heaven above rejoices;  
Fields and gardens hail the spring;  
Shores and woodlands ring with voices,  
While the wild birds build and sing.

You, to whom your Maker granted  
Powers to those sweet birds unknown,  
Use the craft by God implanted;  
Use the reason not your own.  
Here, while heaven and earth rejoices,  
Each his Easter tribute bring -  
Work of fingers, chant of voices,  
Like the birds who build and sing.

**Charles Kingsley**