



Newsletter

(01) Sunday 6 to Saturday 19 January 2019

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Christmas Message from Revd. Dr. Lee Longden

Merry Christmas! That might seem a very strange thing for me to say, given that by now the last of the turkey will have been eaten, presents will have been opened, the tree may well be down, New Year's Resolutions made (and most likely broken...), and the supermarkets will have Easter eggs on display! But for the Church, Christmas has not yet come to an end. We celebrate the feast of the Epiphany on January 6th, and in some traditions within the Church, Christmas extends as far as February 3rd – the feast of the Presentation of Christ at the Temple, otherwise known as Candlemas.

Everything in the Christmas story is about revelation. From the annunciation, when the angel revealed God's plan to Mary, through to Christmas Day, when the Incarnate God is revealed in the person of a tiny baby. Then on to the story of the Magi, when God's self-revelation extends to new peoples. Finally, the day comes when Jesus is revealed publicly at the Temple to complete the ceremonies required by Jewish belief, and Simeon and Anna, two faithful elderly people who have long prayed for the coming of the Christ, see who they have prayed for through the long years behind them.

In each of these moments of revelation, there is an element of surprise – revelation to new people in new ways. Ways that bring people up short, make them think, and leave them at a point where life will never quite be the same again. Some refer to moments of discovery where everything changes in an instant and they're led to new ways of thinking about things as *Kairos* moments, taking the word from the Greek language.

I wonder what *Kairos* moments might await us, in our personal discipleship and as a community of faith, in 2019. How might we be led to moments of discovery in which we discover a revived freshness to our faith, and a renewed missional purpose to our life together? One of the wonderful truths about the Christian faith is that we never stop learning about God and God's relationship with humankind, if we have the willingness to be open to growth and to change.

It's very easy, and understandable, to become comfortable with what we know and like. Yet true discipleship carries at its heart a calling to be a people of exile, taking our bearings from God's chosen people of Old Testament times. People who enjoy everything that life on earth has to offer us, but know that this is not our home. People who are on the move: people who change and who grow. Standing still can be comfortable, but it may mean we miss out on the new things God has to reveal to us in the coming year – maybe more *Kairos* moments.

I pray that 2019 will be a year for all of us in which God reveals rich spiritual blessings of all kinds. Blessings that draw us closer to the true vine in our personal discipleship, and blessings that give us the courage to find out where God is at work in the wider community and to join in. God's self-revelation knew no boundaries that first Christmas. As we mark those moments once again in the liturgical life of our community of faith, wouldn't it be wonderful if they led us all to reach out to draw others into their own encounters with the living God, after which life for them will be never quite the same again?

Revd. Lee

REGULAR SERVICES

Sundays: St Paul's 10am (HC 13 Jan) St Andrew's 11am (6 Jan)

Christian Meditation: 7.30-8.30pm (details 792-1098)

Morning Prayers: Mon; Tues (9am); Weds (9.15am)

Night Prayers Tues: 8.45pm (details from 798 6917)

Wednesdays: St Paul's 10am Holy Communion St Andrew's 2pm Prayers

Service Leaders and Readings

Sun 6 Jan St P's AT/HS

Isaiah 50: 1-6 & Matt 2: 1-12 (EPH 3: 1-12)

St A's LPL

Wed 9 Jan LPL or NP

1 John 4:11-18 & Mark 6:45-52

Sun 13 Jan St P's LPL/AT

Isaiah 43:1-7 & Luke 3: 15-17,21-22.

St. A's HS/AR

Psalm 29.

Wed 16 Jan LPL or NP

Psalm 105: 1-9 & Mark 1:29-39

DIARY DATES

Tue 6 Jan 1.30pm TIME OUT at 5 Moorside Road.

18 to 20 January 2019, First Friday Men's Group Away Weekend at Thornleigh Christian Hotel, 256 The Esplanade, Grange-over-sands, Cumbria LA 7HH. We extend a warm welcome to all men to join us for a time-out weekend of relaxation, fellowship, sharing and learning (and good food), led by Pastor Eddy Inglis, an excellent and popular speaker. The cost is £136 per person – all rooms are en-suite. Places are limited so early booking will be appreciated. Contact Len Mills on 0161 792 8901/3877. 07543650292 or e-mail lenmills1@hotmail.co.uk. Close until Wednesday 6 February 2019. Do come along on a Wednesday afternoon at 2pm if you would like to join us for a short time of prayer followed by tea and biscuits.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rector Revd. Dr. Lee Longden. 1 Moorside Road Kersal, Salford M7 3PJ (0161 792 5362/07763 526535) email: rectorofkersal@gmail.com

Associate Minister Revd Mike Dyson, 15 Moorside Road ,Kersal, Salford M7 3PJ (0161 792 1098) email: beardandsandals@hotmail.com

Assistant Curate Revd. Hilary Shedlock (07817651408) e-mail: revhilaryshedlock@gmail.com

FUTURE DATES AND NOTICES

Tue 22 Jan from 10.30am to 3.30pm Holocaust Memorial Day at Katherine House. Looking at the life of diarist Etty Hillesum who died in Auschwitz. Booking recommended. See poster on church notice board for more details.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

Flourish 2019: 'Rhythms of Life' Friday & Saturday 24/25 May 2019 at St Paul's. Excellent teaching, fellowship and contemporary worship. More details to follow, but a date for your new diaries!

Parish Weekend Away 13/15/16 September 2019

Once more we are going to Thornleigh Christian Hotel, Grange over Sands, where we enjoy a warm welcome, good food and fellowship, in very comfortable surroundings. Revd. Lee is leading the Weekend (further details will follow). All rooms en suite. Lift to all floors. Transport arranged. Full Board from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch £145.00 (the price may increase by a small amount). Part payments taken through the year. There is the option of an extra night for £35.00 providing ten or more take up this offer. For more details or to book a place please contact Maureen on 0161 792 4873 or email rober382@sky.com

A big thank you from the Boaz Trust for the generous donations received for the clients at Christmas - they were much appreciated. Revd. Mike and Jean also say thank you for the cards and gifts received over the festive season. Two brand new gas fires (never used, still in original packaging) for sale - please see Revd. Mike or Jean for further details. Thank you and blessings from Jean

All other needs: Janet Wood, PCC Secretary, 9 St Paul's Road, Kersal, Salford M7 3NY (0161792 4694) 07763575203 Email: jhjw@care4free.net

Hall Bookings: St Paul's and St. Andrew's 792 3877;

Emergency prayer chain: ring Maureen 792 4873 or email rober382@sky.com

All notices to sub-editor Norma MacKinnon at mackinnon860@hotmail.co.uk