

ST MICHAEL'S TIMES

The Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels - Hoole

December - January 2022/2023

A Very Merry Christmas



and a Happy New Year

To Know Christ and Make Him Known

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
AT ST MICHAEL'S

Why not come and join us!

Sunday 4th December at 3.45pm

TOY AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICE IN CHURCH

Sunday 11th December at 6.00pm

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm CRIB SERVICE

11.15pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS DAY

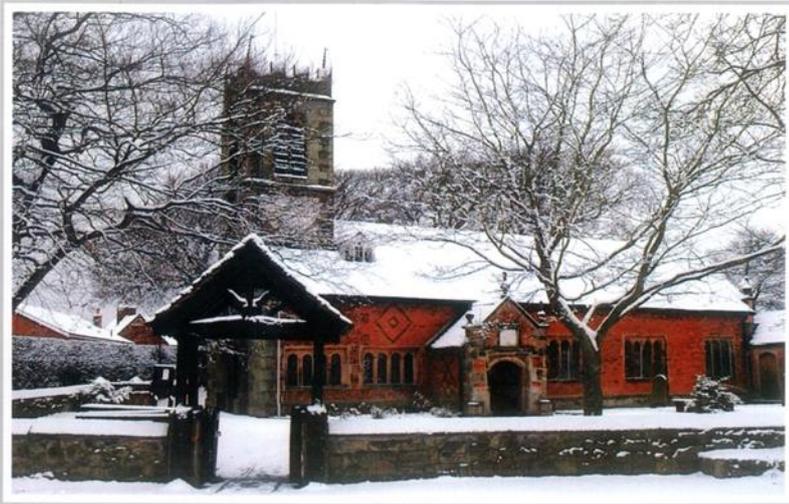
10.30am FAMILY SERVICE

WITH CAROLS AND COMMUNION



ST MICHAEL'S TIMES

December 2022 - January 2023



St. Michael's Church



From the Crib to the Cross

Mandy Hughes, page 10

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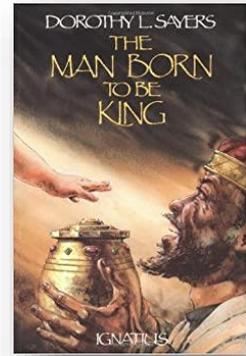
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Lynn Smith climbs
Ben Nevis for charity
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Wilson
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From The Rectory...

‘GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND PEACE ON EARTH...’



‘Peace on earth’. We all long for that. When we say that we are usually thinking about wars ending and people living side by side without conflict. But that has not happened since the beginning of human history.

Human beings unilaterally declared independence from God at the beginning when they turned their back on him - with disastrous consequences. The only way for God to remedy the situation was to come Himself into our world to save them. That is the story of Christmas

The story below-the, **Visited Planet**, puts Christmas in its proper eternal perspective. It is God’s great rescue operation to bring peace first between himself and us his creatures so that He can begin to shape human beings into his likeness and peace can become a reality. It led Jesus to the cross but meant for us that sin and death were defeated. We can now begin to experience inner peace which comes from knowing sins are forgiveness and eternal life is not wishful thinking but reality.

The Visited Planet

Once upon a time a very young angel was being shown round the splendours and glories of the of the universes by a senior and experienced angel. He had been shown whirling galaxies and blazing suns, infinite distances in the cold of inter-stellar space, and to his mind there seemed to be an awful lot of it all. Finally, he was shown the galaxy of which our planetary system is but a small part. As the two of them drew near to the star which we call our sun and to its circling planets, the senior angel pointed to a small and rather insignificant sphere turning very slowly on its axis. It looked as dull as a dirty tennis-ball to the little angel, whose mind was filled with the size and glory of what he had seen.

“I want you to watch that one particularly,” said the senior angel, pointing with his finger.

“Well, it looks very small and rather dirty to me,” said the little angel. “What’s special about that one?”

“That,” replied his senior solemnly, “is the Visited Planet.”

“Visited?” said the little one. “You don’t mean visited by.....?”

“Indeed I do. That ball, which I have no doubt looks to you small and insignificant and not perhaps overclean, has been visited by our young Prince of Glory.” And at these words he bowed his head reverently.

“But how?” queried the younger one. “Do you mean that our great and glorious Prince, with all these wonders and splendours of His Creation, went down in Person to this fifth-rate little ball? Why should He do a thing like that?”

“It isn’t for us,” said his senior a little stiffly, “to question His ‘why’s’, but that He really went I know. As to why He became one of them – how else do you suppose could He visit them?”

The Little angels face wrinkled in disgust.

“Do you mean to tell me,” he said, “that He stooped so low as to become one of those creeping, crawling creatures of that floating ball?”

“I do, strange as it may seem to us, He loves them. He went down to visit them to lift them up to become like Him.”

‘Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.’ It is a great prayer. Let us make it our own this Christmas, turn in penitence and faith to Jesus and receive with joy the salvation He offers to us. Then we will find His peace that passes understanding and begin to learn to share it with others.

**Rev Ann Templeman
Rector**



ST MICHAEL'S DIARY DATES DECEMBER 2022 – JANUARY 2023

Sunday 27th November	9.00am Holy Communion
ADVENT SUNDAY	10.30am Morning Worship with Sunday School
Tuesday 29th November	10.15am Holy Communion in the Lodge
	7.30pm Preparing for Christmas 1- Bible Study in the Lodge
Thursday 1st December	4:30pm Bible & Biscuits in the Lodge
Sunday 4th December	9.00am Holy Communion
	10.30am Parish Communion
	3.45pm TOY AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
Monday 5th December	7.30pm Preparing for Christmas 2 -Bible Study
Tuesday 6th December	7.30pm Ladies Group Christmas Coffee evening in Village Hall
Thursday 8th December	4.30pm Chat & Chocolate in the Lodge
Sunday 11th December	9.00am Holy Communion
	10.30am Morning Worship with Sunday School
	6.00pm CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
Tuesday 13th December	10.15am Holy Communion in the Lodge
Wednesday 14th December	7.00pm Christmas Social in the Lodge -carols with Jacob's Join
Thursday 15th December	4.30pm Bible & Biscuits in the Lodge
Friday 16th December	9.00am St Michael's School Christmas service
Sunday 18th December	9.00am Holy Communion
	10.30am Parish Communion
	12.30pm Sunday School Christmas Party in the Lodge
	2.30pm Chat & Chocolate Christmas Party in the Lodge
Tuesday 20th December	10.15am Holy Communion in the Lodge
CHRISTMAS EVE	4.00pm CRIB SERVICE
	11.15pm MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
CHRISTMAS DAY	10.30am FAMILY SERVICE WITH CAROLS AND COMMUNION
2023	
Sunday 1st January	10.30am Parish Communion
Tuesday 3rd January	10.15am Morning Prayer in the Lodge
Thursday 5th January	4.30pm Chat & Chocolate in the Lodge
Sunday 8th January	9.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 8 th January	10.30am Morning Worship with Sunday School
Tuesday 10 th January	10.15am Morning Prayer in the Lodge
Thursday 12 th January	4.30pm Bible & Biscuits in the Lodge
Sunday 15 th January	9.00am Holy Communion
	10.30am Parish Communion with Sunday School followed by
	12.00 St Michael's Players in "There came three soldiers"
Tuesday 17 th January	10.15am Holy Communion in the Lodge
Wednesday 18 th January	7.15pm ALPHA 2 begins in the Lodge
Thursday 19 th January	4.30pm Chat & Chocolate in the Lodge
Sunday 23 rd January	9.00am Holy Communion
	10.30am Morning Worship with Sunday School
Tuesday 25 th January	10.15am Holy Communion in the Lodge
Wednesday 26 th January	7.15pm ALPHA 2 in the Lodge
Thursday 27 th January	4.30pm Bible & Biscuits in the Lodge

A SPACE FOR PRAYER

We have created a space in church (in front of the pews) for anyone to come and sit and pray or just have a quiet time. There are materials to read, and we hope it will provide a place to leave prayer requests. Prayer is a time when we have our conversations with God, but equally times of silence and quiet so that we can listen to what he has to say to us. God wants us to come to him in prayer and gives us the Holy Spirit to help us. Prayer is our breath.



St. Michael's Ladies Group

Erika Penrose



"Sir, please remove your hat."

We all enjoyed Roger Blaxall's second talk in October about the efforts smugglers make to avoid being discovered when going through Customs, such as sewing bags of drugs to the insides of their clothes, swallowing drugs and inserting false compartments to their luggage. It's amazing what some people are willing to do to break the law!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Coffee Morning in November – the house was full, and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves! The proceeds amounted to about £440 which was tremendous; these will be shared between the group and the Lodge.

The parish magazine will be going to press before our meeting on 15th November, but we are looking forward to Caroline Orritt bringing along her goats' milk beauty goods and I'm sure it will be another enjoyable evening.

On Tuesday 6th December (note it's the first Tuesday) we will be holding our Christmas Coffee Evening at the Venue (see poster page 29). This year Matt and Yvonne Pinder are coming along to entertain us and we have chosen to support FOMO – the Friends of the Mulanje Orphans in Malawi. This charity is run by our local friends, Mary and Keith Woodworth who started up their amazing work in the year 2000 and have done so much already for the many orphans in the Mulanje region of Malawi. Please do come along with your friends for what will be a most enjoyable musical evening. There will be the usual delicious home-made refreshments of course plus a Bring & Buy stall and Raffle.

Moving on to next year, our AGM date is Tuesday 17th January when the programme for 2023 will be revealed and, of course, annual subs of £10.00 will be due. Please bring a small-wrapped gift to complete the evening.

New members are always welcome – just come along to The Venue, Hoole Village Hall at 7.30pm to our advertised meetings, when you will be warmly welcomed.

The committee and I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

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## Cradle Song

O my dear heart, young Jesus sweet,  
Prepare thy cradle in my spirit,  
And I shall rock thee in my heart  
And never more from thee depart.

But shall praise thee evermore  
With songs so sweet unto thy flory  
The knees of my heart shall bow  
And sing that right *Balulalow!*

~~~~~

A Mediaeval Lyric

Lynn's Pantry

Kitty's Moss Cake (or Love Cake)

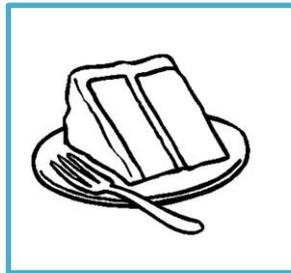
1lb 2oz Plain or Self raising flour

12oz Summer County (or any good) margarine

7oz Castor sugar

1 medium egg (whisked)

Raspberry jam



Method

1. Rub the margarine into the flour until it resembles bread crumbs.
2. Add the castor sugar.
3. Add the whisked egg.
4. Blend together and cut into two pieces.
5. Roll out the pastry on a flowered board or worktop.
6. Place one half in the tin and add enough jam to cover the pastry.
7. Place the second piece on top of the jam.
8. Pinch the edges together.

Bake at 180 degrees C or 160 degrees C for a fan oven for 20 -25 minutes and a light golden-brown colour. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with more castor sugar. When cool, cut into slices.

Note. Use cool margarine straight out of the fridge. Don't over mix and keep cool. This is a rich pastry.



Enjoy, Lynn

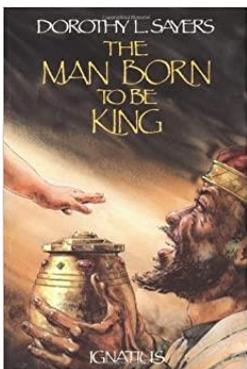
Rev Peter Templeman - Notes from the Pulpit



Dorothy L. Sayers, the famous detective novelist, once wrote a book *called The Man Born to Be King*. And that is exactly what we celebrate at Christmas – Jesus Christ was born into this world to be our King. Jesus’ kingdom is very different from earthly kingdoms – it is spiritual and eternal.

By what right does Jesus claim to be king?

1. By conquest. Through His death and resurrection, He defeated the powers of evil and Satan.
2. By birth. Born to be king not just an ordinary human being, but God manifested in the flesh.
3. By invitation. He does not force Himself on people. If they want, they can say “We will not have this Man reign over us”. But if we receive Him, then He makes our hearts His palace and His royal throne. It is interesting that our own history illustrates these three ways of becoming king – William I by conquest, William II by birth, and William III by invitation.



The Man Born to Be King is a series of radio dramas based on the life of Jesus, produced and broadcast by the BBC during the Second World War. The twelve short plays depict specific periods in Jesus' life, from the events surrounding his birth to his death and resurrection. They were first broadcast on the BBC Home Service on Sunday the 21st of December 1941, with new episodes at four weekly intervals (people had patience then), ending on the 18th October 1942. The series were last performed in 1975 and was first published in 1943.

Mandy Hughes – From the Crib to the Cross



Many images come into our thoughts when we think about Christmas. Trees and lights, food and drink, decorations, presents, family etc... and of course, most of us

have a Nativity Scene or a Crib. Many handed down the generations, some super modern works of art and others fun and childlike. So why do we have a Crib, why the nativity scene and why do we often act out the scene in our schools and churches and what does it tell us about Gods plan?

A little bit of history about the origins of the familiar scene, where did it come from? It was a small village in Italy called Greccio – and a Friar (religious man) called Francis, who became the well-known Saint -of Italy and Ecology and animals He set up the first “Live” scene in 1223 with the permission of the then Pope Honorius III. In a cave in the village, he set up the scene with an Ox and an Ass with straw and a Manger. He then invited the villagers to come whilst he preached the story of the birth of Jesus. Many people could not read, so setting up the live scene made it easier to understand and bring the Christmas story to life. From then until now we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus with our Live scenes and our model Cribs.

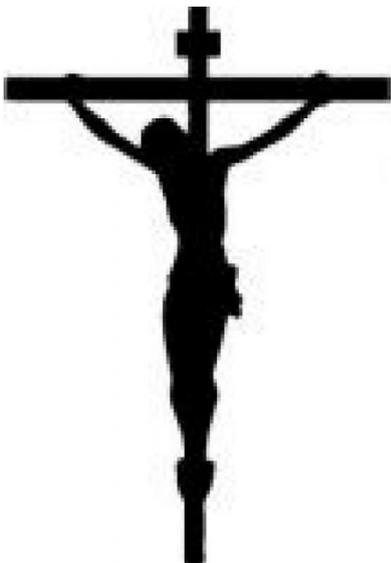
The birth of Jesus was foretold in the Old Testament through all the Prophets, who were people inspired by God to tell of the will of God and what was to come. For example, the Prophet Isaiah. Jesus the Messiah was coming, and everything would change.

Isaiah Chapter 9 v-6 says; “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace...”

In Luke’s Gospel, the birth of Jesus is recorded – we know the story, Jesus the Messiah, the anointed One, born in Bethlehem in Poverty. As there were no rooms for his parents to stay in due to the Census and crowds arriving, they could only find room in a shelter for animals. Jesus was wrapped in strips of cloth as was the tradition and laid in a feeding trough-manger. His humble beginning from animal shelter to saviour of the world couldn’t be more of a contrast.

Incredible power brought Jesus into the world through his birth to Mary a Virgin, and thirty years later John the Baptist announced the start of Jesus’s ministry when he baptised him in the river Jordon. The power that made the miracles he and the disciples performed, possible, and after his death on the cross, the mighty power that raised him from the dead to forgive us our sins and give us all new life for eternity.

Let us think back to that scene that we know so well and reflect on Jesus’s humble beginnings, to the humiliation of the cross and the triumph over death at his glorious resurrection. The Journey from Crib to Cross reminds us why Jesus came to us as a man, God in the flesh, the manger reminds us of this and the real meaning of Christmas.



Mandy

You are warmly invited to our

TOY & CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



at Hoole St Michael
& All Angels Church

Sunday
4th December
3.45 pm

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.



Children and Families at St Michael's Church



Liz Boland

It is so great to be using the Lodge properly now for almost all of our Children, Youth & Families work. Here is a snapshot of what has been happening over the past few weeks, and a look at what's coming up in the next couple of months.



We are loving being in the Lodge for Sunday School. It's such a joy not to have to walk to school each week and having our own space to use. We get about 10 extra minutes each week, which makes a massive difference.

We have been thinking about Jesus' parables this term and what they can teach us about how to live like Jesus wants us to. We have 3 groups each week, with the children splitting up by age, 0-3, 3-7 and 7-11. This means that we can tailor what we're doing to meet the needs of those we're with. Each week, we have a mix of games, crafts, Bible story, prayer and crafts. All children welcome.





Our monthly Family Church continues to be popular. We had a lot of fun at Farm Church in October. Lots of children and families came along to the Village Hall to think about the gifts God gives us, decorate

cakes, make tractor pictures and animal masks, climb on a tractor and fling wellies along the car park! By the time this comes out, we will also have enjoyed Chocolate Church, and will have more details of what happened in the next magazine.



O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day.

Richard, Bishop of Chichester (1197-1253), and used in the musical, *Godspell*

They Remember



Children in their final year at St. Michael's School helped in the preparation for Remembrance Day.

David Bayldon showed them around the graveyard- telling them stories of the fallen local soldiers, including the two Barker brothers who died within 3 months of each other in 1917. The children were then reminded why poppies are significant at this time by a reading part of John McCrae's 1915 poem:

*In Flanders's Fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below*

The children laid the poppies around the soldier, kindly donated by the Redshaw family, in memory of Michael Redshaw who had served in the Royal Engineers.

Betty Wignall then shared her memories of the Second World War. Helping the children to connect with what it was like - at their age, at their school, in their village during the war.

The poppies, now over 2000 (yes, two thousand!) have all been knitted, crocheted, carved and created by local people in honour of those who have fallen or suffered in ongoing conflicts since World War II.

Julie Baylson



Remembrance Sunday

13th November 2022



Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping: those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of mankind.



An Interview with Carole Wilson....



You first hear Carole's organ music as you enter St Michael's for Sunday morning Services, with her choice of welcoming music often as diverse as Abba and Elgar. But whatever the music, Carole's musicianship is always professional and passionate (not always the case with some musicians), and when required, deeply emotional. As a person Carole is, unlike her music, self-effacing to an extreme, which made a recent interview an exercise in gentle persuasion. But in the end her story came out...

When I was very young, three or four, we used to visit Nanna and Granddad over at Bretherton. Great Aunt Kitty lived next door and she could often be heard playing her piano in her parlour. We would go round and Mum and Dad said I always wanted to play it. I don't think I ever did though. I can't remember. But I think listening to her must have sown the seed.

When did you actually start playing?

Oh, that would have been when I was six and we lived across the road from my first piano teacher, known affectionally as Auntie Doreen, and both my sister Elaine and I had piano lessons with her.

How did you do?

I passed my first 5 grades with her.



And after Auntie Doreen?

That would have been Mrs Jenkins. She lived in Leyland and was the widow of the Minister of the town's United Reformed Church where she played the organ. Mum and Dad would drop me and my sister off at her house and then go shopping. I passed my Grade 8 (second time round) with distinction, thanks to with Mrs Jenkins.

After that?

Well, I could have gone to the RSM, the Royal School of Music, but didn't. After that I had more piano lessons with Mrs Cole in Laughton, where I studied for my LRAM (Royal Academy of Music) Diploma, which I enjoyed doing, but due to family and work commitments I never finished.

Good experience then?

Oh yes, brilliant.

What about church?

Yes. I was baptised at Walmer Bridge Methodist Chapel, went to Sunday School there, and as I grew up I started playing the organ on a rota system with two ladies who played the piano. Chapel and Church have always been a big part of my life. Sadly, Walmer Bridge closed its doors in 2008, and that's when I started playing at St Michael's. You always get a warm welcome.

What's your favourite film?

The Sound of Music. I love it. I keep telling Colin we must go and see where it was filmed.

What else do you like doing?

I love to eat out, with Colin and the family. Chinese is my favourite, and Indian sometimes, but not too spicy. I do like musical theatre, and watching Preston North End play, plus a bit of line dancing; and looking after our grandson Arthur.

I have to ask if you've ever played the Mighty Wurlitzer at Blackpool Tower Ballroom?

Funny you should ask that. Yes I have. A good friend of mine, Robert Lee, a fabulous organist and pianist, invited me to an afternoon rehearsal for an evening charity recital by a whole bunch of organists. The organizer agreed I could play the beast, although I wasn't to come up through the floor. But what a machine, and once I found where all the bells and whistles were, I played Gracie Field's 1957 hit *Around the World*. I had all the stops out on that one I can tell you.

Did you ever meet Reg Dixon?

Mr Blackpool? Sadly no. But I did hear him play.

Perhaps you could play *Around the World* for us one Sunday?

Hmm? I shall have to think about that.



Reg at the Mighty Wurlitzer

The Formidable Lynn Smith Climbs Ben Nevis

“I lift up my eyes to the Mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD the maker of Heaven and Earth...” *Psalm 121*



In the spring of this year, a friend of mine, who is a massive organiser and supporter of the NSPCC, and a great walker, suggested that, to raise funds for the charity, we walk up Ben Nevis... **at night!**

I have to say I was a bit sceptical at first but agreed to join her and eight others in the challenge.

We quickly set to work: training by day and night with hikes around Wherside, Rivington Pike and Pendle Hill. Then we started Fund Raising in earnest, with generous donations coming in from friends, family, and members of St Michael’s congregation. During the summer training went well with only a few blisters, as the date of our climb approached. I was becoming apprehensive and excited about the challenge ahead.

Judgement day was upon us! We had travelled up to Fort William on a very wet and windy Friday, establishing our base camp in a wonderful B&B, where we ate a hearty breakfast, followed by a trip round the local landmarks (shops). In the early afternoon I tried to get some sleep, unsuccessfully. The anticipation was beginning to rise. Saturday was calmer and drier, except for the occasional shower. The forecast for the climb was dry but turning increasingly windy as the next weather front approached from the West.

As darkness fell, dinner comprised of pasta salad and roast chicken: boosting my energy levels with protein and carbs (so no KFC for me that night). I had a few energy bars, fruit and nuts, jelly babies (obviously) in my pockets.

As the challenge briefing time approached, I donned my walking gear (base layer, middle layer, waterproof boots) and filled my rucksack with water, extra socks, head torch, woolly hat, gloves inner, gloves outer, plus more nuts, and jelly babies of course. Having checked everything, we arrived at the Ben Nevis Visitor Centre for the safety briefing.

Here, amongst muted voices, I met the rest of the gang in their waterproof trousers and jackets, and head torches. There was a real sense of anticipation (or was it fear and dread?) as we listened intently to the five mountain guides about safety, and the weather: dry but windy, with the temperature at the summit zero, or below, with the wind chill factor. Departure time was 23:15 as a group of 20, that included our group of 10. Timescale: to be back at the Youth Hostel by 8.00am before the weather front arrived with its heavy rain. As the climb continued, we divided into smaller groups of similar pace, each with a guide and a rear marker. Safety was paramount. Any questions? Silence.

Head torches on, walking poles set for the climb and off we went, across the bridge over Glen Nevis at 23:15. 16km to go. The first part of the climb was to traverse the west side of Ben Nevis, known as *Meall an t-Suidhe* (obviously Gaelic), which ascended some 400m to the turn further up the valley. A couple of brief breaks had to be taken, believe it or not, to de-robe. My Rab jacket was not only waterproof but, by this time, extremely warm. Around the valley, at the start of the 'Zig Zags' my poles were proving invaluable on the boulder strewn terrain. Up ahead, the young and fit were progressing well.

With my Jacket back on, as we were now exposed to the strengthening wind, I only had time for a quick drink, a banana and a handful of fruit and nuts – oh, and my jelly babies. Time seemed to fly by, with the pace relentless.

Our guides radio crackled into life. The leading group had reached the summit, but conditions were deteriorating with the leading group having difficulty standing up in the wind. After a quick discussion between the guides, it was decided to turn around and start the descent. What? We weren't going to make the summit! The inevitable sense of disappointment was slowly replaced by one of relief and a realisation that it really was unsafe to continue. So close but so far – just 500 metres from the top.

The descent was the part of the challenge that concerned me the most.

Poles were lengthened for the descent, and much more concentration was needed. Nevertheless, I did fall twice (as did others and one of the guides) but no damage done, apart from a bruise on my posterior. On the descent, we discussed the decision to turn around. Could we have made those extra 500m? We will never know!

The last part of the descent was the most taxing as tiredness began to take over, and our concentration levels fell as we realised our destination was the youth hostel, some 2 kilometres further up the valley from where we had started.

We were now in four groups, me towards the back, having taken my time on the descent, then finally, across the river and into the warmth of the hostel at 07:20. Eight hours and 5 minutes after setting off. I was offered a bacon buttie, but couldn't face it, settling instead for a bowl of muesli and a cup of tea.

What will I take away from this experience? Disappointed in not reaching the summit, but also a vast amount of pride in making the climb and personally raising over £1000 for the NSPCC.

Maybe you too can give a little to the NSPCC so that they can continue their essential work?

I prayed for good weather and no rain but forgot to pray for no wind, which blew mightily! I did pray that we would all be safe and that there would be no injuries. Halfway up, a thought came: I felt a bit like Moses climbing the mountain to fetch the 10 commandments...

A Gentlewomen of Verona – Pat Fleetwood



*For many years I longed to
see Lake Garda and
Verona...*

Sadly, my late husband Alan and I never managed it. Maybe now was a good time so I mentioned it to a friend who said she would love to go with me.

We managed to book an eight-day tour with Riviera Travel to ensure everything was organised for us. After a hassle-free early check-in and a flight out of Manchester we eventually landed at Venice Airport from where we were transported by coach to Riva, a town at the north end of lake Garda, which was quite wonderful.



On our first day our Guide Antonia took us on a tour of our part of the lake. I knew Lake Garda was the largest of the Italian Lakes, but I never realised just how large.

It covers an area of 143 square miles, is 34 miles long, 2 miles wide at its narrowest, and 11 miles at its widest. We travelled down the West shore of the lake, stopping for coffee at Salo, then on to the town of Sirmione where I found a beautiful little Church where....

...the peace and tranquillity were wonderfully inspiring, and you could really feel the presence of God. I went back there a second time to sit and pray...

The next day we were taken through the Dolomites to a cable car, with one or two of the group taking a car to the summit of one of the mountains. The rest of us ate lunch!

Our 3rd day was a so-called rest day which consisted of a walk, followed by coffee at beside the lake, then back to the hotel for a relaxing time by the pool which.

Friday was a visit to Venice and having been there before I decided to take the 'Undiscovered Venice' tour which was a fascinating stroll over bridges and through streets that most tourists never see; that ended a splendid gondola ride. Lunch was then taken in the beautiful Correr Museum café in St. Mark's Square.



After lunch on the Saturday, it was off to a wine-tasting at a vineyard which has been owned and run by the same family for many, many generations.

Sunday, our last day, was spent in Verona which, of course, included looking at Juliet's famous courtyard and balcony, which was extremely busy and hot. Instead of hanging around we found a cafe in the square opposite the Atheneum, where we had a delicious lunch, which included my favourite dessert, tiramisu. Yummy!

What a wonderful time we had – Lake Garda and its surrounding areas were everything people had said about it. We were with a lovely group of people – just 18 of us – to enjoy the time with us. Antonia proved to be a great guide- full of humour and so well organised. Not forgetting our coach driver who kept us all safe and had to master some difficult mountainous roads. I would recommend this holiday to anyone.

YOUR 2023 GIVING ENVELOPES ARE HERE...

If you normally donate to church using our regular envelope giving scheme, and you have opted to continue using that method, your new box for 2023 will be in Church for you to collect the first week of December.

They are usually placed on the bench behind the font.

Keep an eye out for them.

If you would like to join our regular giving scheme, either envelope or standing order, please do get in touch.

We would love to hear from you.

Many thanks

Barbara Wood

Gift Aid Recorder – 07745 208617

UKRAINE PARTNERSHIP

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, PRESTON

Through partnership with churches and individuals across the UK and alongside the Government's 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme, members of All Saints Church in Preston have had the opportunity to help some of our brothers and sisters from Ukraine in a very practical way by providing homes and support to a number of Ukrainian refugees since May. Their aim is to continue to finance and care for these people for as long as necessary given the ongoing uncertainty in Ukraine.

At present there are 38 men, women and children being sponsored by the All Saints church family in Preston. Many of those joining them are members of Kharkiv City Church, a church plant which began in 2019, involved in reaching out to those in need in built-up areas in Kharkiv; the majority of their Ukrainian friends joined us having fled Ukraine as the war began in February 2022.

The initial group travelled by car and then by foot from Kharkiv to Romania and then on to Hungary over a couple of weeks. Wonderfully the Lord sustained and protected them as they travelled nearly 2000km to Budapest, all while awaiting visas to enter the UK. Christians throughout Ukraine, Romania and Hungary opened their homes and served them as they travelled.

The All Saints family are so thankful to be able to partner with them now they have arrived in the UK, and to have welcomed others who have arrived from other parts of Ukraine. This support and comfort is still ongoing and if you would like to contribute to the fund, please contact the church treasurer, Ella Biden at treasurer@allsaintspreston.org.uk (if you were able to gift aid your donation that would be even better). If you would like to give a one-off gift the details are as follows:

Account:	All Saints Preston Parochial Church Council
Bank:	Natwest
Sort Code:	01-67-14
Account No:	02884615
Reference:	Ukrainian Refugees

Men's Fellowship

Stan Pickles

At our most recent meeting in November, we were pleased to welcome Keith Hick as our guest speaker, who gave us an interesting, illustrated talk on the Liverpool Overhead Railway, often referred to locally as the “Dockers’ Umbrella”. The railway which was first opened in 1893 was constructed to ease the transport situation in the docks area of Liverpool and was the first overhead electrically operated railway in the world, quite an innovation.

It was described as a “Meccano” type construction which proved advantageous in its repair during and after World War II. However, during all of the changes of the 1960s it was deemed no longer viable, so when, in 1962, it was finally closed, and the Meccano construction made its dismantling comparatively easy and all that now remains of it is a small plaque testifying to its existence.

We next meet on Tuesday 13th December in the Village Hall for our Christmas Dinner evening. Our first meeting of 2023 again in the Village Hall, will be on Tuesday 1st January when we hope to learn of a different transport system – “The Panama Canal”, a talk by Ted Miley, one of our own members. This may be a good time to encourage new members so please do come along if you are able – you will be most welcome.





Hoole Church Ladies' Group

CHRISTMAS COFFEE EVENING

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

**MATT & YVONNE
PINDER**

On Tuesday 6th December at 7.30pm

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

Entrance £7.00 by ticket or
pay at the door

Includes refreshments
Bring & Buy and Raffle

Proceeds to FOMO—the Friends of
the Mulanje Orphans in Malawi

FLOWER CLUB ROTA

2022

3rd December- All 10am – Christmas

4th December – Gillian (Sponsor: Mrs E Houghton)

11th December – Christmas

18th December – Christmas

25th December – Christmas (Door Wreath)

(Sponsors: Mr & Mrs Wood, Mrs Blackley, Mrs K Ball)

2023

1st January – Christmas

8th January – Gillian, Julie & Lisa (Children's Corner)

(Sponsors: Mr & Mrs H Davidson & Mr Smart)

15th January – Elsie (Sponsor Mr & Mrs Leigh)

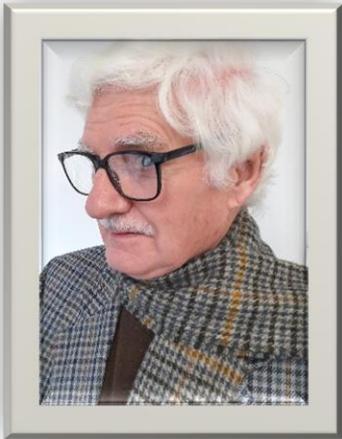
22nd January – Jean & Joan

(Sponsor: Men's Group)

29th January – Julie & Joan (Sponsor: Mrs Cowburn)



Barry's Book Ends



Barry McManmon is a bookseller of many years standing who mourns the demise of the independent bookshop but nevertheless writes eloquently about them.

“Looks like he’s open, now let’s find somewhere to park,” said my fellow bookseller, a knowledgeable and canny Yorkshireman.

We were in a town in the Cotswolds in search of rare books in those days of long ago when the chase was worthwhile. Sadly, those days have gone as our cities and towns have fewer and fewer bookshops.

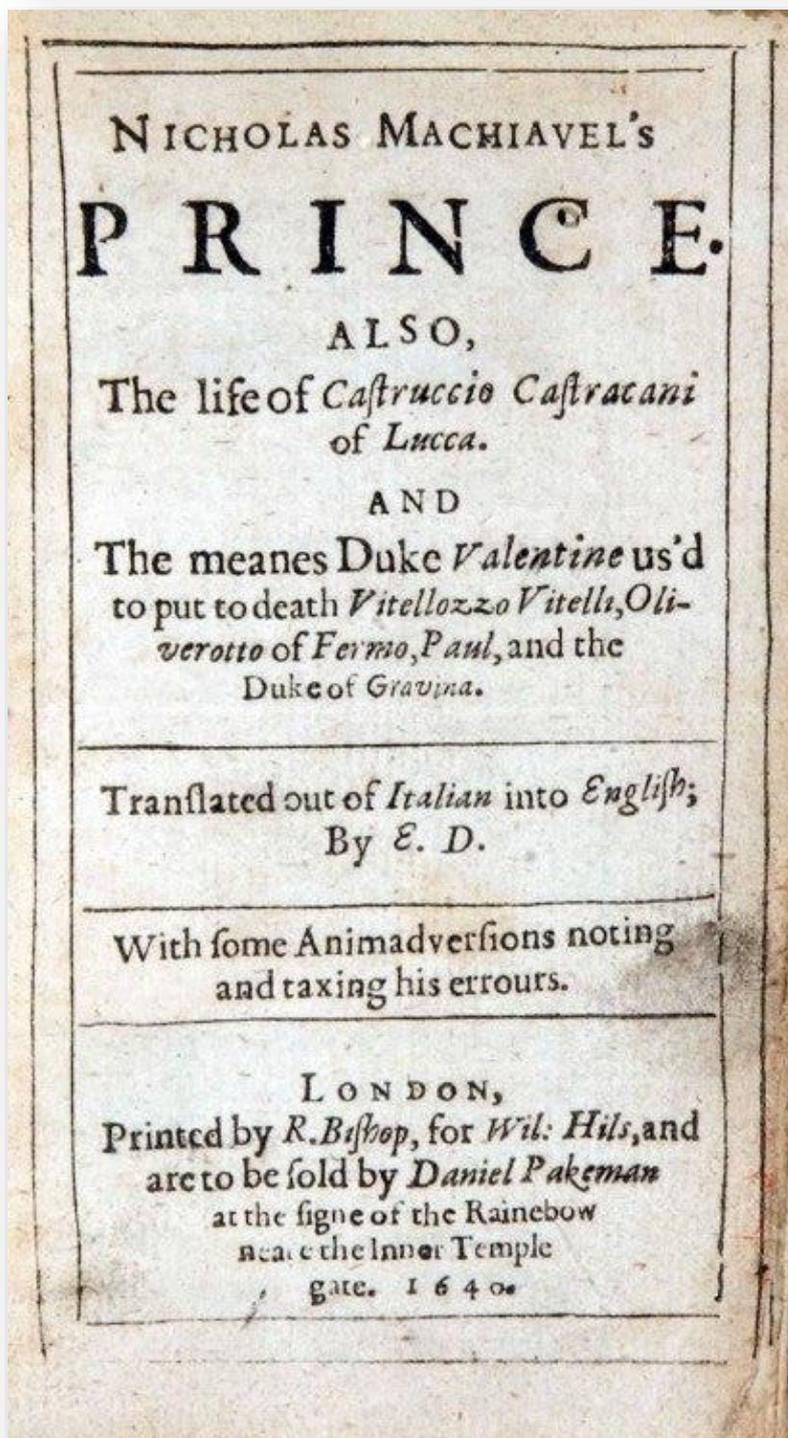
I had taken the precarious move into self-employment as a bookseller in 1984, with the blessing and support of my late wife. Together Barbara and I travelled the land in search of books for over thirty years, but in the last few years it became difficult to think of places that would be worth a visit.

There were and are many dealers who work from home but the excitement of finding a new shop with good quality was becoming a thing of the past.

The internet is now the place to search for books, but it cannot replicate the thrill of walking into a shop and spotting an interesting looking volume.

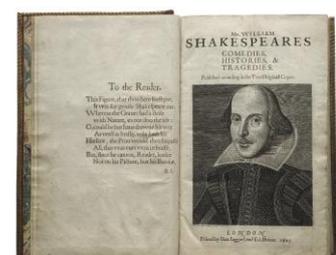


And amidst the gloom miracles can still happen. I always remember a late and lamented friend buying what were presumed to be William Blake facsimiles, but in fact turned out to be original poems and art presumed lost around 1820! Another friend found, in a charity shop in the Wirral, a 1640 first edition of Machiavelli's *The Prince*.



I've known a few booksellers in my time, most notably, apart from Barry, Gerald Jaggard, who owned and ran The Shakespeare Bookshop in Stratford-upon-Avon from the late 1940s until the early 1960s. A remarkable man whose Liverpool ancestors printed William Shakespeare's *First Folio* in 1623. Not a bad pedigree.

Steve



St Michael's Players

A new drama for January

There Came Three Soldiers

A Visual Radio Play

By

Steve Newman

It is 1922, and two ex-soldiers tell a story of Christmas
1914

To be performed in St Michael and All Angels
Church after the 10.30 service
Sunday January 15th 2023



Contact: stevenewmanwriter@aol.com

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

St Michael and All Angels Church, Hoole

6.00pm Sunday 11th December 2022

Mulled wine and mince pies
in the Lodge

Everybody is Welcome



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, MUCH HOOLE PRESENTS

Christmas Mastermind

(AS SEEN ON TV)

Venue: Platinum Jubilee Lodge
Fri 2 Dec
7PM



Two rounds incl. specialised subject &
general knowledge - Contestants from
your local church - The Black Chair!

Be in the audience !

Tickets £5 including drink

Tickets strictly limited.

Please contact Colin for details

**Tel: 01772 616978 or email
southview1953@tiscali.co.uk**



Coffee and Tea Rota

4th December- Lyn & Carol

11th December - Mike & Joan

18th December - Gill & Nina

25th Christmas Day - No Teas

2023

1st January - Gill & Volunteer

8th January - Steve & Hilary

15th January - John & Honey

22nd January - Lyn & Carole

29th January – Mike & Joan

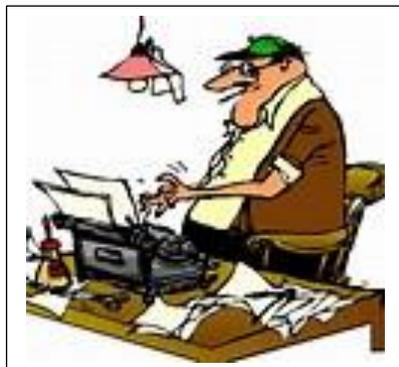
2nd February – Alan & Monica

Next Issue of St Michael's Times



We had intended to include a profile of Jeremiah Horrocks by Clive Elphick in this issue. But such an idea can grow, consequently, Clive's profile of Jeremiah, along with an article by Jane Elphick about Carr House, will now appear in the next issue, along with images from the church, plus contributions from members of the congregation and others. One can never tell a good story often enough.

If you would like to contribute to
ST MICHAEL'S TIMES
please do get in touch.
stevenewmanwriter@aol.com



St Michael and All Angels Church

CHURCH OFFICERS

Rector: The Reverend Ann Templeman
The Rectory, 69 Liverpool Road, Much Hoole, PR4 4RB
Tel: 01772 448515 and mob: 07877 659156;
anntempleman@live.co.uk

Associate Minister: The Reverend Peter Templeman

Churchwardens:

Mrs Jane Elphick – Tel: 603360, Mob: 07977201199
candjelphick@hotmail.com

Mrs Barbara Wood – Mob: 07745 208617. bw12252@hotmail.com

Verger:

Mrs Irene Pickles Tel: 615708

Churchwarden Emeritus:

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

Occasional Preacher:

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

Children and Young People's Minister: Liz Boland – Mob: 07903 200204
lizboland@yahoo.co.uk.

PCC Secretary: Jock Davidson

Mrs Andrea Susnik – Tel: 615336. E: familysusnik@live.co.uk

PCC Treasurer: Mr Andrew Smith – Tel: 615383. Mob: 07771 983726
andrew.smith8118937@btinternet.com

PCC Assistant Treasurer: Mrs Barbara Wood – Mob: 07745 208617.
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.
amandahughes945@gmail.com

Health and Safety Officer: Colin Wilson



Service Opportunities in Church

Part time church administrators required 6-10 hrs per week – contact Rev Ann for more information. Voluntary help in technology – projector, live streaming etc, publicity – putting up posters, distribution. Help with refreshments, catering, plus help with children's work. And not least, help in cleaning the church.

ORGANISATIONS

Sunday School

Sunday School begins at 10.30am in church and takes place every Sunday, except during Family Church. Leader: Mrs Liz Boland. Mobile: 07903 200204.
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, 3rd Tuesday, in The Venue, Hoole Village Hall. Leader: Mrs Erika Penrose.
Tel: 613816. johnanderika.penrose@gmail.com

St Michael's Men's Fellowship – meets 7.30, 2nd Tuesday, in The Venue, Hoole Village Hall.

Secretary: Post vacant

Friends of St Michael – Caring for the fabric of our ancient church.
Chair: Mrs Jane Elphick, Tel: 603360.

Secretary: Mr David Turner, Tel: 01772 383344.

Social Committee – Contact: Mr Colin Wilson – Tel: 616978
southview1953@tiscali.co.uk

Hoole St Michael C E Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Juliet Price – Tel: 613219.

1st St Michael's Hoole Scout & Guide Groups – Contact:
Mrs Rebecca Catterall. 1sthoole@gmail.com

St Michael's Players: Steve & Hilary Newman 07817167627
stevewnewmanwriter@aol.com

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.



“Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”



“I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”

**St Michael and All Angels Church, Liverpool Old Road, Much Hoole,
Preston, PR4 5JQ**

www.hooleparishchurch.com

**Facebook: St Michael and All Angels Church, Hoole,
Rector – Revd Ann Templeman anntempleman@live.co.uk
01772 448515 or 07877659156**