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If you have received this newsletter by hand and have an email address to which it could be sent, please could you let Ann Templeman know by email as above.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH MUCH HOOLE

NEWSLETTER

**HE IS RISEN! -
"YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE"**



MAY 2020

WELCOME!

Welcome to the first ever St Michael's newsletter.

It's not possible to deliver all the church magazines at present so we thought you would appreciate a Newsletter. We are sending this out electronically to all those for whom we have email addresses and will aim to deliver what we can to those who usually have a magazine but are not on email. We will also leave spares in the church porch for people to pick up. Ideas and suggestions for future possible publications would be gratefully received.

With best wishes, Ann and Erika



FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Parishioner,

Peter and I watched the video last night of the new record breaking number one hit with Captain Tom Moore and Michael Ball - 'You'll never Walk Alone'. How amazing and moving is that!

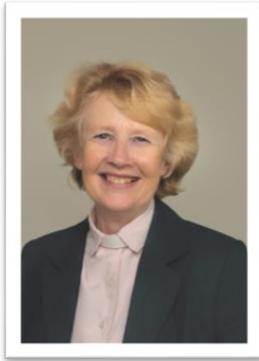
We had just finished recording the Sunday service for 26th April about the Risen Jesus walking unrecognised beside two of his followers. What a great song while we are pondering the world's greatest true story – every Christian can say he will never walk alone. Jesus is there beside him every minute of life's journey in the good times and the bad: loving, supporting, guiding.

It has been lovely to meet many of you in our daily walks round the Village and make new friends too. Today our new friends included a speedy tortoise and a bearded dragon! Thank you too for all those of you who have said you have enjoyed our virtual services on our website or Facebook (see front page). You will appreciate that this has been rather a steep learning curve for us and we are very grateful for your helpful suggestions for improvements.

You will find in this newsletter extracts from several of these services which I hope you will find helpful if you haven't been able to access them on our website www.hooleparishchurch.com or Facebook page.

Thank you too to all those of you who are helping with shopping etc in the community and those who are keeping in touch with each other on the telephone and virtually. As I explained in my last email we now have the Food bank hamper in the church porch so people can donate. We are emptying that on a regular basis.

Nine of us so far have been enjoying a Zoom Bible study discussion on Wednesday evening at 7.40pm. We have looked at the account of Jesus' resurrection in Mark's Gospel and talked about the Resurrection. It's great that modern technology means this is possible. And please let me assure you that it is really easy if you are accustomed to going on line. Let me know if you would like to give next week's a try.



“News” from St Michael’s Churchyard

“Don't panic! We are here to help”

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is William Reginald Rabbit of the 10th Warren of Much Hoole - a highly respected and long established rabbit family.

We understand that people are not allowed in the church at the moment due to a human disease so we would like to offer our help.

We have moved from the burrow at the back of the graveyard to our new home below the majestic plane tree at the entrance so that we can oversee the land. To help you at this difficult time we are trimming back the flowers in the border near the church entrance on a daily basis. We kept the pansies and wallflowers totally under our control. We are looking forward to helping you trim back the summer bedding plants which should be arriving soon (primula are my personal favourites!)

St. Michael's is such a beautiful church in beautiful grounds so, please don't worry - we will make sure none of the new plants spread and take over (or even flower!)

Hoping that this brightens your day

Yours sincerely,

William Reginald Rabbit.



'MY PEACE I GIVE YOU, DO NOT BE AFRAID' said Jesus

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncer-
tainty and distress.*

*Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice
in your comfort,
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in
Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen*



Several people have asked if we can find a way of praying for one another more, so I will be leaving a box for prayer requests for people or situations in the church porch. Alternatively please ring, email or put prayer requests through our door. I will assume you are happy for me to share these prayer requests with others unless you tell me to the contrary. There are some prayers in this Newsletter for you to use. With prayers and best wishes
Ann Templeman
Rector. April 25th 2020.



VE DAY—FRIDAY 8th MAY



Sadly, we cannot celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on May 8th and 10th as planned but we hope to be able to do so on Remembrance Sunday weekend - 6th-8th November. On Sunday 8th November we are planning to hold the civic Service of Thanksgiving at 10.30am. The Rector would love to receive some written memories from those of you who we old enough to remember the celebrations especially if you lived locally. We will then use those memories in the service.

Extracts from recent sermons

(Full text available on our website hooleparishchurch.com)

EASTER SUNDAY—Matthew 28: v 1-10

No-one will ever forget Lockdown. Our grandchildren are all keeping Lockdown diaries which I am sure they will want to show to their own children. Our life now is History in the making. And we know when it's all over that the world will be a different world. There will be no 'getting back to normal' - things have changed irrevocably. Our social, our political, our financial landscapes – the whole of our lives- can never be the same again.

As we wrestle with that disturbing truth, it is Easter morning. Jesus, the One who was crucified, dead and buried is not in the tomb. The tomb is empty. The women - ever practical in handling their grief - had set off to anoint the body. Their world had been shattered but instead of remaining in their self-imposed lockdown despite their fear of the authorities, they decided that they had to do something. They got as we heard much more than they bargained. Matthew's account of the first Easter Day is much the most dramatic of the 4 Gospels: an earthquake, an angel, the guards unconsciousand then the earth shattering news that Jesus is not there. He has been raised from the dead just as He said He would be. Matthew is making it crystal clear that God is at work here, supernaturally; He is starting something completely new; the world can never be the same again. A new era is beginning and the women were the ones who were to begin the great task of telling others that Jesus is alive and everything has changed.

Look for a moment at the women's reaction to the Angel's message; afraid yet filled with joy – a mixture of terror and delight. Just as you would be. Faced with the evidence of an empty tomb, of a corpse vanishing, who would not be frightened? And make no mistake the evidence of the empty tomb is solid; those who spend time studying the evidence often end up with an unshakeable conviction that the Resurrection of Jesus is true, that no human explanation satisfactorily explains why the tomb was empty that first Easter morning. If there was still a corpse the authorities would have produced it. If the disciples had known where the body was they would not have given their lives insisting Jesus had risen. If Jesus was not alive and real to his followers then the Christian Church would never have grown exponentially so fast until today a third of the world, over 3 billion people, claim He lives.



THANK YOU FROM OKOROM VILLAGE

The faithfulness and love of the parish of St. Michael's is very special. Uganda is also in lockdown so letters written to you have not been sent. Everything has stopped, schools, churches, shops, post offices, even buses.

However, messages of love and thanks come to you from the community. They now have water at the school and church, having been able to pay for a pipe from the new main water pipe from the lake at Argu to the township of Kapir.

They have also been able to wire the school for electricity, a requirement from the government before they will divert electricity to the school.

This means that children can study at school in the evenings, particularly important for the ones in P7, preparing for the Primary Leaving Examination.

This is a bit like our 11+, it dictates the level of secondary school.

For the last 2 years they have had students reach division 1, a great achievement.

One of the former students of the community, since the involvement of St Michael's, has just completed his MA in International and Diplomatic Studies.

He has also started a profile of a project based at the school (off his own bat and funding), for the vulnerable children in the 6 surrounding villages.

All this is possible because you have helped this small community to develop and reach a potential it only ever dreamed of.

I don't have the words to thank you.

Yoga Ajarun naka Yesu (Greetings in the Resurrection of Jesus)
ka Eyalama da (and thank you).

Elizabeth Swarbrick



WATER AID 2019-2020

In the normal course of events, our annual collection of “jars of change for jars of water” would have concluded at Easter. But worldwide events have overtaken us. So this is the plan:

I am extending the collection period to the end of May to give you a chance to send in your jars full of change if you still have them.

If you live local enough, then please drop them off at my house.

If you cannot bring them yourself, I am more than happy to collect if you live in the area – Much Hoole, Longton, Bretherton, Tarleton or thereabouts.

I will of course take every precaution to comply with Government guidelines when doing this.

My contact details are:

28 Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole, PR4 4RB

07745 208617 / 01772 387404

Bw12252@hotmail.com

The total to date is: £341.77

Many thanks, Barbara Wood



SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

“FROM FEAR TO FAITH”

READING John 20: v19-31.

Back to Thomas, plagued by his doubts. And it is doubt that needs to be dealt with. Someone has said that doubt is the dark room where the devil develops his negatives. Let's notice the good things about Thomas though, at the same time as his doubt.

a) he is honest about his doubt - he can't believe, and he says so

b) he is reasonable in his doubt - he demands evidence. And Christianity has never been frightened of that - it is a rational faith.

c) and lastly Thomas seems to have realised how important the resurrection is. The resurrection is vital - it is everything, or Christianity is nothing. It was essential that Jesus' body had come through death, and that the resurrection is true.

And then a week later, perhaps at the same time, we don't know, Jesus appears. Again Jesus greets them with peace, and immediately turns to Thomas. OK then, do what you demanded; but stop doubting and believe. And Thomas it seems doesn't even need to touch Jesus - he just makes this confession - My Lord and my God, the first human being in the Gospels to address Jesus as God. And then Jesus continues the rebuke. your belief is not so blessed, Thomas, as those who have not seen. You'll probably spend the next week wishing you had believed the others in the first place. And then, in a lovely verse, Jesus refers to all subsequent Christians, including people in 21 century Lancashire "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe". That's us - that's you and me, together with millions of others who have listened to the Gospel story, and who have believed; who have not seen Jesus physically, but have nonetheless believed.

And this peace that Jesus bequeathed is available to us. It does not remove problems like the coronavirus, but Jesus' peace has made all the difference to Christians who over the years have had to face all kinds of problems and difficulties, worries, concerns and anxieties. Jesus' peace can transcend the things we face, and give us a new confidence to go forward, knowing that the future is in His hands.

A BIG THANK YOU

You will all recall I either sent you a letter or an email recently with information relating to the year-end accounts, the APCM, Church income and donations.

This is a big thank you to everyone who has responded by:

- ◆ continuing your standing orders
- ◆ increasing your donation
- ◆ sending that little bit extra
- ◆ sending in your envelope backlog

The response has been very very encouraging, and we are so grateful.

Barbara Wood, On behalf of the PCC

INTERCESSIONS: 26th APRIL 2020

At this most difficult and perplexing time we turn to you, our Heavenly Father for strength and guidance.

Walk for us Lord down the streets of our cities, towns and villages as we pray for our country and our world beset by pandemic – walk today where many of us cannot go because we are in lockdown, visit our friends and family, hug and kiss those whom we love and from whom we are separated, light the candle of love, protection and faith in all our hearts until we can be together again.

Lord in your mercy..... Hear our prayer.

We pray for all our doctors, nurses and carers who continue to tend to the sick. We pray for all essential workers in utility companies, supermarkets, factories; for delivery men and those collecting our waste; for all those who are trying to keep this country functioning. We pray for all those who are home-schooling and for the children coping with learning in a strange environment. Give them your strength to keep up their wonderful work

Lord in your mercy..... Hear our prayer.

We pray for the lonely, those whose mental capacity means that they find it hard to understand the present situation, those for whom life is just too much to bear. We pray for all those we know are sick or suffering from whatever cause and also for their families. Grant them courage and perseverance and grant us continual commitment to recognise and help wherever and whenever we can.

Lord in your mercy.....Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the lives of all those known to us who have died recently and all those whose anniversary falls at this time. We pray for your continuing comfort for all those who mourn

Lord in your mercy....Hear our prayer

Abide with us through this day and this night. Abide with us in our homes and brief journeyings.

Abide with us in our seeking and our longings. Abide with us now and to eternity.

Children's Work Update



It's less than 2 months into my job as Children and Young People's Worker at St Michael's, and I, like everyone else found myself unable to attend church! It is certainly not what I expected when I accepted the job just before Christmas.

But this time physically away from church has not stopped the children's work in our parish. Like Ann and Peter, each week I am producing a virtual Sunday School session with the story, thoughts to help families un-

derstand it, activities, prayers, and a song or two each week. Like so much else, this relies on families doing the activities together, but my hope and prayer is that families will grow in faith together as they worship together.

Just before the church building was closed and we stopped being able to meet together, I was in the process of setting up a new group of older children, who are, or about to be at secondary school. We had spent one enjoyable evening eating pizza, laughing a lot, and discussing what the church could do for them. The aim was to start something after Easter, which obviously was not able to happen, but I am sending them all a Youth for Christ video each week with some ideas to think about.



The videos I am producing are on the church website, YouTube channel and Facebook page from Friday morning each week. You don't have to be a child to watch them – although aimed at the children, they may help adults as well. Ann and Peter's services are in the same places each Saturday. Why not take a look each weekend? We may be physically apart, but we can still worship together.



Liz Boland
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