

**Bible verse and prayer for 2017**

And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."      Isaiah 30:21

**A prayer for God's guidance**

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we ask you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

## Contact Details

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*Requests for weddings and baptisms should in the first instance, be made to the Vicar at the end of the Family Service. Arrangements for funerals and interments may be made with the Vicar by telephone.*

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## Letter from Andrew Housley

Dear Friends,

Can you remember your first day at school? No doubt, you felt excited to wear your new uniform, even though your socks were scratchy and your pullover a little stiff. The classroom smelt different to anywhere else and all the new faces may have made you feel a little nervous.

At the beginning of this month, let us spare a thought for the children starting school in both Bickerstaffe Church of England Primary and St Michael's, Aughton. Schools may seem very different to what we remembered, but I imagine we felt no different to the children today.

We are fortunate to serve two excellent schools, which work closely with the church. The children benefit from attending our schools by the Christian values which are taught.

Let us pause for a moment and pray for the school staff, the Governors, and the children at both Bickerstaffe C of E and St Michael's, Aughton.

God of wisdom and might,  
we praise you for the wonder of our being,  
for mind, body and spirit.  
Be with our children as they begin  
a new school year.  
Bless them and their teachers and staff.  
Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;  
wisdom and knowledge to their minds  
as they search for understanding;  
and peace and zeal to their hearts.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Andrew

## Services in September

	<b>St Michael, Aughton</b>	<b>Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe</b>
<b>3rd September</b> <i>Trinity 12</i> Green Jeremiah 15.15-21; Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28	8.15am Martin Holy Communion  10.30am Martin Matins 10.30am Hall Service  4pm Martin Holy Communion	10.45am Andrew Holy Communion
<b>10th September</b> <i>Trinity 13</i> Green Ezekiel 33.7-11; Romans 13.8-14; Matthew 18.15-20	8.15am Andrew Holy Communion  10.30am John Sephton Holy Communion	10.45am Andrew Family Service
<b>17th September</b> <i>Trinity 14</i> Green Genesis 50.15-21; Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35	8.15am Andrew Holy Communion  10.30am Andrew Parish Praise Renewal of Baptism vows  4pm Andrew Holy Communion	10.45am Mark Morning Praise

<b>24th September</b> <i>Trinity 15</i> Green Jonah 3.10-4.11; Philippians 1.21-30; Matthew 20.1-16	8.15am Martin Holy Communion  10.30am Andrew Service of Baptism  4pm Andrew Choral Evensong	10.45am Martin Holy Communion
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## **Worship & Learning**



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Did you know that many more resources from *ROOTS for Churches Ltd* are on our website each week, including Bible Notes, reflections, and prayers for both children and older people. Please visit [www.aughtonstmichael.org.uk](http://www.aughtonstmichael.org.uk) and click on the Bible icon.

### **3rd September: Reality of faith**

*Matthew 16:21-28*

- Peter finds it impossible to believe that the Messiah must suffer.
- Jesus rebukes Peter.
- Jesus points all his disciples to the way of the cross.

*A personal prayer*

Lord, grant me patience to endure,  
faith to trust in you,  
joy to see you at work,  
and hope to believe that all will be well.  
In the name of Jesus.  
Amen.

## **10th September: Living together well**

*Matthew 18.15-20*

- Jesus suggests a three-stage path for reconciliation between people.
- Those who agree together will see their prayers answered.
- Jesus promises to be present with those who meet in his name.

### *A personal prayer*

Wherever I am, whatever I do,  
when I am obedient and when I stray from God's will,  
when I am seeking you and when I am avoiding you,  
when I am praising you and when I am asking for guidance:  
help me to know that you are with me,  
that you will strengthen me,  
and support me – every day, everywhere. Amen.

## **17th September: I am in the place of God?**

*Matthew 18.21-35*

- Peter asks how many times he must forgive someone.
- Jesus tells a parable about a slave who does not pass on his master's forgiveness.
- We are challenged to see ourselves as channels of God's mercy.

### *A personal prayer*

I praise you, Lord, from the depths of my being.  
You are compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and overflowing in love.  
Your love is so generous – it seems to stretch from the bottom of the deepest sea to the top of the highest mountain. You take my failures and cast them away. Like the most loving parent, you look upon me with tender love.  
I praise you, Lord, from the depths of my being.  
Amen.

## 24th September: Are you right to be angry?

*Matthew 20.1-16*

- Jesus tells a parable about the owner of a vineyard.
- The owner is concerned to hire as many workers as possible, all through the day.
- The owner pays all his workers the same, irrespective of when they started work.

### *A way into prayer*

Look through a magazine or newspaper for pictures of people at work. Pray for the people who do those jobs. Reflect on challenges they may face. Pray for peace for all those facing stress. Remember those searching for work, and pray for them and their families. Think about your own working life or studying. Thank God for the good parts, and seek his help in the challenges you face.

## **Benefice News**

### **Communion in the Community**



*For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." 1 Corinthians 11:26.*

The Holy Communion Services in Stockley Crescent, St Michael's Hall and Bickerstaffe School are a **wonderful opportunity** for outreach. Please invite friends!!

**Stockley Crescent** 5th September at 1pm.

**St Michael's Church Hall:** 13th September and 27th September both at 11am.

**Bickerstaffe School:** Friday 29th September at 2.40pm.

### **Men's Breakfast**

The next breakfast will be Saturday 16th September at St Michael's Church Hall. If you are able to help with the cooking, please speak to Andrew. New members welcome!

If you have good quality men's clothes, then please bring them to be taken to the Salvation Army in Bootle. Thank you.

### **Confirmation**



This year's Confirmation service will be at Christ Church, Aughton on Sunday 15th October at 4pm. Starting in September, there will be two confirmation classes, one for adults and the other for young people in school year 9. If you would like to be Confirmed this year, then please speak to Andrew.

### **Choral Evensong**

The next choral evensong will be on Sunday 24th September 4pm at St Michael's to celebrate St Michael and All Angels.

### **Clothes Collections and Food Bank Collections**

If you plan to sort through your children's wardrobes over the summer, we would be grateful to receive good quality children's clothes including school coats, and other school items such as football boots, and goggles, which will be donated to Litherland Moss School.

We continue to collect **men's clothes** for Bootle Salvation Army, and the Skelmersdale Food Bank remains as important as ever, particularly in the Summer Holidays. Non-perishable **food items** are therefore very much appreciated. Please leave any items at the back of church. Thank you so much in advance.

## Book Club

Everyone is welcome at the next book club held at the Derby Arms on 20th September from 8pm. The book is 'Jane and Prudence' by Barbara Pym.

## Bickerstaffe News and Dates

9th September	Church clear-out
12th September	Parochial Church Council
16th September	Men's Breakfast
8th October	Harvest Service
15th October	Confirmation Service
22nd October	Baptism

## Prayer at the Communion Rail

A reminder that if you would like to receive prayer during communion, then please mention to the Vicar when he gives you the bread at Communion. He will then put his hand on your shoulder and say a short prayer. There are times when we know someone who is ill or in need of our prayers, and similarly there are times when we feel the need for prayer ourselves. Receiving Holy Communion is a reminder of the healing Christ brings to each of us, in restoring our relationship with the Father. Please take the opportunity at Communion for prayer when it would be helpful.



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### **New Headteacher at Bickerstaffe School**

A warm welcome to the new Headteacher at Bickerstaffe School, Mrs Maggie Teachen. Some of you will already know Mrs Teachen from when she previously taught at Bickerstaffe school. Mrs Teachen was remembered with great fondness, and we are thrilled that she has returned in her new role. Please remember Mrs Teachen and her staff team, as well as the children, in your prayers.

### **Children's Fun Sheets**

Children's Fun Sheets and crayons are available at the back of church, plus fun bags. If you see any children in the service, please make sure they have a sheet and a bag.

### **Bickerstock Tea Stall**

A big thank you to Gladys and all who supported the tea stall at Bickerstock.

### **Church clear out**



On Saturday 9th September from 10am we will have a good clear out in the church. Please come and join us. If you are keeping anything in the church, please remove it in case it ends up in the skip.

### **Friends of Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe**

If you need to renew your annual subscription, then please complete a renewal form, which you can pick up in church.

### **Children's Fun Sheets**

Children's Fun Sheets and crayons are available at the back of church, plus fun bags. If you see any children in the service, please make sure they have a sheet and a bag.

### **P&O Mini-Cruise to Bruges**



Edward McCarthy and Irene McCarthy are planning another mini-cruise for the weekend of 20-22nd April 2018.

Prices and further details will follow in due course, but the programme includes travel to Hull by minibus, onboard for tea time, stay overnight, breakfast, arrive in Zeebrugge day in Bruges, back onboard for teatime, overnight crossing back to Hull with breakfast, back home via minibus.

If you are interested in the trip, please contact Edward (mobile: 07971 299 606) or Irene as soon as possible. Thank you.

### **Mission Management Team: Domino Night**



Friday 27th October 7.30pm  
at Four Lane Ends Mission. £5 including refreshments.



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## **Bickerstaffe Parish Council**

### **Adult Education Classes Continue in Bickerstaffe**



Following the success and popularity of classes this year, Lancashire Adult Learning College will be running Information and Communication Technology courses again from September 2017 in the parish.

Functional Skills (using laptops & PCs) will be held on Friday mornings from 9.30 to 12.30 p.m. These classes are aimed at those wishing to develop their current skills; and a nationally recognised qualification (City and Guilds Functional Skills) at various levels can be gained, depending on the stage you are at.

IPad/tablet classes will run on Fridays from 2.00 pm starting on September 8th for those new to using a tablet device, or for those wishing to expand their knowledge and use of more of its features. Come along and learn more about what your IPad and android tablet can do – how to choose, install and use a wide variety of apps (such as TV catch up, bus/train timetables, maps, games, music, news and social media), use iCloud and review security features and settings.

All classes will be held at BAFC clubhouse. Classes are small, friendly and supportive, allowing learners to grow in confidence at their own pace. For more information or to book a place, ring Jackie on 07715 156744 or email [bickerstaffeparishclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:bickerstaffeparishclerk@hotmail.com).

### **Senior Citizens Keep Fit**

If you would like to take part in “Chairercise” – a mild method of exercise using a chair for support, please also get in touch. If there is enough interest classes, could be arranged also.

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## **Ormskirk & District Historical Society**

We welcome new members, visitors and students alike and hope that they enjoy being part of a friendly local group of people.

**2nd Oct** 'Forgotten Liverpool' with Stephen Guy.

**16th Oct** 'Haydock Lodge – St Helens Family History Society' with Pauline Hurst.

Meetings start at 7.30pm at Four Lane Ends Mission. Further info. via 01704 631191.

[www.ormskirkhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.ormskirkhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

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## Prayer Time



Thank you for the ordinary people  
who bring to our lives  
wisdom, love,  
a word in due season,  
compassion, peace.  
Ordinary people  
who through the Spirit's power  
become extraordinary in your service.  
Ordinary people  
who through the love of Christ  
bring the presence of God into our lives.  
In giving may they receive  
and their lives be truly blessed.

©John Birch, from 'The Act of Prayer'.  
[www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com) and via Facebook.



### **The Cystic Fibrosis Trust 3km Family Fun Run**

**Edge Hill University, Ormskirk L39 4QP**  
**Sunday 15th October 2017 at 10.30am**

Run, jog, walk, or pram push the 3km route and receive your medal!

Join in the fun on campus with entertainment  
and photo opportunities on the winner's rostrum.

Refreshments available on site.

Further details from [edgehillfunrun17@gmail.com](mailto:edgehillfunrun17@gmail.com)

Book online <https://bookitzone.com/margaretellams/Vv2FFX>

Find us on Facebook. Search CFTrustatOrmskirkBranch.

## News from Bickerstaffe Church of England School



There is much to report about the exciting events that took place at the end of the Summer Term:

**Brass Monkeys** - the trio provided an amazing ensemble and many children expressed an interest in playing a musical instrument. Watch this space for future performances!

**Bickerstaffe Running Event** - Complimented our 'Daily Mile' sessions and was very well attended by Bickerstaffe children, their parents, and runners from Pinfold too. James Tartt, the elite runner also inspired our children to 'Go for Gold' on the track during the '**Timed Mile**' and there were a large number of personal bests that morning from children, parents and Mrs James!

**'Super Soaker Friday'** – the title says it all, we were soaked to the skin, but it was great fun! Almost 40 children and 11 adults turned up for the last 'Running Club' of the year. Thanks to the dedication of Kim O'Brien, 'Running Club' has captured the interest of children, staff and parents, week after week; we have all gained more than fitness however, we have experienced all the Olympic and Paralympic Values in bucket loads. Talking of 'buckets': I wonder who threw a bucket of water over me!!

**Dance Fever** - What a fabulous show and experience for our very talented children. They performed the 'Annie Medley' and the 'Lion king' to a packed audience at Ormskirk School; we were exceptionally proud of them all! A big thank you must go to Miss O'Kane for her commitment and dedication over weeks and weeks of rehearsals, and Mrs Hodgson for all her hard work in making the wonderful outfits for our boys and girls to wear – they looked stunning.

**Everton** - got children inspired in workshops that were held during a day of sport. A huge thank you must go to Mr Joe McPartland for organising the event, and giving his time throughout the day to support the children. He said to me after the event that Coaches from Everton had commented on the fantastic behaviour of the children, and that they loved coming to Bickerstaffe School!

**Spanish** - Senora Brown complimented the children on their progress. Having a Language Specialist has been very beneficial, and she said that our Year 6 children are well prepared for the transition to High School.

**'The Great Gruffalo Get Together'** - Created great excitement as children looked forward to their special picnic with parents and all the new friends who will start in September. It was a wonderful success, and the sun was shining!

**Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies & BBQ** -The performances by children were brilliant, and the Outdoor Theatre, Dancing, Singing and BBQ were thoroughly enjoyed by all our families. Our children and staff are amazing, but a huge thank you must also go to our Year 6 Parents for organising the BBQ and making the event such a success – 'Team Bickerstaffe' Always Goes the Extra Mile!

### **Visits to Chester Zoo & Windmill Farm**

These were exciting trips for all taking part, if a little hot!

### **New in September:**

**'Monkey Bars' for Juniors and Infants, and a 'Challenge Net'** – these will be installed during the first week back in September. They will promote the development of gross motor skills, in particular upper body strength, and add to our already fantastic provision.

**New Dining Tables** – have also been ordered, thank you to the School Council.

**Congratulations & Welcome!**

We wish Mr Draper, our Senior Teacher, the best of luck as Headteacher of Bank's Methodist from September.

And, we welcome Miss Foster, who will join the team in September, as the Class 3 Teacher.

**A New Chapter** - Best Wishes also go to Mrs Teachen when she takes over as Headteacher of Bickerstaffe School.

**And, finally:**

**Mrs Hall's Retirement Party!**

I was totally over-whelmed that so many people – ex-pupils, parents, teachers and Governors past and present; and members of Holy Trinity Church, joined me for a night of celebration. I am truly grateful to everyone who attended and wished me well, and for the hard work undertaken on my behalf by some very special people. **Thank You!**

I will also take this opportunity to thank you all for your best wishes, and the many wonderful messages and gifts that I have received. I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be the 'Headteacher of the Best School in the World' with such amazing children, parents, and dedicated members of staff. I have so many happy memories to treasure.

**Best Wishes**

**From Jeanne Hall and Bickerstaffe School**

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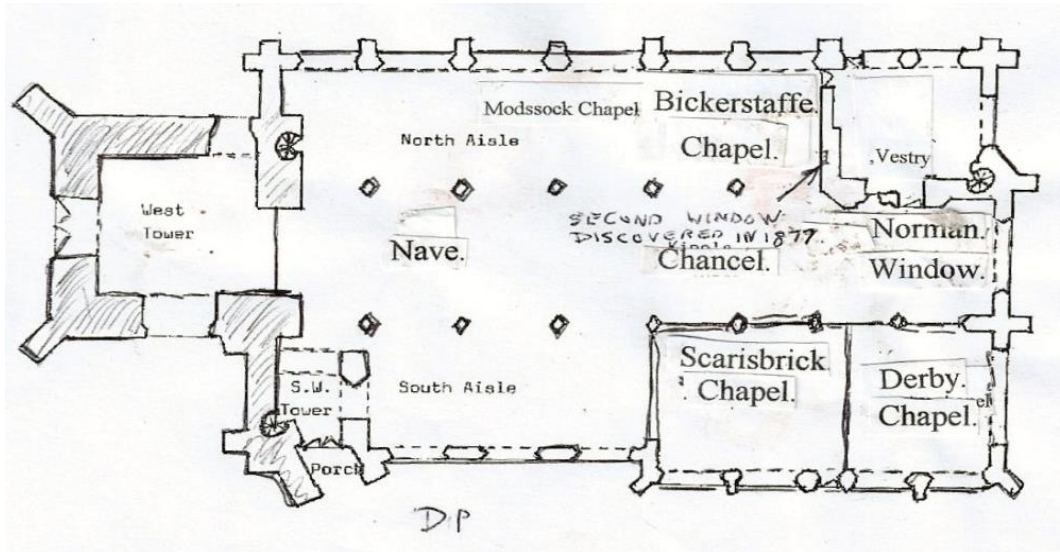
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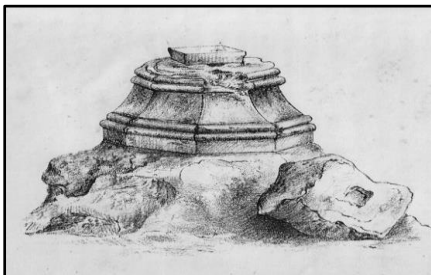
## 'The Bickerstaffe Chapel' By Owen Taylor

The Bickerstaffe Chapel is believed to be the oldest place of interment in Ormskirk Church.

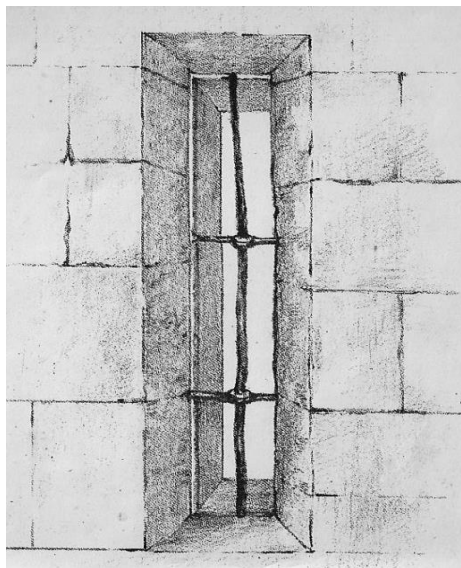


*Plan of Ormskirk Church. Drawn from the V.C.H.*

Interesting evidence to support this theory came to light during the restoration of the church in 1877. After the floor had been excavated to a depth of three feet, the base of an altar tomb and part of a medieval column were discovered.

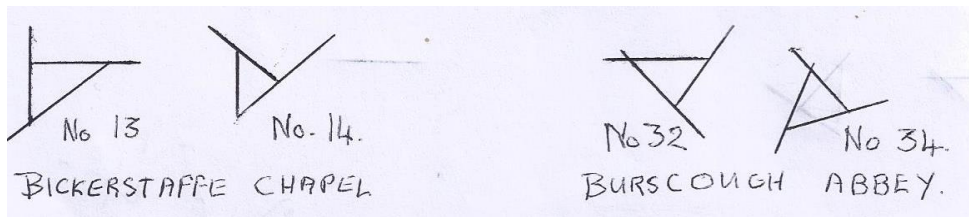


Also discovered in 1877, a slotted window, situated at the East wall of the Chapel.



Moreover, in 1881, a study of Mason Marks, led by the Lancs and Cheshire Historical Society, reveals many intriguing examples of identical marks found on the wall of the Bickerstaffe Chapel and at the ruins of Burscough Priory.

Two sets of identical Mason-Marks indicating same 'Masons' were employed on each edifice. Note: Mason-Marks are recognised as the signature of the scribe.



Adjacent to them in the North Aisle, lies the Catholic Family of Mossock. Situated here is a brass plaque, claiming a family grave has existed since 1276. An ode composed by Fr. Richard Mossock, states, 'My Ancestors have beene interred heere 385 years.' He inherited Mossock Hall and the Family Estate after returning from the Continent in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The early involvement in the Bickerstaffe families in Church affairs was evident in 1366, when Ralf de Bickerstath subscribed 12 pence towards the stipend of a priest. Again, at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Thomas Atherton of Bickerstath was responsible for the foundation of a Chantry, an altar dedicated to 'Our Lady of Pity' and for a priest to offer Mass for

the soul of Thomas and his ancestors. The Chantry was dismantled at the reformation.

Two tombs, which now lie in the Derby Chapel, were originally erected in the Bickerstaffe Chapel. They were constructed on the orders of Margaret Stanley of Bickerstaffe and Crosshall and display 12 Coats of Arms, bearing the charges of Bickerstath, Atherton, Scarisbrick, Mossock and Stanley families. Although the brass plates are missing, (probably ripped off during the Civil War) the Townley Mss. gives most of the inscription. 'In ye Church of Ormschurche in ye Co. Lancaster – of charity pray for ye souls of James Scarisbrick of Bickerstaffe and Margarett, his wife and Elizabeth their daughter deceased ye 18<sup>th</sup> daye of Jan, in ye year of our Lord God 1517 and ye same James dec'ed ye -----day of ----- in ye year of -----. On ye tomb there is ye portraitures of a man and a woman in brass.'



An armorial shield on the ancient tomb, showing a quartered Cross-Patonce of the Bickerstath Line.  
Photo 1985.

The sable Cross Patonce, the heraldic shield from the Coat of Arms of the Bickerstath family, can still be recognised almost 400 years since it was painted on the tomb.

Acknowledgements: Lancs and Cheshire Historical Society, 1877; Harry Rylands F.S.A; James Dixon F.R Hist; Miss Bootle Wilbraham (Sketches); Richard Appleton; Angela Chaderton

**Owen Taylor**

### **\*Addendum to July's Article – 'The Skelmersdale Carnival'**

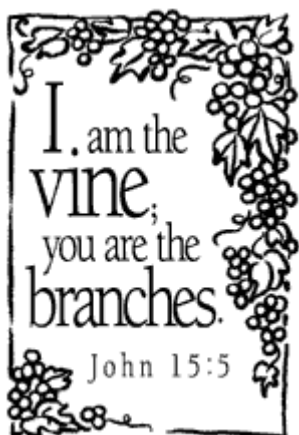
In 1937, the procession of the Skelmersdale Carnival was led by George Formby OBE. He rode in his Rolls Royce, waving to the crowds lining the streets. He was born in Wigan and during the 1930's and 40's he became a world-wide star, as an Actor, Singer-Songwriter and Comedian.

With Thanks to Lawrence Powers for this extra information.

Owen Taylor

### **Planting A Biblical Garden**

No plant is mentioned more times in the Bible than the grape and its products, chiefly wine but also raisins and vinegar. Wine gladdens the hearts of men (*Psalms 104:15*) and is used at symbolic occasions such as Passover and the Last Supper. David's men rejoiced with raisins (*1Chronicles 12-40*).



Pruning is essential if the vine is to produce fruit. This is referred to in several scriptures, in *Isaiah 5:6* and the most well-known *John 15:1-2*,

***"I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit".***

Commercial wine growing has increased in the UK over recent years. But the old fashioned grape Black Hamburg can still be found in some garden greenhouses – it is a very sweet variety which has done really well in recent years. The most famous Hamburg vine was planted in Hampton Court in 1768 by Capability Brown and still produces hundreds of bunches of grapes.

Pauline Moran, St Philip's Church, Litherland

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## CARD MAKING

### AT FOUR LANE ENDS MISSION

Last Friday in the month,

6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Please call either

Margaret 01695 421548 or

June 01695 722778 for further

information.



## NEW DINERS ARE WELCOME

Bickerstaffe Luncheon Club meet every alternate Thursday, at 12 noon in Four Lane Ends Mission.

For just £4 we enjoy a lovely hot cooked meal and pudding, followed by tea and a fun quiz. We usually end at 2.30pm.

If you would like to come along to boost our numbers and **enjoy a good meal and a laugh**, please ring Sheila Prentice on 727613.



## Rotas

### Church Cleaning Rota



*Did you know that many of our wonderful cleaning team are aged 80+? Could you spare a little time to help this important ministry so that others can step back? Please contact Irene McCarthy for further information. Thank you!*

1st September	Team 4	B Fairclough, B Winstanley, C Taylor
8th September	Team 5	F Brownbill, S Prentice, M Prentice
15th September	Team 6	M Clarke, V Heyes, B Morris
22nd September	Team 1	E Short, B Bell, F Brownbill
29th September	Team 2	I McCarthy, M Johnson
6th October	Team 3	A Banks, G Banks, N Rimmer

### September flower Rota



3rd September	Mrs Violet Heyes
10th September	Mrs Jenny Banks
17th September	Mrs Brenda Winstanley
24th September	Mrs Jeanne Hall
1st October	Mrs Norma Rimmer
8th October	Harvest Festival
Flowers, donations, and helpers most welcome	

Photo: maxpixel.freegreatpicture.com

### A little thought...

A kind heart is a garden  
 A kind thought is a root  
 A kind word is a blossom  
 A kind word is a fruit

## Liverpool Cathedral News

### How to Pray



“Teach us to pray” is a practical course looking at different ways of praying, and is held at the Liverpool Cathedral Dining Room 9:15am-10:15am starting on Sunday 8th October.

One of the most honest requests of the disciples was when they asked Jesus – “Teach us to pray.” Something that should be so straight forward can be more tricky than we think and also much greater than we often realise. This is a very practical course where we will look at different ways of praying each session and do some of them. You will not be asked to do anything you are uncomfortable with but my prayer is that together we will grow in our conversations with God.

This includes eight sessions on October 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, November 5th, 12, 19th, and 26th. Cost: Free, donations welcome.

You do not need to belong to the Cathedral to take part. Contact Emma Williams for more details, telephone 0151 702 7204 or E-mail [emma.williams@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:emma.williams@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk).

Source: [www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk).

### The Women's Institute



At the September meeting we welcome back for the fourth time an 'old' favourite speaker, Mrs. Chandra Law. We look forward to listening to her next talk which is entitled the Celebrations and Festivals of Malaysia. Please join us to enjoy a thoroughly entertaining and informative evening on Monday September 25th at 7.30pm at the Mission.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. For more information please contact Margaret Fairclough 01695 729161.



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## *A Blessing*

*May your day be blessed  
by moments of quietness,  
Light in your darkness,  
Strength  
in your weakness,  
Grace in your meekness,  
Joy in your gladness,  
Peace in your stillness.  
May your day be blessed.*

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## **Editorial News**



The deadline for the  
October magazine is  
**Wednesday 13th September.**

As always, please pass articles  
to myself or e-mail it to  
[jo.housley@gmail.com](mailto:jo.housley@gmail.com).  
I will do my best to publish  
articles when space and  
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