

Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe November 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

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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Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends,

The month of November is a time for remembering. We begin by remembering our loved ones on All Souls Day. The following week is Remembrance Sunday, when we remember those who gave their lives in war to secure our future. Both occasions will remind us that Jesus defeated death and invites us all to follow his lead into His Fathers presence. In a world of change, the certainty of our faith can give us hope as we remember that the Spirit which brings us comfort, brought comfort to those who came before us.

Like many of you, I have lost track of the number of hours I have spent chatting to people on the phone over the past eight months. I have enjoyed the memories of both Aughton and Bickerstaffe from the past, I have loved hearing the news of children being born, and I have been saddened by the news of people dying. I am reminded that even though many are not seeing one another, we still have the opportunity to share news and stories and bring comfort to one another.

Below is a poem I recently came cross called, 'Prayer of Remembering by John Philip Newell.

It is when we are still that we know.
It is when we listen that we hear.
It is when we remember
that we see your light, O God.
From your Stillness we come.
With your Sound
all life quivers with being.
From You the light of this moment shines.
Grant us to remember you at the heart of each moment.
Grant us to remember.

Worship and Learning



1st November: Beg, encourage, urge

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Paul and his companions had supported themselves in Thessalonica, working

blamelessly alongside those with whom they shared the good news. Their deeds were consistent with their words. Now the Thessalonians, like Paul, are leading lives worthy of God, whose Word is at work in them.

A personal prayer

Jesus of strong words, you were not afraid: calling people you knew to deeper integrity, challenging our ways of seeing ourselves and others. Give me courage to live well in all the small choices of my day, to hear your voice calling me to the deepest integrity of myself, and the deepest practice of goodness with those I love. Amen.

8th November: FAQs

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The letter responds to the community's concern that some have died before the Lord's return. But those who believe that Jesus died and rose again have nothing to fear. Both those who have died and those who are alive will be with him for ever.

A personal prayer

To you, Yahweh, I lift up my soul.

And I lift up my story, too.

My story that has known comfort,

my story that has also known separation, and sadness.

I lift up my heart, that has sometimes loved well,

and sometimes failed.

In my own days, I have known the goodness of community and the questions that isolate.

And in all these, I lift up my eyes to you, who always keeps me in your gaze.

Let me find kindness and wisdom in all stages of life, both easy and trying. Amen.

15th November: Coming, ready or not

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

'Peace and security' in this dark world can be hard to find. But those who anticipate the day of the Lord, and already live in the light of the risen Christ, have faith, hope and love as a strong defence against all that seeks to destroy them.

A personal prayer

Jesus, you were always ready to hear the needs of those around you. You turned to those who were used to being ignored. I am sometimes ready and sometimes not. And I am sometimes ignored and sometimes not. In all these times, nurture my heart so that I may seek you, and share you, all around. Because you are all around. Amen.

22nd November: King of compassion

Matthew 25.31-46

In a dramatic image, a king separates people into two camps on the basis of how they behaved towards vulnerable people: did they act with compassion towards them, or not?

A personal prayer

Sometimes I am tired, or I'm preoccupied with other demands. Help me take time, help me make time, for kindness, so that rush can take its lower place, and kindness can rise up.

Because you had much to do — but made time anyway. Amen.

29th November: Waiting in the dark

Mark 13.24-37

Jesus speaks of coming dark days when people will be close to losing hope. He urges them therefore to stay awake to signs that offer hope of the coming deliverance, which will certainly come, though at an unexpected time.

A personal prayer
God of light and night,
you are to be found, whether at dusk or dawn.
Sometimes the light seems far,
and the night seems long.
May I find comfort, whether in the soft night, or the kind dawn,
knowing that you created both,
and you wait for me, as I wait for you. Amen.



Why not ring a friend or a neighbour for a chat?

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.

Useful contacts

Daily Hope. Telephone 0800 804 8044

Free phoneline of hymns, reflections and prayers

Age UK. Telephone 0300 303 1234. Website www.ageuk.org.uk.

NHS Volunteers offer a lot of free services and support including shopping. Telephone 0808 196 3646. Website: www.NHSVolunteerResponders.org.uk

The **British Red Cross** has a phoneline giving emotional support and information about Covid19. Telephone 0808 196 3651. Website www.redcross.org.uk

Please check the price of the call with your provider. Thank you.



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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

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

Thursday prayer meeting (online)

Please join us each Thursday from 2pm for our prayer meeting.

Holy Trinity News

Annual Meeting

At this year's annual meeting, Mike Emmott and Albert Webster were elected Church Wardens. Please support them in their roles in what will be another challenging year for the church.

Thank you to Edward McCarthy who has served at Church Warden and stepped down this year. We are grateful to him for the valuable contribution he makes to church life

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



Today and all days

embrace us in a love that knows no end.
Today and all days
fill us with a power that overcomes.
Today and all days
encourage us with a word that nourishes.
Today and all days
inspire us with a hope that sustains.
Today and all days
comfort us with a peace that endures.
Today and all days
bring wholeness of body, mind and spirit
Today and all days

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Ormskirk & District Historical Society

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....

May the peace of God calm your fears through storms of night. May the love of God warm your heart and bring you light. May the word of God give you strength when the body's weak. May the grace of God flow from you to the world you meet.

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Editorial News



The deadline for the December magazine is **Friday 20 November.** 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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