

Faithfulness

The Gospel reading for today is from Luke 5, it is perhaps one of the most famous stories in the Gospels. It is the story of Jesus healing the paralytic man who has been lowered in through the roof of the house that Jesus is in. Can you imagine the scene? Jesus is teaching the people around him and there is noise up above, some mud and earth start to fall to the ground and then a tile is removed, then a second and third, until there is a large hole in the roof. A man is lowered down through the hole, on a stretcher, and comes to the ground on the floor in front of Jesus. It must have been chaos!

One of the key messages that I draw from this story is that faith is a communal activity. The men who lower the paralytic are faithful to him as friend and also show great faith in Jesus. Without the help of his friends the paralytic man would not have been able to have an encounter with Jesus. I also wonder, who first had the idea to seek out Jesus? Was it the paralytic man? A man who was so amazed at the faith that his friends had in Jesus that he simply had to see him. Or was it the friends? Friends who knew that an encounter with Jesus would be life changing for their paralysed friend. Either way it highlights that the faith of another can inspire us to act and bring about real change.

Faith is a communal activity. There will be moments on all of our faith journeys when we will be struggling. It is at these times that it is vital to have other Christians around us, Christians who can help and who can graciously and faithfully carry us to an encounter with Jesus. Then there will also be times when we are the person doing the carrying, times when our faith is strong, it is at these times that we need to faithful carry those who are struggling to the feet of Jesus.

God Bless

Ash Wednesday 22nd February.

Holy Communion and distribution of Ashes at 8pm in Emmanuel.

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The **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** has this year been prepared by the Women of Malaysia and the theme is "Let Justice Prevail". It will be hosted by East Didsbury Methodist Church on Friday 2nd March at 7.30pm. All are welcome (men as well as women!)

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Buy a Jar!

There will be homemade jam, marmalade and chutney for sale again at the 10:30 Emmanuel Service today so buy a jar from Hilary Lowe at the end of the service, if not before!

Last Sunday's sales raised £71, so the treasurer is smiling and very grateful.

**2012 Parish Weekend
July 13th – 15th**

Belonging Lunch

We would like to invite anyone who has recently started to worship with us to join us for a Belonging Lunch on Sunday 4th March after the 10.30 service. We hope that the lunch will offer an informal opportunity for us to welcome you and to share something of the history, vision and life of the church family. We would love the opportunity to get to know you a little more and very much hope that you can join us. The event will be very informal and, we hope, child friendly. Please let Ali know if you would like to come.

All who are stamping attendance cards for Nursery and school admission for 2013 onwards are also required to attend one of these lunches before a clergy reference form can be completed.

Prayer Ministry Training.

Praying with one another is one of the great privileges and blessings of the Christian experience. We are eager to be in a position to offer prayer support at the end of each of our services as an expression of our care and love for one another. We plan to run a short informal prayer ministry training session for anyone who is interested in offering prayer at services on Saturday 3rd March from 10am – 12noon in the lounge of No6. Please contact Ali if you are interested in coming along.

Mission Links Prayer Meeting

The Mission Team are organising a meeting every other month to pray for two of our Mission Links. This month we will pray for Simon Sullivan working with Reflex Prison Ministry with The Message and Debra Green working with Redeeming Our Communities. They will both be at the meeting. It will be a joint meeting with Message House Group on Thursday 1 March at 6 Barlow Moor Road. Refreshments 7.45pm Meeting 8pm. All Welcome.

Stamping your attendance cards (for Wedding, Baptism or School Admission)

The official stamps will be available at the end of the services.

We can only accept an official stamp on your attendance card as confirmation of your attendance.

Admission to Didsbury CE Primary School

The clergy in consultation with the school admissions committee would just like to remind parents/carers that separate stamp cards are required for both nursery and reception for those seeking entry under category 3 of the admissions policy. The same card cannot be used for both points of entry!

If you require an attendance card for any of the above please contact the Parish Office.

Didsbury Village Film Club

Our next screening will be on Wednesday 7th March in the Parish Centre at 7.30 p.m. We will be showing **The Garden** a film that tells the story of the largest community garden in the United States, started as a form of healing after the devastating L.A. riots of 1992. Having created a miracle in one of the country's most blighted neighbourhoods those involved then found themselves with bulldozers poised to level their 14 acre oasis. Following the plight of the farmers the film encompasses backroom deals, land developers and green politics, exploring themes such as money, poverty, power and racial discord. It raises crucial and challenging questions about liberty, equality and justice for the poorest and most vulnerable in society.

The film will be followed by refreshments and discussion. Admission £4.50 – do join us!

As part of the **Manchester Histories Festival** Diana Leitch is giving an illustrated talk at 7pm on Saturday 25th February 2012 in Emmanuel Church on 'Leisure and Pleasure in Didsbury's Past'. Entrance £3 on the door includes tea/coffee and biscuits. All proceeds equally divided between Francis House Children's Hospice, St James' and Emmanuel Church and The Parsonage Fund.

Do spread the word.

17th March '21st Century Marriage' – a day for all married couples. Time out to strengthen your relationship including lunch at a Didsbury restaurant. £ 20 per couple
Contact the church office for more information and to book a place for either day.

Life Rhythms: Lent 2012

Life Rhythms is our lent course for 2012. It is a course designed to develop a rhythm to our corporate life and is based on the 'Five Rhythms of Grace' that we will be exploring in our Sunday teaching over Lent. The pattern for lent is:

Week 1: 29th Feb - The Likeness of Christ.

Week 2: 7th March - The Guidance of the Spirit.

Week 3: 14th March - The Life of a Disciple

Week 4: 21st March - Being a Gracious Presence

Week 5: 28th March - The 'E' Word

We will gather in Emmanuel at 19:45 for tea and coffee and the course will start at 20:00 and last for approximately an hour. If you would like more details then please contact Ben.

Homegroups wishing to use the material should also contact Ben.

**The SJE Prayer Support Group:
Meets on the first Tuesday of each month,
without fail**

**Prays exclusively for the Clergy, the Staff
Team and our Church**

Next meeting is Tuesday 6th March at 8pm

Contact Colin Hardicre for more details.

e-mail at chardicre@zen.co.uk

(or telephone on 0161 434 3475)

Men's Beer and Curry Night

It's a curry night for men.

Thursday 1st March 7.45pm

Curry house to be confirmed, once we've got final numbers, but it's already looking popular.

email beerandcurrynight@gmail.com

saying yes!

The men have got their curry night, what about the ladies of the parish?

If you are interested in a **ladies curry night** then email me on

stjandeladiescurrynight@derrington.eu

with your name. I'll organise it and email you details - as well as putting them in the newsletter. Marieke

Calling young musicians!

If you are at secondary school and enjoy playing an instrument or singing we'd love to have you involved in our All Age service on 4th March at 10.30.

There will be rehearsals on Thursday 1st March from 6.30 – 7.30 and 9am on 4th March. Please contact Lindsey on 07738834179 or lindseyianthe@gmail.com if you (or your children!) are interested.

Lilian Hindley is now at:

Morfa Newydd, Mostyn Road, Greenfield Holywell CH8 9DN

Youth

Friday 24th February @



Information.

No ROCK SOLID this week.

Are you 15-18 yrs old?

After Eight

Relax, socialise, meet friends and make new ones. Sunday evenings after the service.

Contact John on 07884057415

Be

**Belonging
Believing
Becoming**

Please pray for:

- The St James' project
- Richard and Lilian Hindley. Lilian is now in a Nursing Home in N.Wales. Richard is in Ysbyty Glan Clywd
- Tim Martin
- Louise (niece of Annie Johnson) Give thanks for some movement in her tongue and both arms. Now in rehab following almost total paralysis. Please pray for more improvement.
- The New Wine Training Partnership
- Helen Smallman, improving slowly in Hope Hospital.

Our Mission Links:

This week we focus on the following organisations:

- Church Pastoral-Aid Society
- New Wine
- Boaz Trust
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide
- Tearfund

Sylvia Hillier would like to thank everyone for their cards, good wishes and prayers for her knee replacement. She is home and doing well.

Parish Centre & Mission Links Projects

When the fund for building the Parish Centre at Emmanuel was started, it was agreed that 10% of income to this would be allocated to support projects elsewhere. The Parochial Church Council recently agreed the recommendations of the Mission Team to support nine projects submitted by our Mission Links. Two of these were for **Friends International** who work among overseas students in the Manchester area. £995 was to provide an interim administrative assistant from January to September this year to enable Sabine Stockton our Mission Link to concentrate on work among students. £1,600 was to provide games equipment, Bibles in different languages and Christian literature at the Globe Cafe they have started at Salford University. Pray for this work.

Web connections:

Website: stjamesandemmanuel.org

News: <http://stjenews.tumblr.com>

Twitter: [Stjamesemmanuel](https://twitter.com/Stjamesemmanuel)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjamesandemmanuel

The closing date for news sheet submissions is noon on the Wednesday before the relevant Sunday. No personal advertisements are included, but

St James and Emmanuel

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