Diocese of Liverpool

Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe
September 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

It was a genuine pleasure to be able to stand in St Michael's and Holy Trinity on a Sunday morning and welcome people in person to worship. On Sunday 6th September, six months after we had closed our doors. 39 people attended worship at St Michael's and 23 attended worship at Holy Trinity. I appreciate that some of you are still feeling nervous, which is understandable. As has already been said, the You Tube services will continue to be produced and I hope to lead a number of garden communions. The hope is that we will all have opportunity to engage in worship.

The Church has survived and grown over 2000 years because of her ability to adapt and change when facing changing circumstances. In our own time, it is difficult to plan ahead at the moment, but we can still be confident that both St Michael's and Holy Trinity will continue to provide worship and pastoral support over the next twelve months. As for beyond then, the future of both St Michael's and Holy Trinity is in our own hands.

In the recent letter to the members of the electoral roll, I included the following prayer.

Ever-present God,
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be joy in our sadness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen
we may with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities

and speak of your goodness
to an emerging world.
For Jesus' sake. Amen

Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark

The prayer speaks of the struggles and change we are experiencing at this time. The prayer also asks that when we open the doors of the church, a congregation with the zeal of the disciples at Pentecost will engage in mission within their community. Are we up to the challenge? The Holy Spirit led and equipped the early disciples in mission and will do the same for us. The commitment needed is for us to generously give time and money for that purpose. I am grateful to those who do.

Please continue to say the prayer written by Canon Andrew Nunn and be mindful of your place in the mission of Christ's church.

Andrew

Autumn Letter from Bishop Paul

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.

For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.

If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering.

Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation. ***2 Corinthians 1:3-7***

Dear Friends,

It's a new season. Many of us have returned from holiday, though others are still looking forward to taking some time away in the coming weeks. But for all of us the Summer is giving way to the Autumn - an Autumn like no other, as the virus continues to shape and affect us all, personally and corporately. At this time of transition I wanted to write to you all in the parishes, schools, chaplaincies and fresh expressions that make up the family of our Diocese.

In the passage above St Paul writes of the consolation God gives "in all our affliction". For him of course the focus was chiefly on the affliction and the persecutions that marked his life as an apostle and marked his churches too. But with a wider vision he goes on to speak of our ability, as Christians touched by the love of Jesus, "to console those who are in any affliction...".

Famously the word "console" or "comfort" (parakleseōs) recalls the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, the Comforter. It is in the power of the consoling Spirit of God that Christians come face to face with affliction.

And we live today in the midst of affliction. The churches have been afflicted, as the whole world has, by the virus. Things that we hold dear cannot be done as we would wish. Habits have been broken, and new possibilities must be found, and are indeed being found, in every place. But it has not been easy, and every local church community has been stress-tested, thrown back on the grace and resources of God as it has sought the right way to live.

More widely the affliction of the virus has opened fault-lines in the world. The fabric of our common life has coarsened and become angry. So-called populist politicians across the world are encouraging fear and even violence in people, so as to profit from it. In short, the stress of living with the virus has eroded patience and forbearance, within the Church as well as beyond it.

In such a world I pray that we, members of the Diocesan family, may be people who know the Spirit, the Consoler – those who are then able to console those who are in **any** affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.

The unchanging calling of this Diocese, especially in affliction, is to be countercultural. We are called to resist the temptation to go with the turbulent flow of stress and anger, the temptation to afflict one another further. Rather we are called to live a life of consolation that will extend kindness and selfless generosity, will resist anger, will turn away from spite. We are to offer ourselves as instruments of love, in gratitude for the freely given salvation that we have received in Jesus Christ. We do this by personal lives of holiness, and by partaking in the struggle for justice and for the dignity of all human beings, made in the image of God.

The resources God gives us for this are as they have always been: the indwelling presence of Christ by His Spirit; the wisdom and love of the Christian community; the capacity to pray to learn from Scripture, to struggle for justice. All this is summed up for us in Liverpool Diocese in the words of our Rule of Life. We say that we are called and sent by God - called to pray, read and learn; sent to tell, serve and give.

In affliction we are driven more and more on these resources, because apart from God we can do nothing. This Autumn I commend our Rule of Life to each and all of you, even as I seek to live it out myself. In the chapel here at Bishop's Lodge, sitting before the candle which burns night and day for you, I ask God to give you, each one, the strength to bring consolation to the afflicted world.

I said a moment ago that things we hold dear cannot be done as we would wish. This applies to the way we must worship at this time, as well as to our ability to "bring one friend" into the company of Jesus and to gather together as believers to enjoy one another's company and to learn together. It is hard to do these things well. The temptation is to give up, or to deny the truth of the trouble we are in and whistle optimistically in the dark.

But this is not a time for shallow optimism, which in any case is not a Christian virtue. Instead we're called to **hope** - to live "knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:3-5).

With this in mind I want to underline for you two aspects of our Rule of Life in this season.

We are **called to pray**, and for some time in the Diocese we've said that the heart of this call is to pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, the Lord's Prayer. So as Bishop I give the Diocese a charge this Autumn - pray daily, pray the Lord's Prayer daily, and in addition pray our Diocesan prayer daily. As you do this, pray explicitly for one another, thanking God for all your sisters and brothers in the Diocese, for this community of parishes and schools, some 60,000 people - thanking God that you are part of a bigger family.

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.

We are called to pray, then, and we are **sent to give** - to give our lives to God as we follow, as disciples; and as part of that to give our share of what is needed to sustain the life of the Church. We live in hope for a future which we cannot imagine – but a future in which we will care for, and provide for, one another.

Liverpool Diocese has been remarkable for the way in which its people have responded with real financial generosity in lockdown and beyond. But for many church communities the stress of affliction includes the stress of not knowing how we will pay our way in the future, not knowing how the future will look, not knowing whether there will be a future. In this area too we are dependent on God. Whatever your own circumstances, please pray that God will show you the right way to give generously, so that all may be helped. The Bible asks us to bear one another's burdens and so to fulfil the law of Christ.

Called to pray, sent to give. In the midst of uncertainty and worry, please lay hold especially on these things as the Autumn unfolds.

And as you do so, be sure of prayers - from me at Bishop's Lodge and from Bishop Bev, from our Cathedral church, from all our colleagues in the Archdeaconries and at St James' House who sustain and administer the life of the Diocese, from the other churches and schools and chaplaincies in your Deanery, from our ecumenical partners across the region, and perhaps most of all from your friends and neighbours in your own community.

And in addition to all this earthly prayer I remind you that you are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, of angels and of people alive in Christ, people who through the ages have overcome affliction and given consolation in their own generations, all by the power of God who lives yesterday and today, and for ever.

In 2 Kings 6 we read of Elisha, surrounded by an enemy army, whose servant was afflicted by anxiety and terror:

The servant said, "Alas, master! What shall we do?" Elisha replied, "Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them." Then Elisha prayed: "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw; the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

This is a time of affliction. It is for such a time as this that the Church was made, because God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, because Jesus has died for us and we are free to live for Him, because "just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ."

May God bless you, and all your community, in your ministry as the future unfolds.

+Paul

Our 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.

Worship and Learning



6th September: Held together
Matthew 18:15-20
Jesus says that those who live in a kingdom community should watch over one another in love, gently pointing out when a brother or sister fails to live by the values Jesus teaches.

A personal prayer
Sometimes, O God, I wish I was on my own, not troubled and disturbed by those around me, not jostled and tussled this way and that, but just left to my own devices. But I am not just me, I am part of the community in which I live. Give me patience with those around me, give me love and compassion for those in need, give me understanding of people who are so different from me and give me, above all else, a yearning to do your will. Amen.

13th September: How many times?
Matthew 18.21-35
Peter asks Jesus about the extent of forgiveness. Jesus answers with a funny – and chilling – parable about a man, who is forgiven much but who forgives very little, and is punished by his master for this attitude.

A personal prayer
I am not worthy, yet you love me, God.
I do not deserve so much and yet I have it.
I have many needs and before you I acknowledge them;
fill my life with your presence,
that others too may come to know your healing balm.
Amen.

20th September: I don't know what to choose

Philippians 1.21-30

Paul explains his personal struggles to the Philippians. He says that their struggles are like his. He wants to appear encouraging and commends them for their approach to life in the faith.

A personal prayer

In trial and tribulation, God of comfort, be near me.
In loss and devastation, God of grief, grieve with me.
In uncertainty and confusion, God of the way, show me a path.
In want and in need, God of provision, provide for me.
In times of sluggishness and laziness, God of patience, wait for me.
In comfort and in joy, God of love, let me not forget you.
Amen.

27th September: Make my joy complete

Philippians 2.1-13

Living faith like it matters means having the same mind as Christ – who, leaving behind his former identity and taking on that of the lowest in society, let himself be humiliated on a cross.

A personal prayer

I simply pray that you, Lord God,
will help me show your love
to those around me.
Amen.

Please continue to pray for all children and young people going to nursery, school, college, or university, and for those teaching and guiding them. 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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Open 8am to 6pm

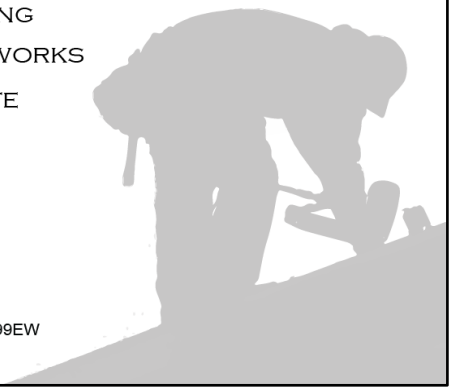
Home of **Fledglings Pre School & Nursery** – Places available for children from 6 months old. We have free early education places for eligible 2 & 3 year olds.
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Bickerstaffe Lodge is operated by **Bickerstaffe Children's Services Ltd**, a not for profit 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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Media Information

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

Useful church links

All links can be accessed via the website.

Weekly Online Service
https://tinyurl.com/RevAndrewTV

Wednesday Pray Meeting (online). Each Wednesday 2pm
https://tinyurl.com/RevAndrewPrayer

Facebook page
https://tinyurl.com/RevAndrewFacebook

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

Church Opening



Both St Michael's and Holy Trinity are open for public worship on Sunday morning.

- St Michael's 9.30am
- Holy Trinity 11.00am

Full guidelines are on both websites, which include the following.

- You will be directed to a vacant pew and sit as a household group or by yourself
- use hand sanitizer gel when you both enter and leave the church building. If you don't have you own, please use the hand sanitizer gel at the entrance of the church.
- wear a face covering while in the church building, covering both your mouth and nose.
- avoid areas which are cordoned off or blocked.

Online Meetings. Please join us!
Wednesday Bible Study Group (online)
Please join us each Wednesday from 2pm for our prayer meeting

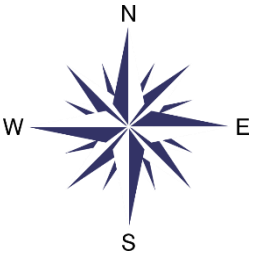
Churchyard
We are not able to organize a churchyard work party, but feel free to pop along to the church yard in your own time to do a bit of gardening. We especially need help in doing the front area of the church.

Prayer Time



We pray for our communities -
that snapshot of humanity
with all ages, backgrounds,
education, employment status,
politics and religious viewpoint
who are our neighbours
in the streets where we live.
We pray for all of them;
not only those we know by name
and chat to through the day,
but also less familiar faces
about whom we know so little
and pass by with just a smile.
All in need of your love at this time.
Bless their homes and families,
and let your love and peace
so shine within this community
that smiles turn to conversations,
and strangers become friends.
We pray this through Jesus Christ,
the Prince of Peace. Amen

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As I adventure with you today
be the compass that guides me,
the light that shines on my path,
the only one I follow.

As I adventure with you today
be the word that encourages,
the hand that reaches out,
each time I stumble.

As I adventure with you today
let me glimpse our destination,
and appreciate the places,
through which you lead me.

As I adventure with you today
be the strength I need to follow,
and as the day draws to a close,
let me rest in your embrace.

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Holy Trinity's Finances

Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times. The effect of lockdown has had a critical impact on the church finances. The main concern is that not enough members of the church have a standing order to support the monthly expenditure and not all those in the envelope scheme are passing on their donations. Stan's forecast is that there will be a £7000 shortfall between total projected giving for 2020 compared to total giving in 2019. Below are a couple of tables comparing the regular giving for the first six months of the year for 2019 and 2020.

	2019	2020 pre Covid up to March	After Covid from March	2020 total	Difference to 2019
Weekly envelopes	£4253	£1286	£1070	£2356	-£1897 MINUS
Plate collection	£2014	£675	£1490	£2165	£150
Standing order	£2810	£1300	£1720	£3020	£210
Total giving	£9077	£3261	£4280	£7541	-£1537 MINUS

	2019	2020 pre Covid	After Covid
Weekly envelopes	25 people	23 people	9 people
Active givers	25 people	19 people	9 people
Plate collection			
Standing order	11 people	9 people	11 people

Without the ability to organise the usual fund raising activities and the loss of income from wedding and funeral fees, the deficit for 2020 will be increased further.

We do not expect to meet in person as a church with the usual pattern of services for some time, and so it is important that as a church, we improve our regular giving. I would like to encourage more people to arrange a standing order and Stan will be able to help you with this. This would help with monthly church expenditure. If some members in the envelope scheme feel uncomfortable with this, then please find a way of regularly sending your donation. By not improving our church giving, the future of Holy Trinity will be vulnerable.

I would like to thank you for the contributions to church life you have made in recent months, within these difficult circumstances.

Andrew & Stan

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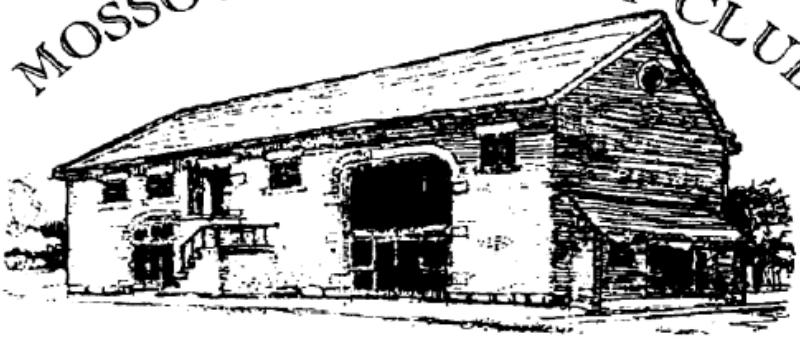
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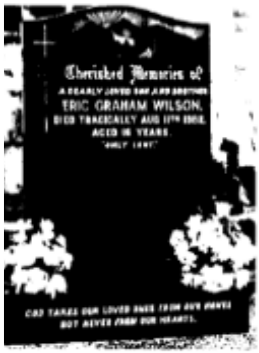
We welcome new members, visitors and students alike.

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.

www.ormskirkhistoricalsociety.co.uk

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And Finally….

The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face
shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face
toward you
and give you peace.

(Numbers 6:24-26)

Editorial News



The deadline for the October magazine is **Friday 25 September.** 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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Frequency
(Circle option) Weekly Monthly

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