

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



**‘Joy to the world! The Lord is come’**



**November/Christmas 2021**

***Come and join us at St Michael's  
to celebrate Christmas***



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 3.45pm  
TOY AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICE  
IN CHURCH**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm  
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**



**CHRISTMAS EVE  
4pm CRIB SERVICE**

**and MIDNIGHT COMMUNION  
at 11.30pm**



**CHRISTMAS DAY at 10.30am FAMILY SERVICE with  
Carols and Communion**



# St Michael's Mission Statement

## To know Christ and Make Him Known

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Church Postcode: PR4 5JQ  
Subscription: £10.00  
Price per magazine: £1.00

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### 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: candjelpick@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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 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”**

# FROM THE RECTORY

Dear all

I imagine that many of you are great knitters or 'knotters'.

At our Service of Thanksgiving for Loved Ones I talked to the congregation about 4 (k)nots.

Ordinary knots can be life savers but these were spiritual nots which are even more important.

You need to start by disregarding the k and focusing on the not. I am going to repeat two of them:

The Bible is very clear – these are things we must not do. These are spiritual 'nots'.

First: Forget not

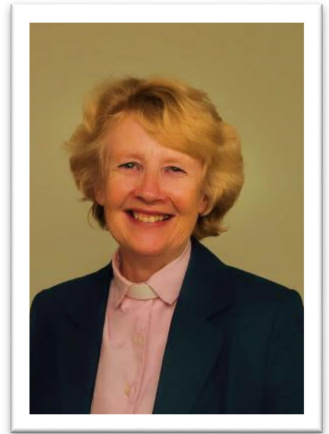
'Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all His benefits'. Psalm 103 v 2

When someone dies it is easy and natural to be consumed with grief. But the moment families get together after the death of a loved one, almost always people are able to look back and remember with real thankfulness the good times and all the wonderful memories they have which made their loved one so special – the birth of a child, special holidays and family Christmases etc.

So in November, in this month of remembering, don't forget to say thank you to our Heavenly Father for all his generous gifts and supremely for the gift of his own Son Jesus the Saviour.

And second: Fear not

We sang at the thanksgiving service the famous hymn The Lord's my Shepherd. What an amazing hymn! It's based on Psalm 23 and it never ceases to give comfort and strength to those who take on board what it says. God is with you every step of the way throughout your life. He provides all the good things you enjoy and He is there even in the most demanding times; even through the Valley of the shadow of death He is with you.



In fact Jesus has gone through the valley of death already to prepare a place for us and therefore we are not to let our hearts be troubled or to be afraid. Fear not, be not afraid is a phrase used 365 times in the Bible – once for every day of the year – Fear not – we have no need to be afraid: the One who created the Universe and defeated death is there beside us.

And hold on to those two knots, Forget not and Fear not. Don't let these knots slip or loosen. Your life, the whole of your life now and in eternity depends on it.

Keep those knots before you as we move towards Christmas. As you prepare for what we all hope can be a 'normal' Christmas and we sing all those wonderful evocative carols, don't forget the real meaning of Christmas – God Himself has come among us as a human being. At Christmas we are celebrating the rescue of the human race from sin and death made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus of Nazareth, God's only son.

COP 26 has made us more aware than ever before that there needs to be an urgent rescue strategy if our planet and hence the human race is to survive. The climate conference is a global wakeup call for the need for action now. No less urgent and of even greater significance is the need for a worldwide spiritual awakening to recognise the salvation that Jesus the Saviour has already won for us on the cross and to turn to Him in penitence and faith this Christmas.

With prayers and best wishes

Rev Ann

Rev Ann Templeman, Rector

November 2021



### **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 28

# ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH, HOOLE

## Parish Diary – November-December

Monday 1st Nov	7.30pm	Bible Study at the Rectory
Tuesday 2nd Nov	10.15-10.45am	Prayer time in Church
Thursday 4th Nov	4.30pm	Chat & Chocolate
Saturday 6th Nov	10.00-2.00pm	PARISH QUIET DAY AT WHALLEY ABBEY
Sunday 7th Nov	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Parish Communion with Sunday School
Monday 8th Nov	7.30pm	PCC meeting in the village Hall
Tuesday 9th Nov	10.15-10.45am	Prayer time in Church
	7.30pm	Bible Study at the Rectory
Sunday 14th Nov	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.10am	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE
Monday 15th Nov	7.30pm	Bible Study at the Rectory
Tuesday 16th Nov	10.15-10.45am	Prayer time in Church
	7.30pm	Ladies' Group OPEN EVENING in the Village Hall – all welcome! Christmas Flower Arrangements
Thursday 18th Nov	4.30pm	Chat & Chocolate
Sunday 21st Nov	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Parish Communion
	3.45pm	NARNIA CHURCH AT HOOLE VILLAGE HALL
Monday 22nd Nov	3.30pm	Bereavement group tea
Tuesday 23rd Nov	10.15-10.45am	Prayer time in Church
	7.30pm	Bible Study at the Rectory
Sunday 28th Nov	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Morning Worship with Sunday School
Tuesday 30th Nov	10.15-10.45am	Prayer time in Church
	7.30pm	Bible Study at the Rectory
Thursday 2nd Dec	4.30pm	Chat & Chocolate
Sunday 5th Dec	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Parish Communion
	3.45pm	TOY AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
Monday 6th Dec	7.30pm	Bible Study at the Rectory
Tuesday 7th Dec	7.30pm	Ladies' Group OPEN EVENING at the Village Hall – Christmas Coffee Evening with Mawdesley UKES3A Ukuleles entertainment. £7.00. Proceeds to Pancreatic Cancer UK. All welcome.
Sunday 12th Dec	9.00am	Holy Communion



	10.30am	Morning Worship with Sunday School
Tuesday 14th Dec	7.30pm	House Group Social at the Rectory
Thursday 16th Dec	4.30pm	Chat & Chocolate
Sunday 19th Dec	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Parish Communion with Sunday School
	6.00pm	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
CHRISTMAS EVE	4.00pm	CRIB SERVICE
	11.30pm	MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
CHRISTMAS DAY	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE WITH CAROLS AND COMMUNION
Sunday 26th Dec	10.30am	Holy Communion
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

**ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, HOOLE**

**10.10am SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER**

**SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

**WITH THE LAYING OF WREATHS**

**'We will remember them'**



Hoole Church Ladies' Group

# CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

With Rachael Cook of  
Rhapsody Floral Design, Eccleston

on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November

At 7.30pm

at The Venue, Hoole Village  
Hall, Liverpool Old Road,  
Much Hoole

Open Evening – Everyone welcome!



Refreshments

Raffle

*Entrance free!*

Hoole St. Michael's Church  
Invites you to join us for

# NARNIA CHURCH



**Sun. 21 st November 2021**

**3.45 pm**

**At Much Hoole Village Hall**

Crafts / Games / Film Clips

Refreshments / Bible Story

All Welcome



## LANCASHIRE DAY CELEBRATION

All are welcome to Afternoon Tea at  
Old Mill Court on  
**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00pm**  
in celebration of Lancashire Day.

Afternoon Tea, Lancashire goodies,  
two Raffles and a “turn”.

Lancashire Quiz by Colin

Admission £10.00

*“Havin’ a bit of a do so don yer best  
shawls and caps, shine yer clogs and get  
ready for a reet good knees up!”*

Proceeds to Build a Brick –  
St Michael’s Church Lodge Project



## CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA AT CARR HOUSE

Would you like to treat yourself, and maybe a friend, to a special festive afternoon tea in a historic setting?

A great way to get in the mood for Christmas - or an original gift.



Traditional afternoon tea with Prosecco/sparkling cordial will



be served, followed by a short talk by the fire-side about the history of Carr House and its connections with Jeremiah Horrocks and St Michael's Church.

This event is strictly by ticket only, and numbers are limited to ensure everybody is seated comfortably.



Tickets are £15 for Tuesday 7th December, Thursday 16th December or Monday 20th December, all at 3.00 pm.

Please see Jane Elphick in church, or contact [candjelpick@hotmail.com](mailto:candjelpick@hotmail.com), indicating which date you would like to attend.

All proceeds will go to the Lodge Appeal.

You are warmly invited to our

# TOY & CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



at Hoole St Michael  
&  
All Angels Church



Sunday  
5th December  
3.45pm

Please, if you are able, bring a wrapped toy  
marked with the appropriate age and gender eg.  
Girl aged 6, Boy aged 3, to be given to  
a child in need at Christmas.



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# CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

St Michael and All Angels Church, Hoole  
6.00pm Sunday 19th December 2021

Everybody is Welcome



The graphic features a purple-to-blue gradient background. At the top and bottom are decorative borders of red holly leaves and berries. The title 'CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT' is in large, bold, red and yellow 3D-style letters. Below it, the event details are in black text. The phrase 'Everybody is Welcome' is in purple. Two lit red candles with yellow flames and holly decorations are positioned on either side of the text.







Hoole Church Ladies' Group

**CHRISTMAS  
COFFEE EVENING**

Everyone welcome! Come and join us for  
a happy evening with

**MAWDESLEY**

**UKESBA**

**UKULELE BAND**

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm

at The Venue, Hoole Village Hall,  
Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole

Entrance £7.00 by ticket  
or pay on the door

includes refreshments

**BRING + BUY and RAFFLE**

Proceeds to Pancreatic Cancer UK



## Children and Families at St Michael's Church

It has been a busy few months for the children and families in church. In September, we came back to Sunday School which has been great. We have averaged 13 children each week, and have very much enjoyed being in two different age-related groups, which has transformed what we can do, particularly with the older group.

On 24<sup>th</sup> October, we enjoyed Bible Sunday and we launched our Bible Challenge which is open to everyone, not just the children. Why not take part?

### Rev Ann's Bible Challenge

Can you learn all the books of the Bible in order? You will need to be able to recite them to us, or send us a video of you saying them all in order.

### Liz's Bible Challenge

Can you write a sentence using Bible references? You will need to say which version of the Bible you have used, which will be written on the first page. You can also use [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) to find the words. The longer the sentence and the more Bible books used the better!

Example:

Matthew 28 v 16 (2nd word)	<i>the</i>
Deuteronomy 4 v 19 (12th word)	<i>sun</i>
James 1 v 11 (13 <sup>th</sup> word)	<i>is</i>
Psalms 148 v 3 (10 <sup>th</sup> word)	<i>shining</i>

Prizes are available for both these challenges. Send your sentences and/or videos to Liz on [lizboland@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lizboland@yahoo.co.uk) or 07903 200204.



Minecraft Church took place on 12<sup>th</sup> September in the School Hall. We looked at God's creativity as we created worlds in Minecraft and out of Lego. We watched a video of God's creation in Genesis which had been made using Minecraft. There are loads of Bible stories on YouTube made using Minecraft – if you like Minecraft it's a great place to look.

Pokémon Church took place on 17<sup>th</sup> October in the Village Hall. We were a few helpers down, but we still had a great time thinking about Jesus calling his disciples and then sending us out to tell other people about Him. We decorated Pokémon biscuits, which didn't last long once they had been decorated, and enjoyed Pokémon cakes afterwards! It has been lovely to see lots of new families at both these services, as well as lots of familiar faces.



### Family Church Dates:

- **21<sup>st</sup> November 2021: Narnia Church 3:45pm in Much Hoole Village Hall**
- **5<sup>th</sup> December 2021: Toy & Christingle Service 3:45pm in Church**
- **23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022: Noisy Church 3:45pm in Church**
- **27<sup>th</sup> February 2022: Pancake Church 3:45pm in Much Hoole Village Hall**



On Sunday 7 November, we are holding a Family Fun Walk to raise money for the Lodge. Why not make up a team and come along and join in?

Liz Boland, Children & Young People's Minister



**SUN. 7th NOVEMBER 2-4pm**

START & FINISH at

**St Michael's Church, Much Hoole**

All participants can check in from 2pm onwards  
(last check in 3pm)

**Register on the day - £5 Entry Fee**

All proceeds to be donated to  
'St Michael's Church Buy A Brick Fundraiser'

**Map, Bib Number &  
'Family Fun' Clue Sheet provided**

**Medal & Certificate  
for all child participants**

Sponsorship forms are available prior to the event if required  
(collection from St. Michael's Church).



## “ONE NIGHT ONLY” HARVEST SUPPER – FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER

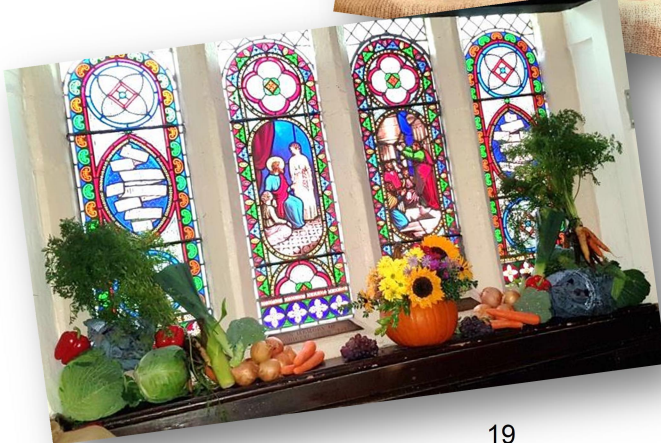
Many thanks to the Social Committee who did so well organising our Harvest Supper – the new village hall was the perfect venue for such an event. In excess of 100 parishioners attended who all enjoyed the evening.

Special mention must be made of our mystery guest, “Elvis Presley” who gave us a rendering of “Love me Tender” great acclaim; of Stan and Lynn for their duet, “Any Dream will do” and of Colin and Lynn for their impression of Hylda Baker and her stooge Cynthia which brought back happy memories for many.



## HARVEST FESTIVAL – SUNDAY 3RD OCTOBER

The church was so beautifully decorated for our Harvest Festival – many thanks to the Flower Group ladies who once again excelled themselves. Here are some of the decorations.





# St Michael's CE Primary School



On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October, our children from Hoole St Michael Church of England Primary School joined parents in church for our Harvest Festival. Children brought food parcels for our local community which were gratefully received by many. Each class made a giant sunflower with prayers written on the petals to show what we are thankful to God for. Some children read their prayers during the service. Our Discovery and Honey Bees children sang 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' and the other classes sang their very own Harvest song.



Our Eco Warriors sold fruit and vegetables on our school playground and raised £34.50 for The Bishop's Harvest Appeal.

# THE LODGE PROJECT – FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

Here is an update for you all and a **BIG, BIG** thank you to everyone for your fantastic and magnificent responses.

If we have your details, every donor who donated before the end of September should have received a personal “thank you” email or letter from our Churchwarden, Barbara Wood.

If you have not received a communication and you provided your details, please get in touch to make sure your donation has not gone astray.

If you have donated during October – you will receive your thank you letter/email in November.

If you did not supply your details; another **BIG, BIG** thank you to you too, whoever you are...

\*\*\*\*\*

We need to raise **£70,000 plus** to complete the Lodge.

The more money raised, the better the fixtures and fittings, and the sooner the more essential equipment we need can be acquired.

**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.

**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.

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

[St Michael's Church Hoole - BUY-A-BRICK Fundraiser - JustGiving.](#)

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

<b>TOTAL RAISED TO DATE – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Applied for</b>
Ear-marked from Church Funds		£30,000	
Blackburn Diocesan Grant Application			£20,000
Other Grant Applications	£10,500		
Donations from Individuals		£5,482	
Fund Raising (individuals, groups & Just Giving		£3,805	
Projected Gift Aid	£1,141		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,041</b>	<b>£39,287</b>	<b>£20,000</b>

As you can see our fundraising is going so very well and if we are awarded the full grant from the Diocese, we will have exceeded the original £70,000 target. But this cannot be taken for granted at all, so as yet, we cannot as yet sit back on our laurels! Because remember, we have to equip it all. Your continued support therefore is still very much needed.

Please share this appeal with anyone and everyone you know.

Finally....consider this:

**Skills Set:** Are you able (or do you know someone) who might be able to provide expertise in any areas of construction work, decorating, materials, equipment or labour – as and when we get to that stage?

### **Andy Smith**

Treasurer to the PCC Hoole Parish Church

Mob: 07771 983726 Home: 01772615383

Email: [Andrew.smith8118937@btinternet.com](mailto:Andrew.smith8118937@btinternet.com) / [www.hooleparishchurch.com](http://www.hooleparishchurch.com)



## 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](mailto: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”**

Miran River Philip Jenson was baptised on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

Nancy Joyce Gladwinfield was baptised on 19<sup>th</sup> September

Elijah-John Fiddler was baptised on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

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

We give thanks for the life of Mary Johnson, aged 89 years, of New Longton. The funeral service on 21<sup>st</sup> September was followed by cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough.

We give thanks for the life of Anthony (Tony) Brogden, aged 79 years, of Much Hoole. The funeral service on 27<sup>th</sup> September was followed by cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough.

We give thanks for the life of Colin John Clark, aged 80 years, of Longton whose ashes were interred in the Churchyard on 24<sup>th</sup> October.

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### **A Thank you from Adele Marsh**

I write to thank all who joined me and my family at the “Service of Thanksgiving for Loved Ones” which took place on Sun 31<sup>st</sup> October at St Michaels & All Angels, Much Hoole.

My husband Victor E Marsh was laid to rest on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021 in the Churchyard and I received an invitation from Rev Ann Templeman to attend. It was an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one and a white rose was handed to everyone in the congregation. The occasion was extremely poignant and something I will remember all my days.

A big thank you to Ann and her team for organising such a moving occasion and for giving me the opportunity to participate.

My husband and I retired to Cornwall where I still live and although we are now separated by many miles the Thanksgiving Service has given me great comfort during a time of grieving. Rest in Peace my beloved.

Adele

## MEMORIES OF HMS DIANA AND THE ATOMIC BOMB

Early in 1956 whilst I was still young and foolish and in the navy, I decided to volunteer to become what was called a frogman. Part way through the course the ship I was due to join, HMS Diana, came into port. I told my instructor of my problem and it was decided I should finish the course and join the ship later when she came back. It was only when the full facts of where HMS Diana had been and done came to light that I realised how lucky I had been. God had other plans for me, we went to Cyprus during the EOKA crisis where I searched the bottom of ships for limpet mines, and then to Iceland to join in the “Cod War” to stop gun boats like the “Odin” and “Thor” from attacking our trawlers, followed by a trip to Lebanon where a mini war had broken out. I could write a book about all the things I was involved in, but that is another story. It was only when the full facts came out about where Diana had been in my absence that it came home to me what a lucky young man I was and how God was protecting me. I shall spend the rest of my life thanking God for my life.



John Gower was captain of the SHIP HMS Diana. He and his crew were exposed to the deadly effects of an atomic detonation

*HMS Diana: the ship that went nuclear*

So what mission had HMS Diana been on while I was training to become a frogman? Well in March 1956 the governments of the UK and America were afraid of a conflict with Russia and that following the use of Atomic weapons to end the war in the Pacific at the end of WW2 , would almost certainly lead to atomic weapons been used in any new conflict. America was unwilling to share its expertise in these new weapons so the British and French embarked on a programme of developing their own nuclear weapons. The development of these entailed a series of tests held both on small islands off the East coast of Australia and in the Indian Ocean. Although the devastation caused by the bombs that dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki had been documented, at this time little was understood on the effects of radiation on those outside the immediate blast zone.

One of the experiments that the military commanders were keen to conduct was how long could forces fight for with and without protective equipment in an environment contaminated by radioactive fallout. HMS Diana, her captain John Gower and close knit crew of 300 were detailed to provide some of these answers by deliberately steaming through a radioactive cloud following the test explosions. The crew were issued with Polaroid sunglasses, facemasks and overshoes. Over a five-week period, the crew witnessed two explosions, the second of which took place on June 19, 1956, and was equivalent to 98,000 tons of TNT, more than seven times the power of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

After the ship cruised to its standby position in the Indian Ocean, the crew were gathered on deck, the majority wearing shorts and sandals, and a few with newly issued sunglasses. They were not offered full protective clothing. They were then told to have their backs to the direction of the blast and to cover their eyes from the nuclear flash - which, even from a distance of many miles, could have burnt out a human retina. Once the flash had disappeared, they were to turn and face the detonation and watch the mushroom cloud rise into the tropical sky.

Capt John Gower, a decorated veteran of the Normandy landings, recalled the moment in an account he wrote some years later.

"The flash was observed at 10.14am from a distance of 97 miles. The fireball was twice the size of Mosaic I (the previous detonation) and climbed a lot faster. The explosion when it came was a colossal double crack, heard 200 miles away in Australia."

After the blast, the crew were ordered to take up "action stations" below deck as the ship steered a course through the radioactive cloud. Around the ship, Geiger counters began to tick and then roar into life, as the lethal radioactive cloud enveloped Diana. As the outside of the vessel became "hot" with radiation, the men entombed within the steel hull sweltered for 13 long hours, until the all-clear was given. Afterwards, the ship's exterior was hosed down with sea water and any material that was found to be radioactive was thrown overboard. Despite this, one of the main boilers became radioactive and had to be repaired.

In addition to Capt Gower and his crew a total of about 22,000 servicemen from Britain, Australia, New Zealand, the US and other countries witnessed hundreds of nuclear test explosions and many were contaminated with radioactive fallout. Thousands died prematurely, often in extreme agony and despite the ex-servicemen campaigning against their governments to accept liability, this has not been accepted.

In the UK only about 700 remain of those who witnessed these explosions and most of these are suffering some form of cancer.

Sadly though, it seems that the Government would rather forget the sacrifices made by those who took part in the secret trials, for the sake of their country, more than 60 years ago – but I WILL REMEMBER THEM for the rest of my life.

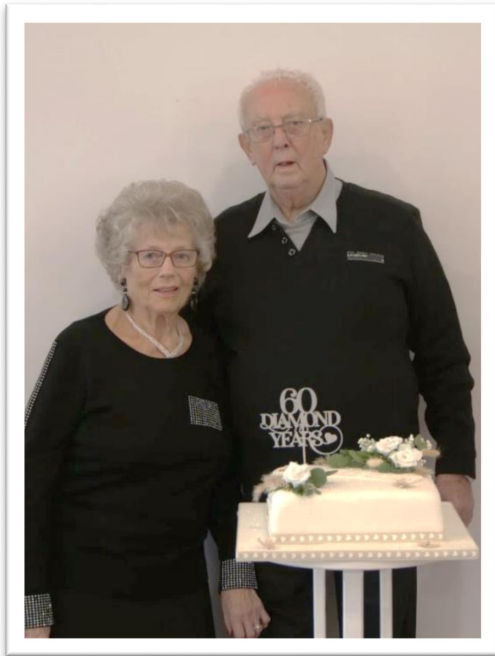
Bill Carr – Church Warden Emeritus

*Editor's note: This article is a precis of Bill's original four page A4 document. If you would like to read the document in full please email me and I will forward the full document to you.*



## Bill and Beryl Carr's Diamond Wedding Anniversary

There is always a great sense of belonging when invited to share with someone in their special celebration to mark a milestone in their life.



When that milestone involves two people and the celebration is to mark 60 years of marriage then the feeling is heightened by the intervening years spanning a lifetime of friendship. Such was the occasion on Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup> when 70 guests, family and friends, sat down together to share afternoon tea in the village hall with Bill and Beryl.

The actual anniversary had been two days earlier and the occasion was planned by Bill and Beryl's children, Andrew and Debbie. Sadly due to having to isolate Debbie could not be there on the day but other family members and several of Debbie's friends rallied round to make the

occasion a real celebration for Bill and Beryl, and here I am sure that they would wish me to express their thanks to all who made the occasion one to remember, with special thanks to Lynn Smith who worked so hard

preparing the food and Peter Parker who took the many photographs to mark the occasion.

When I visited Bill and Beryl a few days later it was a joy to see so many cards on display and the sitting room resembling a florist's shop. However it had never been Bill and Beryl's wish to accept gifts for themselves and, following a lifetime of worship at St Michael's they made it known that should anyone wish to mark the occasion with a gift, a donation to the Church Lodge Fund would be most acceptable and so the magnificent figure of £700.00 was achieved.

Bill and Beryl have not recently been able to attend St Michael's as much as they would have wished; however it was truly wonderful to see them in church the following day for part of the morning service which opened with the hymn 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven', a wonderful hymn chosen by the couple for their wedding in St Michael's 60 years ago. Yes, 60 happy years have given them much to praise God for, and many people like myself give thanks that we have been a part of their lives during that time; we all congratulate them on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Stan.

***Bill and Beryl would like to thank all their relatives and friends for their kind donations for the Buy a Brick project in honour of their anniversary, which totalled £700.***



**St Michael's Church Flower Group** are making wreaths for Christmas as a fund raiser – please place your order with Lisa on 614428 or Gillian on 612562, or any of the flower group.



## **Ladies' Group**

I am very happy to let you know that our numbers are virtually back to what they were before the first lockdown - thanks everyone for returning to the group and a warm welcome to new members!

We have enjoyed listening to two very entertaining speakers recently and I am delighted to let you know that our Coffee Morning on 9<sup>th</sup> October made over £400 which is to be divided between our funds and the St Michael's Lodge Project. Again, many thanks to everyone for supporting this event - we had a houseful, many of whom worked hard on Joan's quiz!

Our meeting this month is on Tuesday 16th November at 7.30pm, when Rachael Cook from Rhapsody Florists in Ecclestone will be showing us some beautiful Christmas arrangements. This is an Open Evening to which all are welcome.

All are welcome to our Open Christmas Coffee Evening at 7.30 on Tuesday 7th December when we will be entertained by the Mawdesley UKES3A Ukulele Group (plus backing group, "the Ladybirds"). There will be the usual Bring & Buy stall, Raffle and super refreshments. Entry £7.00 or pay at the door. The proceeds this year will go to Pancreatic Cancer UK.

New members and guests will be made very welcome - we look forward to seeing you.

Erika

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# St Michael's Church Men's Fellowship

## To all the gentlemen of Much & Little Hoole

We cordially invite you to join to our fellowship group. We meet nine times a year in Hoole Village hall and have very entertaining talks on a wide variety of subjects by experts in their field, and in May we hold our annual general meeting.

The Men's Fellowship was started by the Rev Pugh some 25 years ago but now alas, due to declining membership, it is in grave danger of having to close, hence this letter is an appeal for new members, for lapsed members to come back again, and for existing members to invite and bring along a friend.

Membership is not confined to gentlemen of St Michael's church but is open to all men who reside in the Much & Little Hoole villages irrespective of whether they are churchgoers or not, so please come along to one of our meetings **for free** to see if you like it, which I'm sure you will! You will meet new people and make new friends and if you do decide to join it will only cost you £10 for the whole year which includes a complimentary supper at our first meeting. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at The Venue, Hoole Village Hall.

For more details please contact Robert Hawthornthwaite, our chairman on 612952, Stan Pickles, Treasurer on 615708 or Stuart Tighe, Secretary on 612963. Here's hoping to see you soon.

Stuart Tighe, Secretary

## St Michael's Flower Group Rota

<u>Date</u>	<u>Arranger</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
7 <sup>th</sup> November	Lisa and Julie	Mrs Dewhurst
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Lisa, Gillian & Julie	Mrs Dewhurst, Mr & Mrs Pickles and Mrs Smalley
21 <sup>st</sup> November	Lisa	Mrs L Redshaw
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Jean and Sue	Mrs Smallwood
5 <sup>th</sup> December	All arrangers	Mrs Coxhead and Mrs Blakeley
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Julie	Mrs Houghton
19 <sup>th</sup> December }	All arrangers	
26 <sup>th</sup> December }		
<u>2022</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Julie and Lisa	-

## Tea/Coffee Rota

14 <sup>th</sup> November	Nina and Gill
21 <sup>st</sup> November	Alan and Monica
28 <sup>th</sup> November	John and Honey
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Lynn and Carole
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Mike and Joan
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Nina and Gill
26 <sup>th</sup> December	Alan and Monica
2 <sup>nd</sup> January	John and Honey

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### St James the Least of All

**There are more frightening things than bishops out there....**

The Rectory  
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

You really should not worry about having reversed your car into the bishop's gatepost, knocking it over and destroying his rose-beds. It gives him an opportunity to exercise Christian forgiveness. Your real mistake was scribbling a note of apology and pushing it through his letterbox. Far better would have been to have sent an anonymous letter (and to have written it on lined notepaper in capital letters, preferably in green ink, to make it look truly authentic) saying that you had seen the archdeacon do it, and then you had watched him drive off without stopping. That would have taken the minds of the senior clergy away from parish matters for quite some time.

No, never worry about the wrath of bishops; dangers lurk much nearer home. For a start, never incur the displeasure of your flower arrangers. I only crossed their path once – and arrived in church the following Sunday, to see a ten-foot-high floral arrangement at the front of church. I assumed it was by way of making amends, until I discovered it had been placed in front of the pulpit. I was obliged to preach, hidden behind a large multi-coloured hedge, while the congregation listened to what were apparently talking chrysanthemums.



A colleague offended his own ladies and arrived to find that the contents of the safe had been removed and replaced with all those exotic pieces of equipment that seem to be indispensable for arranging flowers. He was obliged to administer Communion using a small vase until peace was re-established and his chalice returned to him.

Similarly, organists are a delicate breed. Congratulate him on the anthem, and if it happened to be unaccompanied, he would assume you were implying that the services were better without his playing. Offend your organist and you can be guaranteed that hymns will be played at either half or double speed, stopping one verse short and that the final piece of music as you process out will stop, leaving you and the choir stranded halfway down the aisle.

And finally, never, ever upset your verger. One forgotten Christmas present and you can be sure you will get half-way through a baptism to find he hasn't put water in the font; at marriage services, the sheets for last week's funeral will have been accidentally put out and when you sit in your stall you will discover where he now stores the mop and bucket.

No, bishops are warm, fluffy bunnies; real dangers lurk much nearer home.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace



### Pause for Thought

What if there were no hypothetical questions?

Is there another word for synonym?

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

What was the best thing since sliced bread?

How is it possible to have a civil war?

### Replace

Did you know? By replacing chocolate with a carrot as a snack, you can lose up to 90% of what little joy you still have left in your life.



## Word Search

Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on His people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all - His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| Messiah   | Whoever  |
| Broken    | longing  |
| Heart     | thousand |
| Freedom   | Jesus    |
| Darkness  | seen     |
| Favour    | Father   |
| Prisoners | God      |
| Comfort   | Son      |
| Mourn     | Ashes    |
| Bestow    | Beauty   |
| Crown     |          |

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| O | E | N | G | H | I | S | W | E | M | E | A |
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| E | R | C | D | S | B | E | S | T | O | W | M |



# At the heart of Christmas



But Mary treasured all these words  
and pondered them in her heart.

*Luke 2.19*



*Come and join us at St Michael's  
to celebrate Christmas*



Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 3.45pm  
**TOY AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICE  
IN CHURCH**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm  
**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**



**CHRISTMAS EVE  
4pm CRIB SERVICE**

and **MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**  
at 11.30pm



**CHRISTMAS DAY at 10.30am FAMILY SERVICE with  
Carols and Communion**

