Diocese of Liverpool

**Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe**
**January 2020**



**Bible Verse for 2020**

"*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*." Hebrews 13:8

**Prayer for 2020**

God, grant me the Serenity
to accept the things I cannot change...
Courage to change the things I can,
and Wisdom to know the difference.

*Reinhold Neibuhr*

**50p**

## 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,




The short season of Epiphany is also known as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It reminds us that at the time if Christ's birth, he was visited by the Gentile Wise Men who would present him with gifts for a King, Priest, and Saviour. Christ had been born into the world for all people to rule, intercede, and to give up his life.

The Wise Men were changed by their meeting with Christ and so Epiphany is an opportunity to reflect on how our own encounter with Christ has changed us. Below is a prayer to help us with our reflection.

**Andrew**

**A reflective Epiphany prayer**

O God,
I can hear no angels,
I can see no bright star.
And I am not wise enough to find you
or to know how to worship you.
I have no fitting gifts to bring,
I have no meaningful words to say.
I am clumsy, hesitant, afraid.
Help me to grasp your outstretched hand
and let the longings of my heart guide me
until the light of your love takes hold of me
and brings me to my knees with shepherds, and kings,
utterly as I am.

May I not waken the Christ child,
but may he waken the child within me,
that I may grow as he grows, learn as he learns
and live as he lives – for you. Amen.

*Prayer: Roots on the Web*

## Services in January

|  | **St Michael, Aughton** | **Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe** |
|---|---|---|
| **5th January**<br>*Christmas 2*<br>White<br>Isaiah 60.1-6;<br>Ephesians 3.1-12;<br>Matthew 2.1-12 | **8.15am Holy Communion**<br>Andrew<br><br>**10.30am Matins**<br>Bill<br>Bible readings: Brenda G<br>Intercessions<br><br>**10.30am Hall Service**<br><br>**4pm Holy Communion**<br>Andrew | **10.45am Holy Communion**<br>Andrew<br><br><br> |
| **12th January**<br>*Baptism of Christ*<br>White<br>Isaiah 42:1-9<br>Acts 10:34-43<br>Matthew 3:13-end | **8.15am Holy Communion**<br>Andrew<br><br>**10.30am Family Communion**<br>Judith<br>OT & Epistle: Pam O<br>Intercessions: Maureen | 10.45am Andrew<br>**'Star Wars' Family Service** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **19th January**<br>*Epiphany 2*<br>White<br>Isaiah 49.1-7;<br>1 Corinthians 1.1-9;<br>John 1.29-42 | **8.15am Holy Communion**<br>Sylvia<br><br>**10.30am Parade**<br>Margaret and Graham<br>Bible reading: Scouts<br>Intercessions: Guides<br><br>4pm **Holy Communion**<br>Sarah | 10.45am Alan Kenyon<br>Lay Reader at St Paul's, Skelmersdale<br>**Morning Praise** |
| **26th January**<br>*Epiphany 3*<br>White<br>Isaiah 9.1-4;<br>1 Corinthians 1.10-18; Matthew 4.12-23 | **8.15am Holy Communion**<br>Andrew<br><br>**10.30am Service of Baptism**<br>Andrew<br>Epistle: Margaret Ellams<br>Intercessions: Brian D | 10.45am Judith<br>**Holy Communion** |

***Please join us in 2020!***



## Worship & Learning

**5th January: Overwhelmed with joy**
*Matthew 2.1-12*
Wise men follow a star, which leads them to Jerusalem and Herod's court. They are advised to proceed to Bethlehem where they find a baby boy. They are 'overwhelmed with joy' and present gifts before leaving 'by another road'.

*A personal prayer*
Only
You can shine light into the darkness of my fear.
Jesus
Only
You can shine light on the paths I should follow.
Jesus
Only
You can transform the poverty of my gifts
and make of them riches.
Jesus
Only
You can guide me home.
Thank you for being my king. Amen.

**12th January: The anointed one**
*Matthew 3:13-end*
Jesus comes to the river Jordan and is baptized by John, who is reluctant because he thinks Jesus should baptize him. The Spirit descends on Jesus and a heavenly voice calls him God's beloved Son.

*A personal prayer*
Heal me, Lord Jesus, I pray,
from all the hurt that has come
from the words spoken over me, about me or to me,
that have been damaging and not affirming:
words that have held me back;
words that dismantled my confidence;
words that I have falsely believed to be true.
Help me to hear your voice in the silence,
to begin again where I have given up,
to believe where I have doubted,
and to be an encourager of others in all that I do and say –
to your glory. Amen.

**19th January: An encouraging start**
*1 Corinthians 1.1-9*
Paul opens with a greeting to the Christians in Corinth and compliments them for their belief.

*A personal prayer*
Living Lord,
may I greet others in your name
with humility, respect and openness.
May I serve others in your name
with generosity, compassion and integrity.
May I pray for others in your name
with faithfulness, grace and feeling.
And may I identify with others in your name,
and receive your gifts of fellowship, grace and peace.
Amen.

**26th January: Cross purposes**

*1 Corinthians 1.10-18*

Because the Corinthian Christians have broken into groups – identifying with different patrons: Paul, Apollos, Cephas and Christ – Paul appeals to them to be of one mind. At the centre should be the cross of Christ, which must not be emptied of its power but should unite all Christians.

*A personal prayer*

Loving God,
when I look at the world, it seems there is
no unity, only division, no trust, only hatred,
no tolerance, only violence.
Help me to see it through your eyes.

When I look at your Church, it seems
so small and so divided, so marred and fragile.
Help me to see it with your eyes.

When I look at myself, I see
only failure, not worth, only fear, not courage,
only complacency, not commitment.
Help me to see with your eyes –
that I may change all that I can,
inspire that which is good,
and draw others to the foot of Christ's cross.
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 on 8th, 22nd, 29th January at 11am
- Bickerstaffe School on 31st January at 9.15am

## Lent Group

The Lent Groups will start to meet the week beginning 2nd March. The course this year will be, *From Now On & The Greatest Showman Lent Study'.* Below is a description of the course.

The 2018 Golden Globe-nominated movie starring Hugh Jackman, about the founder and stars of the Barnum & Bailey Circus is ideal for Lenten study of Christian themes of hope, redemption and new life.

The five-week course offers discussion points, biblical reflections and prayers based on short excerpts from the film. The themes are:

(1) 'A Million Dreams', exploring what liberation and hope might look like for an 'outsider' in the world;
(2) 'Come Alive', exploring how the family of faith can bring hope and purpose;
(3) 'Rewrite the stars', asks what forms of resistance can be placed in the way of salvation;

(4) 'Never Enough', questions the temptations of false fulfilment that can lead us to betrayal;
(5) 'The Greatest Show', shows how redemption is found when we discover 'the circus is our home'.

More information in the February magazine.

**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!

**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.

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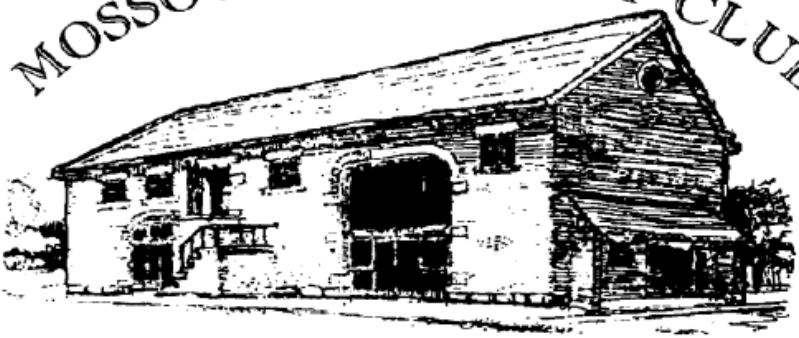
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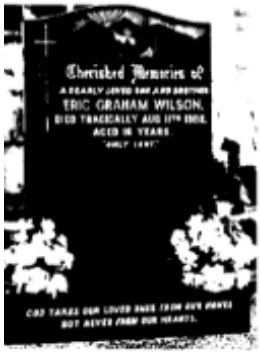
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## Ormskirk & District Historical Society

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www.ormskirkhistoricalsociety.co.uk

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## Bickerstaffe News and Dates

**Dates for your diary and special services**
12th January Star Wars Service

**Star Wars Family Service**
On Sunday 8th January at 10.45am there will be a Star Wars themed Family Service. Please bring along any Star Wars memorabilia and you are very welcome to come dressed as your favourite Star Wars character. May the force be with you!

**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.

**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.

**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?

## Church Rotas

**Church Cleaning Rota**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3rd January | Team 4 | B Fairclough, B Winstanley |
| 10th January | Team 5 | The Ashburner Family |
| 17th January | Team 6 | M Clarke, V Heyes |
| 24th January | Team 1 | E Short, F Brownbill |
| 31st January | Team 2 | I McCarthy, S Kenny |
| 7th February | Team 3 | A Banks, G Banks, N Rimmer |

**January 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.*

| | |
|---|---|
| 6th January | Vacant |
| 12th January | Mrs Phyllis Walton |

## Prayer Time



**Knowing you are with us**
in the ebbs and flows
of our everyday lives,
your Spirit's presence
within our hearts,
your gentle whisper
guiding our steps,
your warm embrace
when times are hard,
your hands held out
each time we fall.
Knowing you are with us
in our everyday lives
is blessing enough for today. Amen.



**This world I live in, this town I live in,**
this street I live in, this house I live in,
may each be the focus of my prayer.
Those I live with, those I rub shoulders with,
those I work with, those I don't get on with,
may each be the focus of my prayer.
Those who laugh, those who cry,
those who hurt, those who hide,
may each be the focus of my prayer.
Prayers centred less on self and more on others,
less on my circumstances,
more on the needs of others.
May my life be likewise centred
less on self and more on You,
and through You to the world,
in which I live and move

Both prayers© John Birch www.faithandworship.com

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**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.

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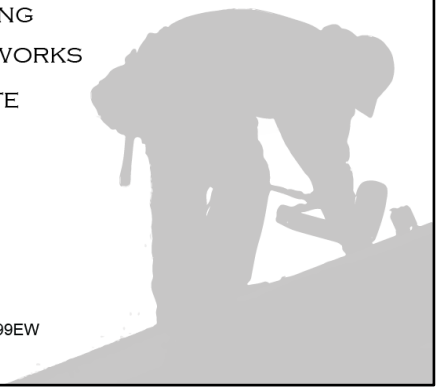
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**The Women's Institute**

The first meeting of 2020 will be an afternoon meeting (the 699th) at Four Lane Ends Mission on Monday, January 20th at 2.30pm. This will be a games afternoon with prizes.
Do come and join us to see what we do at the W.I. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

For more information please contact Margaret Fairclough on 01695 729161.

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## And Finally….

*May peace flow*
*as a gentle stream*
*through your soul,*
*love's pure warmth*
*soften your heart,*
*and joy in the Lord*
*shine in your face*
*and all your words.*

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*Faithandworship.com*

## Editorial News



The deadline for the February magazine is **Friday 10th January**

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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