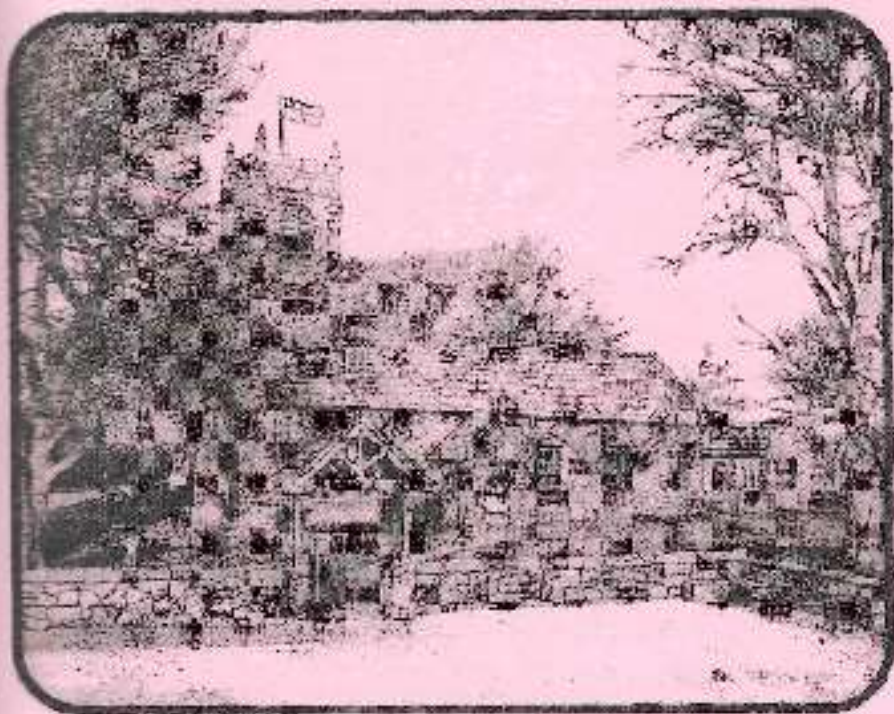


**Hoole Parish Church
St. Michael & All Angels**



St. Michael's Mission Statement

To Know Christ
and
Make Him Known

January / February 2022



CHURCH OFFICERS

Rector: The Reverend Ann Templeman
The Rectory, 69 Liverpool Road, Much Hoole, PR4 4RB
Tel: 01772 448515 and mob: 07877 659156;
E: anntempleman@live.co.uk

Associate Minister: The Reverend Peter Templeman

Churchwardens:

Mrs Jane Elphick – Tel: 601495; Mob: 07977 201199.
E: candjelphick@hotmail.com

Mrs Barbara Wood – Mob: 07745 208617. E: bw12252@hotmail.com

Churchwarden Emeritus:

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

Occasional Preacher:

Mrs Margaret Kirkman – Tel: 01772 379219. Mob: 07786543581.
E: margk1946@gmail.com

Children and Young People's Minister: Liz Boland –
Mob: 07903 200204 E: lizboland@yahoo.co.uk.

PCC Secretary:

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

PCC Treasurer: Mr Andrew Smith – Tel: 615383. Mob: 07771 983726.
E: andrew.smith8118937@btinternet.com

PCC Assistant Treasurer: Mrs Barbara Wood – Mob: 07745 208617.
E: bw12252@hotmail.com

Gift Aid Recorder: Mrs Barbara Wood – contact details as above.

Deanery Synod Representatives: Mrs Jean Dewhurst, Mrs Margaret Kirkman
and Mrs Kathleen Leigh.

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Amanda Hughes – Mob: 07791 532461.
E: amandahughes945@gmail.com

Health & Safety Officer: (temporary): Mr Colin Wilson

Magazine Editor

Mrs Erika Penrose – Tel: 613816. E: johnanderika.penrose@gmail.com

Magazine Secretary:

Mrs Elsie Kirkham – Tel: 615832.

Magazine Advert Co-ordinator:

Mrs Barbara Wood – Mob: 07745 208617. E: bw12252@hotmail.com.

Electoral Roll Officer:

Mrs Jean Dewhurst, Tel: 616106.

Verger: Mrs Irene Pickles – Tel: 615708

Assistant Verger: Mr Stuart Tighe – Tel: 612963

Weekly Giving Envelopes: Please contact the Treasurer or Churchwarden.

Parish Administrator: Mrs Amanda Gibson – Mob: 07735 961620.

ORGANISATIONS

All church organisations have started up again. Please contact the relevant person if you have any enquiries.

Sunday School

Sunday School – St Michael’s Club – begins at 10.30 in church and usually takes place every Sunday.

Leader: Mrs Liz Boland. Mobile: 07903 200204. E: lizboland@yahoo.co.uk

Flower Group:

Contact: Mrs Lisa Redshaw – Tel: 614428.

Treasurer: Mrs Barbara Wood – Tel: 07745 208617

Hoole Church Ladies’ Group – meets 7.30, 3rd Tuesday, in Hoole Village Hall.

Leader: Mrs Erika Penrose.

Tel: 613816. E: johnanderika.penrose@gmail.com

St Michael’s Men’s Fellowship – meets 7.30, 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: Mr Colin Wilson – Tel: 616978;

Email: southview1953@tiscali.co.uk

Hoole St Michael C E Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Juliet Price – Tel: 613219.

1st St Michael’s Hoole Scout & Guide Groups – Contact:

Mrs Rebecca Catterall. Email: 1sthoole@gmail.com

[Church Website: http://www.hooleparishchurch.com](http://www.hooleparishchurch.com)

Our Facebook page is called “St Michael and All Angels Church Hoole”

CHURCH OPENING TIMES

St Michael’s Church is open every day.

Opening times are:

Monday to Saturday inclusive: 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Sunday: 8.00am to 4.30pm.

Rotas

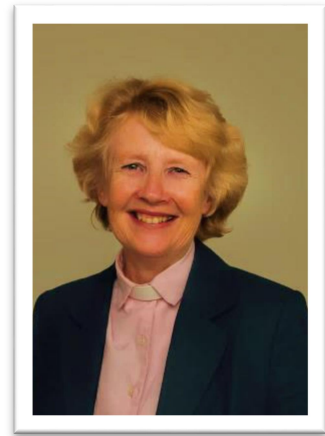
The Flower Rota and Tea/Coffee Rota are on Page 19.

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear all

Happy New Year!

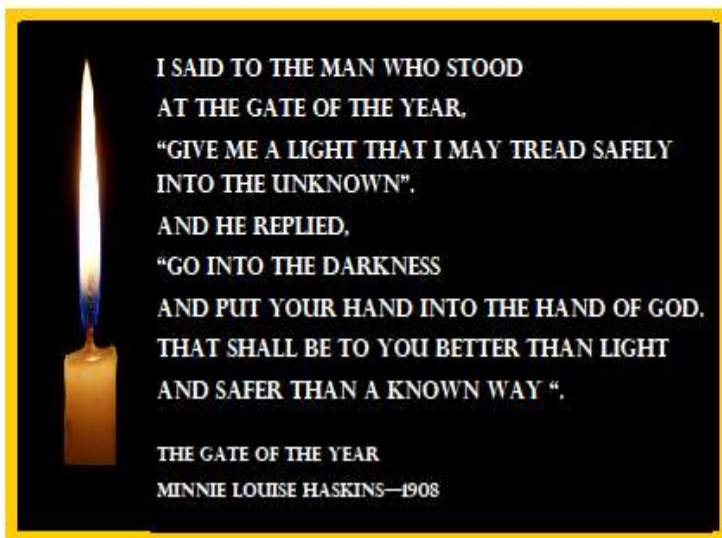
2022 promises to be a very exciting year for St Michael's - we are hoping to start building our Lodge very soon. This will be a huge asset to our children and young people's work, as well as benefitting the whole of the community.



Baptism and Confirmation

The last six months have been very busy with the joy of many baptisms which are permitted once again.

We hope to be holding a Confirmation service in the summer of 2022; we already have about 7 young people interested. A number of adults also wish to be confirmed; this is particularly relevant for those seeking baptism for their children, or who are keen to grow in their own faith and commitment. Please let me know if you would like to join either of these two groups which will be starting shortly.



This is the famous quotation used by King George VI in his Christmas broadcast 1939 at the outbreak of World War II. The war was to last for six years so his emphasis on the importance of putting your trust in God proved to be vital. God's loving guidance and protection is infinitely safer than any other help we humans could find.

At the beginning of 2022 we find ourselves still in the midst of what has turned out to be a global war against the evil of Covid. We had all assumed it would be over by now, almost two years on, but like our forebears 82 years ago, we find that we and nations throughout the world are struggling against a deadly enemy that still threatens to overwhelm us.

Behind the Haskins quotation is the enormous wealth of Scripture which invites us to put our trust in God – the only One who is able to rescue us from our plight – 'God is our strength and refuge, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear... The Lord Almighty is with us' (Psalm 46). At Christmas we rejoiced in the coming of Immanuel, the coming of God Himself into our world in the person of His Son Jesus. The great title of Jesus, Immanuel, means 'God with us'. God in Jesus is with us every step of the way. At the beginning of this New Year, we must put our hand in His hand and trust Him to lead us in the right path as we set out into the unknown of 2022.

Life seems more unpredictable than ever; planning with any confidence even to see family and friends or go on holiday is impossible. We have to trust God with a new energy and determination to give us the love and the strength as individuals and as a church that we need, in order to face an uncertain future with Him who is our strength and refuge. There is no better New Year's resolution than this. So why not begin by committing yourself in prayer to Him. Determine to spend time with Him every day in prayer and Bible reading and try the fortnightly Bible Studies. Try praying now, if you dare, this inspirational and challenging prayer of commitment:

New Year's Resolution?

Please consider coming along to our fortnightly Bible Studies and/or the weekly prayer time on Tuesday mornings?

Prayer of commitment

**I am no longer my own, but yours,
send me where you will, rank me with whom you will;
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you;
exalted for you, or bought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty;
Freely and wholeheartedly I yield my life and all I possess to your
pleasure and disposal. Amen.**

Rev Ann

January 2022

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH, HOOLE Parish Diary – January-February

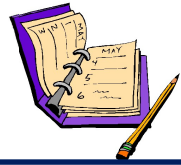
Sunday 2nd January	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Parish Communion
Sunday 9th January	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Morning Worship with Sunday School
Tuesday 11th January	10.15am	Prayer time in Church
	7.30pm	Men's Fellowship meet in the Village Hall
Thursday 13th January	4.30pm	Chat & Chocolate
Sunday 16th January	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Parish Communion with Sunday School
Monday 17th January	7.30pm	PCC at the Village Hall
Tuesday 18th January	10.15am	Holy Communion in Church
	2.45pm	School service in church
	7.30pm	House groups recommence at the Rectory
	7.30pm	Ladies' Group meet in the Village Hall - AGM
Sunday 23rd January	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Morning Worship
	3.45pm	NOISY CHURCH in Church

Monday 24th January	7.30pm	House Group/Bible Study at the Rectory
Tuesday 25th January	10.15am	Prayer time in Church
Thursday 27th January	4.30pm	Chat & Chocolate
Sunday 30th January	09.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Parish Communion with Sunday School
Tuesday 1st February	10.15am	Prayer time in Church
Sunday 6th February	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Parish Communion with Sunday School
Monday 7th February	7.30pm	House Group/Bible Study at the Rectory
Tuesday 8th February	10.15am	Prayer time in Church
Thursday 10th February	4.30pm	Chat & Chocolate
Sunday 13th February	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30	Morning Worship with Sunday School
Tuesday 15th February	10.15am	Prayer time in Church
	7.30pm	House Group/Bible Study at the Rectory
	7.30pm	Ladies' Group & Men's Fellowship joint meeting in the Village Hall
Sunday 20th February	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Parish Communion with Sunday School
Monday 21st February	7.30pm	House Group/Bible Study at the Rectory
Tuesday 22nd February	10.15am	Prayer time in Church
Thursday 24th February	4.30pm	Chat & Chocolate
Sunday 27th February	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Morning Worship
	3.45pm	PANCAKE CHURCH in the Village Hall
Tuesday 1st March	10.15am	Prayer time in Church
Wednesday 2nd March		ASH WEDNESDAY – LENT BEGINS
	7.30pm	Holy Communion
Sunday 6th March	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Parish Communion with Sunday School

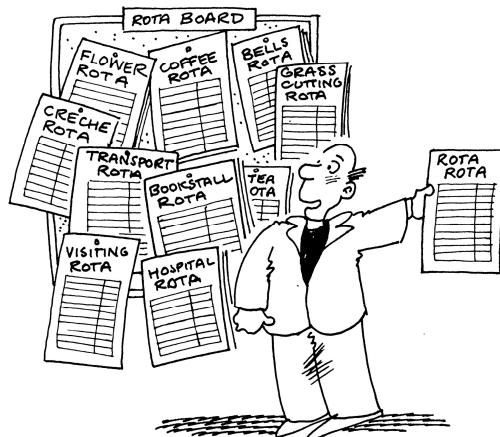
You probably already know that the New Year Social due to take place on January 21st has been postponed due to the current situation. We will set a new date as soon as possible. Colin, on behalf of the Social Committee.



KEY FUTURE DATES



Sunday 20th March	3.45pm	FARM CHURCH in the Village Hall
Sunday 27th March		MOTHERING SUNDAY
	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Morning Worship with Sunday School
Sunday 10th April		PALM SUNDAY with donkeys & donkey rides if possible
	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.10am	Assemble at St Michael's School playground
	10.30am	Morning Worship with Sunday School
Thursday 14th April		MAUNDY THURSDAY
	7.00pm	PASSOVER MEAL (venue and time tbc)
Friday 15th April		GOOD FRIDAY
	11.00am	GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY CHURCH
	2.00pm	AN HOUR AT THE CROSS IN ST MICHAEL'S
Sunday 17th April		EASTER SUNDAY
	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Parish Communion with Sunday School



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?"



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

NOISY CHURCH

23 rd January
3.45 pm at
**Hoole St Michael's
Church**

'Come & make a joyful noise'

Try out ringing the bells!
Make a 'rainmaker'
Percussion for all ages
Let us know if you play an instrument

Hoole St Michael & All Angels Church
invites you to join us for

Pancake Church



at Much Hoole Village Hall
3.45pm on Sun. 27th Feb.

PANCAKE DECORATING & RACES

FUN & GAMES



REFRESHMENTS

CRAFT



Children and Families at St Michael's Church

In November we had our biggest Family Church since before Covid. Almost 100 people came along to the Village Hall for Narnia Church where we made snow globes, healing potions and lion masks. We then came to our time of worship where we thought about Aslan's sacrifice and related it to Jesus' sacrifice. It was a great time of fun and families praising God and thinking about Jesus' great sacrifice for us.



In December we had two Family Church Services for Toy & Christingle at the beginning of the month and the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. Both services had lots of involvement from children and young people reading, dressing up as nativity characters and singing enthusiastically! The church was pleasantly full for both services, and we had a great time celebrating Jesus' birth together.



Chat & Chocolate has grown over the past few months with more young people coming along. It is a very informal group of young people in school years 6-9 meeting fortnightly on a Thursday from 4:30-5:15 in Church. We introduced some much appreciated hot chocolate to the group during December to try and keep ourselves warmer on dark winter evenings!

We'd love to see more people coming along, so please do join us if you'd like to.

Key dates for Children & Families in January & February

- 9 January – Sunday School restarts
- 13 January – Chat & Chocolate
- 16 January – Sunday School
- 23 January – NOISY CHURCH 3:45 in Church
- 27 January – Chat & Chocolate
- 30 January – Sunday School
- 6 February – Sunday School
- 10 February – Chat & Chocolate
- 13 February – Sunday School
- 20 February – Sunday School
- 24 February – Chat & Chocolate
- 27 February – PANCAKE CHURCH 3:45 in the Village Hall

Liz

THE LODGE PROJECT – FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

The Lodge Fund has so far raised £11,947.45 from private donations. These have come as follows:

- Direct donations to the Lodge Fund
- 'Buy-a-Brick' donations
- Hoole Church 'Just Giving' page.

We can add to this approximately £1,950 of Gift Aid claims from tax payers.

The church has also received promissory grants from the following:

- ❖ Much Hoole Parish Council - £5,500
- ❖ Little Hoole Parish Council - £5,000
- ❖ All Churches Trust - £2,250)
- ❖ Blackburn Diocese - £20,000.

Along with designated church funds, the total raised is now in excess of the £70,000 required to get the project off the ground. However, we are still fund raising to furnish and fit the building.

All donors should have received a personal thank you from our churchwarden Barbara Wood, for all donations made before 31st December 2021. If you have not received a thank you and have provided your details with your donations, please get in touch – just in case it has gone “walk about”.

To all who have donated anonymously we thank you.

The PCC cannot begin to express our gratitude to all who have donated, large or small, to the Lodge Fund. It is hoped the project will start very soon. An update will be included in the next magazine.

We still need all the support we can get and there are a number of ways you can donate:

Easy Fundraising When you buy goods on-line you can obtain a donation from the retailer. <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> for more details.

Lodge Donation You can donate any amount you wish, direct to the Lodge project.

Buy-A-Brick You can buy a brick for £25 and your name will be added to a register of donors if you so wish, to be kept in the Lodge. More details from the treasurer or complete the form in this magazine on page 16.

Just Giving The Lodge project 'Buy-a-brick' has its own Just Giving page. You can donate here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stmchurchbuyabrick>

Alternatively, do contact me or Barbara as below.

Church Donations

The new 2022 donation envelopes should have been collected from church by now. If you have not received yours, could you please contact either myself or Barbara Wood. Could I please ask you to return the insert slips to the church as soon as possible.

Like most charities, we are now subject to bank charges. These consist of a monthly fee but also include charges for paying in cheques and cash. We are actively looking at moving accounts but unfortunately most mainstream banks now charge charities to bank with them. We are therefore asking all donors to consider moving from 'envelope' cash or cheque payments to Standing Order (SO) or 'on-line' donations for which

banks do not charge. We will never get everyone to donate by SO or on-line, but the more we can, then the less we will have to pay the banks. If you wish to change your donation to SO, please contact me. I can send you a guide and form for your bank.

Thank you.

Andy Smith

Treasurer to the PCC Hoole Parish Church

Mob: 07771 983726 Home: 01772615383

Email: Andrew.smith8118937@btinternet.com

Website: [St Michael and All Angels Church, Hoole \(hooleparishchurch.com\)](http://StMichaelandAllAngelsChurch,Hoole(hooleparishchurch.com))

Barbara Wood (Assistant Treasurer)

Mob:07745 208617

Email: bw12252@hotmail.com

LOOKING AFTER OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCHYARD

Some of you who tend a grave may not be aware of the Churchyard regulations set down by the Church of England with which we all have to comply.

In particular no ornaments or statues are permitted on graves or cremated remains plots, and only fresh flowers in fixed vases are allowed.

Please would you make sure your grave is as it should be by January 31st 2022.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions and thank you very much for your cooperation in helping us to ensure our churchyard remains green and beautiful.

Churchwardens:

Jane Elphick, Tel no: 01772 60336

Barbara Wood, Tel no: 07745 208617

BUY-A-BRICK FUNDRAISER

Hoole St Michael's Church needs your help . . .

We invite you to buy a brick for £25 each or multiple bricks or by donating any amount to our cause however big or small.

All donations will go directly to Hoole St Michael's Church to help with the costs of this project.

DONORS' BOOK

All named donors have the option to be included in our DONORS' BOOK which will be displayed in the Church Lodge on completion of the project.

WAYS TO DONATE

Option 1: JustGiving

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stmchurchbuyabrick>

Option 2: Cheque - Made payable to 'PCC Hoole Parish Church'.

Post to :Church Treasurer Andrew Smith at 79 Tillage Close, Walmer Bridge PR45BZ.

Option 3: Online Banking Donations

to HSBC Account No 84453034 Sort Code: 40-37-25 ,

Reference quote your surname + 'brick'.

**In addition, please complete & return the slip below for all options (1-3) **

RETURN SLIP

Please return by post to A.Smith (Treasurer) 79 Tillage Close, Walmer Bridge, Preston, PR45BZ or email to andrew.smith8118937@btinternet.com

Name / Company Name: _____

Would you like this name to be included in the Donors' Book? YES / NO

Amount £ _____ Paid () JustGiving / Cheque / Online Banking

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please Gift Aid my donation to St Michael's Church Buy A Brick Fundraiser

Signed _____ Dated: _____

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptisms – “We welcome into the Lord’s Family”

Austin Valentine Rowlands was baptised on 7th November.

Thomas Jacob Lamb was baptised on 28th November.

The Departed – “As in Adam all die, so in Christ may all be made alive”

We give thanks for the life of Fiona Dawn Spalding, aged 69 years, of Penwortham. Interment of ashes took place in the churchyard on 14th November.

We give thanks for the life of Mary Ainscough, aged 75 years, of Buckshaw Village. Interment of ashes took place in the churchyard on 9th December.

We give thanks for the life of Eva Coxhead, aged 82 years, of Whitestake. Following the service, interment took place in the churchyard on 12th January.

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### **A REQUEST FROM A CHURCH VISITOR...**

A lady visited our church before Christmas and also in January. She was very impressed with our church mouse and would love to commission a couple of them.

If anyone knows who made our church mouse or if anyone thinks they could replicate it, this lady would be so very grateful.

She would be more than happy to make a donation to church if this appeal proves successful.

**Please contact Barbara Wood (Churchwarden) if you think you can assist.**

**07745 208617 / [bw12252@hotmail.com](mailto:bw12252@hotmail.com)**

## Ladies' Group

The committee and I would like to wish all our members a Happy New Year and all the best for 2022. Having missed most of 2021 it is wonderful to start again this year!

Our Christmas Coffee Evening with entertainment by the UKES3A Ukulele Group with help from a backing group of four church choir members and Burscough Ukulele Group went really well. The hall was full and everyone joined in with the songs and tapped their feet! We would like to give our sincere thanks to members and friends who contributed to the success of the event. The proceeds of £581 have been sent to Pancreatic Cancer UK, our chosen charity for the evening.

We are looking forward to our AGM and Social Evening at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at the Village Hall, when subs (still £10) will be collected, and members are asked to bring a small, wrapped gift. The programme for the year will be distributed.

At our following meeting on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February, Gordon Fletcher's talk is entitled "Greenland - Icecap and Icebergs".

New members will be made very welcome to our meetings - we hope to see you.

Erika

## St Michael's Church Men's Fellowship

The next Men's Fellowship meeting will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February when a talk by Raymond Smith is entitled "Muck, Music, Stones & Roses". All welcome.



Please remember to bring dry food items to church which can be taken to the Food Bank. Thank you!

## St Michael's Flower Group Rota

| <u>Date</u>               | <u>Arranger</u>                    | <u>Sponsor</u>   |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> January   | Julie and Lisa                     | -                |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> January   | Jean and Sue                       | Mr Smart         |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> January  | Jean and Joan                      | Mr & Mrs J Leigh |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> January  | Betty and Maureen                  | Men's Fellowship |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> January  | Julie and Elaine                   | Mrs E Cowburn    |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> February  | Clare                              | Mrs J Smallwood  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> February | Lisa                               | -                |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> February | All flowers to be cleared for Lent |                  |

## Tea/Coffee Rota

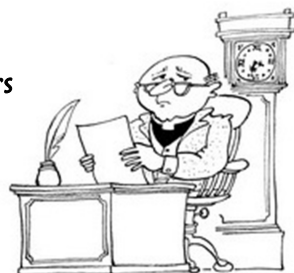
|                          |                 |                           |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 16 <sup>th</sup> January | Mike and Joan   | 13 <sup>th</sup> February | Carole and Lynn |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> January | Gill and Nina   | 20 <sup>th</sup> February | Mike and Joan   |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> January | Alan and Monica | 27 <sup>th</sup> February | Gill and Nina   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> February | John and Honey  | 6 <sup>th</sup> March     | Alan and Monica |

~~~~~

St James the Least of All

On parish accounts, teapots and Labrador retrievers

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Your annual accounts – all 146 pages, bound in their plastic covers and laid out in faultless detail – really are most impressive. I was rather envious to note you have a clergy ‘discretionary fund’; if I were to be given such a thing, my cellar of claret would improve immeasurably – although that is perhaps the reason why I am not given one.

The size of your office expenses makes me wonder if you have a staff rivalling that of the European Community. I suppose that at least you are doing your bit for job creation. Our dear Miss Marigold, who spends two hours a week randomly filing pieces of paper, mistyping rotas and failing to re-order stationery, is only rewarded by being the first to find out who is booking marriages and having their babies baptised – and if they do not happen in that order, that will be another piece of information remembered for future use. All this is information beyond the price of jewels in village communities.

Our accounts have more by way of charm than they do of accuracy, generally consisting of one sheet of handwritten paper. There are only ever three copies for circulation, as that is the limit of Colonel Denster's carbon paper. It seems to be an unalterable tradition that they never balance, until we find the following year that the missing £20 was found months later under the teapot on the mantelpiece. One footnote to this was the occasion when the Colonel suspected an unaccountable £5 had been eaten by his Labrador. Our greatest expenses by far are categorised as 'miscellaneous', which is a catch-all for everything that our treasurer is unable to recall where it really went.

The thousands paid on church maintenance and diocesan fees are nodded through without comment – but if the money spent on Easter lilies or packets of tea for the Summer Fete increases by anything more than 50 pence, there will be much agonised debate and speculation about whether this is an indication of money laundering.

I see that your accounts were professionally audited. Fortunately, it does not matter too much about the accuracy of our own as I have an arrangement with our auditor who lives in the village: if he refuses to sign them off, then I refuse to baptise his grandchildren.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Special Days for the New Year

1st February: **Brigid of Ireland, showing compassion and love**

Brigid, you could say, was the female Patrick of Ireland.

Historical facts about this first abbess of Kildare (d.c. 525) may be scarce, but her 'Lives', written from the 7th century, tell many anecdotes and miracles which over the centuries have become deeply rooted in Irish folklore. Brigid came from a village near Kildare, of parents of humble origin, and is said to have been baptised by Patrick and became a nun at an early age. She is credited with founding the monastery of Kildare, a powerful influence for Christianity in Ireland.

The miracles attributed to Brigid show her to have been a woman of great compassion and generosity. There are stories of how she could multiply food, especially butter, for the poor. Other stories tell of her changing her bathwater to beer, in order to satisfy the thirst of unexpected visitors. Even her cows gave milk three times the same day, to enable visiting bishops to have enough to drink.

Brigid's cult grew rapidly in Ireland, where it became second only to that of Patrick. In England, there were at least 19 ancient church dedications in her honour (the most famous is St Bride's Fleet Street). There is also St Bride's Bay, Dyfed, which underlines the strong connection between Irish and Welsh Christianity. St Brigid is patron of poets, blacksmiths, and healers. She is usually depicted with a cow lying at her feet, which recalls her phase as a nun-cowgirl.

**

2nd February: **Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple**



In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with

Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

**

Sudoku (solutions on page 26)

Easy

		3		8			2	
8	7		2	9	3			
	4	2	6			5		
5	1			3			7	4
2	3						9	5
7	8			4			3	6
		7			9	4	1	
			4	5	1		6	7
	9			6		3		

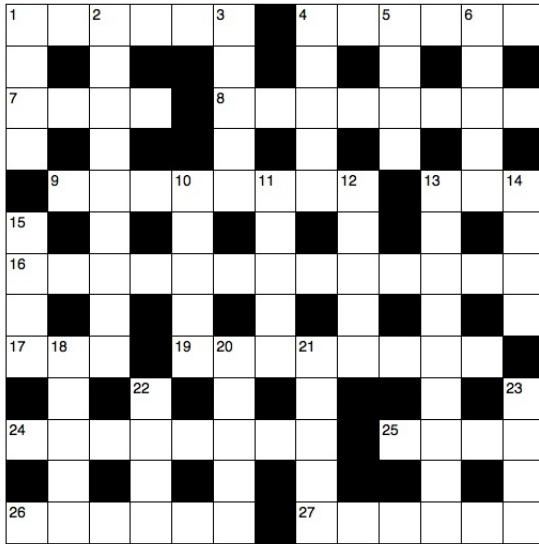
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Medium

		5			7	3		
	1					2		
7				1	5			6
	5	9			6			
			3			4	2	
6			5	4				7
		1					8	
		8	2			6		

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Crossword (Answers on page 26)



Clues

Across

1. 'If you love those who love you, what – is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
4. 'They threw the ship's – overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
7. The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
8. He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
9. Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
13. Solicit money or food from

passers-by (Acts 3:2) (3)

16. What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)

17. Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)

19. 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. – – I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)

24. Simon had (anag.) (8)

25. Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)

26. Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)

27. The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

1. 'Before the – crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)

2. Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)

3. 'They have – the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)

4. Belief (5)

5. 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
6. 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
10. A seer (anag.) (5)
11. 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
12. The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
13. A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
14. Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
16. Across, — and Dolls (4)
15. The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
18. 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
20. 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
21. The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
22. 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
23. 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

Sudoku Solutions

Easy

1	6	3	5	8	4	7	2	9
8	7	5	2	9	3	6	4	1
9	4	2	6	1	7	5	8	3
5	1	6	9	3	2	8	7	4
2	3	4	8	7	6	1	9	5
7	8	9	1	4	5	2	3	6
6	5	7	3	2	9	4	1	8
3	2	8	4	5	1	9	6	7
4	9	1	7	6	8	3	5	2

Medium

4	8	5	6	2	7	3	9	1
9	1	6	8	3	4	2	7	5
7	2	3	9	1	5	8	4	6
2	5	9	4	8	6	7	1	3
8	3	4	1	7	2	5	6	9
1	6	7	3	5	9	4	2	8
6	9	2	5	4	8	1	3	7
5	4	1	7	6	3	9	8	2
3	7	8	2	9	1	6	5	4

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1. Credit. 4. Tackle. 7. Cain. 8. Kenaniah. 9. Strength. 13. Beg. 16. Salvation Army. 17. ARC. 19. Every day. 24. Admonish. 25. Dire. 26. Sneeze. 27. Bronze.

DOWN: 1. Cock. 2. Epistolic. 3. Taken. 4. Tenet. 5. Cane. 6. Leave. 10. Erase. 11. Guide. 12. Honey. 13. Barbarian. 14. Guys. 15. Asia. 18. Rod in. 20. Voice. 21. Rahab. 22. Hope. 23. Mene.



Some more awful groaners...

Relationships are a lot like algebra.

Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?

What did Snow White say when she came out of the photo booth?

Someday my prints will come.

A girl said she recognized me from her vegetarian club but I'd never met herbivore.

What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it? Short.

There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

Word search

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate, and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life. Romance can die, but God's love for us is always there.

Valentine
Rose
Romance
Love
Present
Restaurant
Hearts
Kiss
hug
girlfriend
boyfriend
fiancé
worship
repentance
angels
baby
temple
Mary
Candlemas
presentation

