Diocese of Liverpool

Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe
July 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. Amen.
Reinhold Neibuhr

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.

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Letter from Andrew Housley

Dear Friends,



I am sure, like me, you were pleased to hear the news that places of worship can open for public worship from 4th July. The situation in each parish is different and we will plan for the opening of St Michael's and Holy Trinity for public worship when we feel it is safe and practical to do so for both individual communities.

In the meantime, we will continue to produce a weekly service of worship on YouTube.

I recently read Acts 10:1-48, the account of Peter visiting Cornelius' home to tell him about Jesus. Cornelius was a gentile, a Roman centurion and so to enter his home, Peter had to leave behind the scriptural commands that required separation of food and persons into the categories of clean or unclean. No doubt, Peter found it difficult to abandon a religious practice that he had observed though out his life, but the sacrifice was needed so that he could follow Jesus' command to go into ALL the world and baptise in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Recent months have given us the opportunity to reflect on the nature and practice of church. When all is taken away, what are we left with? Our relationship with God and His command to go into all the word and represent Him to those we meet. We have experienced a deeper appreciation of our community in recent months, as we have reached out to neighbours we may not have known before. We have encouraged

those neighbours to watch the YouTube service and we have seen the viewing figures increase.

When the church buildings open and we return, I hope we leave behind the thought that faith is a private matter. As we have advertised the YouTube service amongst friends and neighbours, we must advertise our church services amongst friends and neighbours. We need to be prepared to change some of what we do for the benefit of growing the church so more people will come to faith in our church family.

I have no doubt that those who believe that the Church has played her part well in recent months, will have a new appreciation of the Church. My prayer is that we invite and welcome new people into our church family with a renewed understanding of our purpose.

Andrew

Worship & Learning

5th July: 'Learn from me'
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Jesus notes that both he and John the Baptist failed to meet people's expectations. Jesus thanks God that the point of his ministry has been revealed to the simple rather than the wise, and calls on people to learn how to live from him.

A personal prayer
Lord, you know how weary
and bowed down I feel sometimes.
I claim your rest for my soul.
I come to you in my emptiness
and cry to you for your fullness.
Rescue me and fill me, Lord. Amen.

12th July: 'Once upon a time'

Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

Jesus tells the crowds a parable of seed being sown onto different sorts of ground. Later, he explains it to the disciples as an illustration of how different people respond to hearing the word of the kingdom.

A personal prayer

Lord God,
how can I possibly understand what you have to say to me,
if I don't take time to listen.
Help me to carve out moments this week where,
even in my busyness, I can find a quiet corner,
or even just a glance heavenward,
to be with you.
Speak to me, Lord, and bless me;
and make me a blessing to others. Amen.

19th July: 'A world of wheat and weeds'

Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

Jesus tells a seed-related parable about the kingdom of God, and provides its explanation: that evil and its agents in the world will persist alongside the good, despite the coming of the kingdom of God that Jesus was proclaiming.

A personal prayer

The field is the world.
Lord, I live in a tiny patch of your world
but it is still my field to serve you.
I pray that I will give my time and gifts
to you and yours
in whatever way I can.
Your kingdom come, O Lord. Amen.

26th July: 'Secrets of the Kingdom'

Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

Jesus tells parables that seek to convey what the kingdom of heaven is 'like' or 'similar to'. Some are about the way it grows and spreads, others stress its value compared to anything else in life.

A personal prayer

Lord, I pause before you to contemplate
the things I see as valuable in my life.
Help me to hold them lightly
and to be ready to give them up
at the sound of your call. Amen.

Benefice News

Pastoral Visits

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

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.

The Skelmersdale **Food Bank** remains a vital service for members of the community. Non-perishable food items are therefore very much appreciated. **Please leave any items at your local supermarket**. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Free dial-in worship phone line



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope, which is available from today, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

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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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Coronavirus Church Closures

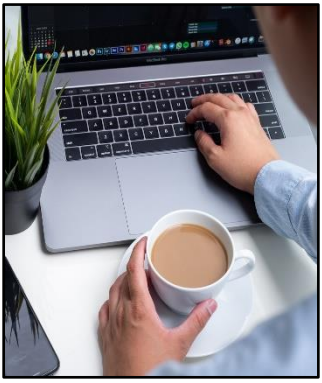
A quick reminder of the regular worship programmes available on the radio:

- Thought for the day – BBC Radio 4 at 07.45am
- Daily Service – BBC Radio 4 Long Wave at 09.45am
- Pause for thought – BBC Radio 2 at 05.45am and 09.20am
- The Sunday Service – BBC Radio 4 at 08.10am

Each Sunday you will also be able to watch a pre-recorded service and we're sure you'll recognize a few faces. Please tune in by visiting our website or by using the following link:

https://tinyurl.com/RevAndrewTV

Online Prayer Meeting



Each Wednesday at 2pm please join us for our online prayer meeting. We start with a tea and chat, then we have a period of prayer. Please join us by following the following link (which is also available on the church website).

https://tinyurl.com/RevAndrewPrayer

Prayer Chain

Please contact me on 01695 423204 if you would like to be on our prayer chain at St Michael, Aughton and Holy Trinity Bickerstaffe.

Andrew

Holy Trinity News

- A **Benefice Facebook group** has been created for day to day chat, prayers and news: https://www.facebook.com/groups/2587699874882494
- The **website** is being regularly updated by Edward: www.holytrinitybickerstaffe.co.uk.
- The **magazine** is being uploaded each month onto the website and onto Facebook. There will be no printed copies until further notice.

Andrew

In Remembrance



Peter Edward Bradshaw, who passed away on 16th March 2020.

Ellen Holland, who passed away on 2nd June 2020.

Lillian Moss, who passed away on 18th June 2020.

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen

Churchyard

We are not able to organize a churchyard work party, but feel free to pop along to the church yard in your own time to do a bit of gardening. We especially need help in doing the front area of the church.

Finances

Due to the church building closing, **Holy Trinity's cash flow is critical**. We are not receiving funeral fees or monies from the open plate, which includes the envelope scheme.

Giving

We would appreciate that people with weekly envelopes, send a cheque with the number of the envelopes to Andrew or Stan on a regular basis or set up a standing order with their bank (please see the form at the end of this magazine). Cheques or standing orders are also welcome from people who don't have weekly envelopes. Thank you for your support.

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.

Lord of the lonely,
Abandoned,
Rejected
And alone,
Enfold them in your love.

Lord of the fearful,
Bring release,
Reassurance
And your peace,
Enfold them in your love

Lord of the hurting,
In their distress,
Bring healing
And wholeness,
Enfold them in your love.

Lord of this world
And the next,
Gather us all
Into your arms,
Enfold us in your love.

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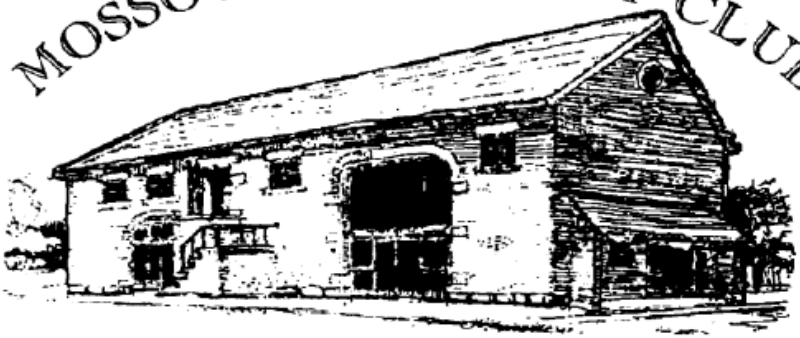
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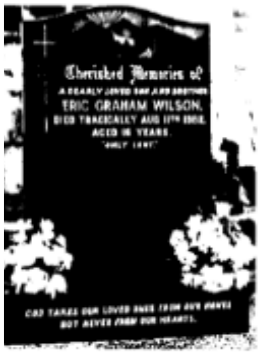
We welcome new members, visitors and students alike.

Please see our website for up-to-date information.

Meetings (when held) are at 7.30pm at Four Lane Ends Mission. Further info. via 01704 631191.

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God's peace calm you,
God's shield protect you,
God's wisdom arm you,
wherever God may lead you.

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Editorial News



The deadline for the June magazine is **Friday 21st August.** 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.

Please note we will only publish online during the Pandemic. Thank you.

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