



**A Floral Tribute to wish Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth a very  
Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

## 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

**Churchwarden:**

Mr Jock Davidson – Tel: 617918; E: sgtmajor@talktalk.net  
Mrs Jane Elphick – Tel: 601495; Mob: 07977 201199.  
E: candjelphick@hotmail.com

**Occasional Preacher:**

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

**Churchwarden Emeritus:**

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

**Children and Young People's Minister:** Liz Boland –  
Mobile: 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:** Barbara Wood – Mobile: 07745 208617.  
E: bw12252@hotmail.com

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

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Mrs Jean Dewhurst, Tel: 616106.

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

**Magazine Editor**

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

**Magazine Secretary:**

Mrs Elsie Kirkham – Tel: 615832.

**Magazine Advert Co-ordinator:**

Mrs Barbara Wood, contact details as above.

**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 – Tel: 07735 961620.

## ORGANISATIONS

**Currently all church organisations apart from the flower ladies are “resting” due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Please watch out in this magazine or in the church porch for changing circumstances.**

### **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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, in Hoole Village Hall.

Leader: Mrs Erika Penrose.

Tel: 613816. E: jandepenrose@btinternet.com

**St Michael’s Men’s Fellowship** – meets 7.30, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**1<sup>st</sup> St Michael’s Hoole Scout & Guide Groups** – Contact:

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

**Church Website:** <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.**

**Coronavirus conditions are in place.**

**The church Flower Rota from May to July will be found on Page 21**

# FROM THE RECTORY

Dear all

Hoole St Michael Family Church

*Come and join us for*

## LIFT OFF CHURCH

**"THE SPIRIT COMES WITH WIND AND FIRE"  
PENTECOST**

**Come and launch red balloons from the churchyard**

**Sunday 23rd May  
3.45pm  
at Hoole St Michael  
& All Angels Church**

**Prize for the balloon which travels farthest**

*Crafts / Fun / Refreshments / All welcome*

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021, the Christian Church will be 1991 years old.

The drama began with an explosion of power from on high. Looking like fire and sounding like a violent wind, the Holy Spirit suddenly came upon a group of fearful men and women together in the Upper room in Jerusalem 30AD. They had all met the risen Jesus a number of times; they had seen him disappear from their sight just 10 days previously and had prayed and waited for this moment when they were filled with the Holy Spirit. And they were transformed, totally changed.

The multinational crowd gathered for the Jewish festival of Pentecost, heard them in their own languages preaching with great power the good news of Jesus who had conquered death itself. 3,000 people believed in Jesus that day and were baptised.

What a birthday! And like all babies the Christian Church has grown since then and grown exponentially so that it is spread across every country in the world and numbers about three billion people – a third of the world’s population.

We will be celebrating that birthday at St Michael’s on 23<sup>rd</sup> May in all our services. In the afternoon the children and families will celebrate it by letting off red balloons over Hoole with the children’s messages of God’s Love and power.

Two years ago one balloon reached France. Let’s see this year how far we can spread the good news of Jesus.

Come and join us for our birthday celebrations.

And even more important, ask the Holy Spirit to transform your life and our community with power from on high.

With prayers and best wishes  
Rev Ann Templeman, Rector. May 2021



*Children and Families  
at St Michael's Church*



## **FAMILY CHURCH COMING UP SOON:**

**Sunday 23 May 3:45pm** – Lift Off Church

**Sunday 20 June 3:45pm** – Mad Hatter's Tea Party

**Sunday 18 July 2:00pm** – Community Event with  
Bishop Philip on the School Field

**EVERYONE WELCOME TO ALL THESE SERVICES**

## **ALL OTHER SUNDAYS:**

**10:30am – Sunday School in church.**

A time to learn more about God and the Bible in a  
fun and engaging way.

Suitable for all children age 3-11.

Toys available in church for younger children.

**EVERYONE WELCOME EVERY SUNDAY**

# ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH, HOOLE

## Parish Diary – May to July



### THY KINGDOM COME – A GLOBAL WAVE OF PRAYER ASCENSION DAY TO PENTECOST 13<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> MAY

#### ASCENSION DAY

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May

4.30pm Chat & Chocolate – young people in Church

6.00pm Holy Communion

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May

10.00am Parish Communion. One Service this week followed by:

11.00am ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING IN CHURCH

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May

7.00-7.30pm Thy Kingdom Come Prayer time on Zoom

7.30pm PCC meeting on Zoom

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May

10.15-10.45am Thy Kingdom Come – Prayer time in Church

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May

7.00-7.30pm Thy Kingdom Come – Prayer time on Zoom

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

2.30pm Wedding of Sarah and Craig

#### PENTECOST

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

9.00am Holy Communion in Church

10.30am Morning Worship in Church

3.45pm LIFT OFF FAMILY CHURCH in Church

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May

7.30pm Bible Study by Zoom or

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May

7.30pm Bible Study in Church with Compline

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May

4.30pm Chat & Chocolate – young people in Church

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Sunday 30th May             | 9.00am Holy Communion in Church  |
| <b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b>       | 10.30am Parish Communion in Church                                       |
| Sunday 6th June             | 9.00am Holy Communion in Church  |
|                             | 10.30am Parish Communion in Church                                       |
| Monday 7th June             | 7.30pm Bible Study by Zoom or  |
| Tuesday 8th June            | 7.30pm Bible Study in Church with Compline                               |
| Thursday 10 June            | 4.30pm Chat & Chocolate – young people in Church                         |
| Sunday 13th June            | 9.00am Holy Communion in Church  |
|                             | 10.30am Morning Worship in Church  |
| Sunday 20th June            | 9.00am Holy Communion in Church  |
|                             | 10.30am Parish Communion in Church                                       |
|                             | 3.45pm MAD HATTERS TEA PARTY FAMILY CHURCH                               |
| Thursday 24 June            | 4.20pm Chat & Chocolate – young people in Church                         |
| Sunday 27th June            | 9.00am Holy Communion in Church  |
|                             | 10.30am Morning Worship in Church  |
| Sunday 4th July             | 9.00am Holy Communion in Church  |
|                             | 10.30am Parish Communion in Church                                       |
| Thursday 8 July             | 4.30pm Chat & Chocolate – young people in Church                         |
| Sunday 11th July            | 9.00am Holy Communion in Church  |
|                             | 10.30am Morning Worship in Church  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> -18th July | OUTREACH WEEKEND   |
| Friday 16th July            | 7.00pm Parish Social with Quiz and entertainment in the new Village Hall |
| Sunday 18th July            | 2.00pm Community Event with Bishop Philip on the School Field            |

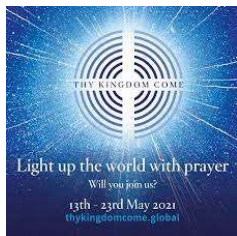
## **KEY FUTURE DATES**

### **16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> July – OUTREACH WEEKEND FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b> | <b>Parish Social with Quiz, food and entertainment in new Village Hall</b>  |
| <b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b> | <b>2.30pm: Event for the whole family with Bishop Philip on the school field – cream teas, races for children and songs</b> |

**‘RUNNING THE RACE’ (provisional title) - More information coming shortly**





## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

ALL OUR SERVICES ARE NOW IN CHURCH AND IN PERSON

Every Sunday 9.00am: Holy Communion in church  
10.30am Parish Communion/Morning Worship in church

It has been wonderful to see so many people coming back to Worship at St Michael's as we gradually return to normal.

After the wonderful good news of Easter that

**CHRIST IS RISEN!!**

**sin and death are conquered...**

we are about to celebrate Christ's Ascension on Thursday 13th May at 6.00pm with Holy Communion and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost on Sunday 23rd May at 9.00am Holy Communion and 10.30am Parish Communion.



For families and children there is Lift Off Church at 3.45pm on 23rd May in the churchyard and inside the church, when we will be letting off red balloons to tell the people of Hoole, perhaps again as far as France, the good news of God's saving love.

**From Ascension to Pentecost also marks the Global wave of prayer called  
“Thy Kingdom Come”**

**In addition to the special services at Ascension and Pentecost, there will be special times of prayer on:**

**Monday 17th May 7.00pm-7.30pm on Zoom (see end of article for details)**

**Tuesday 18th May 10.15am-10.45am in Church**

**Thursday 20th May 7.00pm-7.30pm on Zoom**

**There will also be prayer resources in Church throughout this time. Why not pray for five friends, along with thousands of other Christians around the world, that they might come to know the Lord Jesus for themselves.**

**The ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) will take place on Sunday 16th May. There will only be one service at 10.00am. The hope is that members of both congregations will want to attend Church at 10.00am and then join together in the ACPM at 11.00am. We hope as many people as possible can join us. If you are not yet on the electoral roll, please ask for a form.**

**Fortnightly Bible Studies continue**

**Monday 10th May at 7.30pm by Zoom and Tuesday 11th May at 7.30pm in Church with Compline**

**This is the first of a new series looking at St Paul's letter to the Thessalonians**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR OUTREACH WEEKEND**

**16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> July**

**On Friday 16th July at 7.00pm we are planning a Parish Social with Quiz and entertainment in the new Village Hall.**

**On Sunday 18th July from 2.30-4.30pm we are holding an event for children and families on the school playing field with Bishop Philip.**

**Please note:**

- 1. All 10.30am Services are relayed outside so you can sit in the sun outside the church or in your car if you do not wish to enter the building**
- 2. Our 10.30 services are also recorded and put on the website around Sunday lunchtime.**

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

Church Zoom link for Social events, Prayers and Bible studies:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9017231554?pwd=RmtZdDYwNm93bVplbDJxQjQyNEJFUT09>

Meeting ID: 901 723 1554

Passcode: 709435

## **THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING (APCM) – SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MAY**

This important meeting will take place at approximately 11.00am in church, shortly after the combined 0900 and 10.30am services which will commence at 10.00am.

This information has been previously announced in the magazine, on the website and in the Sunday pew sheets by the Rev Ann.

In the church there are a limited number of hard copies of the Annual Reports & Accounts 2020 for you to refer to at the meeting.

They are also available to view on our website

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

If you would prefer your own electronic copy, please email me at [bw12252@hotmail.com](mailto:bw12252@hotmail.com) and I will forward it to you.

Barbara Wood

Assistant Treasurer



Intercessions: Please let the Rector or Margaret Kirkman know of anyone you would like including on our prayer list by text or call 07786 543581.

# PARISH QUIZ & SOCIAL EVENING

On Zoom

Saturday

17<sup>th</sup> May

At 7.30pm



Come and join us for another of Carole and Colin's mind-sizzling quizzes!





## Thy Kingdom Come

### From Ascension Day 13<sup>th</sup> May to Pentecost 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. Christians from 172 countries have taken part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that during the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ*
- *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness*

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like

we are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks.

It is our prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves, and respond and follow Him. Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

### **PRAYING FOR THE KINGDOM – Thy Kingdom Come Prayer**

Almighty God,

Your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom:

Inspire us with your Spirit

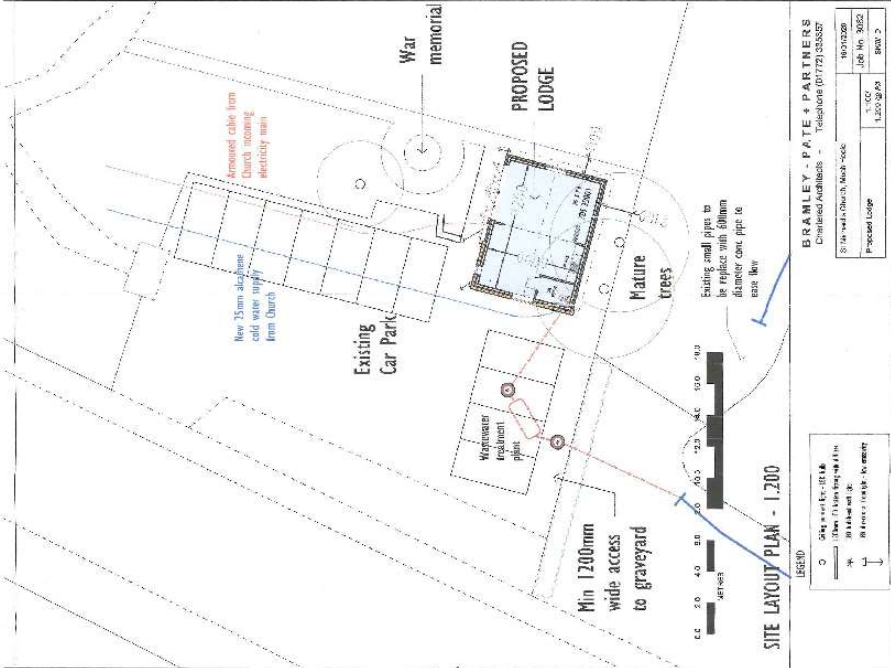
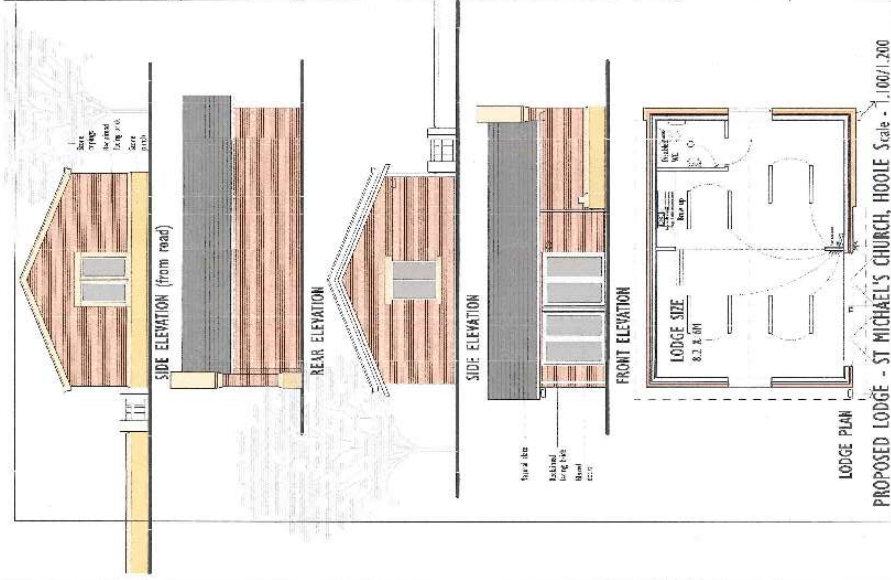
And fill our hearts with the fire of your love,

That all who hear your word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

## **Exciting New Development for St Michael's Church**

St Michael's Church Council have put in a planning application for a small brick building in the far corner of the churchyard next to the car park, to house our Sunday School and provide much needed accommodation for our young people's work, a parish room for church meetings and an attractive venue for gatherings and parties after baptisms etc and for community facilities e.g. mums and toddlers groups.

You will see the plan for the proposed building on the next page.



## Children and Families at St Michael's Church

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It's been a busy few weeks for the children and families at church. We are very pleased to be back having in person Sunday School, and more recently we have been able to go back to in person weekly worship in school. Our first Sunday School was on Easter Sunday with the Easter egg hunt. 20 children searched the churchyard for eggs and were rewarded with chocolate eggs and they made an Easter garden to remind them of Jesus' death and resurrection. We are now back each week, either in school or in our new tent, which is much easier to put up and down than the old one, so can be easily stored in church if the weather looks bad.



Our latest Family Church was also back in church, as we enjoyed Toy Story church and the theme of friendship, both within the Toy Story films and the Bible. We looked at the story of David and Jonathan, and thought about how sometimes friendships aren't what people expect and change over time, but are so important. The most important friendship we can have, is our friendship with God.

We made two crafts, both characters from the films and we had a trail and quiz around the churchyard which was lots of fun and gave everyone a good chance to run around!



Our new venture in church is for older children, called Chat & Chocolate. We meet every fortnight in church for 45 minutes and we eat chocolate and chat about issues facing the young people and whatever they want to. It is currently for those who were confirmed in March, but hopefully we will soon open it up for anyone in school years 6-9.



The Scripture Union Revealing Jesus Framework is a new initiative by Scripture Union that has recently been launched nationally. It is a way of reaching the many children and young people who currently don't attend church. One of the ways SU are looking to reach these children and young people is through Faith Guides, who are people committed to trying to reach these people with the

Good News about Jesus. I have signed up to be a Faith Guide for our community. It doesn't change what I do, or cost the church anything, but connects me to other people doing a similar work to mine, and gives me support and resources from Scripture Union. For more details, go to [www.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk) and search for "The Revealing Jesus Framework."

Liz Boland

***Are you enjoying reading this magazine?***

***Would you like to subscribe?***

***If so, please contact Mrs Elsie Kirkham, our Magazine Secretary, on 01772 615832, who will arrange for delivery. It's only £10.00 pro rata for the year.***

# St Michael's CE Primary School



Spring 2 2021

## Endeavour Class – Thank you Prince Philip

Endeavour Class discussed how Prince Philip had shown our Christian Value of 'Service and Humility' throughout his life. They planned a tribute display on our front playground and wrote prayers for our Queen and family during this difficult time. We are sending these to Queen Elizabeth.

'Dear God, Please look after the Queen and the rest of the royal family in these tragic times. Please make Prince Philip happy in heaven. Thank you for this kind, loyal and thoughtful man who cared for us all.'





We had a Zoom meeting with Rev Ann discussing who Jesus was and is. We made Easter Wordles explaining the different names for Jesus.

## 2020/2021 Water Aid – Harvest to Easter

The final total for this year’s collection is £476.78 and with the gift aided donations of £213.79, it is worth a grand total of £530.23 to them.

On behalf of Water Aid, thank you so very much for your support over the years and particularly this past year which has been so difficult for many of us.

St Michael’s donations are always greatly appreciated by Water Aid.

Barbara Wood



### **Church Opening and Closing – could you help?**

As you will all be aware, we have a team of volunteers who open and close our Church every day from 9.30am-4.30pm approx.

The Church is opened on a Sunday mornings by one of our Church-wardens in readiness for the 0900 service, but the volunteer who has been closing up the church is now unable to do so due to other commitments.

If you think you could do this most Sundays, please get in touch with a Churchwarden. Don’t worry if there are odd Sundays you are not available: that happens with sickness and holidays anyway, any day of the week. Someone from our current key holder list nearly always steps up and covers the odd extra day now and again.

Barbara Wood

Member of the Ministry & Churchwardens’ Team

# St Michael's Flower Club

## The Flower Rota from May to July 2021:

- 2nd May:** Arrangers: Julie and Elaine. No Sponsor
- 9th May:** Arrangers: Jan and Sue. Sponsor: Ladies' Group
- 16th May:** Arrangers: Betty and Maureen.  
Sponsors: Mr & Mrs B Wood.
- 23rd May:** Arranger: Clare. Sponsor: Mrs Ball.
- 30th May:** Arranger: Lisa. Sponsor: Mrs Bracewell.
- 6th June:** Arrangers: Jean and Joan. Sponsor: Mrs J Gleave.
- 13th June:** Arranger: Elsie. Sponsor: Mrs Bowker.
- 20th June:** Arrangers: Julie and Elaine. Sponsor: Mrs Blakeley.
- 27th June:** Arrangers: Betty and Maureen.  
Sponsor: Men's Fellowship (to be confirmed).
- 4th July:** Arranger: Elsie. Sponsor: Mrs A Slater.



## From the Parish Registers

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

We give thanks for the life of Michael Johnson Scott, aged 63 years, of Halsall. A graveside funeral and interment took place in the churchyard on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

We give thanks for the life of Colin John Clark, aged 80 years, of Longton. A restricted funeral service took place in church, followed by cremation at Charnock Richard on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

We give thanks for the life of Betty Clough, aged 90 years, of Longton. A restricted funeral service took place in church and was followed by interment in the churchyard on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

We give thanks for the life of Joan Gleave, aged 93 years, of Longton. A restricted funeral service took place in church and was followed by interment in the churchyard.



*The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

## **St James the Least of All**

### **On getting to church at a social distance**



The Rectory

St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Since your parishioners mostly live in an area of half a square mile, where their only concern in getting to church is whether to take the underpass, or to risk a dash across the ring road, you may have little understanding of the problems our folk have in travelling our long country lanes to church, especially as we are keeping our social distance from each other.

Several parishioners have decided that they can't possibly share cars even with their own spouses, as in their 15-room homes they have successfully (and in some cases, happily) avoided each other for months. So the lane outside the church has filled up each week with Mercedes nudging Audis, and Land Rovers easing in between Bentleys.

Others arrive on horseback. But they are careless about leaving their horses to graze in the churchyard, and I have had to remind them twice that flowers in memorial vases are not fodder. The horses do help to keep the grass down, but unfortunately our verger now objects to standing outside during Matins, holding the reins of half a dozen horses. He says it is not part of his job description, which only confirms my view that there is entirely too much fuss these days about having job descriptions at all.

Major Crompton's devotion to his new sit-on lawnmower has inspired him to travel to church on it. Since he is unable to uncouple the mowing apparatus, the tarmac on his two-mile drive is acquiring

interesting patterns. His drive at two miles per hour along narrow lanes means he arrives leading a procession of cars with drivers given the opportunity to exercise the Christian virtue of patience.

Mrs Pendleton, on the other hand, leads a small but select group from the Mothers' Union who are all keen cyclists. They all arrive on a whoosh of fresh air, their hair in total disarray, but with pink cheeks glowing with health. Nobody in church minds sitting near them, as anyone who can manage to peddle an old three-gear bicycle up the hill to our church is most unlikely to be sickening for anything.

Finally, of course, the majority arrive on foot, having negotiated fields, stiles and assorted cattle on the way. The countryside may well praise God, but one does wish they wouldn't bring quite so much of it into church.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace



## **SMILE LINES**

### **Anaesthetic**

As the manager of our hospital's cricket team, I was responsible for sorting out the equipment for the games.

One day as I walked through the surgery department carrying a bat that belonged to one of the surgeons, I passed several patients and their families in a waiting area. I heard one man say to his wife, "Look, darling, here comes your anaesthetist."

### **The puppies**

A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the experienced vet realised it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So, the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots.

After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the animal doctor sprinkled



the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."

### **How to stay safe this Spring**

1. Avoid riding in automobiles. They are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home. 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or pavements. 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid travelling by air, rail, or water. 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals. So, above all else, avoid hospitals.

BUT:

You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur during church services, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is in church!

A Bible study is safe, too. In fact, the percentage of deaths during Bible study is not even .001%...

So, attend church, and read your Bible - it could save your life!

### **Finally, a couple of awful puns -**

Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.

How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A buccaneer.

### **The Ancient Church**

Sometimes I sit within my pew  
And gaze upon an ancient view  
Of stones, which, set by mason's line  
Have stood through centuries of time;  
Of glass, whose colours, vivid, bright  
Have told their wondrous tales of light  
And filtered sunshine's timeless rays  
To countless eyes through countless days.

The pulpit where, through long past years  
God's servants preached to faithful ears;  
The lectern and its Bible read  
Aloud to both the quick and dead;  
The feet, which down that aisle have trod  
To worship everlasting God;  
The angels, as they downward gaze  
Have heard ten thousand songs of praise!

Songs of joy, and infant cries  
As they gathered to baptize,  
Songs of love and celebrations  
In marriages and confirmations,  
Songs of sadness and of loss  
Sung before the Saviour's cross.  
So many lives have come, then flown  
Within this ancient house of stone.

So, as I sit and wonder how  
Such history should guide me now?  
Such faithful worship through the years  
May move me to shed humble tears.  
These ghosts bring me joy, not fear  
I know I'm just a tenant here  
And in one way they are my guide –  
They keep me free from pompous pride!

*By Nigel Beeton*