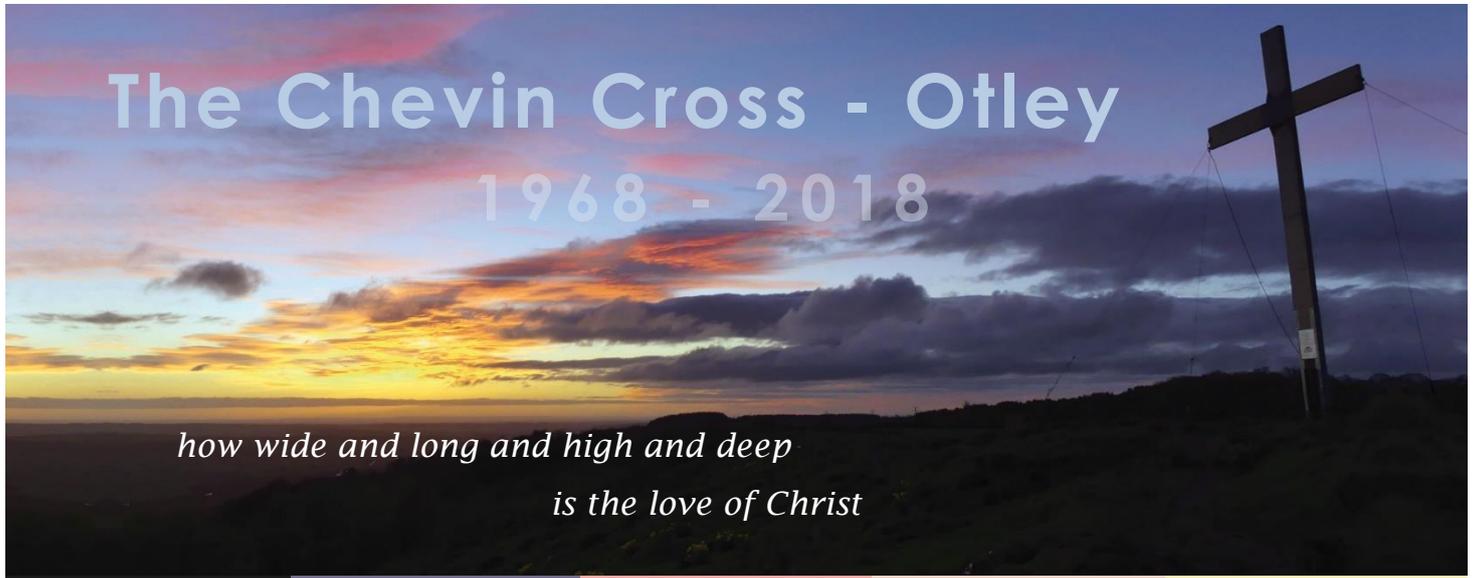


Parish Quarterly

Our Lady & All Saints Catholic Church, Otley

www.olasotley.org

Easter 2018



Since its inception in 1968 the Chevin Cross has had a profound impact reaching far beyond the seven churches, of the 'Otley Council of Christian Churches', who were involved in its creation and erection. Its influence has reached out into the world beyond Wharfedale to give hope and peace to many people.

The Cross was originally the idea of a local Methodist Lay Preacher and Funeral Director D. B. Good who came back from Austria after seeing hillside crosses there. It was discussed by the Otley Council of Christian Churches and a permanent cross was considered but in the end rejected as it was felt that by familiarity it could eventually lose some of its impact. The cross requires over fifty people to hoist it into position and this annual demonstration is a sign that unity is important and the churches need to work together through the year as Christ commanded us.

At various times throughout the years, vandals have tried to burn the Cross and it was cut-down with a chainsaw. But these attempts to sabotage the Christian symbol were more than compensated for by public support in the form of press coverage, letters, and offers of practical help.

The original cross, which was showing signs of wear, was replaced for the Millennium in 2000. The OCCC liaised with Brent Thompson, a well-known local Cabinet Maker. Brent found timber which came from the Arndale Centre in Manchester which had been bombed by the IRA in a terrorist attack in 1996. This second cross, constructed from an IRA bomb outrage, is a reminder that good will triumph over evil as Christ rose from the dead.

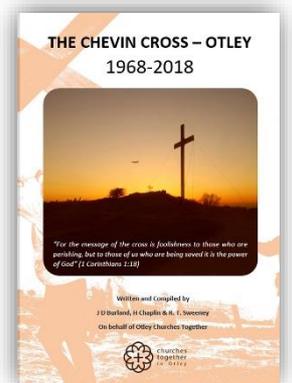
THE POWER OF THE CROSS

Fifty years after the first cross was conceived and erected what are

what are the results, what are the lessons to be learned? Well it has proved that prayer works! Over the years the numbers visiting the cross has grown steadily. Within hours of it being erected for the 50th Anniversary nearly 700 people welcomed its arrival with messages of support and appreciation on Facebook. The annual Sunrise Service held at 7am on Easter Sunday morning attracts some 300 people to gather in worship to respond to the age-old greeting "Christ is Risen" by responding "He is risen Indeed."

Ron Sweeney, Churches Together

A booklet "The Chevin Cross – Otley 1968-2018" is now available giving full details and comments on the Cross's history and impact.



HCPT

(Hosanna House Children's Pilgrimage Trust)

If it's Easter Sunday as you are reading this, a group of our Parishioners will be in Lourdes as part of the annual HCPT Easter Pilgrimage. For over 60 years volunteer helpers and medical staff from all over the country have been taking around 1,000 disabled and disadvantaged children and young people to the place where Our Lady appeared to Saint Bernadette in 1858 and requested that people should come to Lourdes "in procession".

So how did HCPT start? It was founded by Dr Michael Strode who was born at Woking, Surrey in 1923. He trained as a doctor at St Thomas's Medical School and after several posts he became the Resident Medical Officer at Chailey Heritage School in East Sussex, a Special School for children with a range of disabilities. Dr Strode made his first pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1951, travelling with the Birmingham Diocese. He saw the potential for taking children from Chailey School and took several groups there in 1954 and 1955. The Trust known as HCPT was formed in 1956 and the first Trust pilgrimage followed the year after. He insisted the group stay in local hotels where they should be seen as honoured guests.

His time spent at Chailey School may have helped inspire Dr Strode since the School's belief is that *"each child and young person should have every opportunity to fulfil their potential, no matter what the challenges"*. Understandably it follows therefore that HCPT's Vision is its dream, its source of inspiration and ultimate achievement in *"Changing lives through pilgrimage, sharing God's gifts of love, friendship and joy"*. **The Trust's theme for 2018 is beautifully simple: "You are special"**

Dr Strode had converted to the Catholic Faith in 1945 at the age of 22, and in 1991 he joined a Cistercian Community, and is now known as Brother Michael. He has continued to travel to Lourdes.

In addition to the Easter Pilgrimage, HCPT also run pilgrimages throughout the summer months taking over 1,500 people of all ages, including the elderly and infirm,



who stay at the Trust's own accommodation Hosanna House, at Bartes near Lourdes. Brother Michael recently talked of "fear" being such an obstacle in the minds of so many people who feel unable to help the disabled - their fear of not being able to cope with unfamiliar problems, of causing embarrassment, or of showing their own inadequacies. But he reminded us all of God's promise "Do not be afraid for I am with you". It is with faith in that promise that volunteers travel year after year, helping to create that life-changing experience for so many disabled children and young people. HCPT says "Many describe their HCPT pilgrimage holiday as a "spiritual" experience. For some this is rooted in their religious beliefs; for others it is purely about the positive affects of caring, sharing, and seeing the world from the point of view of others".

Here in Otley it was back in 1984 that our former Parishioner Eileen Fitzpatrick took a group of parishioners to Lourdes, travelling at Easter-time and coinciding with HCPT week. A similar trip went from Our Lady and All Saints the following year, at which time Andrew and Sandie Guzdek together with Tony Gilmartin were among the group. Andrew recalled being *"completely gobsmacked"* and *"really impressed with everything HCPT were doing for the disabled in Lourdes."* They contacted HCPT to see how they might become involved and became friends with Pam Jessop who at that time was leading the HCPT Keighley Group. In 1990 to 1993 Andrew travelled with the Keighley group in order to gain the experience HCPT required before he could set up the Otley Group in 1994. So how have he and Sandie maintained such enthusiasm over the past 25 years or more? Andrew says, *"It gets better each year. It's always an absolutely incredible experience. It really is like we're all one big happy family with everyone caring for each other and enjoying every moment of being in Lourdes together. Fundraising gets harder but it's so worthwhile, and we are really well supported by the Parish"*.

Parishioner Emma Nicholson first travelled as a Helper in her teens and recalls being overwhelmed by the sheer number of people there with different

HCPT continued:

disabilities but all seemed so happy. "I've been lots of times since my first trip, but each year I go I feel very privileged to be there. I still find a special peace at evening time that the Grotto brings that is quite unlike anywhere else I've ever experienced".

Fr Lawrie recounts his earliest memories of going to Lourdes: "It was April 14th 1979 on Easter Monday when I set off on a journey that was to have a huge impact on me for the rest of my life. I was off to Lourdes for the first time. A parish school teacher had persuaded me to be chaplain to the newly formed Sheffield Group (39) of the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust. There were twenty in the group, ten adults and ten children of varying ages. Five were in wheelchairs, two were profoundly deaf and three had various disabilities. At 29 I was the eldest of the group. We spent five full days in Lourdes on pilgrimage with about 4,000 other like-minded pilgrims. It was a week of joy, happiness, tears, prayer and most of all FUN. There can be fewer better ways than experiencing the Resurrection as a life giving, healing and spiritual event.



HCPT

So please keep Otley group 198 in your prayers as they go on pilgrimage this Easter because for sure they will be praying for you."

The photographs show some of the earliest Groups from Our Lady and All Saints parish. These and other photographs may be found on the Parish website www.olasotley.org And for more information about supporting HCPT please speak to Andrew Guzdek or log on to www.hcpt.org.uk

Joe McGuinness

The Journey To Easter

I have long been attracted to the concept of Lent, Holy Week and the Easter Triduum being a journey which reflects our own lives, the life of the Church and Jesus' own journey to the triumph of his resurrection. For many of the insights in this short reflection I'm indebted to a small book by Fr Frank Robinson published in 1987 and which I read each year at this time.

The long history of Lent in the Church has a great significance for us today. It is the time when prospective converts are preparing for reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist on the night of the Easter Vigil. We are not catechumens but each year we need to renew, refresh and reconvert ourselves. This is the journey we undertake which starts at Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Day each Year. I just want to look at a few of the scripture readings that help us on our way to Easter.

We start with the 1st Sunday of Lent (B) with Genesis 9 reminds us of commitment and covenant through Noah's story, continues with 1 Peter 3 about the connection through Noah's flood with the water of Baptism and the Gospel from Mark 1

reminds us of Jesus' own forty days of prayer and temptation in the wilderness. We are on our way!

The 2nd Sunday of Lent takes us mountain climbing with Abraham in the Old Testament and Peter, James and John in Mark 9 where in both texts the climb results in an encounter with God. At this stage in our Lenten journey perhaps we are renewing and refreshing our experience of Him. But there is more to come.

On the 3rd Sunday of Lent God now gives us a blueprint for living in the Ten Commandments which free us from the slavery of sin, just as he had freed Israel from the land of bondage. In the Gospel John 2 we meet Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem driving out the moneychangers. Are we being told that Lent is a time to drive the secular from our lives and turn to the spiritual? Our journey is taking us onward and upward.

The Old Testament reading on the 4th Sunday is from Chronicles 36 and gives an account of how the Israelites were exiled to Babylon for disregarding the words of the prophets. God shows his love for them by sending succour

from an unlikely source, the pagan Cyrus, king of Persia. The Gospel (John 3) is the beautiful word of Jesus to Nicodemus. I remember a banner being displayed at a World Cup match a few years ago. All it said was 'John 3: 16' and nothing more was needed. It repays reading and memorising.

The 5th Sunday of Lent readings can best be summarised by what I have seen described as a 'love pact' with God. The Old Testament reading talks of it in terms of covenant – a recurring Old Testament theme whilst the New Testament reading (from John 12) has Jesus forecasting his own death and its consequences for mankind. The journey continues into Holy Week.

Lent will probably be over by the time this is published but I hope that readers can use it to have a reflective look back at what Lent meant for them, in the light of the resurrection. Holy Week was dealt with last year and those who still have that issue might want to refer back. In any event I wish everyone a happy and holy Easter and may the Lord bless you all.

Frank Bowe

Recommended Reading: "Pope Francis" by Paul Valey (part 2)

The meat of the Book follows the lines of the first edition but with a lot more additions and insights. Our hero, was trained and remains very much a Jesuit, but one who has had his "Damascus Moment". Like St Paul Fr George Bergoglio underwent a radical spiritual conversion during a time of "exile" whilst in Cordova in Argentina.

He admits that he was given an important office within the Jesuit Order and did not handle it well. He was too authoritarian and did not sufficiently understand the needs of the urban poor. When appointed to be an Assistant Bishop in Buenos Aires he was well on the way to being the kind of man we know now.

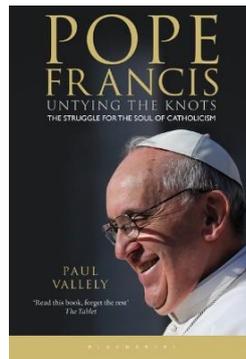
In 1998 he was appointed Archbishop of Buenos Aires and in 2001 he was made a Cardinal and played an important role in the Synod of Bishops in Rome where he was appointed "Realator". Such was his popularity that he came second in the Conclave that subsequently elected Pope Benedict XVI as successor to Pope John Paul II.

The Book contains both an index of names and a handy "Time Line" which are most helpful in situating Pope

Francis's development and spiritual evolution.

Now as Pope he sees the enormity of the task he has accepted at the Conclave subsequent to the resignation of Pope Benedict. It is significant that he chose the name of Francis, the original bearer of this name, who wedded himself to "Sister Poverty" and understood God wished him to stop his Church from falling down. Gorge Bergoglio understood that he too, was called in a different time to follow a similar path. Our author nicely links up the vision of the Second Vatican Council with the agenda Pope Francis now looked to follow.

Paul Valey is not afraid to cite critical voices as Pope Francis embarked upon his great Project; the reform of the Church at its centre.



One area where Francis has found difficulty in moving the Central authorities of the Church forward has been over the vexed issue of abuse within the Church. It might be seen there is a culture of complicity among some of the higher echelons and certain bishops have been lax in bringing in the Civil Authorities with some scandals being swept under the carpets.

Nobody ever thought that change would be easy and Pope Francis may have backed off from some confrontations not least the issue of the promotion of women in the Church. Here there is progress to be made and just how much energy our octogenarian Holy Father has only the next few years will tell.

If you feel that this biography is not for you then why not try a recently published novel by Robert Harries, Entitled "Conclave": a good paper back read with a ring of authenticity. It has a challenging twist at the conclusion. It's the nearest we will get to seeing how the Holy Spirit works in spite of human power politics.

Fr Paul at Manor House, March 2018



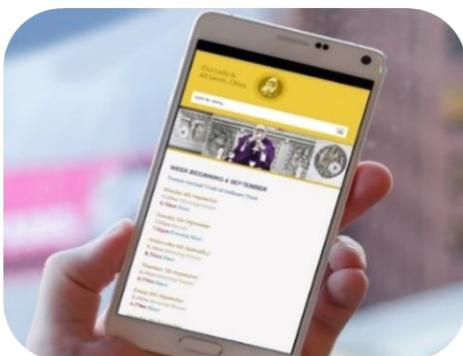
Helen Kington, our former Youth Ministry Co-ordinator, sends her greetings ahead of her starting her new post as Lay Chaplain at Saint Thomas a Becket School in Wakefield. Since leaving Otley, Helen has been working as an Assistant Chaplain at Hope University in Liverpool. She emailed: *"I'm delighted to be coming back to Yorkshire, and look forward to seeing some familiar faces when I get the chance to visit Our Lady and All Saints."* We send Helen our very best wishes.

God of all seasons,
with artistic splendour
you gave us an overture
to the Resurrection of your Son
in the resurrection of Spring
from the cold tomb of Winter.

With joy I greet
the coming of flowers,
and the return of birds,
as I eagerly celebrate
the feast of the Resurrection of Christ.

Visit the Parish Website

for Mass Times, News, Parish History & Events



www.olasotley.org

Baptisms

Leila Angela Connolly
Freiya Angela Connolly
Dylan James Hodgkiss
Frederick William Vaughn
Ariana Rose Clayton-Burton
Elodie Jean Lawrie

Recently Deceased

Louis Ridgeway
Peter Jackson
Maria Bozoky

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen*

Remove from my heart
on this holy day
any division or discrimination
that keeps me frozen
in separation from others.

Make me one
with all creation
that sings the song of Springtime,
and the wonder of Easter.

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