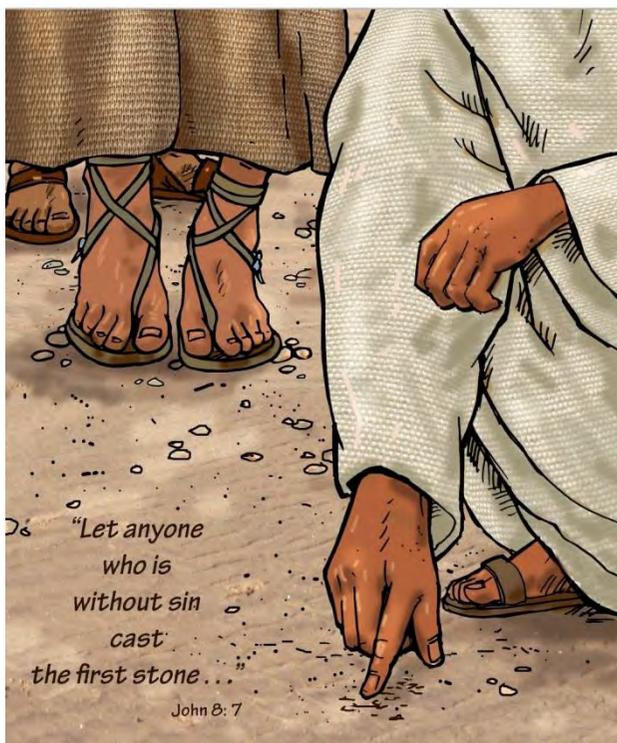




Connected

The Ryburn Benefice Magazine **March 2018**



The Ryburn Benefice Churches:
St Luke's Norland, St Mary's Cottonstones, St Peter's Sowerby

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Reverend Ian writes ...

The month of March this year is set wholly in the season of Lent and Holy Week. Easter Sunday is on April the 1st –so wait for it.. I'm not joking!

Lent is the time of preparation for that most important festival in the Christian calendar. But let us just hold back on the tendency to rush forward to celebrate lest we miss the depth of what this season means. Our faith is grounded and earthed in the reality of life and death and everything in between. We are Easter people but before the joy and hope of resurrection comes the despair and anguish of death. The journey through the life and death of Jesus that we relive and share in during Lent and Holy Week keeps our faith in touch with the real life and real death that every person and every family shares in. (No wonder some enjoy the relief of Mothering Sunday with its welcome interjection of colourful celebration and accompanying flowers to lift our spirits.)

Reflection on the Bible readings and listening to certain pieces of music can bring the meaning of the season home. The Passion narratives are so powerful, so too are the seasonal hymns and oratorios that we sing or hear which capture the drama, the pain and anguish in all that leads to up to and includes the Crucifixion of Jesus. Words like these from a Stuart Townend and Keith Getty song which capture the intensity of the scene in the Garden of Gethsemane:

*To see the King of heaven fall
in anguish to His knees,
the Light and Hope of all the world
now overwhelmed with grief.*

*What nameless horrors must He see
to cry out in the garden:
'oh, take this cup away from me!
Yet not my will but Yours,
Yet not my will but Yours?*

It is a horror story. The subject matter does not lend itself to the engaging entertainment of a Nativity scene. Unlike the Christmas story, we cannot make light of the situation and dress up our children as if on the hill of Calvary underneath the shadow of the Cross. Now I speak as someone who conducted a Crib Service last Christmas dressed as an Elf. Don't

misunderstand me, I am all for worship and teaching using engaging and creatively imaginative forms. I suppose at best we can at least gather behind a donkey on Palm Sunday and have fun waving palm branches and shouting “Hosanna!” No wonder some churches just don’t do Holy Week and concentrate on the Easter Story because we are Easter people. But as difficult as it is, I believe we mustn’t indulge in escapism or denial if our faith is to be honest and real. If our faith is to have something to say, have meaning and be authentic we need to acknowledge the reality of the suffering of the human condition.

In time all of us will face our own horrors of illness and loss. Just last year Stuart Townend wrote a song called “Keep you here” about coming to terms with his brother Phil’s terminal illness. Phil was a teacher at Triangle school. In a You Tube video Stuart speaks of the writing process and how one weekend the family gathered together to record a version with Phil and how it also enabled them all to reflect and come to terms with the news and how their faith sustained them. Here is a link for those who may be interested: www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRzH0KndX4I

It was eventually performed at the funeral service at Christ Church in Sowerby Bridge.

It is sung from the heart, acknowledging the pain of the coming separation that comes in death, but with the Easter hope embedded securely within the lyrics. So read these words for yourself and stay awhile to observe a holy Lent and prepare for the joy of Easter to come:

*For time is given and time is taken
away;
The least that we can do is make the
most of every day.
And we are given and we are taken
away;
the best that we can do is give
ourselves away.*

*What good is time if we don’t use it
to find the path within the pain?
Whoever keeps their life will lose it,
whoever gives their life will gain.
Not just a moment but forever:
this love is stronger than the grave*

Ian

Hello God....

Resurrection reality

(Lk23: 45, Lk 24: 6, 34)

Jesus died
and the sun stopped shining.
Darkness covered the land.
Hopes and expectations withered.
Fear and sorrow filled the hearts
of those who should have known
better –
who should have trusted
the one who raised Lazarus
and fed the multitude
and calmed the storm before their
very eyes.



The one who said he was God, is God!

He turns darkness to light,
despair to hope,
death to life.
Yes, the sun stopped shining that Friday,
but only gathering power
to burst into resurrection Sunday.
Jesus is risen!
He lives, now and forever.
Take heart - and trust Him.

By Daphne Kitching

The Regular Church Calendar

Sunday

- 10.00am Holy Communion St Peter's
In It Together Worship 2nd Sunday in the month
- 11.30am Holy Communion St Mary's (1st and 3rd Sundays of the month only)
- 3.30pm Holy Communion St Luke's
In It Together Worship 4th Sunday in the month

Monday

- 9.15am Morning Prayer St Luke's

Tuesday

- 12 noon Lunch Club St Luke's, 1st Tuesday in the month

Wednesday

- 9.15am Morning Prayer St Mary's

Thursday

- 9.15am Morning Prayer St Peter's
- 10.15am Holy Communion White Windows, 2nd Thursday in the month
- 12 noon Lunch Club St Peter's Centre 1st & 3rd Thursday in the month

Saturday

- 9.30am Prayer Breakfast St Peter's, 1st Saturday in the month

Don't forget to look us up on the web:

www.ryburnbenefice.org



SaintPeter's Church Sowerby

For details of Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Home Communion, Holy Unction, and Confession, please contact the Vicar:
Revd Jeanette Roberts tel 01422 646 371
revdjeanneroberts@gmail.com

Particular events to note in March

Thurs 1 st & next 2 Thurs	Ecumenical Lent Group	7.30pm Mass St Patrick's 8pm Lent Group St Patrick's
Sun 11 th	Mothering Sunday	10am St Peter's 3.30pm St Luke's
Sun 25 th	Palm Sunday	10am St Peter's 3.30pm St Luke's
Mon 26 th	Holy Week Service	7pm St Mary's
Tues 27 th	"	7pm St Peter's
Wed 28 th	"	7pm St Mary's
Thurs 29 th	Maundy Thursday	7pm St Mary's
Fri 30 th	Walk of Witness	10am St Patrick's – short service 10.30am Start, walk to St Paul's – short service & Refreshments
Sunday 1st April	Easter Day Services	10am St Peter's 11.30am St Mary's 3.30pm St Luke's

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From the Registers

There are no weddings in the Benefice this month

Baptism

**St. Luke's – Isla Elizabeth on Sunday, 11th March,
2018 at 1.00 p.m. Congratulations Isa!**

Website

The website for the Ryburn Benefice is -

<http://ryburnbenefice.org>,

- from where you can access the websites for each of the three churches. Keep visiting over the coming months to stay connected with all that is happening in your local church community.

Lent

Is this a Fast, to keep
The larder lean?
And clean
From fat of veals and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish
Of flesh, yet still
To fill
The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an hour,
Or ragg'd go,
Or show
A down-cast look and sour?

No: 'tis a Fast to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat

And meat
Unto the hungry soul.

It is to fast from strife
And old debate,
And hate;
To circumcise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent;
To starve thy sin,
Not bin;
And that's to keep thy Lent.

By Robert Herrick (17th century poet and cleric)



The Donkey

When fishes flew and forests
walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon
was blood
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and
sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am
dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my
ears,
And palms before my feet.

by G.K. Chesterton

Not too late for a Lent Course! Start today.



Lent is already well underway (it began on 14th February), but as it stretches ahead throughout most of March, you may well be interested in visiting **#LiveLent – Let your light shine**. Especially if you have not yet got around to following any Lent course yet!

LiveLent is the **Church of England's 2018 Lent campaign** and resources for churches. It follows the Gospel of John, offering a short daily reading, a pause for reflection and prayer and a challenge to act. The Archbishops describe the course as “giving you an opportunity to explore what the gift of Jesus and the challenge of Jesus mean for you, in the context of your daily life.

“God offers us life for the sake of others. The light He gives us in Jesus Christ is not to be hidden but to shine – it’s a gift to be lived and shared. Indeed, the more we share it and let it shine, the brighter it burns.”

The aim in 2018 is to encourage people to journey from Lent and Easter into Pentecost and Thy Kingdom Come.

(visit <https://www.churchofengland.org/lent>)

Church welcomes plans for plastic and wildlife

The Church of England has welcomed the Government's recent plans to protect the environment by tackling the problem of too much plastic, and helping wildlife.

The new environmental plans have been hailed as 'terrific' and as 'caring for God's creation', according to the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nick Holtam, who is the Church's lead bishop on environmental issues.

The Government recently announced that it is going to bring in measures designed to eliminate all avoidable plastic by 2042. This 25-year environmental plan, said Theresa May, was because plastic has become 'one of the great environmental scourges of our time. In years to come, I think people will be shocked at how today we allow so much plastic to be produced needlessly.' Bishop Holtam said that while a 25-year time scale 'does look slow', at least it was a start.

The Government has also announced plans to help wildlife, by introducing 500,000 new hectares of habitat for endangered species, and has promised to provide £5.7 million to kick-start a new Northern Forest project, where 50 million trees will be planted between Liverpool and Hull.

The head of global policy at Christian Aid, Dr Alison Doig, has also welcomed the Government's plans. 'God's creation is not something for us to simply use and abuse, but to cherish, protect and pass on. Unfortunately, we have not taken good care of it.'

Combine an interest in litter picking and jogging!

Why not become a Plogger?

What is Plogging?

Plogging, the latest trend from Scandinavia, involves you going for a run with a bag which you will need to fill with litter you find on your jog. The activity aims to benefit both you and the planet, improving your health and having a benefit to the local environment. It was first started in 2016 by a group of Swedish joggers who shared their photos of the waste they'd collected whilst running. Since then it has taken off on social media, with hundreds of people sharing their plogging photos from around the world using

[#Plogging on Instagram.](#)

What the teacher says and what the teacher means....

If you have ever wondered what the teachers really think of your child, you may enjoy these snippets from real reports....and the thought behind them!

James has a remarkable ability in gathering needed information from his classmates. (He was caught cheating on an exam.)

Karen is an endless fund of energy and viability. (Your hyperactive monster can't stay put for five minutes.)

Fantastic imagination! (He's one of the biggest liars I have ever met.)

Margie exhibits a relaxed attitude to school, indicating that high expectations don't intimidate her. (The lazy thing hasn't done one assignment all term.)

Sue is a real athlete, with superior hand-eye coordination. (The little creep stung me with a rubber band from 15 feet away.)

Nick thrives on interaction with his peers. (Your son never shuts up.)

Nancy's greatest asset is demonstrative public discussions.

(Every time I give an assignment, she responds by sparking a classroom argument over it.)

John enjoys the thrill of engaging challenges with his peers. (He's an incorrigible bully.)

Jane is an adventurous nature lover, who rarely misses opportunities to explore new territory. (Your daughter skipped class and nearly drowned trying to catch wriggly things in the school pond.)

Plea from St Mary's Church

The search for Rev Barber

Can anybody help provide a photograph of the late Rev Barber who was vicar at St Mary's Church Cottonstones in 1940 - 1942?

A book about the history of Mill Bank and memories of Hazel Whiteley's childhood is to be published this year. Many people tell humorous stories about Rev Barber and remember him with great affection. It would be great to have his photograph in the book. If you can help please contact Ruth Beazley on 01422 823110 or e mail ruth.beazley@bopenworld.com



So you think English is easy?

Read on:

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 4) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 5) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 6) A sea bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 7) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 8) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 9) After going out after having done some sewing, a sewer fell into a sewer.
- 10) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.

Mothering Sunday



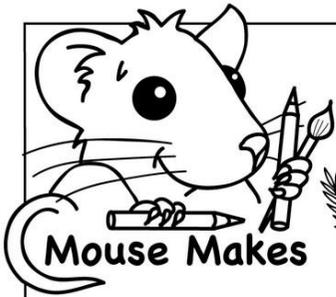
**Come and join us at
St Peter's Church,
Sowerby
for a fun, informal,
All-Age Worship
Mothering Sunday service
10.00 am Sunday 11 March
with flowers for mums and
carers**



**With tea/coffee and homemade cakes
refreshments following the service**



**Coming soon -
Easter Sunday service on 1 April
10.00am at St Peter's church, Sowerby
11.30am at St Mary's church, Cottonstones**



Journey to the Cross

Read the Bible - find the answers

READ Matthew 21:1-11

Where did Jesus stop on his journey? vs 1

What did Jesus send his disciples to get? vs 2

What did the crowd spread on the road in front of Jesus? vs 8

What did the people shout? vs 9

What city was Jesus going to? vs 10

READ Matthew 26:17-75

What festival did the disciples celebrate? vs 17

Which disciple denied Jesus? vs 34

Which disciple betrayed Jesus? vs 47

READ Matthew 27

When Jesus was taken to be crucified, what did the soldiers put on him? vs 28-29

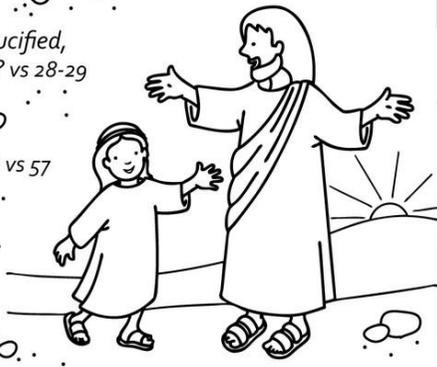
What time did Jesus die? vs 45

Whose tomb was Jesus buried in? vs 57

READ Matthew 28

On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb? vs 2

What had happened to Jesus? vs 6,7



Weekly Groups at St Peter's Community Centre which is just across the road from St. Peter's Church. Formerly the village school, therefore the entrance is via the old school yard.....

Community Café

Monday – 9.15am-noon. Term time. Join us for inexpensive bacon butties, omelettes, home made cakes, treats, children's play table. Free housing benefit advice available.

Facebook: The Cafe St Peter's Community Centre Sowerby

Tai Chi

Monday – 1pm-2pm

2.15pm – 3.15pm Beginners Class. Weekly

Ryburn Art Club

Tuesday - 10am-12.30pm. Term time.

Brownies and Guides

Tuesday - 6.30pm-9pm - for girls aged between 7 and 14 years. Term time.

Lunch Club

Thursday – Noon-1.30pm - first and third Thursday of each month.

Slimming World

Thursday evenings from 7.30pm. Tracey is your Slimming World representative.

Stay and Play

Friday – 9am-10.30am - a free, (although donations appreciated), messy play group for parents and toddlers. Sensible parenting advice given if asked for.

Artsbarre

Friday – from 4.45pm. Term time.

Community Café

Saturday – 9am-1pm. Join us for inexpensive bacon butties, soup, home made cakes, treats, children's play table. Free housing benefit advice available.

Facebook: The Cafe St Peter's Community Centre Sowerby



Recipe Corner

Pea and Mint Soup.....

Ingredients

1 large onion, chopped

200g potatoes, peeled and chopped

2 garlic cloves, peeled

1 litre boiling vegetable stock

400g frozen peas

10g fresh mint

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

Put the onion into a large pan with the potatoes, garlic and stock. Bring to the boil over a high heat, turn the heat to low and simmer for 20 minutes, or until the potatoes are very soft.

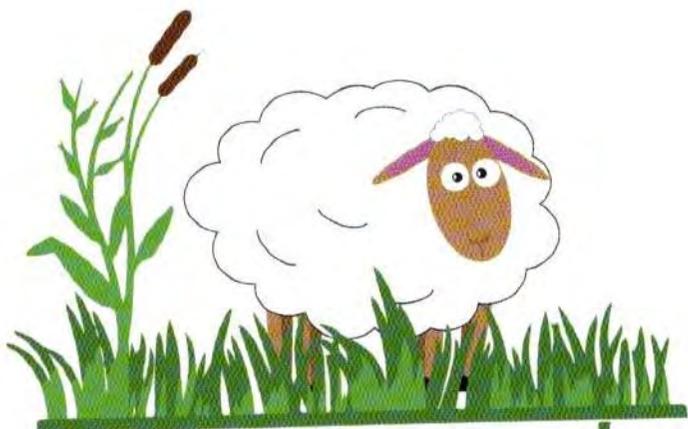
Add the peas to the soup, simmer for a couple of minutes, and stir in the mint. Take off the heat, cool slightly, then blend until smooth.

Season to taste and serve with a sprig of fresh mint, or stir in a spoonful of natural yogurt

Serves 4



courtesy of Fiona Butterworth



Grass Roots
Private Day Nursery

Grass Roots Private Day Nursery

St Peter's Community Centre
St Peter's Avenue
Sowerby
Sowerby Bridge
HX6 1HB

01422 836280

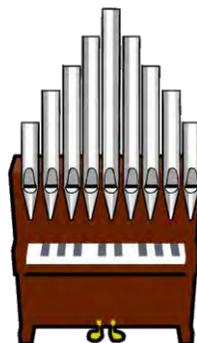
grassrootsdaynursery@gmail.com

www.grassrootsdaynursery.com

Open 7.30am - 6pm Monday to Friday
15 and 30 hours funding available

Norland Church News

Last month we reported the starting of a fund to raise money for the repairs of St Luke's church organ. There is now a crowdfunding page, and this is the link to it.



<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/norland-stlukes-church>



[Help raise £20000 to take up the challenge and become an 'Organ Donor' for St Luke's Church Organ. We hope you can help us reach our target. Thank you](#)

We're raising money to take up the challenge and become an 'Organ Donor' for St Luke's Church Organ. We hope you can help us reach our target. Thank you. Support this JustGiving Crowdfunding Page.

www.justgiving.com

For just over 150 years, the 'Little grey church on the hill' has offered worship and prayers for and on behalf of our community of Norland. In that time, the church has seen many changes, both globally and in the locality where we are.

Our worship has been beautified and enhanced by the playing of our organ at St Luke's. It has given many, many years of faithful service, both to the life and worship of the church and to the local community.

Money is always an issue when it comes to the upkeep of our church building, so for many years, other things have taken priority over the organ in the church. Despite this, we have always lovingly endeavoured to look after it, with necessary repairs being made when needed. It has also been regularly tuned and looked after in order to keep it working at its best.

In all those years, the organ has never complained about being down our list of priorities. Nor has it complained about our singing, or not knowing the tunes to the hymns! It has never refused to play and has always made our music more glorious with its sound.

So we think now is the time to show our organ some love. It is not enough anymore to keep 'patching' it up. Replacement parts are now needed, and the cost of all the necessary repairs runs into the thousands. Nonetheless, we are determined to bring our organ back to its former glory and that is why we need your help.

Will you take up the challenge and become an 'Organ Donor' for St Luke's Church Organ? We hope you can help. Many thanks

Revd Jeanette Roberts

Norland Club Pancake Bingo

A huge **thank you** to everyone who organised and joined in the Pancake Bingo and Quiz, which raised £180.50 for the organ fund.

February Sudoku solution

1	6	3	5	8	4	7	2	9
8	7	5	2	9	3	6	4	1
9	4	2	6	1	7	5	8	3
5	1	6	9	3	2	8	7	4
2	3	4	8	7	6	1	9	5
7	8	9	1	4	5	2	3	6
6	5	7	3	2	9	4	1	8
3	2	8	4	5	1	9	6	7
4	9	1	7	6	8	3	5	2

March Sudoku

			5	6	7	1		4
				9	1	2		
1			4			5	8	6
	3				6			9
4	5						6	1
6			9				5	
8	2	3			9			5
		4	6	3				
9		5	2	8	4			

March 2018 Crossword

Across

1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)

4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)

8 ““They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!” (Proverbs 23:35)

(3,2)

9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)

10 Jewish (7)

11 Dirge (anag.) (5)

12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)

17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)

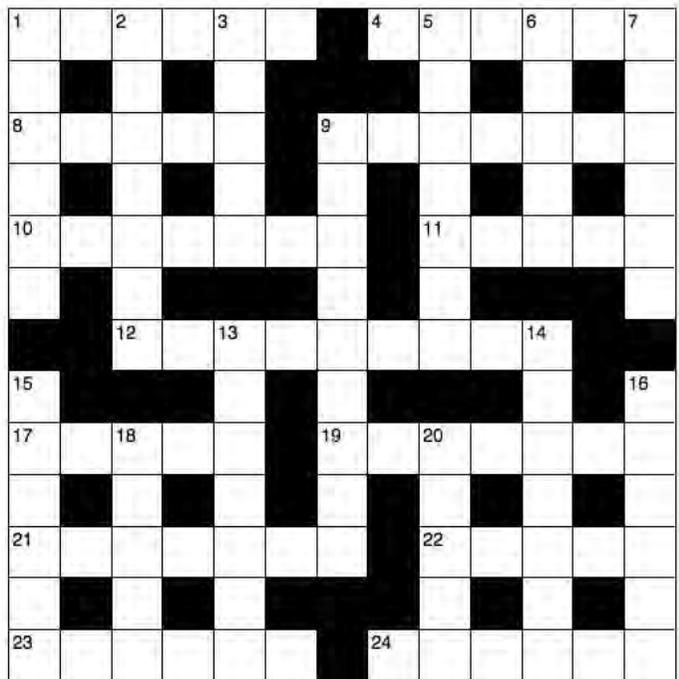
19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)

21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)

22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)

23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home” (Judges 20:8) (4,2)

24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)



Down

1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)

- 2 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 'But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

Answers : February 2018 Crossword

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

And Finally.....

Palms

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, young James stayed home from church with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," James fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up."

What now?

Today, I was in the bathroom at a popular coffee chain. Someone had written "What Would Jesus Do?" on the wall. Another person had added, directly underneath: "Wash His hands." Then a third person wrote, "And your feet."

Scared

Some people are scared of church like they are scared of helicopters – they are frightened of being sucked into the rotas.

If you have enjoyed reading our magazine, and would like to advertise the activities of your group or business in our next edition, please contact the editor, Revd Lesley Ennis tel 01422 832747, or email your request to lesleyennis@hotmail.co.uk

For voluntary organizations there will be no charge. For commercial organizations, £2 per issue or £10 per year, for a quarter page insert. All articles are accepted subject to Sowerby PCC editorial policy.

Cut off date for items for the following month's edition is 15th of the preceding month.

If you would like to receive future editions (in PDF format) direct to your email box, please email the editor with your details, which will be used solely for this purpose only.

Grateful acknowledgement is given to all our magazine contributors, and also to the contributors of the website Parishpump.co.uk, for kindly allowing us to use some of their material.