

Dear Friend!  
Welcome to our February 2024 e-News!

## Minster Musings

*"Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me"*

It's funny how some phrases from your childhood pop into your head, unfiltered by the passing of time and the modernisation of language, like little bits of poetry, or the lyrics of a song with a rhythm and voice all of their own. Well as I sat down to write this piece "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me" floated into my brain. 'Suffer little children' stuck in my mind like an ear worm, these days modern translations replace the word suffer with allow or let, and that feels much easier to hear. It changes the begrudging tone that suffer conjures up and sounds like a welcome or an invitation rather than 'put up with the children because the Kingdom of God belongs to them'.

But what struck me about the three words suffer the little children when it floated into view this time in my life, is just how much little children suffer these days. I think of the children in Gaza and Israel whose lives are turned upside down by war, those who have lost parents and family members, or limbs. Children who cannot enjoy the safety of playing outside, or a tea party with friends. And closer to home I think of those children whose parents do not have the skills and ability to look after them well, children of parents struggling with addiction or acute mental health issues. I'm reminded of all the stories from school about a massive rise in mental health difficulties in our children and young people.

It's in response to this that the Minster is developing its work with 16-19 year olds. One morning a week I go into Trinity Sixth Form Academy as a chaplain to support the wellbeing team, staff and students. Being in college every week means I can build links and relationships with the pupils and staff, so that in good times and bad they know that we care; that the Minster, and its staff, are a place where they can find solace and safety, an oasis in their lives. This chaplaincy is a tangible way of sharing the love of God with those who need it most. Lesley is beginning a similar partnership with Calderdale College and we hope, in time, these links will strengthen and grow. We want the young people of our town and borough to know that we do not 'suffer them', we cherish them, and want to be part of their lives in all its ups and downs. "For the Kingdom of heaven belongs to children such as these". *Matthew 9.14*

Rev Sam Crook

Curate



## January in the Minster

January was a much quieter month in the Minster with a big clear-up after the Christmas season!

Restoration work began on the organ at the start of the month, with repairs being made to the mechanics of the stop-action to the Pedal, Great and Solo divisions meaning that much of the organ is currently unusable. Well done to our talented team of organists for continuing to make it sound as though nothing is amiss!

The photo below was posted on the Minster's Facebook page and now has seen over 105,000 views and well over 1000 likes!

The work on the organ was originally expected to cost about £20,000 but it has been since discovered that additional work is required. However, the benefit of this is that it will enable the organ to be returned to its original specification and will restore the organ to its full tonal integrity for the first time in decades. This will cost an extra £9,800 which was not budgeted for. Any contributions towards this cost would be very welcome - if you are able to help, please reply to this email!



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## February and March at the Minster

This Saturday: **Minster Youth Brass Festival** - 2pm. To book and for more information click below.



Wednesday February 14th: **Ash Wednesday Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes** 7.30pm

For details about all events during our Festival of Faith 2024, please click below



Sunday February 18th: **Choral Evensong and Mayor's Civic Service** 4pm

Friday March 1st: **World Day of Prayer** - prepared by the church in Palestine. At Highgate Methodist Church, Stretchgate Lane, Halifax HX2 0EN at 2pm



Thursday March 7th: **Thursday @ One**. Our opening recital of the 2024 season, given by Alan Horsey.



HALIFAX  
MINSTER

# THURSDAY @ ONE

Lunchtime organ recitals with **FREE** admission.

Light lunches (£6) served from 12.15pm

Saturday March 9th: "**Music for Springtime**" performed by the Halifax Choral Society with the Minster Choir. Tickets available [HERE!](#) or the Minster shop



## Parishoner Profile

**Name:** Josh Mitchell

**Favourite Colour:** Blue

**Favourite Music:** Anything from Frank Sinatra / Nat King Cole to film soundtracks, LOTR is a favourite. Also choral music during choir term which helps when learning new pieces.

**Favourite Food:** I love food and enjoy cooking, but my favourite would have to be steak, rare, with a glass of whisky.

**Things most proud of:** My wife Becky and our imminent arrival!

**Work Life:** I started of working as an IT technician for one of the local schools, but I've spent the last 9 years of my career in software development. It's a very fast paced industry, completely different to what it was when I first started. I work from home most days so work life is fairly laid back, except when everything's on fire at 2AM.

**Biography:** My parents moved to Halifax when I was 9, before that we lived in Country Durham (though I was born in Hertfordshire!). I went to Crossley Heath and after I dropped out of University I went back to work there for two years as an IT Technician.

I moved back to Halifax in 2021, not long after I met Becky during lockdown. I used to come to the Minster for school carol services, but I never expected that I would get married here 20 years later!

I like walking, reading, and occasionally playing video games. I'm also fascinated by history, particularly WWII or Ancient Rome.

**The weekly pewsheet is published each week online - click [HERE!](#)**

**For further information about Halifax Minster, check out our website or social media:**

<https://halifaxminster.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HalifaxMinster>

<https://twitter.com/HalifaxMinster>

[https://www.instagram.com/the\\_minster\\_at\\_halifax/](https://www.instagram.com/the_minster_at_halifax/)



Halifax Minster

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