

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH



It is very important for Christians to publicly affirm their faith in the presence of friends, family and members of the church. We do this through baptism, or if you have already been baptised as a child, through confirmation.

Bishop Libby, the Bishop of Stockport, will be joining us to lead a special joint service of Baptism,

Confirmation and Affirmation of Faith for us on **Sunday 26th February at 10.30am** (both congregations coming together) which is only seven weeks away!

If you have invited Jesus into your life in this last year or have renewed your faith in some way, this service is for you!

For those who have never been baptised, this is your opportunity to publicly declare your faith. For those who were baptised as children but have never publicly taken the promises made on their behalf for themselves, then the confirmation service is where this takes place.

If you have already been baptised and confirmed but would like to publicly affirm your faith, then there is also the opportunity to do this in the same service. Please speak to Tom, or Will for more information.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND AWAY

Join us for a weekend away with the women (16+) from the church. We are going to Hebden Bridge from the 17th to 19th February and will be staying in a hostel, doing a mixture of discipleship and getting to know each other. The cost for the weekend will be £60 for accommodation and food. Please give Charlie Laver your money to secure a place, or drop a cheque into the church office. We have limited places so it is first come, first served. Please chat to Charlie, Lizzie Hopkins, Ruth Vickers or Rachel Drain for more information or ring Charlie on 07984 286038.



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The church office is open Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9.00am to 3.00pm and Wednesday 10.00am to 3.00pm



January 8th 2017

Sunday 8th January

9.15am and 11.15am
Morning Praise and
Children's groups

'Why do we need a Creed?'
Romans 10: 9 -13

Monday 9th January

9.15am Family Forum
7.30pm Alpha Plus in church lounge
7.30pm Freedom in Christ
in St Matthews

Wednesday 11th January

9.00am Prayer meeting
10.00am Bridge Coffee shop
7.00pm Engage youth club

Thursday 12th January

7.15pm Youth Encounter
in church lounge
7.30pm Worship group

Friday 13th January

10.30am Bible Study

Sunday 15th January

9.15am and 11.15am Communion
and children's groups

'I believe in one God'
Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

WELCOME

We are delighted that you have joined us for our services this morning.

If you are visiting or new to Holy Trinity it's great to have you with us - we hope that you feel at home.

Please make yourself known to one of the welcome team (wearing white badges) after the service - they would love to get you a cup of coffee and tell you a bit about the church.



WORSHIPPING GOD BUILDING COMMUNITY SERVING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

KIC START CHANGES

From today we will be changing the way that KICStart starts (our young church for 5-11's). In the past children were dropped off directly at St Matthews but starting today we would like to you bring the children to church with you and register them with the KICStart leaders in the church lounge. The children will then join with you for the first part of the service. They will go out after the first worship song. The leaders will take them across to St Matthews and then bring them back in time to join you for communion.

FREEDOM IN CHRIST COURSE

This is a fantastic course which has helped many Christians to discover the freedom that God wants us all to enjoy in him. Many of us carry baggage from the past which holds us back, or we feel ourselves constantly pulled back into old sinful patterns of behaviour. Sometimes we feel that things can never change.



This course will help you to understand who you are in Christ, what happened when you became a Christian, the truth of God's unconditional love, why there is no condemnation, and why you don't have to languish in cycles of sin, negative thinking and hopelessness.

Sound good? Here's what a member of our church said about a previous course they attended:

"Doing the Freedom in Christ course has stopped me from feeling guilty that I'm not good enough for God to love me. Knowing that nothing I do will make God love me less is really liberating. I know other people have said this, but I now feel in my heart what I've known in my head for years and it's amazing!"

You might have done Freedom in Christ before but it's great to repeat it – rather like a spiritual MOT! **We start tomorrow Monday 9th January at 7.30pm** and the course will run on Monday evenings in St Matthews for seven weeks. **If you would like to take part, please speak to Tom today.**

GIFT DAY

We are having a Gift Day on Sunday 8th February when we will welcome financial gifts towards the new roof and the maintenance of the church building. More details about how you can take part and how the money will be used next week.



NEW TEACHING SERIES

We begin a new teaching series today entitled '**WHAT WE BELIEVE**'. Christians have since earliest times declared their faith by publicly reciting creeds together. (The word Creed comes from the Latin 'credo' which simply means 'I believe'.)

what we **believe**

The creeds - there are two that are regularly used, a shorter Apostles' Creed and the longer Nicene Creed - declare the essence of what we as Christians believe. In the early church, new Christians would often be required to learn a creed and understand what it meant before they could be baptised. The creeds laid out the fundamentals of the Christian faith and were also a way in which Christian identity could be affirmed, maintained and safeguarded – a reminder week by week of the Christian's identity in a hostile world.

Over this next term we are going to look at these creeds phrase by phrase. There are two aims. One is to better understand the theological truths of our faith. The other is to recognise the application of that truth in our everyday lives. So for example with 'I believe in God the Father Almighty' we want to encompass both an understanding of God as creator, omniscient and all powerful, and also of God as our loving heavenly Father. With 'I believe in the forgiveness of sins' we want to understand the way in which our sins can be forgiven, but also what it means to live in the light of God's forgiveness and cleansing.

PRAYER

WEDNESDAY

Don't forget our weekly prayer meeting on Wednesdays from 9.00 – 9.45am in St Matthews. Please join us if you can – a great way to start the day!

SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY

'Praying for our town' - starting in St Matthews at 10.00am. We believe that prayer changes things and want to see God at work in our town and for people to know his peace and love so please come and be part of this – you're free to stay in St Matthews to pray, to walk around the town on your own or with others and to pray silently or out loud. Come and join us!



CHURCH PHOTO ALBUM

Our church photo album is a bit out of date so we're hoping to get some new pics after the services next week and the week after. Thanks to Ian Purvis who is organising this – come prepared!

GIVE AS YOU LIVE

If you shop online at Amazon, Comet, Tesco and over 4000 other stores then every purchase you make using 'Give as you live' results in a small donation going to Holy Trinity church. It doesn't cost you a penny extra.



To register go to www.giveasyoulive.com, click 'Sign up for free', search for 'Holy Trinity Stalybridge', click on 'Select this cause' and then enter your name, email address and a password.

That's it. Every time you shop, go through 'Give as you live' and a donation will go to Holy Trinity.

At the moment only 16 people have signed up – surely there are more online shoppers out there?!

CAP MONEY COURSE

budget. save. spend.



The CAP Money Course is a revolutionary, free money management course that teaches budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based system that really works. The course is designed to help anyone gain more control over their finances so they can save, give and prevent debt. It is highly recommended for everyone!

Our next courses will run on **Tuesdays 21st and 28th February, and 7th March** in St Matthews at either 1.30pm or 7.30pm – whichever time suits you best. Please speak to Anne Wellock or Vera Wormald for more information.

DISCRETIONARY FUND

Holy Trinity has a small Discretionary Fund which is used to help refugees with whom we have contact and others in need and also to support asylum appeals. If you would like to make a specific contribution to this fund at any time apart from your regular giving, please use one of the envelopes at the back and mark it clearly 'Discretionary Fund'.

PASTORAL CARE AND VISITING

If you know of someone who is unwell, in hospital or would like a visit because they cannot get to church, please let Cris know through the church office or speak directly to Beryl Pickersgill 01457 762020 who coordinates our Visiting Team.



CHURCH WALK

See below for details of our next church walk on Saturday 28th January.



Walk: Hollingworth Lake, Littleborough (near Rochdale)

Meet: Civic Hall car park at 12.30pm or 1.15pm at the Visitor Centre where there is parking (charges apply).

Category walk: Green. The walk is around Hollingworth Lake itself, which is approximately two miles - all flat, so suitable for younger children and those who would struggle with the more strenuous walks. We will stop for tea/coffee towards the end. Even though the walk is not strenuous, it is still advisable to wear good walking shoes and waterproof/windproof jacket. There is the additional option of splitting the group and lengthening the walk for those who would like to stretch their legs further, depending upon the weather of course.

Mobile number on the day is: 07866 836280

Hope to see you there! *Paula Chester*

ST JAMES' MILLBROOK

Just a reminder that Revd Chris Viney is to be licensed on Wednesday 18th January as an Associate Minister with St John's Dukinfield to serve at St James' Millbrook. We are delighted for Chris and for St James who have had a long vacancy. Unfortunately the date clashes with our next PCC meeting so it would be good if others could go and show our support.

COLLECTION

We do not pass a collection plate during our services - instead we have a basket near the church entrance where we ask people to place their gifts towards God's work. The work of the church depends upon the regular faithful giving of God's people and we encourage all who consider themselves members of Holy Trinity to give using envelopes or by standing order so that we can reclaim Gift Aid on their donations.



If you don't already give in this way, please speak to Jamie Shepherd or Mark Wilde for more information or pick up a finance information pack from the back of church.

If you do not give regularly but would like to make a donation today, please use one of the envelopes on the cupboards at the back and place it in the basket before or after the service. Thank you!