

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS WHAT WE HAVE
GOING ON!

February Schedule of Services

Date	9:00 service	10:30 service	Other
1 st Feb	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
3 rd Feb			Midweek Service 10:15am
4 th Feb			Little Angels 9:30
8 th Feb	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	
10 th Feb			Midweek Service 10:15am
11 th Feb			Little Angels 9:30
15 th Feb	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Pancake Church
17 th Feb Shrove Tuesday			Midweek Service 10:15am
18 th Feb Ash Wednesday			NO LITTLE ANGELS 7pm- Ash Wednesday Service
22 nd Feb	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	

THIS MAGAZINE WAS DESIGNED, AND PRODUCED BY ADINA
JENSEN. FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT
ADINA.JENSEN07@GMAIL.COM

ST. MICHAEL'S TIMES



PARISH MAGAZINE- JAN-FEB 2026

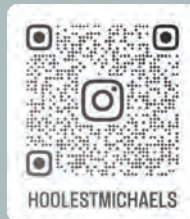
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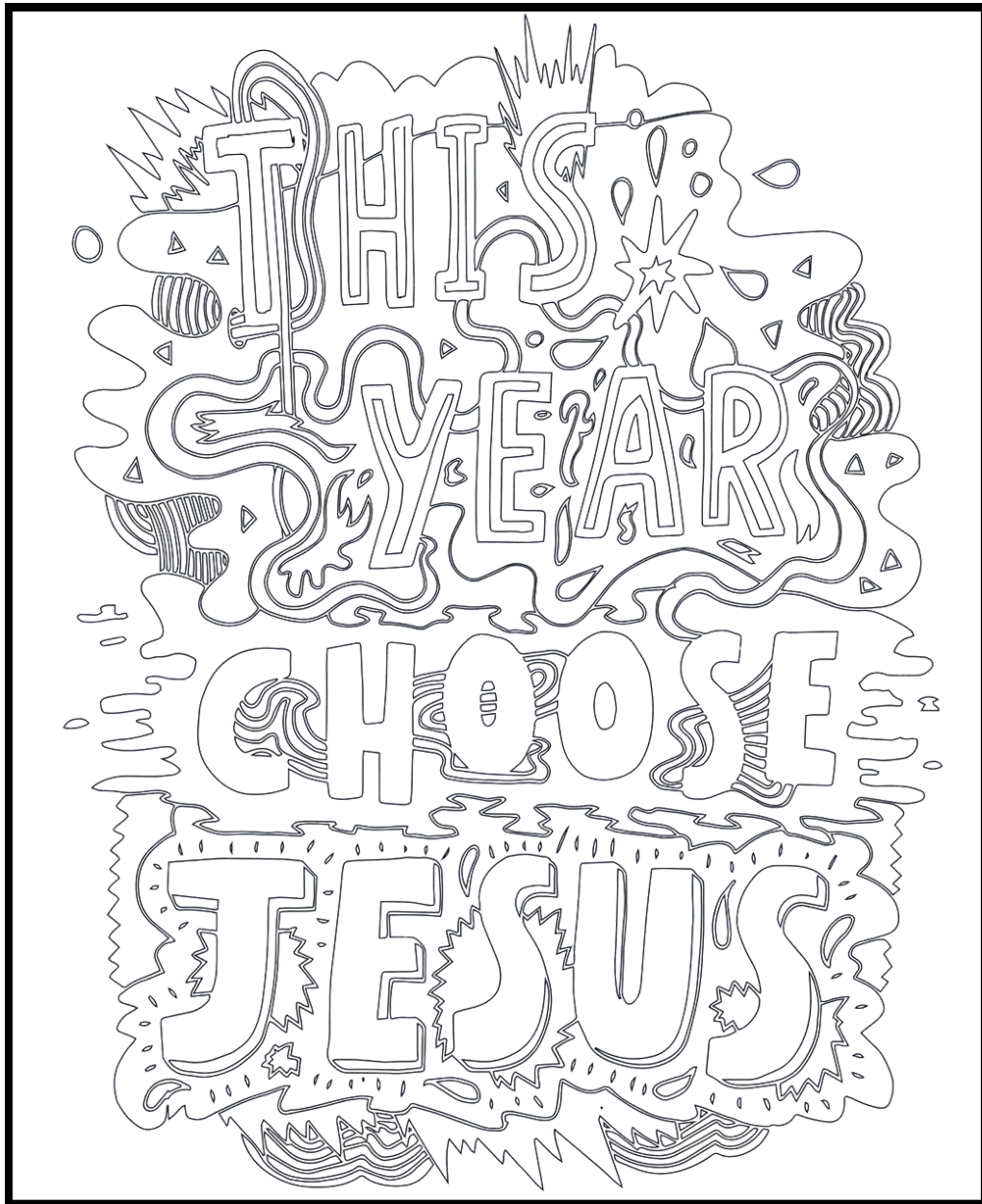


Our church is open everyday from
9:30am- 4pm (8:30 on sundays)

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS WHAT WE HAVE
GOING ON!

January Schedule of Services

Date	9:00 service	10:30 service	Other
4 th Jan	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
6 th Jan			Midweek Service 10:15am
7 th Jan			Little Angels 9:30 Bible Study 14:30
11 th Jan	Morning Prayer	Morning Worship	Family Church
13 th Jan			Midweek Service 10:15am
14 th Jan			Little Angels 9:30 Bible Study 19:00
18 th Jan	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	
20 th Jan			Midweek Service 10:15am
21 st Jan			Little Angels 9:30 Bible Study 19:00
25 th Jan	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	
27 th Jan			Midweek Service 10:15am
28 th Jan			Little Angels 9:30



GET IN TOUCH WITH US

NEED HELP WITH A WEDDING, FUNERAL
OR BAPTISM?

Curate in Charge- Revd Mandy Hughes
stmichaelshoole@outlook.com
07791 532461

*if you're not
sure- start
here!*

Parish Office & Administrator-
Sharon Gregson
stmichaelshoole@outlook.com
07802 245634

Church Warden
Jane Elphick
candjelpick@hotmail.com
07977 201199

NEED HELP WITH YOUTH WORK OR
SCHOOL?

Children and Young Peoples Minister-
Liz Boland
lizboland@yahoo.co.uk
07903 200204

Little Angels Baby and Toddler Group-
Revd Mandy Hughes
stmichaelshoole@outlook.com
07791 532461

Headteacher- Hoole St Michael's Primary School
Mrs Rebecca Holland
head@hoole.lancs.sch.uk
01772 613219

WANT TO JOIN A GROUP?

Ladies Group - Erika Penrose
johnanderika.penrose@gmail.com
01772 613816

Mens Group - Jock Davidson
sgtmajor@talktalk.net
07902 441055

Flower Group -
Lisa Redshaw
01772 614428

ANYTHING ELSE?

Parish Safeguarding Officer -
Jenny Tomlinson
stmichaelshoole@outlook.com
07984 797548

Health & Safety Officer -
Colin Wilson
southview1953@tiscali.co.uk
07905 719831

Verger
Irene Pickles
stanpickles13@gmail.com
07747 607552

Joint Treasurers
Barbara Wood - bw12252@hotmail.com
07745 208617
Andy Smith - andrew.smith8118937@btinternet.com
07771 983726

Magazine Subscription

We do hope you are enjoying our new look magazine, which on average, is produced bi-monthly with a full parish circulation at Easter and Christmas.
Your next annual subscription of £10 is due in January 2026 which can be paid by one of the following methods:

Cash or cheque: to your distributor

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Many thanks
Barbara Wood
Treasurer to the PCC

Next Parish Magazine Submission Deadline

1st February 2026

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Puzzles

Easy

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

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Moderate

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7					1			
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			5	9	4			
	6	2						1

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Farewell from the Leadership Team

As you will see elsewhere in this magazine – if you haven't already heard – it was with enormous pleasure that we were able to announce, on 7th December 2025, that Revd Mandy Hughes has been appointed by Bishop Philip as Curate in Charge of St Michael's, with Revd Sam Crossley, of St Andrew's Longton, having overall responsibility as Priest in Charge while Revd Mandy completes her curacy.

This means that we are no longer in vacancy! It has been quite a journey over the last fourteen months while we have been trying to find the right person to lead our church into the future. At the start of that period, in October 2024, we created a Leadership Team made up of members of the PCC, with the idea of having a team approach to keeping as many of our church activities as possible alive and developing in the absence of a Rector. There have been a lot of challenges, but also wonderful reminders of just how rewarding it is to lead a

committed, supportive and encouraging church like St Michael's. We have had so much support – from Bishop Joe, various Diocesan advisers, Revd Andy Meeson (until recently our Area Dean), many visiting ministers, and Archdeacon Mark (until his retirement). We have worked closely with the PCC, who have been active and extremely helpful, and we have had brilliant support from our congregation.

And now the leadership model will change. Revd Mandy will be taking St Michael's forward, and will be in overall charge of the everyday running of our church. However, she is keen to maintain a team approach since this has worked so well, and of course the PCC (which meets every two months) will remain actively involved in planning and decision making. All the members of the leadership team will retain roles within the new model. Revd Mandy will lead worship, but you will continue to see visiting Ministers on

preside at Communion until June 2026, and she will also be assisted sometimes by Revd David Dickinson who, as a retired minister, now has Permission to Officiate at services and has chosen St Michael's as his home church. Margaret Kirkman, our Occasional Preacher, will continue to assist by leading worship and preaching – occasionally - on Sundays, and she will also be supporting Revd Mandy with Bible Study. Liz Boland, our Children and Young People's Minister, will continue to run our successful Family Church each month, as well as leading Children's Church most Sundays (formerly Sunday School) and working closely with St Michael's School. Services will also continue at Ribble Court and Old Mill Court, and in the Lodge on Tuesday mornings, facilitated by these worship leaders.

The other members of the Leadership Team will support Revd Mandy in regard to her responsibilities for the overall running of the church. Barbara Wood, our Treasurer, will be handling all things financial, while Jane Elphick, Churchwarden, and Jock Davidson, Churchwarden Emeritus, will manage responsibility for the churchyard, church building, and (with the assistance of sidespeople) the organisation of services.

So it is farewell from us as a stand-in team, and an enormous thankyou to everyone who has helped and encouraged us during the vacancy period. We are delighted to be able to support Revd Mandy's vision for St Michael's, and to use everything we've learned to help her move us forward into another exciting year and beyond.

Jane Elphick
Church Warden



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Hello and welcome to all things new, and a very and Happy and Blessed New Year to all of our readers! We hope to see you at one of our services this year, there is always a very warm welcome.



The St Michael's Times, this Parish magazine, has a new look for the new year, and we would love to get your feedback. Let us know what you think (let me know, or drop us an email!).

Following up from Jane's article, thank you for the wonderful reception and support I have received after being appointed as your new Curate in Charge, taking us out of vacancy (or Interregnum). I am really looking forward to serving the Parish over the next few years. Many of you will remember my late husband Revd Steve Hughes. He was Rector of St Michael's in the early 2000s and had a longstanding connection to Hoole. Never in a million years did I think I would be called to serve you all 24 years later. I think Steve would be chuckling about this now!

Our joint Ministry took us to Birmingham, Romania, to Hoole, Kent, and North Wales, with me returning 5 years ago in the midst of Covid, following Steve's death in 2019. Moving back to Hoole alone, I was able to finally answer my call to the Ministry as a Church of England Priest. This followed a long period of discernment, many interviews, and theological college training. Finally, I was Ordained in June 2025 (Ordination as a Priest will be in June this year). This is a journey that we have all been on: the Parish, family, friends, and the Diocese of Blackburn. So, as I've said to the congregation, you are stuck with me now.

continued overleaf...



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Karen

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I am 63 years of age, and God has not finished with me yet. After a lifetime of work in healthcare, local authority, charity and so on, here I am starting again. It's never too late. God has a plan for all of us, maybe for most not so drastic, but nevertheless everything he calls us to do is big in the Kingdom. Everything is important and vital: clean the Church? Pray for someone? Help with Children's Church? Lead worship? Or maybe you even feel you want to be a licensed reader or lay minister or even Ordination. Stranger things have happened. Listen to that call.

God is calling us all urgently to bring in his Kingdom on earth. We have celebrated his birth, now let's ask him to come again ASAP, this world certainly needs it. If you are not a regular church goer, or searching to learn about faith in Jesus, or not sure what you believe, please come to us. You are invited to contact us for a chat or join one of our Bible Studies and so on. Come to Church in whatever situation you are in, you don't have to be the finished article, we are all finding our way.

Remember, God loves you and is calling you, please come and find out. Hebrews 11:11 says to us "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" We don't know what God has in store for us, but we will never find out unless we step out in Faith.

Rev Mandy






Neal Buckley

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In order to meet our commitments, we know your support is our primary source of revenue. You ensure our church continues to thrive by funding clergy, the necessary running costs and a variety of worship which includes welcoming family-friendly services of all types.

We would therefore respectfully ask each and every one of you to continually review your Giving to God's work via his Church. Ideally, we would ask you to do this on an annual basis. So, if it is about a year since you last reviewed your giving, could you please take time out now to think, reflect and pray for guidance.

Thank you most especially to our planned givers; those of you who donate via standing order or the regular giving envelope system because this is an essential element in our budgeting for the year ahead.

2026 PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

(they are pink this year)

These have been available for collection from church since the beginning of December, so if you haven't got yours and you were expecting one, please check church or get in touch.

Not a Planned Giver?

If are a tax payer and do not donate via one of the above methods and would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As a result of ALL the donations we have received in 2025, by whatever method,
our projected Gift Aid & GASDS refund claim, to be submitted to HMRC in 2026 is **£10,500.00**.
once again, thank you to you all

Barbara Wood on behalf of the PCC
Treasurer & Gift Aid Recorder

Giving at St Michaels

The Church relies completely on the generosity of donations and gifts from both members and visitors. If you wish to contribute, you have several options:

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- Use a credit or debit card with our card reader located in the Lodge.
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THE GIFT FOR ALL THE WORLD

by Margaret Kirkman, Occasional Preacher

In the time span of this magazine, the Church has two major celebrations which clearly demonstrate that the gift of God's love and salvation is made to and for the whole world.

On January 6th we celebrate Epiphany which marks the coming of the "Three Kings" to visit the Baby Jesus. We say three, because there were three gifts, but the Bible doesn't tell us how many and certainly doesn't say they are kings. More likely, simply wise men. We concentrate on the significance of their gifts, on the fact that they followed a star a long way and focus on their decision to not report back to Herod once they had found the Child....yet where did they come from?

One Carol says, "from Eastern lands afar", that's probably Persia (now Iran), Babylon and Arabia as these were regions known for their study of astrology and knowledge of the stars.

But I think we are missing a very important point, regardless of the number of visitors or the status of these travellers being led to Jesus, interestingly they were not of the Jewish religion or community. They were Gentiles (non-Jews) just like you and me. Epiphany represents Christ being shown to and worshipped by people from far away from his homeland. God's call to recognise his Son as Saviour of the world has transcended borders of land and religion....and long may it be so.



continued overleaf...

The second celebration is perhaps less well known. On 2nd February we celebrate Candlemas, the official end of the Christmas season, when all the candles are blessed for the following year. The day also marks the presentation of Jesus in the temple. According to tradition, 40 days after his birth, Mary and Joseph took their baby to the temple to be blessed. When they arrived, they were met by an elderly priest called Simeon who had been told he would not die until he saw the Messiah. He takes the baby in his arms, praises God and proclaims that Jesus' future role will be "a light for the relegation to the Gentiles". Again, the message of God's love and Salvation is assured for ALL.



At a time when there is so much hatred and enmity between nations, religions and communities it is of paramount importance to remember that God's love and Salvation is there for each and every one of us...and that as recipients of that most precious gift, we must pass it on and share it as Christ's messengers on earth.

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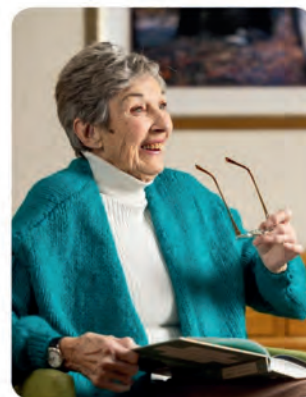
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Feb 5	Sid Calderbank (Lanky Dialect) Lanky songs and poems that remember actual Lancashire events written by local authors
Mar 5	Kell Wind Trio Distinguished Flute/Clarinet/Bassoon Trio delight with Haydn, Shostakovich and Sullivan
Apr 2	Dunelm Duo (Flute/Sax & Piano) Inspiring Lancashire-based duo play a light contemporary and traditional programme
May 7	Dr Kevin Morgan (Pipe Organ) Enjoy a fun recital of light and popular music, performed on the lovely Ainscough pipe organ.
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Confirmation welcomes individuals into a deeper relationship with God, symbolising a reaffirmation of faith and commitment to Jesus. Both adults and teens affirm their own promises, affirming their faith made during baptism. We hold an annual confirmation course to prepare you for this important step. Please get in touch on stmichaelshoole@outlook.com for more information.

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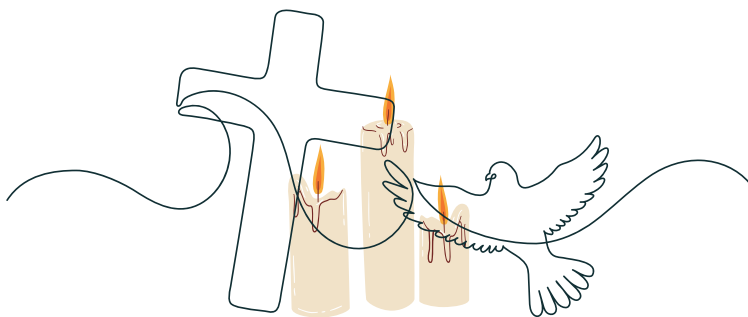
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We can also guide you towards prayer resources or people who can help in special situations. You don't need to attend Church to receive prayer, but we would love to welcome you to our family, where you can find peace and comfort.

Thank you our prayers are with you,
Revd Mandy Hughes





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14th November

NOEL BERNARD FOWLER aged 83 years of Walmer Bridge.

25th November

NICHOLAS HENRY SLINGER aged 77 years of Longton.

Nick had been a busy man, he was a farmer through and through, he kept a close eye on the natural order of things and he loved the world around him. The very nature of his work meant that he continually put his trust unfailingly in God. After marrying Gill, he re-kindled his faith and became a regular worshipper along side her at St Michaels. He enjoyed singing the hymns, particularly the lively ones, and one of the more modern ones – a particular favourite being sung at his funeral, when many friends from church and the farming community filled the church to celebrate his life. We continue to pray for Gill and all of her family.

28th November BERYL MARY CARR aged 85 years of Walmer Bridge.

Beryl was a lifelong member of St Michaels, following a long line of the Mortimer family who had worshipped here regularly. For many years she and Bill (who pre-deceased her by about eighteen months) had been such stalwarts that it really saddened Beryl when ill health prevented her from attending. However, she never lost her faith and really looked forward to regularly receiving Holy Communion at home. She was determined that her funeral service should be a real celebration and a good sing, which it was, when four of her favourite hymns were sung. We continue to pray for her children Andrew and Debbie and their families.

OUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

As we start 2026, I am excited about what God is doing in the lives of our children and families.

In November, we made some changes to Sunday School and began to focus more on our discussion and prayers than on our crafts (although they still play an important role in each session). We changed how we were sitting, to sit in a semi-circle, with the new table in the Lodge laid with the cross and candle, rather than round a table. This gives it a more church feel than school feel and the children have responded well.

Our big change will come in January, when we change the name of Sunday School to Children's Church, which will hopefully help people of all ages to see this as an extension of the service happening in the church building.

In Family Church, we have been busy with Light Party Church in November, and the Toy & Christingle at the beginning of December, and we look forward to the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. In Light Party Church we made lighthouses out of Pringles tubes (obviously we had to eat the Pringles first!) and decorated cakes and star biscuits, which also needed eating at the end. During the session, we made stained glass windows as our prayers, played 10 pin bowling in the dark and did a scavenger hunt. Added to all this, we thought about God bringing light to our world.

Children and Families
at St Michael's Church



Our annual Toy & Christingle was again, well attended, with children and families coming together to think about the miracle of Jesus coming at Christmas and the symbolism of the Christingle. We are grateful to the children from St Michael's School who made all our Christingles, and then some of them came across and decorated the Lodge for Christmas.

Coming up in the New Year we have the launch of Children's Church on 4 January, and King's Church on 11 January at 3:45 in the Venue.

Dates our families need to know:

4 Jan 10:30 Children's Church
11 Jan 3:45 King's Church in the Venue
18 Jan 10:30 Children's Church
25 Jan 10:30 Children's Church
1 Feb 10:30 Children's Church
8 Feb 3:45 Pancake Church in the Venue
15 Feb 10:30 Children's Church
22 Feb 10:30 Children's Church

Christingle & Toy Service



Light Church



Ladies Group

MONTHLY MEETING 2PM (3RD THURSDAY)

The Venue, Much Hoole

Any enquiries please contact Erika Penrose on
07791 068360 or 01772 613816
johnanderika.penrose@gmail.com

Ladies Group Update

At our November meeting Fiona Smithson's talk was entitled "Victorians Unbuttoned". She gave us great insight into the dressing of a Victorian lady from top to toe and showed us examples of the many layers involved including chemises; corsets; corset covers; drawers and petticoats – all worn under the actual dresses. On top were worn bustles; bones worn at the front of the chest to keep the back straight and cage crinolines – all of which must have been very uncomfortable to wear. It's not surprising that the builders had to provide wide doorways in what are now National Trust properties!

Our Christmas Celebration evening at the Venue went extremely well – we received many compliments about the entertainment by the incredibly talented Katy Bradley and several people asked if we had outside caterers for the buffet – we didn't of course as the committee provided it all! We have sent the amazing amount of £940 to the Alzheimer's Society in memory of our past leader, Joan Wilson who sadly died this year, and I would like to thank everyone for being so generous – first of all for coming and also for spending at the Bring & Buy and Raffle.

Our next event is the Annual General Meeting to be held at the Venue on Thursday 15th January at 2.00pm when subs of £15 will be payable and the new programme for 2026 will be available – plus we will have our exciting Beetle Drive! Anyone who may be interested in coming along to our meetings would be made very welcome – you could try us for a month before committing to membership. We are a friendly group and do welcome new members. Do give me a call on 07791 068360 or 01772 613816.

Erika Penrose
Leader



KINGS CHURCH

11th January

3:45pm

The Venue, Much Hoole

All Families Invited

Cake

Games

Bible stories

Songs

Crafts

Reg Charity Number 1214863

HOOLE ¹⁷ST MICHAEL
CHURCH
TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN



LITTLE ANGELS

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

EVERY WEDNESDAY 9:30-11:00AM

HOOLE ST MICHAELS, THE LODGE, PR4 5JQ

TERM TIME
ONLY

£2.50



Men's Group

**Tuesdays (2nd of every month)
19:30**

The Venue, Much Hoole

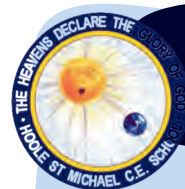
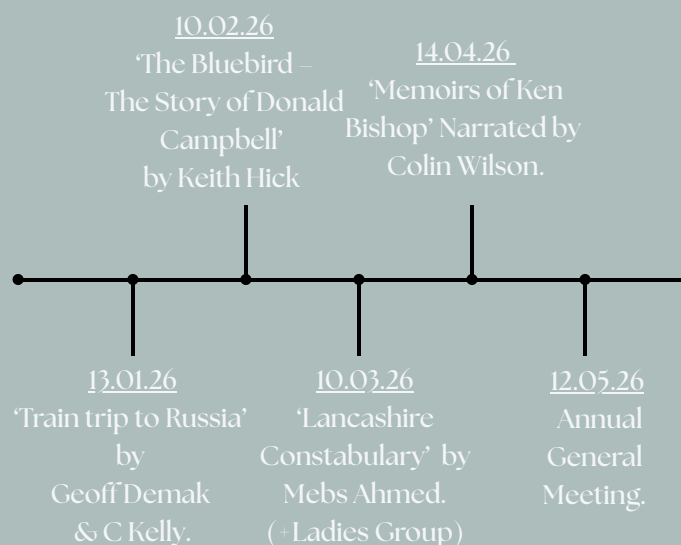
**for enquiries please contact
Jock Davidson - 07902 441055
sgtmajor@talktalk.net**

Men's Group Update

Our most recent meeting on November 11th was very appropriately named 'Battlefields and Poppy Fields', which was an illustrated and interesting presentation by Steve Williams. We followed some of the routes taken, particularly in France by troops in both World Wars. There were before, during and after scenes with also a look at some of the extensive and beautifully maintained war cemeteries. Falling as it did on Remembrance Day, the whole evening was quite a moving experience.

By the time of reading this article we will also have had our Annual Christmas Meal together on December 9th.

We are always ready to welcome new members to our meetings which commence at 7.30pm in the Village Hall meeting room. Annual membership is just £10.00 plus a contribution of £2.00 on each meeting night to cover expenses, our special dates and topics for early 2026 are as follows:



Life at Hoole St Michael C of E Primary School

I am excited to celebrate the wonderful life we share at Hoole St Michael Primary School. We are proud to be able to enrich the education of the children who attend our lovely school. Our dedicated team work hard to ensure we provide the best opportunities for our children to thrive.

To support all of our children to achieve, we ensure that pupil and staff wellbeing is rooted in all we aim to do. This helps our children to live out our Christian values while still reaching their very best potential.

To make sure we have started this academic year with a positive start we have been working hard to improve our school environment, the children supported this project during mental health day where we all dressed in yellow to mark the occasion took part in mindful meditation and reflection activities. This day concluded with our children spending the afternoon outdoors planting blooms that are still thriving even in the cold of December.

We provide lots of opportunities for our children to reflect, we all put on our odd socks to celebrate the uniqueness within our school community and came to school in our pyjamas to support children in need, a great opportunity to raise money for charitable causes but also be thankful for all we have.

It is not all purely about fun, the whole school took part in World War week. This week we focused all our work in being immersed in the topic. In maths we talked about rations and in our English work we wrote letters to family. We thoroughly enjoyed our music, where we learned war time songs and came together to share our new learning in a celebration event where we dressed up as war time nurses, soldiers or evacuees.





As we move to colder weather, this does not deter the children at Hoole St Michael! We are always outside making the most of our beautiful school grounds and working hard in our outdoor classroom and forest school.

The pace has not slowed down as we enter the festive period, our choir have proudly been sharing the good news to all who are willing to listen. We have taken part in the Longton Winter Wonderland, opened our very successful Christmas fair, sang at the locals lunch at the Venue and will end on a

a tuneful note with our carol service in Church. We are excited to host the Much Hoole Tractor Convoy supporting Charities that affect many people within our local community. All the festive sparkle does not overshadow the children exploring the true meaning of Christmas, shared in the most beautiful way through our school nativity.

As we look forward to spring with the new blooms and fresh opportunities, we are thankful for the dedicated team at Hoole but are always supportive of willing volunteers to support ongoing projects. We will be working to improve our outdoor classroom and welcome expertise from the community to support this project. We will be raising funds for this project through Easter Bingo in school and will be sharing our love and appreciation for those dear to us with our mother's day service in the Spring term.

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

Pancake Church



at Much Hoole Village Hall
3.45 pm Sun. 15 February

PANCAKE DECORATING & RACES

FUN & GAMES

REFRESHMENTS

CRAFT






Designed by Grace Wignall



Toy and Christingle Service



If you would like to join us on the Flower team, you would be very welcome. Please contact Lisa Redshaw on 01772 614428.

HOOLE ST MICHAEL CHURCH
THE CHURCH'S GARDEN AND WOODLAND RESOURCES

St Michael's Flower Group

In addition to providing beautiful flower arrangements for our regular services, Christmas, Harvest and Easter.

If you are having a wedding, baptism or memorial at our church, then get in touch today! For a very reasonable price, we can help bring your special event to life!

We are able to provide arrangements through-out the year for pedestals, windowsills, pew ends, and the Lychgate

Contact Lisa Redshaw
for more information on
01772 614428



The primary school is hiring a caretaker/ site manager (permanent, 3 hours per school day). Please check out the website to apply today!

Honey Bees Nursery



✿ Ages 3 - 4 years

✿ Early Years Foundation Stage

Standards for learning

✿ Forest School provision

✿ Early Education funding can be used

✿ Access to before & after school

care 7:45am - 5:45pm

Ofsted 2021 'Leaders promote reading well. Staff teach phonics in a logical order, this supports pupils in key stage 1 and children in the early years, to learn sounds.'

CONTACT US

HOOLE ST MICHAEL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

BURSAR@HOOLE.LANCS.SCH.UK

01772 613219



Flower Team

The final two months of the year are busy times for the flower team, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas - poppies in November and this year, white baubles and beautiful green foliage for Christmas, always with lots of sparkling lights! The days we are all in church are always very sociable as well as busy – lots of home-made cake, coffee and tea are consumed.

For Remembrance this year a beautiful arrangement in front of the altar perfectly captured the mood of the occasion, and the wonderful display of knitted poppies in the churchyard was awe inspiring.



Our 2025 Christmas arrangements have used garden and hedgerow foliage to showcase the beauty of the natural world, which together with the re-use of pre-loved white and green baubles and Christmas lights, are all very eco-friendly. The crowning glory is, of course, the Christmas tree, but what a delight it was too to see so many gifts, given so generously, for children and mothers in the local women's refuge.



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in Him this Christmas time