

## CHURCH DEFLOCKING (with thanks to The Times)

My recent item about pigeons in church led P--- S----- to send a story about three vicars discussing such a problem. "We tried poison but people don't like dead pigeons falling from the rafters during mass," one says. "I tried shooting them but it damaged the roof," says another. "We had this problem but not any more," says the third. "I just catch them, christen and confirm them, let them go and we never see them again."

### Church Bulletins - These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

*And, last but not least –*

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

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

Facebook: 'St Michael and All Angels Church, Hoole'

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

## FEBRUARY 2021



## WELCOME!

Welcome to the third edition of St Michael's Newsletter: we hope you enjoy reading the reports and activities that have been taking place. As we are currently still in lockdown we are again 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,

### COME AND SEE – John 1 v 43- 51

The Christian Church began when Jesus said to two men- “Come and see”. So they met with Jesus and their lives changed for ever – they had met the person they had been seeking all their lives. In their turn they said to their friends, “Come and see”. And so on and so on until today when there are nearly three billion Christians in the world: people of all ages, races and countries. But it began so very simply not with a conference or committee but simply with two people meeting Jesus, finding their heart’s desire and then finding another and saying, “Come and see”.

And that is still the most fruitful way of growing the church. We all know now about the R number – the way we rate the ability of a virus such as Covid to infect - that if the R rate goes over 1 the disease spreads exponentially.

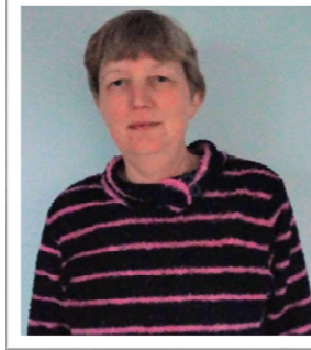
Just think now about the maths of spreading not a disease but the Good News about a Saviour and eternal life. If every Christian in Preston did what these followers of Jesus did in the first two days of the church, and said to just one other person “Come and see”, the entire population of Preston would be in church in one week. Certainly bears thinking about! If only we could match those first two days: one person finds Jesus and in turn he introduces a friend to Jesus and so on and so on.

It started with Jesus finding the two men and saying “Come and See”.

It always starts with Jesus finding us. Even if we are simply curious about Christianity, even if we are simply ‘just looking’ Jesus will honour that. He will find us though we might not make ourselves easy to find. Think of the experience of CS Lewis, author of the Narnia books, who in his autobiography tells of his journey from atheism



## Lockdown Work with Children & Young People in Church



The work with children and young people hasn’t stopped during this lockdown. I seem to be as busy as ever!

Each week, I am sending out a virtual Sunday School lesson with a video and ideas of activities families can do together. The video is uploaded to the church website and the email goes to all families on our database each Friday.

During our Zoom services, I have been taking the children into a breakout room each week for some Sunday School activities, which we have enjoyed each week so far. This gives us a good time to join together as we would normally and chat together as we learn more about God and the Bible. We play games and this week, we will be watching a video together too.

Add to this, the two groups of young people preparing for confirmation being able to meet each fortnight on Zoom, pre recorded and live Collective Worship for St Michael’s School each week, the work with children and young people is carrying on in church.

If you want to know more about any of this, please do get in touch.

Liz Boland

Children & Young People’s Minister

Tel: 07903 200204. [lizboland@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lizboland@yahoo.co.uk)



**FAMILY CHURCH**  
*"Put on the whole armour of light"*

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR**

# LIGHT PARTY

**SUNDAY 14th FEB. 2021**

**3.45 PM - on 'zoom'**

*Please email  
 lizboland@yahoo.co.uk  
 for more info / zoom link*

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
**CRAFT / QUIZ**  
**GLOW STICKS**  
**BIBLE STORY**  
**ALL WELCOME**

Designed by Bruce Wilson

to faith and describes himself as 'the most reluctant convert in Christendom' as he experienced the steady unrelenting approach of God himself. First and foremost Jesus is seeking us.

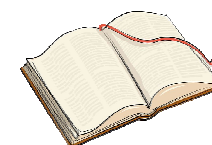
So if you haven't yet been found, why not accept Jesus' invitation to "Come and See".

With prayers and best wishes,  
 Rev Ann

## LENT

For all Christians Lent is a time to take stock and spend more time with God. Perhaps this year we are all aware of our deep need to do that more than ever.

Our Bishops are providing a special booklet of daily Bible readings and prayer entitled Read, Mark and Learn which will take us through the whole of Mark's Gospel. These are completely free and will be at the back of the church for you to help yourself. Just sign your name to say you have taken one.



Lent will begin with a live service of Holy Communion in Church at 6.00pm on Ash Wednesday, February 17th.

We will then use the Tuesday reading each week as the basis for our Zoom Bible study which will be weekly on Tuesdays throughout Lent at 7.30pm starting on February 23rd (Zoom link on website). There will also be a short time of prayer each week on Zoom on Thursdays starting on Feb 24th.

We will let you know about how we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day nearer the time when we know what is possible. We are all hoping and praying that we will be able to return to safe live services for everyone by then.

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP FEBRUARY 7TH AND BEYOND**

**9.00am Holy Communion (said) live in church**

**10.30am Morning Worship on Zoom for all the family**

**Do join us for one of these two services. Zoom services have been a great success. Nearly 50 members of our church family of all ages from 5 to 90 have been joining together at 10.30 on Sunday to worship by Zoom including some who haven't been able to attend church since March.**



**Do try this short Zoom service: there are breakout groups for children in the middle of the service and also a chance to catch up with friends old and new in social breakout groups at the end.**

10:25am: Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9017231554?pwd=RmtZdDYwNmQ3bVpLbDJxQjQyNEJFUT09>

Meeting ID: 901 723 1554  
 Pass code: 709435

The church will continue to be open daily for private prayer and there are prayer resources inside. Weekly suggested Bible readings are to be found on the pew sheet which is published on the website each week. A recording of the Zoom service will be on the website as soon as possible after it finishes. Go to [hooleparishchurch.com](http://hooleparishchurch.com)

Meanwhile why not try out our Zoom bible studies at 7.30pm on Mondays or Tuesdays. Use the same Zoom link as for the Sunday service.

#### PARISH DATES FROM FEBRUARY 2021 ONWARDS

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	7.30 Bible Study by Zoom
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	09.00 Holy Communion in Church 10.30 Morning Worship via Zoom
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30 Bible Study by Zoom
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30 VALENTINE QUIZ AND SOCIAL via Zoom
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	09.00 Holy Communion in Church 10.30 Morning Worship via Zoom 3.45 FAMILY CHURCH LIGHT PARTY VIA ZOOM To book your place and receive your glow sticks please email Liz: <a href="mailto:lizboland@yahoo.co.uk">lizboland@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	ASH WEDNESDAY
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	6.00 Holy Communion in Church 09.00 Holy Communion in Church 10.30 Morning Worship via Zoom
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	7.30 Zoom Bible Study
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30 Short time of Prayer via Zoom
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	09.00 Holy Communion in Church 10.30 Morning Worship via Zoom
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	7.30 Zoom Bible Study
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30 Short time of Prayer via Zoom
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	09.00 Holy Communion in Church 10.30 CONFIRMATION SERVICE in Church with BISHOP JILL DUFF

Zoom link for all Services, Bible studies and prayer times: See above



**VALENTINE'S  
ZOOM QUIZ**

*FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY*  
*at 7.30pm*

*LED BY COLIN & CAROLE*

**Come along and have fun! Bring your choice of drink and nibbles— Colin's quizzes are quickly becoming famous and are not to be missed!**

The link to join our Zoom Valentine's Quiz is:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9017231554?pwd=RmtZdDYwNmQ3bVpLbDJxQjQyNEJFUT09>

**Meeting ID: 901 723 1554**  
**Pass code: 709435**

## **Zooming at St Michael's!**

Our parish made history on Sunday 17th January when we held our first 10.30 Zoom Church Service. Approximately 45 parishioners came along, with Ann and Peter leading us in worship and Carole leading the songs on her organ at home; Liz taking a breakout group of young people to do their own thing during Peter's sermon. After the service Liz split us all into separate groups to have an after-service chat (no tea or coffee though, unless you made your own!)

It all seemed to work very well with no glitches. This modern method of communication is obviously the way to go and we look forward to some more of the same, until we can go back into church when times become more normal.



Dear Lord Jesus,

As we now move from the time of great celebration to the season of lent,

Give us hope, courage, and peace in the wilderness we find ourselves in.

Be with us all, and our brothers and sisters across the world, waiting for your glorious entry to Jerusalem, The pain of the cross and our awe at the resurrection.

As disciples following you dear Lord, may we be able and willing to act to relieve the suffering for others in the wilderness, and spend our 40 days preparing to hand our whole lives to your service and worship. You promise that when we pray you answer us, thank you that this is the truth.

Amen

## **Message from the Church of England**



In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. Starting on 1 February we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love.

Gracious God,

as we remember before you the thousands who have died, surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion.

Be gentle with us in our grief,  
protect us from despair,  
and give us grace to persevere  
and face the future with hope  
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.



## Our new Treasurer – Andy Smith

To introduce myself, I was born in Sharoe Green hospital, Preston and lived in Penwortham until I was 18. On failing the 11+ I attended the then new Lostock Hall Secondary School and from there went on to the Preston 6<sup>th</sup> Form College.

I joined the RAF in 1975, and retired in 2011. I spent most of my career as a Flight Engineer, flying on Transport and Air-to-Air refuelling aircraft, based in Oxfordshire. I was involved in the Falklands, Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts (and survived without even a broken nail)!



Since retiring from the RAF, I have worked as a chauffeur and am currently working testing airline and aircraft planning software, from home.

I have always enjoyed sport, especially these days golf and crown green bowling. I have played most sports in my time and now have two new hips! I enjoy motorcycling – now only when the weather is fair.

My wife, Lynn has been a member of St Michael's for many years, is a former vergers and is now in the choir. Between us we have five children and six grandchildren. Lynn and I had a marriage blessing at St Michael's in 2004 when Steven Hughes was rector.

### WATER AID 2020/2021

Just a reminder folks that even though we are in a Level 5 lockdown and goodness only knows what we have to face yet, our efforts to keep supporting our regular charities goes on.

Water Aid is one of them. Jars are still available in the Church porch to collect and fill.

If you have any full ones to hand in, please leave them in Church in one of the desk drawers near the kitchen door.

Then let me know, so we can arrange collection, counting and banking.

The running total to date is: £94.71. Many thanks.

Barbara Wood - Deputy Treasurer



## GIVING ENVELOPES & TAX STATUS 2021

Hello Everyone – have you picked up your 2021 giving envelopes from Church yet?

The boxes containing the envelopes is at the back of Church beside the font.

Church is open daily from 0930-4.30 approx but if you cannot get to church to do this, I am more than happy to do a delivery service – ring me or email me.

If you have already picked up your envelope box it will have contained a tax status update request.

**Have you returned yours?**

If you donate regularly via any other method, you will have received either an email or a letter, asking the same questions.

**Have you responded?**

If not, Andy and I need this information to ensure our data is up to date and absolutely correct.

**\*\*\*IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO LET US KNOW OF ANY CHANGE IN TAX STATUS\*\*\***

**\*\*\*AS SOON AS YOU BECOME AWARE OF IT\*\*\***

And please consider this...

What about changing to the standing order scheme instead of envelopes, especially during these turbulent times when church services are at sixes and sevens?

Please contact me or your new treasurer, Andy Smith who will point you in the right direction to achieve this.

His details are in the front of the church magazine on our website.

Alternatively...

If you are still in a position to donate, please consider dropping off your donation envelopes with me or Andy – our cash flow situation is pretty grim at the end of this financial year.

Many thanks indeed to everyone who has managed to keep their donations coming in throughout 2020.

Barbara Wood

Gift Aid Recorder to the PCC Hoole Parish Church

07745 208617