**Church Officers**

**Rector:** The Reverend Ann Templeman – Tel: 01772 448515 and mob: 07877 659156; E: anntempleman@live.co.uk

**Associate Minister:** The Reverend Peter Templeman

**Churchwardens**

Mr Jock Davidson – Tel: 617918; E: sgtmajor@talktalk.net

Mrs Marie Johnson – Tel: 01704 822179; E: alanmarie55@gmail.com

**Occasional Preacher**

Mrs Margaret Kirkman – Tel: 01772 379219. Mob: 07786543581.

E: margk1946@gmail.com

**Reader in Training**

Mr Alan Johnson – Tel: 01704 822179; E: alanmarie55@gmail.com

**Churchwarden Emeritus**

Mr William G Carr. Tel: 01772 615321. E: billcarr1935@btinternet.com

**PCC Secretary**

Mrs Andrea Susnik – Tel: 615336. E: familysusnik@live.co.uk

**PCC Treasurer**

Mrs Barbara Wood – Tel: 617679. E: bw12252@sky.com

**Deanery Synod Representative:** Mrs Jane Elphick

**Stewardship Recorder/Gift Aid Secretary**

*Post vacant – volunteer required*

**Magazine Editor**

Mrs Erika Penrose – Tel: 613816. E: jandepenrose@btinternet.com

**Magazine Secretary**

Mrs Elsie Kirkham – Tel: 615832.

**Magazine Advert Co-ordinator**

Mrs Margaret Clark – Tel: 616990. E: mic0802@live.co.uk

**Flower Secretaries**

Mrs Lisa Redshaw – Tel 614428 and Mrs Pearl Read – Tel: 614367.

**Electoral Roll Officers**

Mrs Jean Dewhurst, Tel: 616106 and Mrs Jane Elphick, Tel: 601495.

**Verger:** Mrs Irene Pickles – Tel: 615708

**Assistant Verger:** Mr Stuart Tighe – Tel: 612963

**Weekly Giving Envelopes:** Please contact the Churchwardens.

(Continued on Page 2)

**Organisations**

**Sunday School**

Sunday School – St Michael’s Club – now begins at 10.30 in church and happens every Sunday.

Leader: Mrs Kathleen Leigh – Tel: 612196.  Email: katleigh@live.co.uk

**Hoole Church Ladies’ Group** – meets 7.30pm, 3rd Tuesday, in School. Leader: Mrs Erika Penrose.

Tel: 613816. E: jandepenrose@btinternet.com

**St Michael’s Men’s Fellowship** – meets 7.30pm, 2nd Tuesday, in Hoole Village Memorial Hall.

Secretary: Mr Stuart Tighe – Tel: 612963.

**Friends of St Michael** – Caring for the fabric of our ancient church.

Chair: Mrs Jane Elphick, Tel: 601495.

Secretary: Mr David Turner, Tel: 01772 383344.

**Social Committee** – Contact: Mrs Sheila Taylor, Tel: 616850

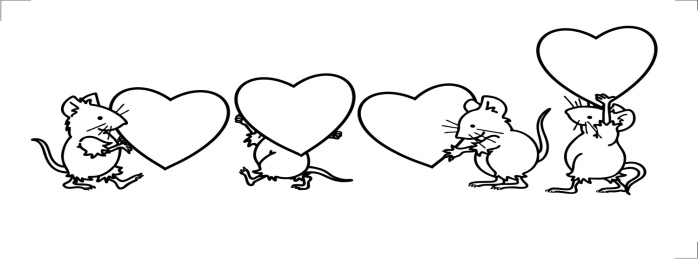
**Hoole St Michael C E Primary School**

Head Teacher: Mrs Juliet Price – Tel: 613219.

**1st St. Michael’s Hoole Scout & Guide Groups – Group Scout Leader:** Mandy Clark – Tel: 01772 305452; E:gmjbclark@yahoo.co.uk.

**Church Websites:** www.hoolevillage.com and www.hooleparishchurch.com

***Please note: Church Rotas are now to be found towards the back of the magazine, on page 23.***

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**From the Rectory**

**WHAT IS THE CHURCH and WHAT IS IT FOR?**

Archbishop Welby recently described the church as ‘a hospital for sinners’. That’s a brilliant description as when someone said, ‘if you find the perfect church, don’t join it you'll spoil it!’

What do you think?

First we have to remember that the church is not a building. The first Christians worshipped in people’s houses and then, when they were persecuted, they worshipped in secret. It was not until the 4th century that churches began to be built. When the Bible talks about church it means ‘people’ – Christians – those who believe in Jesus Christ. In the Bible the church is often described in metaphors – it is the Body of Christ, it is God’s family. So this key question is asking ‘What is the purpose of God’s family?’

St Michael's Church Council began their first meeting of 2019 looking at what the Bible says is the purpose of His family. We looked at the greatest commandment (Love God with all your heart ...and your neighbour as yourself and then the Great Commission ‘Go into all the world and make disciples... ’)

These are the priorities of the whole Christian Church and they must be our priorities as we seek to find out God’s will for his family here in Hoole.

At the PCC we summarised our aims as:

* Worship
* Holiness – becoming more like Jesus,
* Outreach – sharing the Good News of Jesus with friends and neighbours.

We unanimously recognised the need to draw in more young families and children. We all agreed that every 10.30 service should be attractive to newcomers; the children should be involved in the Service and the services should be straightforward and easy to follow.

The PCC also enthusiastically supported our new Family Church on a Sunday afternoon at 4.00pm in the Village Hall. We are launching this on Sunday March 3rd with PANCAKE CHURCH. There will be pancake races, craft activities, songs and plenty of pancakes to eat.

The second Family Church will be on Mothering Sunday 31st March at 4.00pm in the Village Hall where the children will make posies for Mums and Grandmas.

Please let me know if you would like to be involved in organising these services. We have a few young Mums who have so far agreed to help. It would be great to have some more and some Dads. We urgently need people with talent for designing posters and fliers, and craft and music.

The other new initiative links with the second of our purposes as a Church. We all need to continue to grow as Christians and deepen our commitment to Jesus. Lent is traditionally a time when people do this. I hope very much this Lent that many of you will want to come along to the five Alpha films we are showing three times a week beginning Monday March 11th. These films, recently launched internationally, go through some of the core teaching of Jesus. Each involves a wide range of Christians talking about their faith and how it has changed their life. Each film lasts 30 minutes. They are very professionally produced and most people who see them whether they are new to faith or a mature Christian, find them inspirational. The films, which will be followed by a brief discussion, will be shown on Monday and Tuesday evenings during Lent and once during the day. The sessions will take place mostly in the Rectory, 69 Liverpool Old Road, or at a different venue if we can’t get everyone in the Rectory. Details of venues will be in the March magazine but in the meantime, please save the date.

Ann Templeman

anntempleman@live.co.uk

01772448515

**ST MICHAEL’S HOOLE PARISH DIARY**

February 1st to Easter 2019

Sunday School – Michael’s Club for children (ages 3 to 12), every Sunday during the 10.30 service.

10.30am – Starts in church, children leave for their own teaching in the school after a children’s song and return after the sermon and prayers.

Sunday 3rd Feb 9.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30 Parish Communion

12.00 Baptism of Elouise and Daniel Hucks

Monday 4th Feb 7.30 Bible Study with Evening Prayer in the Rectory

Tuesday 5th Feb 9.00 PARENTS’ MEETING AT ST MICHAEL’S SCHOOL TO GIVE VIEWS AND IDEAS ABOUT CHILDREN’S WORK AT ST MICHAEL’S

10.15 Holy Communion

Thurs 7th Feb 2.30 PARENTS’ MEETING AT ST MICHAEL’S SCHOOL TO GIVE VIEWS AND IDEAS ABOUT CHILDREN’S WORK AT ST MICHAEL’S

Sunday 10th Feb 9.00 Holy Communion (said)

10.30 Morning Worship

Tues 12th Feb 10.15 Holy Communion

Sunday 17th Feb 9.00 Holy Communion (said)

10.30 Parish Communion

12.30 Baptism of Daniel Kerfoot

Tues 19th Feb 10.15 Holy Communion

Sunday 24th Feb 9.00 Holy Communion (said)

10.30 Morning Worship

Monday 25th Feb 7.30 Bible Study with Evening Prayer at the Rectory

Tues 26th Feb 10.15 Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd Mar 9.00 Holy Communion (said)

10.30 Parish Communion

4.00 Family Church – PANCAKE CHURCH – Village Hall

Tues 5th March 10.15 Holy Communion

Wed 6th March 7.30 ASH WEDNESDAY – Holy Communion

**KEY FUTURE DATES**

* Alpha films shown 3 times a week at the Rectory – see separate notice
* MOTHERING SUNDAY – Sunday 31st March

10.30am Parish Communion with distribution of flowers

* 4.00pm – Family Church in the Village Hall – an opportunity to make bunches of flowers for Mum and Grandma
* PALM SUNDAY – Sunday 14th April

10.30am Parish Communion with donkey

12 noon Annual Church Meeting in the school with Jacob’s Join

* MAUNDY THURSDAY – Thursday April 18 – 7.00pm Passover meal with Communion – venue to be confirmed
* GOOD FRIDAY

12 noon Walk of Witness, starting at St Michael’s and finishing at the Village Hall

c 12.30pm Christian Aid starvation lunch in the Village Hall. Then

2.00pm – 3.00pm An Hour at the Cross in St Michael’s

* EASTER DAY Sunday 21st April

9.00am - Holy Communion (said)

10.30am – Parish Communion, with Easter egg hunt.



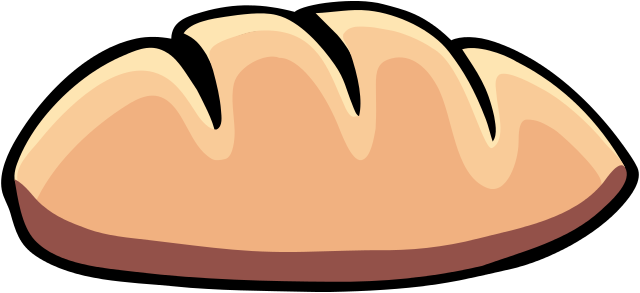
**RECEIVING COMMUNION AT ST MICHAEL'S**

**“Come to this table not because you must but because you may.**

**Come not because you have all faith but because you have some faith and would like to grow in it.**

**Come because you love the Lord a little and would like to love Him more.**

**Come because He loves you and wants to give you everything.**



**Come because all is ready and we are His body.”**

It's my favourite invitation to Communion and it clearly resonates with many members of St Michael’s. It underlines our human fraility, our need for forgiveness and our lack of faith while emphasising the loving welcome of the Lord Jesus who longs for each one of us to come to Him in penitence and faith acknowledging our need of His unfailing love.

Receiving Communion is deeply personal – as we take the bread and wine we are invited to remember that Jesus died for us individually. At the same time it is a supremely corporate act – it is with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven we thank him for dying for us and the loaf of bread is broken and divided to remind us that we all part of His one body.

At St Michael's we are now using ordinary bread at most Communion services as did the first Christians and as we are bid in the Book of Common Prayer. It is a very powerful symbol when the bread is broken to remind us of Our Lord’s body broken for us. Drinking from one cup is a symbol of the same unity we have in Christ.

I realise that a very few people may be worried about infection by using a common cup. If you think you might infect others by drinking from the common cup it is better to receive the bread only until you are well again. It is not the answer to dip the bread into the wine as you are very likely to infect others – it is impossible to guarantee your fingers will not touch the wine especially as we are now using real bread (N.B. some dioceses forbid this practice because of the risk of infection). If you have a particular medical reason for not wishing to drink from the common cup please come and have a conversation with me and I will do my best to ensure your needs are met. Gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic wine will continue to be available if you need them.

Please note too, there is no need to kneel at the Communion rail if you are more comfortable standing. Also it is easier for those administering the chalice to hand the chalice over to you which avoids the risk of spillage. Please tell the person on duty however if you are unable to take the chalice safely.

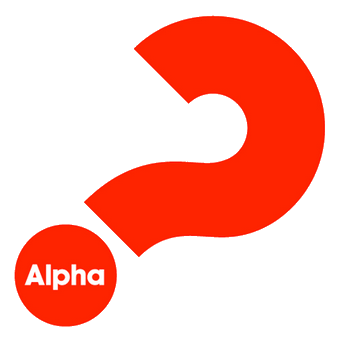
It will be easier for some people to remain seated in the pews for Communion. That option is there at every Communion service – just tell the sideman when you are invited up.

Let me finish on a spiritual note: Communion is a huge joy and privilege. Never take this privilege lightly. We are urged in 1 Corinthians 11 to prepare ourselves before the service. Let’s take that instruction seriously and rejoice at this wonderful opportunity our Lord has given us to remember His saving death.

Ann Templeman

**JOB OPPORTUNITY & HELP NEEDED**

1. I am looking for someone to work for 3hrs a week @£10 per hour on Monday or Tuesday as Church administrator. We need someone to design and produce fliers and posters, weekly pew sheet and write letters. Facility with Word essential; experience with Publisher desirable. Email Rev Ann with brief asap if interested.
2. The Church needs a new website - offers of help gratefully received.
3. Does anyone know where we can borrow a donkey for Palm Sunday April 14th in the morning for the procession and ideally donkey rides for children.
4. We will need pianists/musicians of all ages for Family Church. Can you help?

**IS THERE MORE TO LIFE?** 

***Come and watch the ALPHA films during the 5 weeks of Lent.***

***Each film lasts 30mins and will be followed by refreshments and a brief discussion. The films include many inspirational examples of people’s life-changing experience of the Jesus Christ. They are equally suitable for mature Christians or those wishing to explore the Christian faiths. Sessions will take place at the Rectory 69 Liverpool Old Rd at 7.30pm except where indicated.***

**Week 1: Monday 11th and \*Tuesday 12th March – Why and how do I pray?**

**Week 2: \*\*Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th March – PCC meets – Why Jesus died**

**Week 3: Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th March – Who is Jesus?**

**Week 4: Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd April – Why and how read the Bible**

**Week 5: Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th April – What about The Church?**

**We are also planning a day time session please on Monday or Tuesday; if you are interested in this please tell the rector 01772448515 or anntempleman@live.co.uk.**

**\* The session on Tues 12th March will begin at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.**

**\*\* The session on Mon 18th March at the Rectory will begin at 7.00pm.**

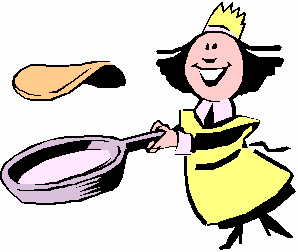
St Michael’s Church, Hoole

PANCAKE CHURCH

SUNDAY 3rd MARCH

4.00pm at

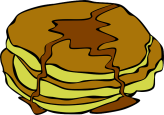
HOOLE VILLAGE HALL



**Pancake Races**

**Pancakes to eat**





**Fun for all the family!**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Open** | **Close** |
| Monday | 9.30am | 4.30pm |
| Tuesday | 9.30am | 4.30pm |
| Wednesday | 9.30am | 4.30pm |
| Thursday | 9.30am | 4.30pm |
| Friday | Closed | |
| Saturday | 9.30am | 4.30pm |
| Sunday | 8.00am | 4.30pm |

**CHURCH OPENING TIMES**  
As from January 2019 the church will be left open during the day until further notice.

Jock Davidson, Churchwarden

**Men’s Fellowship**

The Men’s Fellowship is meeting on 12th February at Hoole Village Hall at 7.30pm, when John Hutchinson’s talk is entitled “A very able Seaman”. New members welcome.

**Ladies’ Group**

We had a really good attendance at our AGM last month and the beetle drive was enjoyed by all – it’s amazingly noisy when everyone is enthusiastically throwing the dice for a certain number! All members kindly brought and received a gift. It was good to welcome Ann, our new rector, to the evening.

At our meeting in February the Dick Kerr Ladies are coming to talk about the “Pride of Preston” and I’m sure it’ll be another entertaining evening.

As you know, Sheila is taking names for our trip in May to Barton Grange. I will be mentioning it again at our meeting and, if you’d like to go, please let her know.

If you haven’t paid your annual sub, please make an effort to do so this month! Thank you.

Erika.

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**DO YOU COUNT THE MONEY AFTER A SERVICE AT CHURCH?**

If so, please read this…

There is a new “Voucher” for 2019 which will be available to use from Sunday 3rd February.

There are a few small changes – they are:

* Please note the “column order” has changed – this is to help me with recording the figures a little more efficiently.
* If you count the money, you need to initial the voucher where it asks you to.
* Please put the envelope totals in the correct column – the ID No on each envelope will keep you on track with this.
* If a yellow envelope has not been completed with either an ID No or a Name and Address, the content is counted as loose cash or cheques from the plate.

**Sample Voucher:**



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**A REMINDER IF YOU’RE WRITING CHEQUES …**

If you plan to pay anything to the Church or a Church group by cheque, can you please be aware that different organisations within the Church have different bank accounts with different payee requirements:

**Organisation                   Make Cheques payable to**

The Church (PCC)             PCC Hoole Parish Church

The Friends                        The Friends of St Michael’s Church

The Flower Fund              Hoole St Michaels Church Flower Fund

The Social Committee    Hoole St Michaels Social Committee

Men’s Fellowship            St Michael’s Men’s Fellowship Much Hoole

Many thanks

Barbara Wood – Treasurer to the PCC

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**Have you lost a pair of gloves in church?**

There are several pairs of gloves in church which have been left by their owners. If you think one of them might be yours, do have a word with Jock or Marie.

**ELECTORAL ROLL 2019**

Every six years the electoral roll at Church has to be renewed, and 2019 is the year.

This has to be done before the Annual Meeting in April, so if you consider that St Michael’s is your church please complete a new form to be included on the Electoral Roll. Forms will be available at the beginning of March.

By enrolling you become a voting member of the Church of England.

You are entitled to attend the Annual Church Council Meeting and may raise any question of parochial or general church interest.

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**From the Parish Registers**

**Holy Baptism**

**“We welcome into the Lord’s Family”**

Joshua Daniel Fuller, son of Daniel Fuller and Lauren Baybutt, of Much Hoole, was baptised on 20th January.

**Funerals**

**We give thanks for the lives of –**

Janet Coxhead, aged 67 years, of Whitestake, whose funeral took place on 21st December. Interment followed at St Andrew’s churchyard, Longton.

Joseph Stanley Sergeant, aged 87 years, of Much Hoole, whose funeral took place on 9th January. Interment followed in the churchyard.

We pray for their families and friends.

**From the Register of Services**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date |  | Attendance | Communicants | Amount |
| December | 16th | 213 | 53 | £282.50 |
|  | 16th | Carol Service | | £317.65 |
|  | 23rd | 77 | 26 | £399.52 |
|  |  | Crib, Midnight & Christmas Day | | £484.15 |
|  | 30th | 327 | 129 | £203.65 |
| January | 6th | 73 | 59 | £318.65 |
|  | 13th | 101 | 37 | £589.96 |
|  | 20th | 120 | 89 | £366.61 |

Donations via monthly, quarterly or annual payment in lieu of donating via the envelope system: December/January: £618.00.

Donations from Baptisms and Funerals: £193.21.

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**Hymn: 249** [**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**](https://www.christianmusicandhymns.com/2016/08/great-is-thy-faithfulness.html)

Great Is Thy Faithfulness is a favourite hymn of millions of Christians all over the world. It reminds us that God is always there, always faithful. There is indeed no shadow of turning with Him.

This hymn came into being after William Runyan decided to compose a musical score to a friend's poem. The author of that poem was **Thomas Obadiah Chisolm (1866-1960).**

Thomas Obadiah Chisolm who had all sorts of bout of illnesses in his adult life had found solace in reading the scriptures and especially found strength in the fact that God was faithful to him.  
His favourite biblical passage was Lamentations 3:22-23, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness."

It was during these challenging times that Thomas exchanged letters with his friend, William Runyan, a musician. In their communication they exchanged several poems and one of those is the one that became Great Is Thy Faithfulness. This hymn was first published in 1923 but was relatively unknown until a Moody Bible Institute professor found it and used it very often in chapel services.

This hymn was popularised by George Beverly Shea who sang it at the [Billy Graham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Graham) evangelistic crusades around 1945.

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be. *Refrain:***

***Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

***Refrain***

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
*Refrain***

This is a wonderful hymn that reminds us what God should mean to all of us.

**Bill Carr – Church Warden Emeritus**

**Our Prayer Circle**

As Christians we know that one of the main things that Jesus taught us was the words of The Lord’s Prayer and very often in the Bible we are told that He went to a quiet place and prayed.  Our hymns tell us to “Take it to the Lord in prayer” and that “the voice of prayer is never silent”.  There is no doubt of the need for prayer  for our own spiritual needs as well as the knowledge of the comfort and support that it gives to both the person praying and the people being prayed for.

To that end we have set up a Prayer Circle at St Michael’s.... ‘What’s one of those then?’ you may ask.  It is simply a group of people who when called upon will pray at home separately and quietly for whatever you ask.

If you have a concern of any sort that you want us to pray for all you need to do is to ring any of the numbers and simply say what or who is in need of prayer, and whilst a minimum of explanation might be an advantage for us to focus the prayer,

you don’t even have to say who you are! The person taking

the call will pass it round the circle and you will know that we, on behalf of the church, are taking your worry to the Lord. If you would like your particular concern added into the intercessions on a Sunday morning then we can do that too.

We are happy to welcome others into the circle, just let us know and you will be added on.

Prayer is an essential part of our Christian life to keep us walking in the footsteps of our Saviour... so... the lines are open right now, we are waiting to take your call which is very important to us because it matters to you... just ring and your prayer will be increased seven-fold (at least).

Our circle consists of Ted (01772 617002), Margaret (01772 379219), Carole Bamber (01772 610670 or mobile 07989 145963), Gill Slinger (07729 121248), Barbara Wood (07745 208617) and Bill Carr (01772 615321).

*Ted, Margaret, Carole, Gill, Barbara and Bill*

**A Summary of the Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on**

**12th November 2018**

**Treasurer’s Update**

A copy of the Treasurer’s report had previously been circulated to all members.

The RBS current account balance stands at £12,430.29 (which includes uncleared cheques and Standing Orders/Direct Debits) as at 06/11/18. The total balance held at the United Trust Bank now stands at £60,000. The United Trust Bank has confirmed that at 9 months £286.64 interest has been earned on the 100 day account.

**Parish Share and DBF Fees 2018** – The Parish Share this year is £27,963. It is paid by monthly Standing order of £2000 together with quarterly DBF fees. The final quarter payment for 2018 will be paid around 20th December.

**Charitable Giving 2018** – FOMO, OKORUM VILLAGE and 1st HOOLE SCOUTS will receive their final donation for 2018 around mid-December.

It was agreed to donate £100 (including the cost of the wreath, £27) to the Royal British Legion

**Churchwardens’ Report**

Two applications for the reservation of grave spaces in the churchyard have been received and duly accepted by the PCC.

**Drainage Project –** Specifications have been received for the work to be carried out on the nave and a tender for the work has also been received. The work to be done includes levelling, pointing and cleaning the flags and the pews to be re-stained. The tender received is for £5450.67, plus VAT including a £500 contingency that may or may not be used. It was agreed to accept the tender. A Faculty will now be submitted to the Diocese to allow the work to go ahead.

An Electrical Installation Report has been supplied by Walker Electricals. This is the pre-quinquennial electrical inspection.

The **Christmas Service** dates have been published as agreed by Revd. Ann. A list of the services has been placed in the church porch/notice board. A list of the services has also been forwarded to South Ribble Borough Council to be published in the ‘What’s on Guide’ for the Western Parishes Area.

**Safeguarding Report** – A DBS workshop was held on 22nd October 2018 which was attended by our Safeguarding Officer. It was reported that all PCC members should have a DBS check.

The next PCC meeting will be held on Monday 14th January 2019.

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**Be my Valentine?**

St Valentine’s Day falls on 14th February and since the 18th Century has been associated with the declaration of love, albeit anonymously. Originally this might be through the offering of sweets or flowers, and now more commonly by the sending of an unsigned card.

One suggestion is that St Valentinus was a Roman Christian who performed weddings for soldiers in the Roman army, even though they were not permitted to marry. According to this story, Valentinus was sentenced to death for his offence, but during his imprisonment prayed for the blind daughter of his judge, who miraculously recovered. Before his execution he left her a note, which he signed ‘Your Valentine.’

All of us long to know that we are loved by someone, but declaring our love to another is always a risky business since we may be rejected. They may consider us not attractive enough, or unsuitable in any number of other ways. The pain of unrequited love is indeed great, and so many of us hold back because of the fear of rejection.

One thing we can be sure of, however, is that we are loved by God. He loves us because He made us, and likes us as we are. He loves us because He gave His Son to die for us, and thought we were worthy of such a sacrifice. Here is One who knows everything about us and loves us just the same. His love is unchanging and unending and we need never fear His rejection.

Here is the best declaration of love ever made. God says to you, “I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3).”

**St James the Least of All**

*******Parish Pump Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from ‘Uncle Eustace’…*

**On how to survive a Parish Retreat**

The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

We have just returned from our annual parish three-day silent retreat at St Epiphanius’ Priory. We had the usual attendees: those husbands who see it as an opportunity to stop their wives talking, however briefly; those wives who can keep their husbands temporarily from the 19th hole at the golf club; and those who want to see if it might be a suitable home in which to park an inconvenient relative.

It can come as quite a shock for first-timers: the ladies are appalled to discover that there is neither coffee shop nor hairdressers, and the men that there is no bar or billiards table. The resident community certainly frowned on the four men among us who were discovered silently pushing a car down the drive late one evening before starting it at the main gates as they escaped to the nearest pub. Those of us who are older hands know to bring our own supplies – carefully wrapped, so that the clinking of bottles is not too obvious as one ascends the main staircase. The near universal retreat to bedrooms before dinner is less an opportunity for quiet reflection than more one for a restorative sherry.

The more experienced also know that temperatures in the house are Siberian. All the movement and hand waving during Services is less charismatic enthusiasm and more an attempt to maintain blood flow to the extremities. The series of addresses were given by an aged member of the community. That some of our party fell asleep during the addresses was excusable; that the person giving them also occasionally did so, was not.

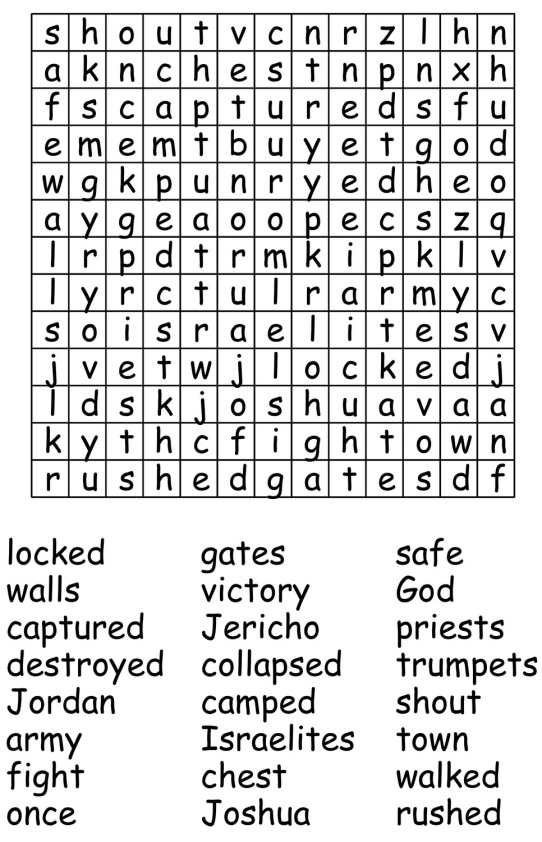
During one stroll round the gardens, I noticed clouds of smoke coming from behind the hedges near the chapel. My hope that it was parishioners experimenting with incense to be used in church on our return was soon crushed when I found it was a group of hardened parishioners topping up their nicotine levels. Seeing them nervously huddled in the shrubbery made one think of schools and bike sheds. I now find it difficult not to picture them all in short trousers and wearing caps.

And so we return, knowing that we have done our bit once again for the spiritual vigour of the parish, and also that three days of vegetarian cooking will mean a long queue at the village butchers tomorrow morning.

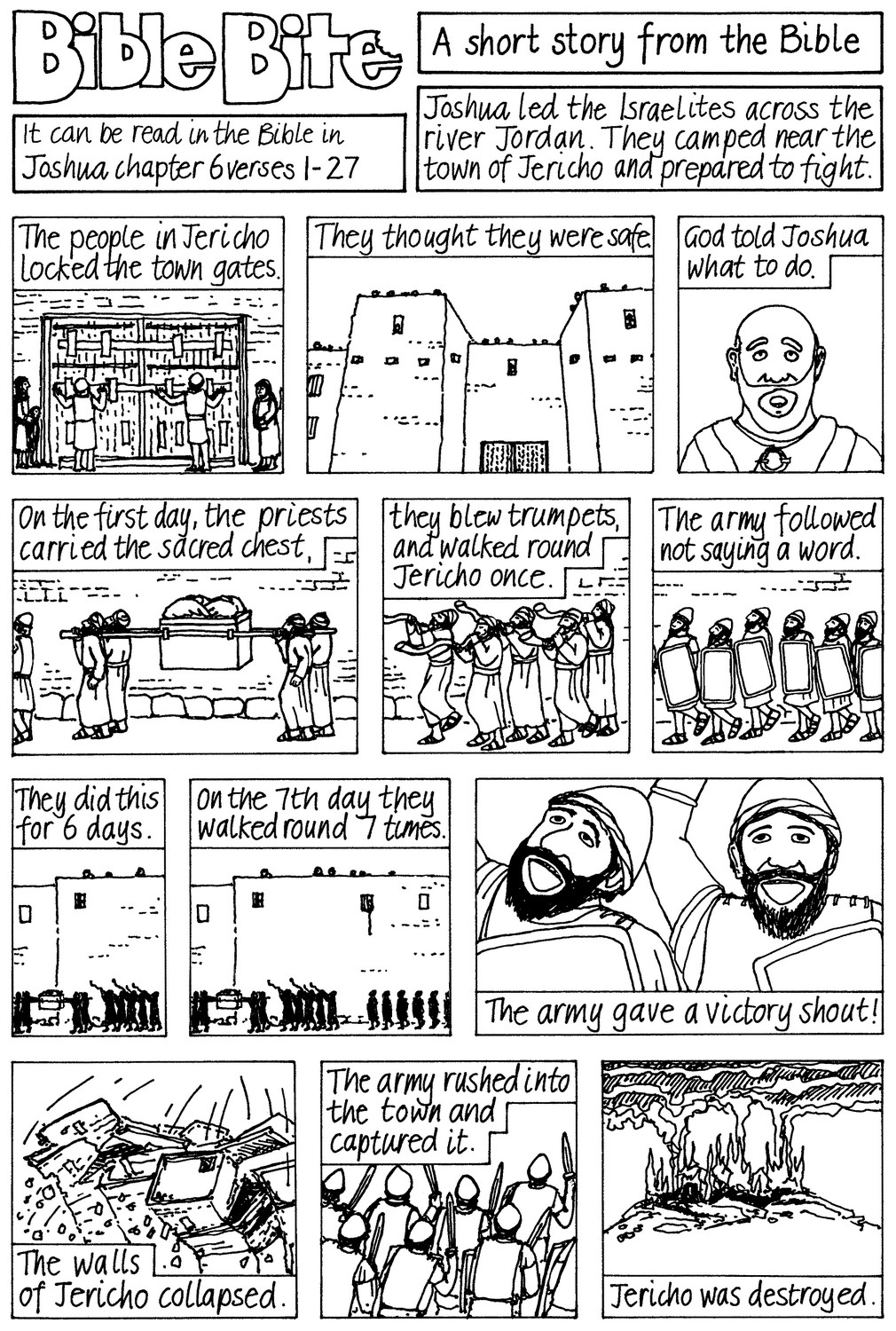
Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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**Bible Bites Wordsearch**

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**Smile Lines**

**Valentine present**

Man in car showroom: I’ve come back to buy that car you showed me yesterday.

Sales assistant: That’s fine, I thought you’d be back. Tell me, what was the dominant feature which made you decide on this car?

My wife.

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**Cold weather**

‘It was so cold where we were,’ boasted the Arctic explorer, ‘that the candle froze and we couldn’t blow it out.’

‘That’s nothing,’ said his rival.  ‘Where we were it was so cold that our words came out in chunks of ice and we had to thaw them to see what we were talking about.’

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**Heaven’s reward**

A taxi driver and a minister from the same village died and went to heaven.  St Peter met them at the gate.  He gave a kindly smile to the minister, but threw his arms around the taxi driver, and several angels rushed out to carry the taxi driver in triumph through the pearly gates.

The minister was miffed. He wanted to know why his welcome was so much less, considering he had spent his life working for the Kingdom of Heaven. ‘Indeed, you did,’ said St Peter soothingly, ‘and you did a good job.  But sadly, you came nowhere near to what this taxi driver achieved for us up here in Heaven.

‘But – but – he has never preached even once,’ protested the minister.

‘True, but while over the years your ministry inspired about 30 people to pray with real fervour, this taxi driver inspired thousands.  Anyone, in fact, who got into the back of his taxi for a drive.’

CHURCH ROTAS FOR FEBRUARY

**Flower Arrangers**

Date Arranger(s) Sponsor(s):

Feb 3rd Averil & Betty Men’s Fellowship

10th Pearl & Claire

17th Althea & Elsie

24th Jean Mrs Smallwood

Mar 3rd All flowers out of church Tuesday 5th May for Lent.

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**Tea/Coffee Rota following our 10.30 Service**

Feb 3rd Erika

**** 10th Pauline & Barbara

17th Beryl & Erika

24th Carole & Gill

Mar 3rd Pauline & Barbara

If you’re not available on the date allocated or wish to change the date assigned to you, please find a replacement or arrange a swap.

*We’re a little short of helpers, so if you feel you could give an hour at this service every few weeks, have a word with Erika or call me on 613816.*

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**Sidespersons’ Rota**

Feb 3rd 9.00 Rob McMurray

10.30 Jean Aughton & Churchwarden

10th 9.00 Jeremy Leigh

10.30 Ted Hopkins & Robert Hawthornthwaite

17th 9.00 John Simpson

10.30 Norman Skellorn, Tom Wignall & Geoff Demack

3.00 Clifford Orrit

24th 9.00 Mike Redshaw

10.30 Bill Carr, Scott Eckersley & Beryl Blakeley

Mar 3rd 9.00 Ken Bishop

10.30 Jean Aughton & Churchwarden

**Readers’ Rota**

*If you cannot read as specified on this rota, please find a substitute and inform a churchwarden of any changes.*

Feb 3rd 9.00 Joan Wilson

10.30 Alan Johnson & Margaret Kirkman

Feb 10th 9.00 Peter Templeman

10.30 Gill Slinger & Carole Bamber

Feb 17th 9.00 Mike Redshaw

10.30 Scott Eckersley & Barbara Wood

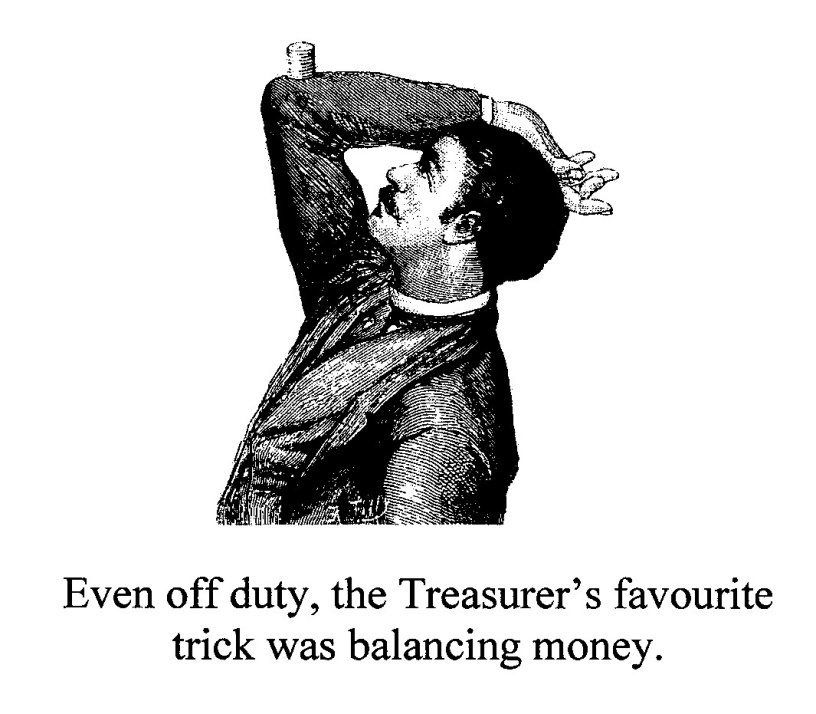
Feb 24th 9.00 Kathleen Leigh

10.30 Emma Cairns & Lillie Eaves-Holmes

March 3rd 9.00 Joan Wilson

10.30 Alan Johnson & Carole Bamber

Peter Templeman will contact each reader by email by the preceding Tuesday. Please will readers ensure Peter has their contact email.



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