



St Paul's
Little Eaton Church

Parish Magazine



Autumn 2021

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The Vicar's Letter

JAMES HUGHES



Dear Friends,

As we move into autumn, and the weather becomes a little bit colder and wetter, as we enter into our stormy season, come with me to a Bible passage all about the storm.

Come with me to the book of Jonah. We had a great time looking at this in our Holiday Club back in August (which is reviewed elsewhere in the magazine), and you may be familiar with the story. Jonah is supposed to go to Nineveh to tell the people about God but goes the other way on a ship to Tarshish, until God sends a storm (Jonah chapter 1). In order to stop the storm, the sailors reluctantly throw Jonah over the side—and God rescues him by sending a big fish (chapter 2). Eventually, Jonah goes to Nineveh and tells the people, who repent (chapter 3), although Jonah isn't terribly happy about that (chapter 4).

It is fair to say that Jonah is a reluctant prophet. He doesn't want to go to Nineveh, because he doesn't

want to tell them about God—because the people of Nineveh are Israel's enemies, and he doesn't want them to repent and turn to God. He knows that God is merciful, but he doesn't want everyone to experience that mercy. The first two verses of Jonah chapter 4 capture Jonah's attitude:

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster." (Jonah chapter 4, verses 1 and 2, ESV)

Jonah is a difficult prophet. It is hard to imagine that someone who knew the mercies of God like Jonah does would not want other people to share in those mercies. At the same time, there is another side to this. Jesus picks up on the story of Jonah in the New Testament, when the Scribes and Pharisees are asking him for a sign, some kind of miracle that

(they say) will convince them that Jesus is who he says he is:

But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

(Matthew chapter 12, verses 39 and 40)

Jesus will not give them another sign. By Matthew 12 there have already been plenty. The only sign left for them is the sign of Jonah. Jesus here points to his death and resurrection. Just as Jonah was in the fish for three days, so Jesus will die, and on the third day rise again to life. Jesus continues:

The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. (Matthew chapter 12, verse 41)

But just as the religious leaders had rejected all the other signs Jesus did, so they will reject this sign. And

so, the ‘wicked’ men of Nineveh will condemn them—for not seeing the signs. For missing what was obvious. For refusing to see what was right in front of them. For refusing to acknowledge the one greater than Jonah, Jesus.

If Jonah is a difficult response, then the response of the Scribes and Pharisees to Jesus is also difficult. Why, having seen the grace and mercy of God shown in Jesus, who came to die and rise again to save his people, why would they reject that grace? Why didn’t they see who Jesus was? Jesus’s answer is clear—they did not want to see it.

As the weather changes, as we move through what is hopefully going to be a more normal autumn, as some old patterns of life are restored, let me encourage you not to miss the grace and mercy of God shown in Jesus. Join us at St Paul’s to find out more. We promise we will not be on the way to Tarshish.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

*Our new Youth and Children's Worker is **Adam Heaton**, who joined the church Staff Team just ahead of this year's Holiday Club. In this article, Adam reflects on his new role and his Christian background.*



My first sight of the Benefice was in February 2021, cycling out of Nottingham bound for Carsington Water and the fringes of the Peaks. I had no idea as I paused to admire the bridge on Makeney Road in Duffield that six months later I would be starting work just 200 yards across the river at St Alkmund's, alongside also working at St Paul's.

As Youth and Children's Worker, I'm delighted to be opening the Bible with an amazing core of young people each week, as well as supporting faithful volunteers and reaching out to local schools. This summer's Holiday Club was a great launch into the ministry.

Before coming to Little Eaton and Duffield, I spent five years in Nottingham, arriving as a music student and leaving (quite unexpectedly) a church children's worker. I settled at a city church called Cornerstone, and despite watching many friends enjoy an internship there after graduating, I was surprised to find myself signing up to do the same.

Working for a church struck me as

odd, but it would be a gap year of sorts, and after three years of Bible teaching and solid friendships, I felt very much at home. Admittedly, it was also a considerable comfort at the time to dodge children and get to work with students.

Over what turned into two years of first student work, then children's work, then lockdown video editing, streaming and (of course) Zooming, I found that opening the Bible with children was always challenging, character-building, rewarding, and usually hilarious.

I am very grateful for the foundations of faith laid and strengthened at Cornerstone that have set me up to take on a role at St Paul's and St Alkmund's, and after a very warm welcome from both churches (I don't think I have been so routinely fed since I moved out of catered halls!), I am excited to take on the challenge of a new season in a new place.

Having grown up in Lancashire (Chorley, for those of you lucky enough to know it), it warms my heart to be back among green hills and under grey skies. And while Derbyshire is so far pretty ➤

➤ tropical for me, I am very pleased to be calling it home.

Back in Lancashire, I grew up with a Christian background and can't remember a time before I would have called myself a Christian, but through my teens and into my twenties a variety of challenges, friendships, and experiences have deepened that faith and given it richness and confidence year on year.

As always, there's a well-known line from CS Lewis that sums it up. Just as Lucy finds that every year she grows, Aslan seems bigger too; I have found that it's the biggest questions and roughest storms that show me just how big my God is. I loved Lewis's *Narnia* books growing up, and spent my teens mulling over his *Mere Christianity* and *Screwtape Letters*, but it's the life experience I've had since that translated an interest in Jesus into a real trust in him.

Alongside the familiar Bible stories I heard at home and at school, music has been a major force in teaching me what Jesus has done for me and giving me a way to respond.

From the '80s Graham Kendrick tunes of my C of E primary school to songs that will always take me back to the hundreds-strong youth tent at Keswick convention, when the church sings together it moves my heart. Among the many things I have missed through lockdown, singing Jesus's story in a congregation of believers again has been monumental.

In what spare time I have, you might find me buried in a book, puffing along on my bike, or playing any piano I can get my hands on. If you do see me out and about, a novel, bike route, or album recommendation are always welcome!

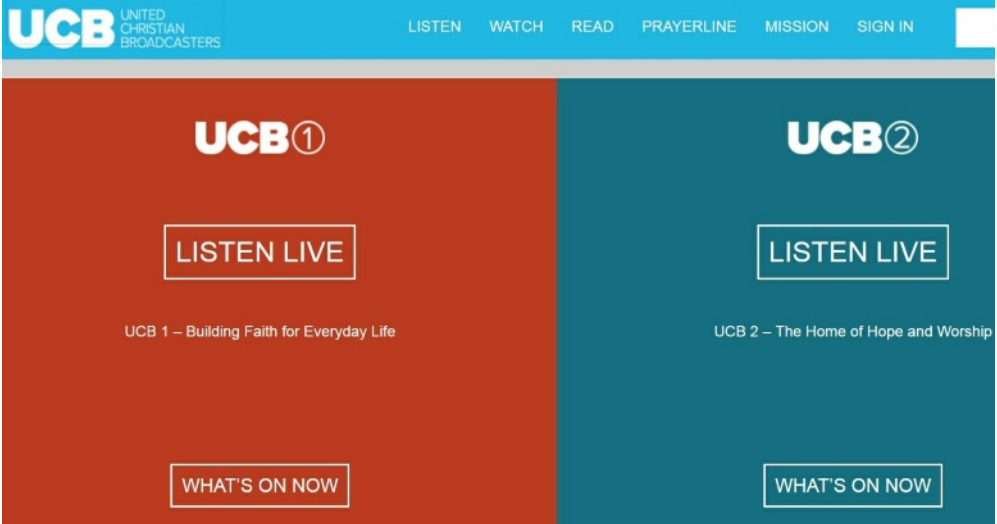


REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

November 14th

We have decided, because of the current situation, that at St Paul's on Remembrance Sunday we will hold a short service outside in the area between the church and the lychgate. The service will start at 10.45am with the Act of Remembrance finishing at 11.00, followed by the two-minute silence.

UCB Radio



United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) is a Christian media charity that exists to offer every person, in every place, every moment of the day, the opportunity to hear, watch or read the word of God in a relevant and engaging way. It is available on either a DAB+ radio station [*plug in your DAB radio and scroll to the 'U' section to find UCB; UCB1 is available across the UK wherever there is a DAB signal and UCB2 is available across the UK, in most major cities and surrounding areas*], or alternatively online via the UCB website.

I started listening to UCB2 radio station a few years ago in my car, to and from work, and it honestly set me up for the day. They play fantastic worship music, have inspiring stories from all sorts of people from all walks of life, a "Words of the day" section from the Bible and how they apply to our lives today, along with many others things.

I eventually got myself a DAB+ radio for the house and have it on at every opportunity, such as whilst ironing, sewing, cooking, cleaning or just relaxing. I feel a real connection to God and the church during these times which is amazing; I am never alone.... In fact, I don't know what I would have done without UCB2 radio station during lockdown whilst I spring-cleaned my house.

Why not give it a listen, it's fantastic and if you want to know more or have any questions, please contact us, or alternatively come along to a church service; we would love to see you.

Caroline Walker

Holiday Club '21—The Story of Jonah

journey with JONAH

After more than enough delays and disappointments in recent months, it was a joy to get together and hear the story of Jonah at Holiday Club 2021. Local children from three to eleven assembled in intrepid teams to help 'Captain Codswallop' and 'First Mate Frog' uncover the amazing story of this reluctant prophet.

With so much excitement, some of us were a little overwhelmed at first, but new friends made sure everybody felt at home, and we were all getting stuck in in no time.

We soon found out that Jonah was a man with social distancing close to his heart; the further he could get from Nineveh, the better! But Jonah wasn't worried about germs spreading, he was worried about God's grace spreading to people he thought didn't deserve it.



As we played games, coloured crafts, and chatted together, we learned that God's grace has always been for people who don't deserve it. People just like Jonah and just like me and you.

As well as hearing Jonah's story, we heard Rachel's story of how she became a Christian. Years after a holiday club a little bit like ours, Rachel remembered the leaders who had wanted to share God's grace with her. Looking in her Bible, she discovered the God who loved her and came down to Earth to die for her. Everybody on the holiday club team has a story a little bit like Rachel's.

We had a lot of fun dancing along to our brilliant youth band, causing chaos with games outdoors, and chatting to parents over coffee and cake. If you enjoyed Holiday Club '21 or think it looks like fun, we would love to see you again soon at one of our regular Sundays or our October Light Party.

Adam Heaton



“The change that God has made to my life is incredible...”

My

name is Lesley Pykett (née Wormington). I am married to Norman, whom I met whilst he was working at the Bell & Harp in Coxbench. We have two beautiful daughters, Cathy and Jodie, and a grandson, Charlie.



I spent the first 16 years of my life living in Mickleover with Mum and Dad (June and Chris Wormington) and my sister Caroline. We were both christened as babies but that was as far as our religious education went. We had a wonderful family life growing up, and we moved to Little Eaton in 1975 when Mum and Dad bought, renovated, and ran the Olde Toll Bar Stores as a grocery/off licence on Alfreton Road (this shop has become residential property in recent years). Norman, Cathy, Jodie and I moved to Ripley and we still live there now.

I was not an active Christian growing up, but I always thought and mentioned to close family, that this life we live on Earth now, must be leading to a much more important life. But just how and when, I never knew or understood? I put these thoughts to one side and life went on.

A lot of things changed in my life from the age of 40, starting with a series of routine operations for things such as appendicitis, tennis elbow, along with others over a short time, which got me down, as it was one thing after another. To lift myself up I got a job as a cleaner in a nursery school, which I really enjoyed, then one day whilst at work I badly jarred my neck and shoulder and was in endless constant pain which subsequently ended in me not being able to work. After 18 months of pain and investigations, the prognosis was that I had nerve damage in my shoulder, along with degenerative spondylitis in my neck and lower spine. I am still in endless pain despite the medication I take to keep myself mobile as best as I can.

Life then became a very dark place for me as I could see no end to the pain. After Mum died in 2016 I was sliding down hill even further. At this time my sister Caroline had started attending St Paul's Church on Sundays and she would come to visit me and tell me all about it. I could see a change and such joy in her that I had never seen before as she told me about Jesus and what he has done for us all. I was suddenly hearing things that I been searching for all

these years; this life was all for something far greater, it was all there in the Bible, and there was hope.

I met Dave Barnsley, the then Vicar at St Paul's, at Mum's funeral; he helped me so much and I decided there and then to go to church. The following week Caroline took me to St Paul's to the Sunday service and I haven't looked back since.

I attended some of the various courses available to "beginners" as I called myself, as I didn't know anything about God, Jesus, the Bible or church life. Everyone was so patient, kind, supportive and understanding, helping me physically and mentally. I was confirmed in 2018.

Life now made sense, there will be an end to the pain that I live with daily, I am no longer in the dark place I was in; I am now in the light and love of Jesus. I feel so positive, I know where I've been, I know where I am and I know where I am going. Life is good, I don't fear the dark anymore and I am never alone ... ever.

The change that God has made to my life is incredible ... and he was there all along....

Lesley Pykett



Trick or treat?

Thomas' friends have amazing news,
but is it a trick? Or the best treat ever?

Ages 3-11

Please email for more information.

THOMAS' STORY | OUTDOOR FUN AND GAMES | HOT FOOD

10am-12.30pm Fri 29th October

HOLIDAYCLUB@STALKMUNDSDUFFIELD.CO.UK

“When a holiday club gives as much to the helpers as to those it was designed for!” ANNA MADDISON offers her thoughts on the event.



Incredible hard work went into the planning and preparation of this year's holiday club (not by me I must add), and so what follows did not happen by chance...

This was my first year as a holiday club leader and what a blessing. As I said to a friend after day one: *“you just walk through the doors and check out of being an adult”*. Any worries or stresses are just parked as you find yourself surrounded by children, all learning through brilliant songs (sung with excellent music, thanks to our youth band!), great story telling from Jonah with some very special amateur dramatics, games, refreshments and crafts; what's not to love!

As the days went on I was so struck by how engaged the children were, recalling the section of Jonah we had looked at the day before and enthusiastically (and often very loudly)

joining in with 'Captain Codswallop' and 'Frog'. They all had so much fun playing the games outside, and even the more timid of the group would be charging around joining in, which was just brilliant to watch and join in with! The lure of the obstacle course and whether I could make it through the tunnel was too much to resist, and the sense of achievement when I did was well worth it.



Captain Codswallop keeping an eye on things

The refreshments, as a mum, I feel qualified to say, are a very key part to any morning activity (or actually any-time-of-day activity in our household!). I did have to chuckle when on the first day when they didn't know when they would be getting them, the children all gratefully received them having not asked for them before. By day 2 I think it only took the first 30 minutes of the morning before I could hear the familiar cry of 'I'm hungry'... — they knew what was coming!

Watching the children end their morning with the crafts was so lovely. Again very engaged, a lot of concentration, but also a lovely time to be able to help and chat to them during a quieter time. The craft time was also when their parents or carers came for refreshments themselves, and that was such a lovely opportunity to either meet them for the first time or have time to get to know familiar faces better. And what a great encouragement they were too, so grateful and appreciative of the time their children had had with us.

Personally, the fun enjoyed with the children was really added to with spending time with the older youth who gave so much to the club, for both the children and leaders. In addition, time with the other leaders was a real privilege; we were all there for the children but worked so well together.

We prayed before and during holiday club for the safety of all involved and that we, as leaders, would have the opportunity to show God's love to the children and their parents and carers, and our prayers were most definitely answered.



There were plenty of fun and games activities outside

Family Support Derbyshire

Family Support Derbyshire is a local initiative helping parents with young children through difficult times, whatever those challenges may look like. We support families in various different ways, including regular face-to-face visits where we can offer both practical and emotional support. If you are interested to know more about what we do, please contact us either via our website or by giving us a call.

Can you buy one less cup of coffee a week?



FamilySupport
Derbyshire

By your side. Not by yourself.

Could you donate the money saved to support the youngest and most vulnerable in your local area? If so, simply use the QR code or visit

www.familysupport.org.uk/donate



Autumn

The trees are richly coloured, red and golden,
russet and purple, crimson and yellow.
So much brightness and tranquility,
until the grey clouds threaten fountains of tears
to disturb the peace and sunlight so mellow.

A fresh breeze chases the leaves
scuttling like mice along the paths and road.
The charcoal sky, a sombre backcloth
to distant smudge of hedge and fields.
Sunflower gardens bare, where once they glowed.

Autumn is a season of beauty and reflection,
the year's on the turn.
Time is more precious for its transience.
Our thoughts once more turn to the future,
there is still much to learn.

As the landscape darkens into shadow
and robin sleeps in his coat of red,
we'll scan the sky and timeless stars,
giving grateful thanks to God and praying
for happiness in the future ahead.

Anne Palmer



St Paul's Little Eaton Church

Vicarage Lane, Little Eaton, Derby DE21 5EA

You are very welcome to join us for our 4.30pm afternoon services, either in the church building, or alternatively online, via our Benefice YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheUnitedBeneficeofDuffieldLittleEaton>

Contact St Paul's at:

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www.littleeatonchurch.co.uk



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