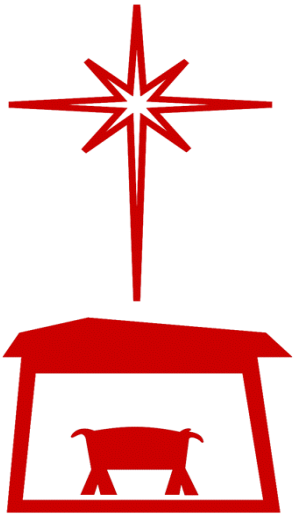
Diocese of Liverpool

Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe
December 2019



Bible verse for 2019

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Liverpool Diocesan Prayer

Loving Father, by your grace
we long to see more people knowing Jesus,
and more justice in your world.
Help us to live as your disciples
in the power of the Spirit
and to work to your praise and glory.
Amen.

50p

Contact Details

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

VICAR

Reverend Captain Andrew Housley, CA 10 Church Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk L396SB. Tel: 01695 423204. Mob: 07788 256 776, E-mail: andrew.housley67@gmail.com.

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.

CHURCH WARDEN Mr Mike Emmott 07419 825818 emmott548@btinternet.com

CHURCH WARDEN Mr Edward McCarthy 07971 299606

TREASURER Mr Stan Barnes (including. Magazine Finance) 07923 928863

CHURCH WARDEN EMERITUS Mr Merrick Rimmer. Tel: 01695 727848.

CHURCH TREASURER EMERITUS Mrs Hilary Rosbotham

READER EMERITUS Mr Colin Johnson

MAGAZINE & WEB

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PCC SECRETARY Ms Anne Rosbotham-Williams. Telephone 01695 722034.

Letter from Andrew Housley

Dear Friends,



It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the post, turkey dinners with family and friends, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmas time when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

No matter what may be happening in our lives, we can know that we are God’s children. Let us all invite Jesus be at the centre of our Christmas this year, and receive the love peace and joy he brings. We will then all have a "Merry Christmas." Jesus Is The Reason For The Season! Rejoice!

Andrew

Christmas Letter from Bishop Beverley

Hope is delivered into uncertainty

People were anxious; living under the rules of a foreign government with corruption rife. A nervous nation with a rebellious population unsure of what the future may hold. Uncertain people. Uncertain times. Looking for a way out – looking for hope.

This could be many points in history. There are elements that ring true today. But it was the world that greeted Jesus on the day he came into the world. The prettified Christmas card version of the Christmas story hides the harsh reality. Jesus was born into poverty in bleak surroundings in dangerous times.

This is the aspect which makes the story massively compelling. The events surrounding Jesus' birth would not seem massively out of place in the Game of Thrones. A despotic king ordering the slaughter of hundreds of innocent children. Magi travelling miles to be caught up in the political intrigue of the royal court. Mary and Joseph smuggling the new born away on a dangerous flight to Egypt. You almost couldn't make it up.

It needed to be this way! For the story of Jesus to make any sense to us today and indeed at any time, his birth and life had to be a realistic tale of human experience and struggle - not a fairy tale. A story we can relate to and find our place within it; a story to speak to our generation as it spoke to the generations before us and will continue to speak to the world long after we are gone.

Because at Christmas hope is delivered into uncertainty. And that's what people are looking for. Hope! Hope for meaning, for a better, kinder and more compassionate world, a world where there is no more

war, and hope for the what next – is death the light going out, or is there more?

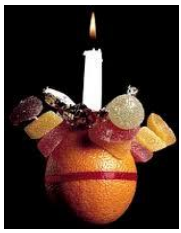
From the very beginning, God promised Jesus would come and herald in a whole new world. This is why the angels accompanied his birth – Jesus IS the 'glory of God'. When Mary kisses the cheek of her baby son, she's kissing the face of God. The child will grow and teach us how to be fully human, fully who we are. He will teach us how our slate can be wiped clean, how to start again and how we can lay down the things that weigh us down. He will show us what it is to have freedom, peace and joy in our hearts. This is his gift to each of us at Christmas, when we simply say, 'Jesus, I need you! Jesus I want you! Please make your home in my heart'.

In the silent place of our heart, Jesus will give us assurances and the hope that we long for. This Christmas, as you receive his gift of immeasurable love, be thankful!

Bishop Beverley Mason, Bishop of Warrington

Services in December

	**St Michael, Aughton**	**Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe**
1st December *Advent Sunday* Purple Isaiah 2.1-5; Romans 13.11-14; Matthew 24.36-44	8.15am Andrew Holy Communion 10.30am Bill Matins 10.30am Hall Service 4pm Andrew Holy Communion	10.45am Andrew Baptism 

8th December *Advent 2* Purple Isaiah 11.1-10; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12	8.15am Andrew Holy Communion 10.30am Judith Family Communion 4pm Christchurch Evening Service	10.45am Andrew Christingle 
15th December *Advent 3* Purple Isaiah 35.1-10; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11	8.15am Andrew Holy Communion 10.30am Andrew Christingle 4.00pm Andrew Holy Communion	10.45am Mark Morning Praise
22nd December *Advent 4* Purple Isaiah 7.10-16; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25	8.15am Andrew Holy Communion 10.30am Andrew Holy Communion 4pm Andrew Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	10.45am Lin Camp Holy Communion 6.30pm Andrew Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
24th December *Christmas Eve* White Readings as Christmas Day	4pm Chris Crib Service 11.30pm Andrew Midnight Communion	4pm Andrew Crib Service 11.30pm Judith Midnight Communion

25th December *Christmas Day* White Isaiah 52.7-10; Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12; John 1.1-14	8.15am Andrew Holy Communion 10.30am Andrew Family Communion	10.45am Mark Hudson Family Communion 
29th December *1st after Christmas* White Isaiah 63.7-9; Hebrews 2.10-18; Matthew 2.13-23	8.15am Andrew Holy Communion 10.30am Andrew Holy Communion	10.45am Judith Holy Communion

Worship & Learning

ROOTS
Worship and learning for the whole Church

1st December: The bigger picture

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus tells his disciples that only the Father knows when the Son of Man will come suddenly to gather his elect. Therefore, they must 'keep awake' and 'be ready', because he is coming at 'an unexpected hour'.

A personal prayer

O Lord, clear away any darkness
that resides in my life.
May I put on the armour of light,
be assured of your salvation,
and be determined to follow your ways.
Remind me of your faithfulness
and inspire a new hope in my heart.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

8th December: Repent! *Matthew 3:1-12*
John the Baptist fulfils the role of Isaiah's prophetic voice, preparing for the Lord's coming. The preparation is repentance, and learning to 'bear good fruit' by depending only on God. When the Lord, the Messiah, comes, he will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire.

A personal prayer
Lord, as the Spirit rested on Jesus,
filling him with wisdom and understanding,
may the Spirit also rest on me,
teaching and guiding me,
reminding me of Jesus and all that he has done.
May your Spirit give me what I need
for every day and every task,
big or small, extravagant or mundane.
Holy Spirit, fill my life today
and grow good fruit in me. Amen.

15th December: What do you see? *Matthew 11:2-11*
John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask whether Jesus really is the promised Messiah. Jesus invites John to look at his words and deeds - they fulfil Isaiah's prophecies; and he affirms John as the messenger, foretold by Malachi, sent to prepare the way.

A personal prayer
Jesus, help me to see you.
Show me who you are.
Remind me of the things you have done,
how you can turn situations upside down,
and that nothing is impossible for you.
As I go through my days,
help me to recognise your work in my life,

to see what you have done for me.
Lord, increase my faith in you. Amen.

22nd December: Taking a risk *Matthew 1:18-25*
In a dream, an angel tells Joseph that Mary's child is from the Holy Spirit. He is to take her as his wife and name the child Jesus, the Saviour. By Joseph's adoption Jesus becomes the promised Son of David, named 'God is with us'.

A personal prayer
Lord God, in all the decisions I need to make,
give me wisdom and strength.
Help me be brave enough to change my mind
if that is what I need to do.
May I be open to your will at work in me.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

29th December: Joseph's journeys *Matthew 2:13-23*
Angels appearing in dreams guide Joseph away from Bethlehem in Judea, first to Egypt, where Jesus is safe from Herod's fury, and then to Nazareth in Galilee, where Jesus is brought up. All this fulfils the words of the prophets.

A personal prayer
God of Joseph and Mary,
God of the prophets
and the gospel writers,
God of all –
may my words,
my thoughts,
my actions

honour you.
May I follow you;
may I find you,
as they did,
not cradled in your mother's arms,
but reigning in my heart. Amen.

Benefice News

Communion in the Community



The Holy Communion Services in St Michael's Hall, Bickerstaffe School, and Four Lane Ends Mission are a wonderful opportunity for outreach. Please invite friends!!

"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

1 Corinthians 11:26

- St Michael's Hall 11th December at 11am
- Four Lane Ends Mission 4th December at 11am (soup lunch following the service).

Men's Breakfast

The next breakfast will be Saturday 25th January 9am at St Michael's Hall. If you are able to help with the cooking, please speak to Andrew. We especially need more volunteers to arrive early to set up (about 8am) and also stay behind to tidy up and mop the floor in the kitchen. New members welcome!

Furry Tails

Furry Tails offers a different, exclusively designed pet sitting service for cats and other small pets in their own homes, which allows you to tailor visits to suit both you and your pet's needs.

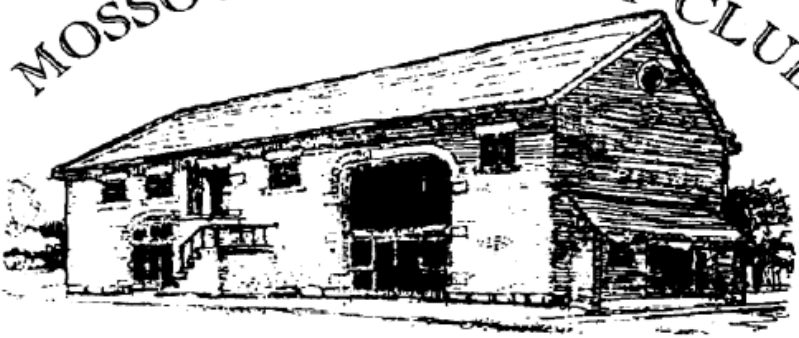
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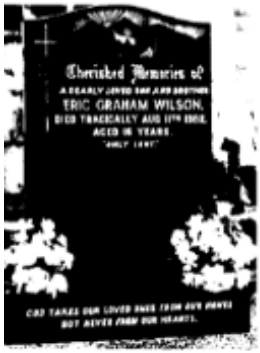
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Ormskirk & District Historical Society

We welcome new members, visitors, and students alike.
Please see our website for information or telephone 01704 631191. Meetings 7.30pm at Four Lane Ends Mission.

www.ormskirkhistoricalsociety.co.uk

HARDMAN MEMORIALS



NEW MEMORIALS

INSCRIPTIONS AND REFIXING BY SKILLED CRAFTSMEN

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Charity Collections
A reminder that we continue to collect good quality **children's clothes** and other school items such as football boots, and goggles, which will be donated to Litherland Moss School.

Gift of **men's clothes** will be forwarded to Bootle Salvation Army, and the Skelmersdale **Food Bank** remains as important as ever, particularly in the school holidays when families need to find extra meals. Non-perishable food items are therefore very much appreciated. Please leave any items at the back of church. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Book Club
The next meeting will be 15th January 2020, 8.00p.m. at the Derby Arms pub and all are welcome! The book we are reading is 'Lincoln in the Bardo' by George Saunders.

The extraordinary first novel by the bestselling, Folio Prize-winning, National Book Award-shortlisted George Saunders, about Abraham Lincoln and the death of his eleven year old son, Willie, at the dawn of the Civil War.

Bickerstaffe News and Dates

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.

Celebrate Christmas At Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe



Some of our fondest childhood memories include singing carols at Christmas. We hope ***you*** can join us at some of our Christmas services this year.

Sunday 8th December at 10.45am Christingle Service



This service is an opportunity to raise funds for the Children's Society, while lighting our Christingles to remind us of Christ's light in the world. You are invited to wear Christmas jumpers!

Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



We sing traditional carols while listening to the story of Christmas told by bible readings.

Christmas Eve at 4pm Crib Service



This is a wonderful service for children of all ages. Make this service part of your family tradition before returning home to hang the stockings!

Christmas Eve at 11.30pm Midnight Communion



A mystical time when we welcome the Christ child and Christmas begins.

Christmas Day Family Communion at 10.45am



The most anticipated of days, we celebrate by singing carols. Children are invited to bring one of their new toys to the 10.30am service, to show everyone what they got for Christmas

We wish all our readers a very happy Christmas!

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
who is Christ, the Lord.
Luke 2.10,11

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.

Dates for your diary and special services

6th December Christingle making in school from 1.15pm
8th December Christingle
12th January Star Wars Service

Posada

'Posada' in Spanish means lodging. It is used as a title for a Mexican tradition of dramatizing the nativity story. In recent years, churches have used the term for a way to involve a community in getting ready for Christmas. In Bickerstaffe, starting in Advent, models of Mary and Joseph will be taken from home to home within the parish and then be brought back to church for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. If you would like to host Mary and Joseph, there will be a form to sign.

The Friends of Bickerstaffe Church: Auberge at The Anchorage

Fancy a beautiful nine course meal that won't break the piggy bank? Gather up a group of fourteen friends, ring Renee on 01695 726161 and we fix a date. For the meal we suggest a minimum donation of £35 per person. Diners do not need to be churchgoers, what's not to like?

Thank you

The messages of support, cards and flowers received from friends within the Bickerstaffe community following the sad and sudden passing of Susan Gardiner have been wholeheartedly appreciated by us all. It has been and will continue to be difficult to come to terms with, however the support we have received has been an incredible source of comfort.

Thank you to all who came to the funeral service to pay their respects; we're very humbled and overwhelmed by the number of people who attended. It was amazing to see that Sue had impacted so many lives and was well thought of and known by so many. Thank you.

Garry, Debra, and The Gardiner Family

Parish Register

Funeral



A funeral service took place on 10th October for **Susan Patricia Gardiner** aged 60 of Heyescroft. A cremation service followed at West Lancashire Crematorium.

Please continue to keep the family in your prayers. Thank you.

Church Rotas

Church Cleaning Rota

6th December	Team 1	E Short, F Brownbill
13th December	Team 2	I McCarthy, S Kenny
27th December	Team 3	A Banks, G Banks, N Rimmer
3rd January	Team 4	B Fairclough, B Winstanley
10th January	Team 5	The Ashburner Family
17th January	Team 6	M Clarke, V Heyes

December Flower Rota

After 20 years, Sheila Beeby is retiring as Flower Rota Co-ordinator. May we take this opportunity to thank Sheila for this ministry.

1st December	Mrs Wendy Emmott
8th December	Mrs Barbara Bell
15th December	Mrs Linda Weaver
22nd December	Mrs Sheila Prentice
29th December	Flowers remain
6th January	Vacant
12th January	Mrs Phyllis Walton

Bickerstaffe Fledglings Pre School

Bickerstaffe Lodge
Open 8am to 6pm

Bickersplatts

Home of **Fledglings Pre School & Nursery** – Places available for children from 6 months old. We have free early education places for eligible 2 & 3 year olds.

Home of **Bickersplatts**, Breakfast, After School & Holiday Club for children 6 months to 11 year olds.

Bickerstaffe Lodge is operated by **Bickerstaffe Children's Services Ltd**, a not for profit social enterprise. For all enquiries, please e-mail bickerstaffelodge@yahoo.co.uk, tel **01695 720238,** or call to have a look around.

Star of Bethlehem

The first ever Christmas decoration was the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem, birthplace of the Messiah. This light illuminated the sky and pointed the way to the stable where Jesus lay.

People are divided about whether this star was a natural or supernatural phenomenon: a conjunction of planets or a sign from God. Either way, the star of Bethlehem has been the inspiration behind at least some of the decorations we see at Christmas. The star also reminds everyone that "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it (John 1:5).

Sheila Beeby

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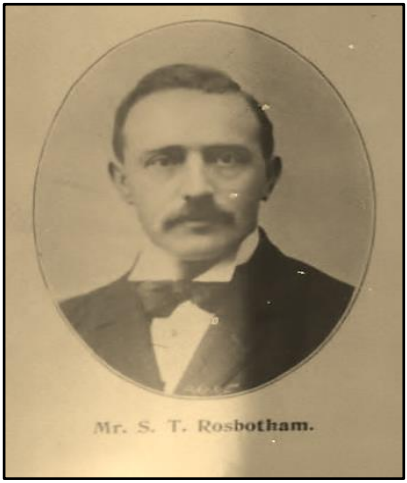


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'The Bickerstaffe Knight' By Owen Taylor

The proverbial phrase, 'Local boy makes good', aptly describes the life of Sir Samual Thomas Rosbotham J.P. Known as 'Sam Tom' or 'S.T' in the neighbourhood, he was a prominent figure for over 50 years. Sir Thomas was born at Stanley Farm in 1864 and was educated at Rainford and Ormskirk Grammar School. His early interest in modern farming methods led him to establish a Threshing-Machine Company and Carting business. In 1887 he married Jane Heyes of Walkden Farm and had seven children. Motivated by the social problems of his time, he became involved in Local Government, joining West Lancs R.D.C and later accepting an appointment as Parish Representative on the Ormskirk Board of Guardians. Nominations were now coming rapidly, he was awarded Vice-Chairman of Ormskirk District Conservative Association and became a member of the District Oddfellows.



An Early photograph of Sir Samuel Thomas Rosbotham

Their meetings were held on the upper floor of the Stanley Gate Inn. He had been a Churchwarden for six years when he topped the Poll in the first Parish Council Elections in 1894 and was elected Chairman on no

less than 15 occasions. His popularity wet from strength to strength. Locally, he financed the building of a Mission at Four Lane Ends in 1904, to allow the Miners from the nearby Colliery, to come to services in their working clothes. In 1929, he switched homage and was elected as a Labour Candidate for the Ormskirk Parliamentary Division. The May result gave him a 2,589 majority over his opponent, F.N Blundell.

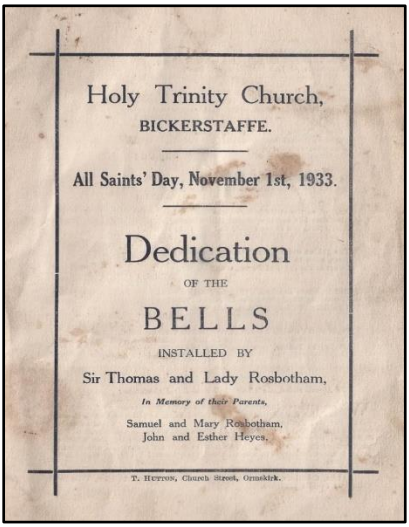


Alderman Rosbotham being congratulated on his election victory, outside the Drill Hall in 1929. He was appointed a J.P. the following year.

In the serious financial crisis of 1931, Alderman Rosbotham was one of many Labour M.P's who crossed the floor of the House to join the Opposition ranks, thus causing the downfall of Ramsey MacDonald's Government and bringing on an election. When he addressed a public meeting at Skelmersdale, some staunch Labour Voters were so infuriated by his defection that they protested by wearing their jackets inside-out. There were jubilant scenes in Ormskirk when the 1931 election results were declared. S.T. (National Labour) was re-elected with a massive 20,253 majority over the official Labour Candidate, F.V King.



An S.T. Lorry all ready for the Skelmersdale Carnival.



Holy Trinity Church,
BICKERSTAFFE.

All Saints' Day, November 1st, 1933.

Dedication
OF THE
BELLS
INSTALLED BY
Sir Thomas and Lady Rosbotham,
In Memory of their Parents,
Samuel and Mary Rosbotham,
John and Esther Heyes.

T. Hurton, Church Street, Ormskirk.

(Above: The service sheet for the Dedication of the Bells in 1933.)

During his second term in office, S.T. was instrumental in the legislation of the 'Bill' which led to the Agriculture and Fisheries Act. The greatest moment of his career came in 1933, when a Knighthood was conferred on him in the Honours List. On November 1st that year, the Declaration of the Bells, took place at Bickerstaffe Church, installed by Sir Thomas and Lady Rosbotham, in memory of their parents.

After retirement, in 1939, he moved to Southport. By the late 1940's, he decided to realise some of his assets, which were mainly in land and property. In Barrow Nook, he owned almost all of the brick houses and their adjoining large gardens and he offered them to tenants to buy for £300 each.
Sir Thomas died on the 12th March, 1950 and was interred at Bickerstaffe.

Acknowledgements:
Ormskirk Advertiser, Edward Jackson, William Taylor, Early Bickerstaffe No. 47, Angela Chaderton

Owen Taylor

Community News

Skelmersdale Prize Band in Concert!

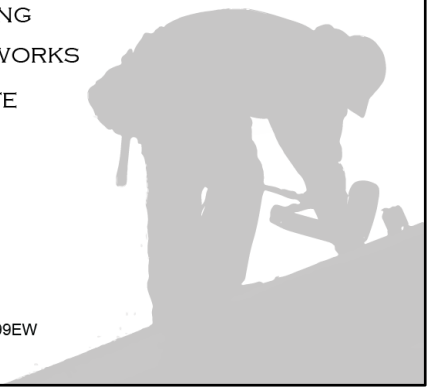
Don't miss your chance to get in the Christmas spirit by listening to the award winning Skelmersdale Prize Band this season. The band will be providing great family entertainment which features a mix of modern and traditional Christmas music and has plenty to get the audience involved with too. You can hear them at The Prince of Wales Hotel, Southport, 8th December, 2:30 and St Paul's Church, Skelmersdale, 14th December 19:30. Any further details can be found on the band's website www.skelmersdaleprizeband.org or by phoning the secretary on 01695 721974.

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The Women's Institute

The next meeting is the Christmas party. This will take place on Monday, December 9th at Four Lane Ends Mission starting at 7.30pm.

For more information please contact Margaret Fairclough on 01695 729161.

The Mothers' Union

On November 20th we welcomed the Rev. Eileen Healey Vicar of St Marks Scarisbrick. It was a very interesting talk about Rev. Eileen's career first in the Police and then decided to go into the ministry. Rev. Eileen has recently been made Area Dean

Our December meeting is on the 18th this will be our usual Carols and tea. We hope that all members can attend. Irene McCarthy

A Christmas Carol
(to the tune of 'Unto us a boy is born')

Christmas comes, the adverts say,
Stirring up the nation;
Make a list of what you need
And start your preparation,
And start your preparation.

Look out last year's Christmas lights
And the decorations,
Put them up around your home
Use your imagination,
Use your imagination.

Shop for toys and wrap your gifts
With ribbons for attraction;
Put them round the tree to give
Your children satisfaction,
Your children satisfaction.

Buy the food you want to eat,
Plan your celebrations;
Add names to your party list
And sent out invitations,
And sent out invitations.

Don't forget when Christmas comes
The king of all creation.
Thank Him for His gift to us
Birth, death and resurrection,
Birth, death and resurrection.

Contributed by Margaret Fairclough (**Author unknown)**

The Fourth Wise Man (author unknown)

Three Wise Men to Bethlehem, following a star
Their names, we're told, were Melchor, Gaspar and Balthazar.
One brought a gift of frankincense, the others myrrh and gold;
They came to greet the new-born King, the Gospel story told.

They gave their gifts to Jesus in the manger where he lay;
His mother offered coffee but they said they couldn't stay.
They got back on their camels - near the stable they'd been tied
and as they headed off back East, Mary softly sighed.

'I really don't need perfume - though myrrh of course is tops.
And gold is always useful - though we're nowhere near the shops.
And Frankincense is lovely - but a stable's not the place,
I hope they're not the WISEST men in all the human race!

It was very good of them to come from such a far-off land
After all that time on camels it's a wonder they could stand!
But bringing Jesus gifts of myrrh and frankincense and gold
It's just not very practical - he's only ten days old!'

Next afternoon a man appeared outside the stable gate
He said he was the fourth Wise Man - and sorry he was late.
'I've brought some things I thought you'd need - it's just a little gift.'
A quick inspection of this bag gave Mary's heart a lift.

A frozen casserole was there, and a stuffed and fluffy toy,
Some baby clothes in pastel blue - he'd guessed it was a boy!
So don't forget the Fourth Wise Man - the wisest of the lot,
He brought the really useful things the other three forgot.

Mary turned to thank the stranger - but the stranger wasn't there,
He'd slipped away and vanished in the chilly winter air.
But on the gate he'd left a note - quite simple and profound:
'Don't write this is the Gospel please, - I'd never live it down!

Contributed by Sheila Beeby

Smile Time

A little boy wrote the following letter to Santa:



Dear Santa:
There are three little boys who live at our house.
There's Jeffrey - he's two. There's David - he's four.
There's Norman - he is seven.
Jeffrey is good some of the time.
David is good some of the time.
Norman is good all of the time
I am Norman.

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Liverpool Cathedral News

A varied calendar of events can be found at the Cathedral this Advent and Christmas. Please visit www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk for further information.

Nativity Service at Liverpool Cathedral 15 December 15.00-15.45
As Christmas approaches, bring the whole family to see our interpretation of the traditional nativity service.

Encounter our inspiring, interactive nativity service.

Join us for the journey from the Christmas Tree to the Crib and remember the story of the first Christmas, brought to life through a variety of traditional carols plus majestic, foot-stomping, hand-clapping and head-bopping songs performed by our Junior Choir.

It's sure to bring the true meaning of the festive season home.

- All welcome, suitable for all ages
- Free entry
- Limited free parking
- Family-friendly

You'll get the chance to see our new, hand-made nativity figures, lovingly crafted by our Cathedral volunteers.
Find out more, contact neal.barnes@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk or call 0151 705 7278 or 07496 737 320.

Source: www.liverpoolcathedral.co.uk

Prayer Time



You gave your all to the world
in the bleakness of that stable.
Love was born that day
Pure love
Undiluted
Poured out for all
who call on Your name
Such Grace
Undeserved
deserves a response
in the life that we lead.
Forgive our ingratitude
for all you have done,
draw us to your Word,
give us a new song to sing,
that will resonate throughout this world.
And begin with us today. Amen

In this Advent of expectation, draw us together in unity,
that our praise and worship might echo in these walls
and also through our lives.

In this Advent of expectation, draw us together in mission,
that the hope within might be the song we sing,
and the melody of our lives.

In this Advent of expectation, draw us together in service,
that the path we follow might lead us from a stable
to a glimpse of eternity.

Both prayers© John Birch www.faithandworship.com



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And Finally….

Seen on a church notice board:

Wise men and women still seek him…

Happy Christmas to all our readers!



Editorial News



The deadline for the January magazine is **Friday 13th December**

As always, please pass articles to myself or e-mail it to jo.housley@gmail.com.
I will do my best to publish articles when space and copyright allows.
Thank you for all your support.

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