

**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.

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Website www.holytrinitybickerstaffe.co.uk. **Twitter** @HolyTrinityBick

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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,

The other week, I went to the cinema to see the new film, Dunkirk. It's a great film, which doesn't sensationalize the evacuation, but manages to tell the story of how the event changed people's lives. The courage and heroism of individuals was inspirational and has contributed to our national character. Nowadays, we use the term 'Dunkirk spirit' when the odds are stacked against us and we are determined not to give up. We encourage ourselves to face a challenge with courage and determination, just like those who sailed in boats of all sizes to rescue over 300,000 soldiers from Dunkirk's beaches.


I recently heard again the story of the time Jesus ascended to heaven and was met by an angel who asked Him what the plan was. Jesus mentioned that he'd left his few disciples to spread the good news of the Kingdom to the ends of the earth. The Angel looking down to see the motley crew hiding in an upper room, and asked Jesus "What is plan B?" Jesus answered, "there is no plan B". In the power of the Holy Spirit, the disciples managed to achieve what was expected of them.

When we face a challenge, we are not alone. The Spirit of God, the communion of the Saints and the fellowship of the Church stand with us. In 2 Corinthians 12:9 we read, 'But Jesus said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.'

I pray that we may know the love and support of those alongside us, as we go through life with courage and determination.

Andrew

Services in October

	St Michael, Aughton	Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe
1st October <i>Trinity 16</i> Green Ezekiel 18.1-4,25-32; Philippians 2.1-13; Matthew 21.23-32	8.15am Andrew Holy Communion 10.30am Andrew Harvest Celebration 4pm Martin Holy Communion	10.45am Martin Holy Communion
8th October Green <i>Trinity 17</i> Isaiah 5.1-7; Philippians 3.4b-14; Matthew 21.33-46	8.15am Martin Holy Communion 10.30am Martin Holy Communion	10.45am Andrew Harvest Celebration
15th October <i>Trinity 18</i> Green Isaiah 25.1-9; Philippians 4.1-9; Matthew 22.1-14	8.15am Andrew Holy Communion 10.30am Martin Parish Praise Sunday School 4pm Confirmation Service at Christ Church, Aughton.	10.45am Andrew Morning Praise

22nd October <i>Trinity 19</i> Green Isaiah 45.1-7; 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10; Matthew 22.15-22	8.15am Martin Holy Communion 10.30am Martin/Bill Holy Communion	10.45am Andrew Service of Baptism
29th October <i>Last Sunday after Trinity</i> Green Leviticus 19.1-2,15-18; 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8; Matthew 22.34-46	8.15am Martin Holy Communion 10.30am Andrew Holy Communion	10.45am Martin Holy Communion

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 and click on the Bible icon.

1st October: Who do you think you are?

Matthew 21:23-32

- Jesus is questioned about the nature and source of his authority.
- After testing his questioners, who decline to respond, Jesus also refuses to answer.
- Instead, he tells a parable about the priority of faithfulness and obedience over appearances.

A personal prayer

Lord, you have made me who and what I am – I thank you.
You are God of wisdom and power – I will obey you.
You are the way, the truth and the life – I will seek you in
your world and celebrate your presence. Amen.

8th October: Are you sitting comfortably?

Matthew 21.33-46

- Jesus tells a story about Israel and God using the familiar image of a vineyard.
- But Jesus' version leaves his listeners feeling uncomfortable.
- With their certainties challenged, the religious authorities are fearful for themselves.

A personal prayer

Based on Philippians 3.13-14

Lord, help me to put the past behind me and to strain forward to what lies ahead. May I always press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

15th October: Ready to party

Matthew 22.1-14

- Jesus tells a story in which invitations are sent out for a wedding banquet.
- The invited guests find excuses not to come, so others are invited in their place.
- A man is thrown out because he is not dressed appropriately.

A personal prayer

May I be ready – and stay ready – to say 'yes' and to mean 'yes' when God calls me. Amen.

22nd October: The things that are God's

Matthew 22.15-22

- Jewish leaders seek to entrap Jesus with a question about allegiance to the emperor and to God.
- Jesus counters with a carefully worded answer: give to each what they are due.
- The leaders are amazed at his teaching and leave him alone – for now.

A personal prayer

I pray for my MEPs, my MP and my local councillor – may they exercise their authority with wisdom.

I pray for my doctor/nurses and my pastor – may they undertake care with compassion.

I pray for my family and friends – may I surround them with love.

Amen.

29th October: Getting it right

Matthew 22.34-46

- A lawyer asks Jesus which is the greatest of God's commandments.
- Jesus, quoting the Old Testament, says: love God, and love your neighbour as yourself.
- Jesus asks a question of his audience: what sort of person might God's Messiah be?

A personal prayer

O loving God,

fill me with your Spirit, that I may always know your presence.

Uphold me by your strength, that I may always do your will.

Fill me with your love, that I may live in holiness, righteousness and truth.

Amen.

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 are a wonderful opportunity for outreach. Please invite friends!!

St Michael's Church Hall:

- Wednesday 11th October at 11am followed by a soup lunch. Our friends from St Philip's Church Litherland, will also join us.
- Wednesday 25th October, also at 11am.

Bickerstaffe School: Friday 27th October at 2.40pm.

Gluten free communion wafers

If you would like a gluten free communion wafer, please let one of the wardens know before the service.

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.

Men's Breakfast



The next breakfast will be on Saturday 25th November at Bickerstaffe School. 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.

Clothes Collections and Food Bank Collections

If you plan to sort through your children's wardrobes, 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.

Visit to Al-Rahma Mosque, Liverpool

The visit to the mosque will be on Tuesday 17th October 2017 at 1.30pm, leaving St Michael's about 12.30pm. If you would like to come, please put a tick next to your name on the list at the back of church. Below is a list of requests from the mosque.

1. Visitors and worshippers are required to dress modestly. This means that men are required to wear shirts and long pants, ladies are required to wear long shirts, dresses or trousers and long sleeves. It is also courteous of women to wear a head scarf in the mosque, although, not absolutely necessary.

2. Shoes will need to be removed and placed on the racks provided before entering the internal area of the mosque. Outside the mosque shoes are to be worn at all times.

3. No food or drink may be consumed inside the mosque and mobile phones should be switched off. Please observe the ambience of the place and refrain from loud talking and shouting. If prayers take place, during the time of the visit, then please either stand or sit at the back and maintain complete silence.

Advent Course

‘So what are you waiting for?’

The season of Advent bends time itself. And for us, time drags or speeds by, depending on our circumstances and stage of life. Our attitude to time gives us clues about our attitude towards God.

It’s a cliché to say that we live our lives often waiting for life to start, but that’s what many people experience, until they realise that they were living their lives all along. Christ, for whom we wait and to whom we will return, is both beyond us and beside us; outside time and bound by human time.

Whether you’re always in a hurry or have too much time on your hands, this course is for you, as we explore a spiritual life that encourages us to be active in the chronological world, and rooted in *Kairos*, God’s time.

The four sessions are: 1. Go with haste; 2. How Long O Lord how long?; 3. Prepare the way of the Lord!; and 4. *Kairos* and *Chronos*: is time running out?

Please sign up at the back of church if you would like to join one of this year’s Advent Groups.

Bickerstaffe News and Dates

8th October	Harvest Service
9th October	School Harvest Service 9am
15th October	Confirmation Service
20th October	Wedding
22nd October	Baptism
27th October	Domino Night at Four Lane Ends Mission
25th November	Christmas Fair
1st December	Bingo Night at Four Lane Ends Mission
21st December	Wedding

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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The Harvest Project



Three years ago, both Holy Trinity Church and Bickerstaffe School raised funds to support a child living in Bangladesh through the charity Compassion UK. His name is Dipok. For this year's Harvest Project, we are going to raise funds so that we can continue to support Dipok in his education.

Compassion is an international Christian child development and child advocacy ministry. Partnering with local churches, they are committed to the spiritual, economic, social and physical development of children living in extreme poverty in 26 countries, enabling them to become responsible, fulfilled Christian adults. Further information can be found on their website www.compassionuk.org.

During the Harvest Service on Sunday 8th October, there will be a thanksgiving offering for their work in support of Dipok.

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. Many thanks.

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.

Church clear out

A big 'thank you' to all who turned up to help with the church clear out!

An appeal for church cleaners!



The church urgently needs more helpers on the cleaning rota. If you are able to go on the six-weekly rota, then please speak to Andrew or Irene McCarthy. Thank you.

Andrew

P&O Mini-Cruise to Bruges, April 2018




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

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

Coach Trip to the Blackpool Illuminations

Why not join us on our church trip to Blackpool Illuminations on Saturday 21st October. We will leave from Four Lane Ends Mission at 1.30pm, home early evening around 7pm. Price per person £11. All welcome.

If you would like to come, please contact Edward on 07971 299606 or email westlancsedward@btinternet.com.



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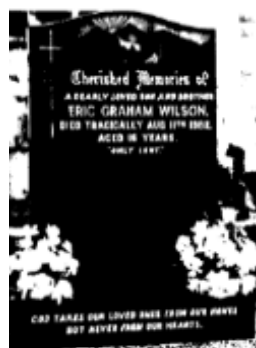
We welcome new members, visitors and students alike and hope that they enjoy being part of a friendly local group of people.

3rd Oct: Martin Jones, 'John Westhead Newburgh Village Blacksmith'.

17th Oct: Peter Speirs, 'A little Quaker history'.

31st Oct: Janet Niepokojczycka, 'Packhorse Days & Packhorse Ways'. Meetings start at 7.30pm at Four Lane Ends Mission. Further info. via 01704 631191.

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Parish Register

Please continue to pray for all the families mentioned below. Thank you.



Funeral and burial in the Churchyard

Mr Robert Spencer of Croppers Lane, Bickerstaffe

Four Lane Ends Mission Management Team News

Domino Night



On Friday 27th October at 7.30pm we will have another Domino Night at Four Lane Ends Mission. £5 including refreshments. All welcome!

Bingo Night



Join us for a fantastic night of fun, fellowship, and a few games of bingo! 7.30pm on Friday 1st December at Four Lane Ends Mission.

Christmas Fair: A date for your diary!



Our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 25th November at 2pm at Four Lane Ends Mission.



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

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

Find us on Facebook. Search CFTrustatOrmskirkBranch.

As we welcome Mrs Teachen to Bickerstaffe CoE Primary as Headteacher, please continue to keep her, the staff team, the children, and the governors in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

News from Bickerstaffe School



It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Bickerstaffe CE Primary. My name is Maggie Teachen and I originate from Motherwell in Scotland. I spent my early years in South Africa and at aged seventeen I joined the Royal Navy where I trained to be a Registered Nurse. After 7 years of service I left the force to become a mum, complete my degree and explore the world!

I retrained as a primary teacher in 2002 and my husband's occupation resulted in our relocation south of the border in 2005. I have had the pleasure of teaching in Bickerstaffe CE Primary for 7 fantastic years. Some of you may remember that famous Royal Wedding held in Trinity Church! Since my return, many parents have made the comment 'Welcome home' and I have to say that it really does feel like a homecoming.

Over the years I have gained valuable leadership experience and was Deputy Headteacher in an Outstanding primary school in Skelmersdale. I have been a Leading Teacher and Moderator for Lancashire County Council and have provided support for schools in need of help or advice. I have also had the privilege of being a guest lecturer at Edge Hill University, lecturing both teaching students and newly qualified teachers.

I live in Skelmersdale and am happily married to Marc. Caitlan is 21 and Chloe is 20. Both girls are currently studying at university. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time in the great outdoors and am learning to play the ukulele.

I have to say that teaching excites me. The buzz experienced from teaching someone something new, is so rewarding. I simply love children. They are indeed a gift from God - wonderful little beings who are full of so many possibilities. Bickerstaffe CE Primary, Trinity Church and Bickerstaffe Village have always held a special place in my heart. It is therefore both an honour and privilege to lead the school forward and to help shape our children's future.

You are welcome to call into school to introduce yourself, to have a look around and to have a chat over a cup of tea! I do hope that you can join us for our monthly Communion Services which are led by the children. These are usually on the last Friday of each month during term time. We would really love you to join us. 😊

Retirement Best Wishes

We would like to extend our best wishes to Mrs Hall, as she and Mr Hall embark on a new chapter in their lives. She has ably lead our school as Headteacher for the past 12 years and has left a wonderful legacy. Good luck from Team Bickerstaffe!

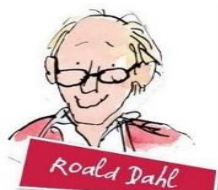
Open Day Wednesday 18th October 9.30am-11.30am and 1.30-5.30pm

If you know someone who has a child and is looking for a school to place, please tell them about our open day. We want to show prospective parents and their children all the wonderful things that we do in school and introduce them to our lovely staff and children. So please, spread the word!

Christian Value of the Month

As it was the start of the new school year, children agreed that our focus for September would be on friendship. We are highly impressed that the children are really kind and helpful to each other.

Roald Dahl Day



To promote reading and celebrate this day, we held a non-uniform/wear yellow day because yellow is Roald's favourite colour! We had great fun.

New Playground Equipment

The monkey bars and challenge net equipment have been installed on the field and the children have really enjoyed using it to develop their upper body strength. We are very fortunate to have such well-equipped playground facilities.

Daily Mile

The children continue to do their daily mile challenge and staff report that this has had a positive effect on their readiness to learn and general well-being.

Health and Well-being Sessions



We are delighted to have secured the services of Mr Schofield who works for the School Sports Partnership. Mr Schofield will work with the junior children over the Autumn term, to help them to learn about how to improve their health and well-being.

Sign Language

The children have been introduced to some basic sign language greetings which we hope to build upon and use over the coming year. We have allocated a sign for Reverend Andrew, so make sure you ask him to demonstrate it for you!

Twitter



Lots of pictures have been uploaded onto Twitter website. Follow us on @BickerstaffeCE for updates.

Maggie Teachen, Headteacher

Community News

Evensong at All Saints Church, Rainford



All Saints will have a traditional service of Evensong at 6.30pm on Sunday 1st October. Everyone is welcome to join them.

The Sporting Challenge Talent Showcase Event

This evening will be held at Burscough Legion, Lord Street, Burscough on Saturday 14th October at 7.30pm and will include a raffle. Entry is £5 with guest host. Sporting Challenge are a registered charity who provide social activities for people with additional needs. www.sporting-challenge.org.uk.

The Women's Institute

The October meeting is entitled, 'Let's Make Chocolate'. Mrs Josie Morris is coming to tell us all about the history of cocoa, where it grows best and how cocoa pods are turned into dark, milk and white chocolate. Also, she will demonstrate how 'tempering' chocolate makes it glossy and then she will show us how to make Easter eggs, chocolate bars and hollow figures. Please join us on Monday October 23rd at 7.30pm at The Mission.

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

The Mothers' Union

The September Mothers' Union meeting was a trip to Bents Garden Centre. Members had a good look around had their lunch and the opportunity for some retail therapy! Next month is our Harvest Festival Service. This meeting will be on October 18th and will commence at 1pm with a Harvest Lunch. All Ladies welcome.

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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!

6th October	Team 3	A Banks, G Banks, N Rimmer
13th October	Team 4	B Fairclough, B Winstanley, C Taylor
20th October	Team 5	F Brownbill, S Prentice, M Prentice
27th October	Team 6	M Clarke, V Heyes, B Morris
3rd November	Team 1	E Short, B Bell, F Brownbill
10th November	Team 2	I McCarthy, M Johnson

September flower Rota



1st October	Mrs Norma Rimmer
8th October	Harvest Festival*
*Flowers, donations, and helpers most welcome.	
We will meet at 10am on 7th October.	
15th October	Flowers remain
22nd October	Rev Keith Leiper
29th October	Miss Hilda Rawsthorne
5th November	Mrs Suzanne Marsh



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the wisdom of God
be reflected in your words,
and the knowledge of God
flow from your heart,
that all might see,
and seeing, believe.*

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Editorial News



The deadline for the
October magazine is
Wednesday 18th October.

As always, please pass articles
to myself or e-mail it to
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Planting a Biblical Garden



Tamarisks, are very common trees and shrubs in the Middle East, especially in soils with high salt concentration and are therefore the only trees found on the shores of the Dead Sea.

During the heat of the day the tamarisk secretes salt, a process very wasteful of water. The salt dries. During the night, the salt absorbs water from the air. In the morning, the water evaporates creating a sort of

natural air-conditioning. This cooling effect is another reason for its popularity as a shade tree.

Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba (**Genesis 21:33**). Why? Trees were often used as memorials for great men. It is therefore appropriate that Abraham should honour God by planting the tamarisk. It would be a permanent memorial of the covenant between the two. Saul was sitting under one, spear in hand, when he heard news of David's rebellion against him (**1 Samuel 22:6**). Later, when Saul and his 3 sons fell in battle, the triumphant Philistines hung their bodies from the wall of Beth Shan, but Saul's men rescued them and buried the bones honourably under a tamarisk tree (**1 Samuel 31:13**).

Tamarisks have a heather like appearance and produce pink or white flowers. You can definitely grow them in your garden in West Lancashire. In fact, I have seen the pink variety down Church Road, Litherland!!

Pauline Moran, St Philip's Church, Litherland.

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