

**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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Letter from Andrew Housley

Dear Friends,



It's the time of year when the evenings get darker earlier and the thermostat for the central heating is turned up. People will soon complain that the Christmas adverts are already on TV and Home Bargains are selling Christmas decorations already too! The ITV drama, 'Victoria', has already advertised its Christmas special. Each year it seems that we are being rushed towards Christmas. Like travelling on an inter-city train, the destination seems more important than the journey and we miss out on appreciating what we are being rushed past.

I often think that Advent is my favourite church season. I enjoy that sense of anticipation, and I have always preferred Advent hymns to Christmas carols. Advent is a season of preparation, so we will notice that like in Lent, we will not sing the Gloria. Many think of Advent as a preparation for Christmas, but Advent is primarily preparation for the second coming of Christ and this is reflected in our Advent hymns and readings.


As in previous years, we will run our chosen Advent course in house groups across the benefice. Further information is within this magazine. If you have not joined a group before, I would like to encourage you to join one. The Advent groups give us the opportunity to appreciate the season of Advent, rather than speeding through it towards Christmas.


Below are the words to the beautiful Advent hymn, 'Come though long expected Jesus'. I would like to encourage you to read through the words and pray that during Advent, you know Christ's light shining in whatever darkness you experience.

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
 Born to set Thy people free;
 From our fears and sins release us,
 Let us find our rest in Thee.
 Israel's Strength and Consolation,
 Hope of all the earth Thou art;
 Dear Desire of every nation,
 Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
 Born a child and yet a King,
 Born to reign in us forever,
 Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
 By Thine own eternal Spirit
 Rule in all our hearts alone;
 By Thine all sufficient merit,
 Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Services in November

	St Michael, Aughton	Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe
5th November <i>4th before Advent</i> Green Micah 3.5-12; 1 Thessalonians 2.9-13; Matthew 23.1-12	8.15am Martin 10.30am Bill Matins 10.30am Hall Service 4.00pm Martin Holy Communion	10.45am Martin Holy Communion

<p>12th November <i>Remembrance Sunday</i> Green Amos 5.18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18; Matthew 25.1-13</p> 	<p>8.15am Martin Holy Communion</p> <p>10.30am Andrew Service of Remembrance with Parade</p> <p>4pm Andrew Commemoration of the Departed</p>	<p>10.45am Martin Service of Remembrance</p>
<p>19th November <i>2nd before Advent</i> Red Zephaniah 1.7,12-18; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-3</p> <p>0</p>	<p>8.15am Andrew Holy Communion</p> <p>10.30am Martin Holy Communion</p> <p>4.00pm Andrew Holy Communion</p>	<p>10.45am Mark Morning Praise</p>
<p>26th November <i>Christ the King</i> Red Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24; Ephesians 1.15-23; Matthew 25.31-46</p>	<p>8.15am Andrew Holy Communion</p> <p>10.30am Andrew Baptisms</p>	<p>10.45am Martin Holy Communion</p>

5th November <i>4th before Advent</i> Green Micah 3.5-12; 1 Thessalonians 2.9-13; Matthew 23.1-12	8.15am Martin 10.30am Bill Matins 10.30am Hall Service 4.00pm Martin Holy Communion	10.45am Martin Holy Communion
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Worship & Learning



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5th November: What lies beneath?

Matthew 23.1-12

- Jesus accuses the scribes and Pharisees of not doing what they teach.
- He tells the crowd and his disciples that they have but one teacher, and one Father in heaven.
- Those who exalt themselves will be humbled; the humble will be exalted.

A personal prayer

Lord, grant me:

courage to speak the truth when it is uncomfortable;

grace to live quietly when I would like to be noticed;

perseverance to do ordinary tasks well,
rather than to seek glory in the spectacular;
confidence to entrust my strengths and weaknesses to you;
integrity to pray as I can, not as I think I ought to;
and the joy of knowing that
no praise, no privilege, no position
matter more than being surrounded
by your love and faithfulness every day. Amen.

12th November: A dark night

Matthew 25.1-13

- Jesus tells a parable about ten bridesmaids waiting for the groom – but are they ready?
- Half of the bridesmaids have oil for their lamps, the other half do not.
- When the groom arrives, those with no oil go to buy some, but miss their moment.

A personal prayer

Loving God, so often I feel unprepared for the day ahead and all its demands. I'm distracted when I try to worship – with other things buzzing in my head. I'm complacent about the relationships that make my life special – taking friends and family for granted. Help me to be more focused on you, that I may take the days in my stride, embracing both the holy and the ordinary in my prayers, and ready to listen, to serve and to provide for those around me. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

19th November: Settling accounts

Matthew 25.14-30

- Jesus tells a parable of a man who, before going away, gives his slaves talents (money).
- When he returns, he holds his slaves accountable for what they have

done with the talents.

- Two have used them wisely, but one has done nothing – and is strongly condemned.

A personal prayer

O Lord, I am so bad at taking risks.

I am cautious and careful, not daring and decisive.

I am far more fearful than I am faithful.

Help me to look to your strength, not my weaknesses,

to your riches, not my poverty –

that I may fulfil your hopes for me,

to your glory and my joy. Amen.

26th November: Judgment call

Matthew 25.31-46

- Jesus speaks of judgement with a story about the separation of sheep from goats.
- The judgement will take place when the Son of Man comes in glory.
- Those who failed to see and respond to the needs of people around them, have failed to see the Son.

A personal prayer

Dear Lord,

I am both sheep and goat,

loving and selfish, caring and complacent.

Take the best of me,

and shape it into that which can serve you and my community with more passion,

more commitment and more humility,

knowing my frailties, but rejoicing in your strength. Amen.



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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 8th November (at Sefton Church),
22nd & 29th November at 11am.

Bickerstaffe School: Friday 24th November 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.

Men's Breakfast



The next breakfast will be on Saturday 18th November (this is the ***new date***) 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.

Book Club

The next book club will be held at The Derby Arms Pub from 8pm on 15th November. The book is "Small Great Things" by Judy Picoult. All welcome.

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.

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?

Venues and dates

- *Tuesdays* at 7.30pm at Bickerstaffe Hall, Hall Lane, Bickerstaffe
November 28th and December 5th, 12th, and 19th
- *Wednesdays* at 7.30pm at The Rectory, 10 Church Lane, Aughton
November 29th, and December 6th, 13th, and 20th
- *Fridays* at 1.30pm at St Michael's Church Hall, Church Lane, Aughton
December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd

Course booklets are £3.59. The deadline for signing up is Sunday 12th November. 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

14th November	Parochial Church Council meeting
15th November	Book Club 8pm at The Derby Arms Pub.
25th November	Christmas Fair
1st December	Bingo Night at Four Lane Ends Mission
12th December	2pm Carols and Mince Pies at Stockley Crescent
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.

Remembrance reflection



On **Friday 10th November**, the children from Bickerstaffe School will come to church to reflect on the theme of Remembrance. There will be a series of interactive stations similar to the Easter Experience. If you would like to get involved, then please speak to Andrew.

Remembrance Sunday

Please would all ex-service personnel and representatives of all the various organisations in The Parish meet at 10.30am on the parish field car park.

Bill Gardiner

Pastoral visits

If you know of anyone who would like a pastoral visit, then please speak to Irene or Andrew.

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.



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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.

An urgent 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. Please contact Edward (mobile: 07971 299 606) or Irene if you would like further information. Thank you.

Harvest Festival

Many thanks to *everyone* who kindly donated produce, flowers, donations and their time for the Harvest Festival. You did us proud - the Church looked lovely. Many thanks to the team who tidied up and distributed the gifts.

Produce donors included Mr R A Owen & Sons, Mr J P Molyneux, Alan & Edwina Abbot, Mr George Hodge, Mr Peter Ball, Mr David & Joy Bradshaw, and Mr Jon & Mary Appleton. Joy Bradshaw and Jennie Banks donated new cloth on the Piano and the bunting.

Thank you from Barbara Morris

I would like to thank all my friends at Holy Trinity for their prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, and good wishes since my illness. It is very kind of you and very much appreciated. Much love to you all from Barbara Morris.

Parish Registers

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



The funeral service for the late Mr John Whittaker aged 89 of Elm Place, Ormskirk, was held in church on Monday 16th November.

Prayer Time

This Advent-time we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage and obedience, stepping out into the unknown in the strength of your Spirit, playing their part in the fulfilment of your plan to bring your prodigal people home again.

We pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives, that when your gentle whisper breaks through the clamour of this world and into our small corner, we might be ready to listen, and having listened, to act.

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!

3rd November	Team 1 E Short, B Bell, F Brownbill
10th November	Team 2 I McCarthy, M Johnson
17th November	Team 3 A Banks, G Banks, N Rimmer
24th November	Team 4 B Fairclough, B Winstanley, C Taylor
1st December	Team 5 F Brownbill, S Prentice, M Prentice
8th December	Team 6 M Clarke, V Heyes

November flower Rota



5th November	Mrs Suzanne Marsh
12th November	Mr Edward Mercer
19th November	Mrs Audrey Banks
26th November	Mrs Joan Girling
3rd December	Mrs Wendy Emmott

Please note: From the end of November the flower Rota for 2018 will be on the table at the back of church - please let Irene or Sheila know if there are any alterations before it is printed for the church porch. Thank you

Stamp Collections

Thank you to everyone who collects used postage stamps for me throughout the year. These are put to good use by charities. Please remember to save your Christmas card stamps which can be left in the box at the back of church. Thank you. Fred Tyrer.

Four Lane Ends Mission Management Team News

Funding News

Four Lane Ends Mission have been awarded a grant of £500 towards improvement works to the car park from the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund.

Edward McCarthy

Christmas Fair:



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

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.

100 Club Results

Prize	May 2017	June 2017	July 17	August 17
£20	Jon Ashburner	Merrick Rimmer	Hilary Rosbotham	Sam Rosbotham
£10	Hilary Rosbotham	Anne Webster	Merrick Rimmer	Jean Nelson
£5	Violet Heyes	Barbara Bell	Elaine Hale	Elaine Hale
£5	Margaret Bench	Jean Peet	Edward Mercer	Merrick Rimmer

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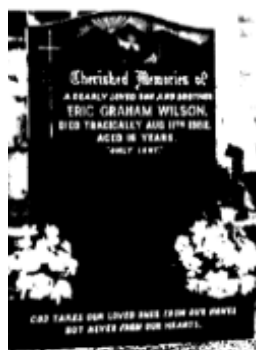
6 Nov: Steward Elliott: 'The English village from 1750 to the present day'

20 Nov: Dr Jim Ford: 'Canadian Pacific – The company that spanned the world'.

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

www.ormskirkhistoricalsociety.co.uk

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News from Bickerstaffe School



Cheese and Wine for Parents

We held an information evening for our parents and are delighted to say that we had a great turnout.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We had also had a great catch-up over cake and coffee and raised a fantastic £153.16! Mrs James also ran the Southport 10K for Macmillan, finishing with a superb time of 1:04.

Harvest Service

The church looked beautiful and proved to be the perfect backdrop for us to celebrate together and give thanks to God. The children treated everyone to a range of wonderful performances. We would like to thank everyone for their generous food donations, which were shared within our local community.

Sponsored Silence



Class 4 completed a sponsored silence. The children decided to undertake this challenge in order to raise much need funds for Dipok, the boy who we sponsor from Bangladesh. The collection in Church raise £98 and the children raised a further £90 in sponsorship money, which is fantastic!

Educate Awards – Friday 17th November



We are delighted to announce that we have been shortlisted for the Outstanding Commitment to Sports award and that our very own Miss O'Kane has also been shortlisted for the Inspirational Teacher of the Year award. We are so excited. Please keep your finger crossed for us!

Communion Service – Friday 24th November at 2.40pm

You are invited to attend our Communion Service in school, which is on Friday 24th November at 2.40pm. The children delight in leading this lovely service and would love you to join us. We hope you can make it.

Maggie Teachen, Headteacher

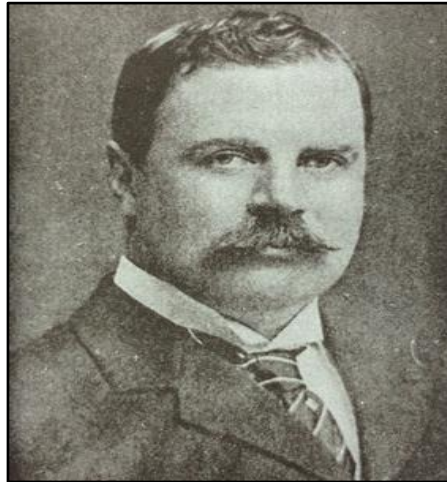
Remembrance Day by Owen Taylor

For many years after the Armistice the main topic of conversation centred on the First World War. Such names as Passchendaele, the Somme, Ypres and Mons were places ingrained in the memories of families from Bickerstaffe, who had lost relatives in those great battles. From 1914 to 1918, 136 men from the Parish were enlisted or volunteered into the Armed Forces, the majority joining the 9th Kings Liverpool Regiment. Nearly a quarter of those gallant men were never to return. Four servicemen who died in English hospitals were interred in Bickerstaffe. These were Privates W Fyles, J Hesketh, W Peet, and J Brownbill.

In 1920, a fund was set up which raised £512 for the erection of a War Memorial. It was described in a Parish Magazine article by the Reverend W Wright, 'To do honour to the memory of those Servicemen whose names are 'writ in stone' on the beautiful Gothic Cross'.

The unveiling ceremony took place on Monday 21st March 1921. After a short service in Church, the congregation were led to the monument by the choir and clergy, singing the processional hymn, 'The Supreme Sacrifice', accompanied by the Skelmersdale Prize Band. Then, the 17th Earl of Derby addressed the crowds of people who surrounded him, saying, 'that he felt honoured to come to Bickerstaffe on such an occasion, as they who had fallen were of Lancashire stock like himself and that his family had been connected with the Parish for many generations'.

The Memorial was dedicated by Archdeacon Spooner, after which a Firing Party from the Seaforth Barracks, fired three volleys. The service ended in the profound silence as the 'Last Post' was sounded by a Bugler from the Skelmersdale Prize Band.



The 17th Earl of Derby
Founder of Liverpool Pals Regiment 1908 -1948
Secretary of State for War 1916 – 1918

Another memorial, a three foot wooden cross, still encrusted with the mud from Flanders Field, hung on the North Wall of the Church for over 30 years. It was taken from the grave of an unknown Soldier, after being replaced by a Head Stone and given to the Reverend B Watts in the 1920s when on a visit to the War Graves. It now lies in the North Aisle.

In late Autumn of the same year, a unanimous decision was made by the governing bodies of the Parish to award a gold medal to all ex-servicemen who had served in war-zones. The presentation ceremony was held at Bickerstaffe School on a cold November evening. Again, the 17th Earl of Derby was invited to do the honours, he was in a very relaxed mood, arriving from an earlier dinner engagement.

The ex-servicemen were lined up to receive their awards, some standing to attention, while others saluted. The memorable night ended with refreshments and interesting discourse about past experiences.



This is the Medal presented to William Short, a Bickerstaffe Resident and First World War Veteran.

Front: Great European War 1914–1918
Reverse: Bickerstaffe Parish to William Short for Services Rendered



First World War Veteran, George Walton. He served in Mesopotamia. He marched through Baghdad following its capture by the British Troops on 11th March 1917.

Acknowledgements: Reverend Wright M.A., William Heyes, Freda Brownbill, Phyllis Walton, Angela Chaderton.

The Women's Institute



The next meeting is the Annual General Meeting. This will take place on Monday November 27th at 7.30pm at The Mission.

Members are asked if they will kindly donate one or more new toys which will be given to children of underprivileged families in the local area at Christmas. For more information please contact Margaret Fairclough on 01695 729161.

The Mothers' Union

Our October meeting was a Harvest lunch followed by a service of thanksgiving. We sang the traditional harvest songs. We were pleased to welcome several guests who joined us for the afternoon.

On 8th November, we will join our friends at Melling for an afternoon of Fellowship at 2pm. Our next month's speaker is Rev. Martin Adams who we look forward to listening to. Please try and support our meetings.

Irene McCarthy

White Elephant

Don't forget! When visiting Irene and Jenny's WHITE ELEPHANT stall at the Garden party and Christmas Fair - have you ever wondered how it got its name and why something useless and costly is called a "White Elephant"? The term comes from ancient Siam, where no-one but the king could own a rare and sacred albino (white) elephant without royal consent.

The cost of keeping any elephant, white or otherwise, was tremendous and so when the king found displeasure with someone he would make him a gift of a white elephant, and because the animal was sacred and couldn't be put to work, the cost of its upkeep would ruin its new owner. *You will, however, always find good bargains on our stall!*

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Margaret 01695 421548 or

June 01695 722778 for further

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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.

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good meal and a laugh**, please
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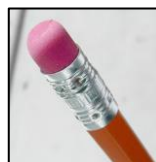
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An Advent Prayer

God of hope
be with us in our Advent journey
to the stable and beyond,
be with us in our meeting
and in our travelling together,
be with us in our worship
and our praying together,
be with us in our Advent journey
to the stable and beyond,
our God of hope.

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Editorial News



The deadline for the
October magazine is
Wednesday 15th November

As always, please pass articles
to myself or e-mail it to
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