

No. 14: Communicating the message

I have sometimes been accused of being a hoarder. I rediscovered over the Christmas holidays my collection of the complete set of Parish Magazines from when I first arrived at Holy Trinity in 1988 until its final edition in 2001.

The magazine was first published in 1874 and copies are held in the parish archives, vested in the new West Yorkshire History Centre in Wakefield. The image (right) is the front cover from 1988. The design shows 'the church through a modern stained glass window, as people in action.'

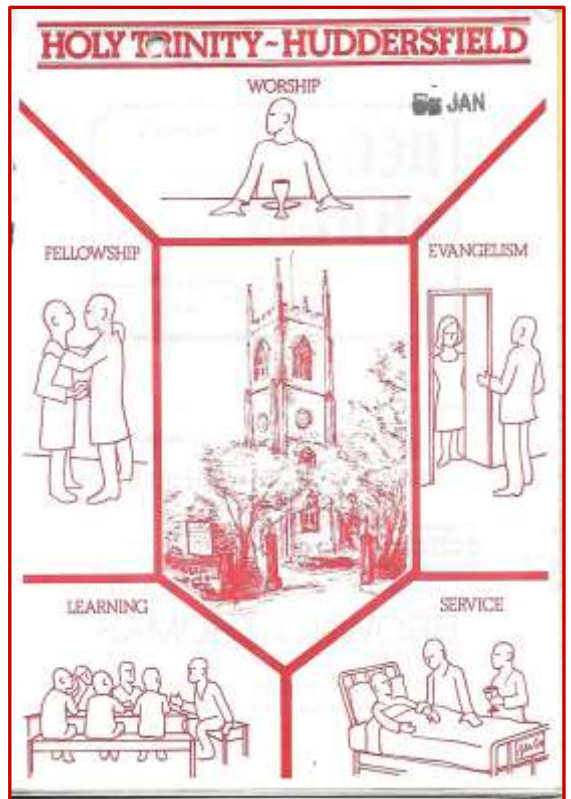
It was the custom for many years for the church to have an annual motto. 'God's word for 1988 was:

**"I press on, because Christ Jesus has made me his own"
Phil 3:12**

Steve Pape was magazine editor for many years and the magazine included national church and diocesan inserts.

The magazine was replaced from January 1990 by a free monthly newsletter and weekly notice-sheet (which Cath was pleased I never started collecting....) Printed communication was much improved by the use of a 'photocopier'. The 'motto' for 1990 was **'Behold, I make all things new'**.

My first copy of the magazine, published Oct 1988 included a hand-produced bookmark of the then 'new' vision statement, and the earliest version of the 'new' church logo.



The month of January is traditionally the time to look both backwards into the years past and forwards into the years to come. In our sermon series leading up to Lent this year, we are taking a fresh look at the nature and purpose of Christ's church; to remind, encourage and challenge us of some of the characteristics of the Body of Christ. In considering these timeless characteristics we will also revisit the five values of our current vision statement.

The gospel message has remained the same down the centuries, but how we communicate that message has to reflect the society we live in. In 1988 that meant a duplicated magazine sold to parishioners. By 1990 it meant a photocopied monthly newsletter and weekly 'pew-sheet'. Today the church uses social media and we can only dream how the next generation will be able to share the good news!

Reading past copies of magazines and newsletters has reminded me again of God's faithfulness to us. He is ever constant. His love is without end and never changing.

Thirty years ago our magazine reminded us to be 'a people of action' – in our worship, evangelism, fellowship, learning and service. How we do that in 2018 may well be very different to then, but the love of Christ is the same and it is attractive now as ever!

**Andy Barber
January '18**