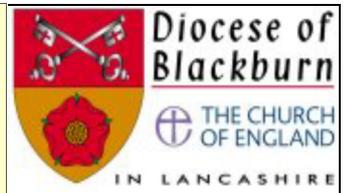




# All Saints Higher Walton

## NEWSLETTER 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018



For baptisms, weddings or funerals, please contact  
The Vicar, Rev. Simon Hunt 01772 335406

Visit our **NEW** website  
[www.allsaintshigherwalton.org.uk](http://www.allsaintshigherwalton.org.uk)

### February Sunday Services

<b>4<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Epiphany 4</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.00am	Good News at Ten
<b>11<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Epiphany 5</b>	9.15am	All Age Worship
	11.00am	Holy Communion CW
<b>18<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Lent 1</b>	9.15am	All Age Worship with Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Worship CW
<b>25<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Lent 2</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	All Age Worship
	11.00am	Morning Prayer BCP

### Midweek Services & meetings

<b>Tuesday</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	10.15am	Holy Communion Many Brook House
	10.45am	Holy Communion Arrowsmith Lodge
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>14<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	7.30pm	Holy Communion CW
<b>Monday</b> <b>19<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	8.00pm	<b>Monday Group HWCC :</b> Yvonne Pinder "Pinny Pots"
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>28<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP followed by HC in parishioners' homes
<b>Every Friday</b>	9.00am	"Sanctuary" prayers in Church Details? Simon or Margaret

### CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL : 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY



This month, on 25th January, the Church celebrates probably the most famous conversion of all, which happened to a young man called Saul on the road to Damascus.

Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, a student of Gamaliel and a fierce critic of the followers of Jesus, then a new religious sect. On his way to Damascus to organise a purge of Christians in that city, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He asked the identity of the voice, and it replied, 'Jesus, whom you are persecuting'. Stunned by the experience, he followed further instructions which led him to a Christian man in Damascus, who prayed with him. As he did, Saul's sight was restored.

The experience convinced him that Jesus - crucified in Jerusalem four or five years earlier - was in fact the Messiah and had risen from the dead. After a period of instruction, Saul was baptised and took the name by which history has recognised him, Paul. At first, some Christians were wary about the reality of his conversion, but over a period of time he was accepted and indeed eventually recognised as an 'apostle', a 'special messenger' of Jesus Christ.

His intellectual stature and leadership gifts quickly marked him out, and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian Church, preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East, largely of Gentile converts. He was eventually martyred in Rome, probably in 65AD. Paul was the first intellectual of the Christian Church, the man who was able to set the events of the life and teaching of Jesus, and especially his death and resurrection, into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith of his own upbringing. He's not always easy to follow. Even the New Testament admits that: 'there are some things (in his letters) hard to understand' (2 Peter 3:16). But at the same time he gave the new faith a foundation and credibility which have stood it well down the centuries.

Many people think of Paul as a rather negative, narrow misogynist, but even a quick reading of his letters actually reveals a person of great warmth, who evoked enormous affection and devotion from others. 'You would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me!' he writes to the Christians at Galatia. He was, of course, a man of his time and culture, in days when women were disregarded in terms of status and leadership. But read his letters, and see how large a role women play in them and how much scope he gave them to lead and teach in the Church. In terms of the first century, St Paul was a dangerous liberal! So all in all, the amazing Paul of Tarsus deserves a bit of celebrating on 25th January.

### LENT COURSE

We will again be running a study course during Lent. This year we will follow the Diocesan Course "**Being Witnesses**" We will meet once a week for five weeks in Lent, starting w/c 18<sup>th</sup> February and finishing just before Holy Week. The meetings will be held in the same House Groups who met to follow the "Discipleship Explored" course, of which there are several, meeting at different places/times/days of the week Anyone who did not attend these is warmly invited to join one for the Lent Course.



**YOU WILL BE VERY WELCOME.**

For details of time & place options have a word with Simon or Margaret  
Further details later



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## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time



Material for 2018 was produced in the Caribbean and uses Exodus 15, a song of triumph over oppression, as the motif of the Week of Prayer.

The themes of the daily material raise some of the contemporary issues addressed by the churches of the Caribbean. Abuses of human rights are found across the region and we are challenged to consider our manner of welcoming of the stranger into our midst. Human trafficking and modern-day slavery continue to be huge issues. Addictions to pornography and drugs continue to be serious challenges to all societies. The debt crisis has a negative impact upon the nations and upon individuals – the economies of the nations and people have become precarious. Family life continues to be challenged by the economic restrictions which lead to migration, domestic abuse and violence.

The Caribbean Churches work together to heal the wounds in the body of Christ. Reconciliation demands repentance, reparation and the healing of memories. The whole Church is called to be both a sign and an active agent of this reconciliation



.. **“they’re two of our biggest givers . . .”**  
© Leyland Methodist Church

## A REMINDER ABOUT THE REFORMATION EXHIBITION at the John Rylands Library, Deansgate, Manchester

The Reformation Exhibition invites you to journey through these tumultuous times . In the exhibition you can see a rare copy of Luther’s 95 Theses as well as a letter hand written by Luther himself and a very early example of printing – an Indulgence printed in 1455

Those of us who have visited this exhibition report how thoroughly interesting it is. It really brings to life in an expert way the upheaval that ran through the Church starting in 1517. In another room is a fragment of an early Gospel !

**Free admission. Runs for another 6 weeks - until 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

[www.library.manchester.ac.uk/reformation](http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/reformation)

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

#### Interment of ashes 14<sup>th</sup> January

The ashes of **Margaret Kirby**, whose funeral was held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, were interred in All Saints churchyard



#### Funeral 15<sup>th</sup> January Judith Strickland

Died 24<sup>th</sup> December aged 67

Funeral Service and committal conducted by  
Rev. Simon Hunt at Pleasington Crematorium



## IGNITE YOUTH NIGHT NEWS

EVERY FRIDAY TERM TIME 7.45 - 9.15pm

A special Youth Worship night, “Elevate” was held in December and was a great evening of contemporary worship by Jo Ingham and band members from Ignite. Members of the Diocesan Youth Team also helped. Ignite have also received generous grants from Lancs CC, South Ribble BC, and Chorley BC, with the support of Couns. Barrie Yates and Kim Snape respectively. Many thanks for this, which enabled us to buy lights for a Christmas Disco and future events. Ignite is attracting an average of 30 young people each week, but is facing difficulty through the dwindling number of leaders.

**Could you please help ?** - have a word with Jill Smith or Jo Ingham

## PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOOD BANK

God can do wonders with a broken heart if you give Him all the pieces. *Victor Alfsen*

God made you as you are in order to use you as He planned. *SC McAuley*

I am too blessed to be stressed!

The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything.