

Sunday

in the Parish of Honley with Brockholes

26 March 2017 | The Fourth Sunday of Lent



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Leeds

Welcome If you are a newcomer or visitor, we welcome you and want you to feel at home. Please introduce yourself and join us for refreshments after the 9.30 and 11 a.m. services.

THERE are parts of the world where acts of violence such as that seen in Westminster on Wednesday are an everyday occurrence. That does not lessen the horror we rightly feel when we hear about them, but it does put them in an important context. Every day, we pray at Morning and Evening Prayer, 'Give peace in our time, O Lord'. Wednesday's events are a reminder to make that a heartfelt prayer rather than simply a form of words.

It seems likely that behind the attack was bad theology. Having been born Adrian Elms in Tunbridge Wells, he changed his name to Khalid Masood and apparently converted to a form of Islam. The vast majority of Muslims are people of peace, but there are forms of Islam in which certain aspects of the Qur'an (the Islamic scriptures) are emphasised more than others to create a theological system in which violence towards non-Muslims is considered acceptable or even desirable. As most Muslims would agree, such 'Islamic extremism' is bad theology.

Christians rightly make exclusive truth claims. Jesus said that no one comes to the Father except through him (John 14.6). Jesus died in the place of God's people, bearing their sin. He was raised to life on the third day. He is God in person, the second Person of the divine Trinity. True peace with God, and therefore with other people, comes through faith in him alone. Our Christian convictions enable us to nurture a culture of tolerance and respect towards those we believe to be wrong – and that, of course, includes our Muslim neighbours, whom we must love, and with whom we must share the gospel of God's peace in Jesus Christ.

As part of our commitment to peace, we must also work at developing 'good theology' – that is, a way of talking and thinking about God which is rooted in the Bible, and which reaches out to others. In Jesus alone is hope for the world. Had Adrian Elms discovered the truth of that, he would never have been duped by the bad theology which led to such awful tragedy.

Today's Worship

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (1662) – St Mary's
9.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION for Mothering Sunday – St Mary's
11.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION for Mothering Sunday – St George's
6.30 p.m. Lent Course – Parish Rooms

Readings at 9.30 and 11 a.m.

1 Samuel 16.1-13 (p. 287)
John 9.1-11 (p. 1075)

Hymns at 9.30 a.m.

2, 134, 315, 259, 476

Hymns at 11.00 a.m.

2, 792, 451, 394

The Collect of Lent 4

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DIARY

Monday 27th March

Tuesday 28th March

Wednesday 29th March 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion – St Mary's
There is no Prayer Gathering this week

Thursday 30th March 9.00 a.m. Let's Play – Parish Rooms
12 noon Lent Lunch – St Mary's
There is no Bible study this week

Friday 31st March

John Donne, Priest, Poët, 1631

Saturday 1st April

Frederick Denison Maurice, Priest, Teacher of the Faith, 1872

Sunday 2nd April

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (1662) – St Mary's
9.30 a.m. ALL AGE MORNING PRAYER – St Mary's
11.00 a.m. ALL AGE HOLY COMMUNION – St George's
6.30 p.m. Lent Course – Parish Rooms

PRAYERS

1. Among the sick and the housebound, we pray for <deleted from on-line edition>
2. Our Parish Growth Prayer – please use this in your daily prayers:

Father, you have called us to be disciples of your Son in Honley and Brockholes. May your word be spoken and heard in our parish, and accepted by many with lasting joy. Give us the gift of growth: growth in discipleship, and growth in the number of disciples, to the praise of your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NOTICES

1. Two dates for your diaries! Jenny Lockwood is organising a concert with a bring-your-own picnic (Glyndebourne-style) at St Mary's. It will be in the evening of Saturday 6th May. And there will be a Lent Lunch on Thursday 30th March at 12 noon in St Mary's, for which tickets (£5) must be bought in advance from Gillian Greaves.
2. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in St Mary's on Saturday 22nd April at 10.00 a.m.
3. It is time for the annual revision of the parish Electoral Roll. The current roll will be on display at the back of church until Sunday 2nd April. Please carefully check your details. If any of your details need to be changed, please fill in an amendment slip. If you are not on the roll and would like to be, please fill in an application form. Please return all amendment slips and application forms to the envelope on the noticeboard by the end of the Morning Service on Sunday 2nd April.
4. A notice from Richard Ashley: "The Water of Life project will hold the next meeting in St Mary's church on Thursday 4th May 2017 at 7 p.m. Before then, we shall be asking volunteers to help to turn the beds around the Parish Hall into vegetable growing areas as part of the start of 'Incredible Edible Honley'. We are also being assisted by the Holmfirth Transition Towns (HoTT) group."
5. The Parochial Church Council would like to appoint someone to help the churchwardens to handle the brief for health and safety across the parish. Might you be a good person to do that? If so, please speak to Liam Beadle.