

St. Nicholas Church

with St. John and St. Michael

Parish News

September 2023





ALL are welcome at St Nicholas Church.

SUNDAY

10.30 PARISH EUCHARIST

Followed by refreshments

WEDNESDAY

10.15am SAID EUCHARIST FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

11.00am (2ND WEDNESDAY) WELCOME MUNCHIES

ooooOoooo

7.00pm Bell ringing

Contact: Jane Giles

THURSDAY

7.00pm CHOIR PRACTICE

FRIDAY

1st of every month:

9.30am JOLLY TOTS

All pre-school children and parents / carers welcome

Refreshments available

The arrival of September brings an end to the school holidays and a new start to the school year, which begins with Michaelmas term.

Michaelmas, the Feast of St Michael and All Angels celebrated on 29th September is a joyful celebration when we remember that as we worship here in earth, we are surrounded by angels and we join in their songs of praise to God. It is a particularly important festival for us as we continue to celebrate the heritage of St Michael's, Lumb.

The secular world enjoys the company of angels also, and sometimes seems to celebrate them even more than we do! It is striking how those who cannot confess a faith in God are able to connect with a belief in angels, His messengers. People will often very confidently speak of their "guardian angel" or of a loved one, gone to be with the angels. But this is right and good, and a step along a journey.

Angels have a significant ministry in the bible, as protectors and warriors, but most significantly as messengers of God's word. There are many examples. To name but a few, in the New Testament, think all of the angel messengers in the Christmas story; Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, the wise men all received messages from angels, in the book of Acts there was the angel who helped Peter to escape from prison. In the Old Testament, Moses was given a guardian angel when he received the Ten Commandments, when the walls fell Joshua was assisted by the angelic commander of the Lord's army, Isaac was delivered from his father's hand at the instruction of the angel, Jacob saw the angels ascending and descending upon the ladder into heaven, and so on. Angels have such a significant ministry and are so numerous that they are divided broadly into nine ranks (can you name all nine?!)

Angels lead the way to God by their ministry. Michaelmas is a good time to listen and look for angels.

It is a good time to seek to be an angel too; to carry the message of God, to protect God's children and to fight for them in their need. In being an angel, you might just meet one.

"Let mutual love continue.

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."*

Hebrews 13:1-2

Those readers with a keen memory may have recognised this opening article, as it is reprinted from September 2016, and penned by Mthr Penny.

ooooOoooo

General Synod backs regional wedding fees trial following debate

The General Synod has recently backed a regional trial to offer Church of England weddings free of all statutory fees. The decision followed a debate brought by Blackburn Diocesan Synod.

The Archbishops' Council has been asked to report on the impact of the trial on the number of weddings conducted, the pastoral and missional contacts made, and charitable giving in connection with weddings. The report will also detail the projected parochial and diocesan finances as a result of the trial.



The Revd Dr Tom Woolford, presenting the Blackburn Diocese motion to the Synod, said the current system of waiving fees in the event of hardship 'patronises the poor' and 'robs the struggling' of their dignity.

He said: "What would certainly happen if we abolished statutory fees is that most couples would make a donation. We would still be getting an income from weddings but by way of a donation of what couples can afford, some would give a great deal while some would only be able to afford to give a little."

Supporting the Archdeacon's amendment to the motion, The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell added: "This seems to me to be the right thing to do. This is a chance for us to do something which I believe could be really good for us, good for our soul."

Baptism



A minister was officiating at the baptism of the youngest son of a Duke and asked for what the baby's name would be. The answer came: "His name is George Edward David Anthony Carrington-Smyth de Winters Cunningham Digby Cecil Barrington...."

"One minute please," interrupted the minister, "I'll go fetch another bucket of water!"

Green Quiz ...

As Green is the liturgical colour for Trinity, the answers to the following clues all begin with GREEN ...

1. Independent global campaigning network which focuses on environmental issues.
2. The world's largest island, situated between the Arctic & Atlantic Oceans.
3. A system designed to help young children to learn about road safety.
4. A figure found on a pelican crossing.
5. Nickname for a military ambulance.
6. A sales promotion scheme that rewarded shoppers with stamps which could be redeemed against gifts or produce.
7. Award winning breakdown cover, nationwide.
8. Manufacturers of a wide range of Fairtrade & organic chocolate bars.
9. Traditional English folksong.
10. Brand of tinned vegetables - especially sweetcorn.

God can use everything we give Him

The story is told of a man in charge of building a great church, who was pestered by an apprentice who wanted to design the glass for one of the windows. Finally, he agreed that the apprentice should be given one very small window. BUT – the apprentice would have to provide all the materials himself.



Undaunted, the apprentice carefully swept up all the stray bits of coloured glass that had been discarded and set to work. Slowly, and with great care, he pieced together a window of rare beauty. When the church was finally opened, many people stopped to stare in wonder at his small, but so beautiful, iridescent window.

Our lives can be like that - no matter how small we may feel, or that we have only scraps to offer to God, He can still help us use every bit of time and energy and love we do have, to build a life that is beautiful, and which will reflect the glory of God to others.

Wordsearch

As has already been written about, the Church gives thanks for angels in September. The 29th is the feast day of Michael and All Angels. Since the days of Genesis, these messengers of God have been sent many times to intervene for the good in human affairs. Angels guarded the Garden of Eden, they led Lot away from Gomorrah, they helped Gideon, they stopped Balaam, they closed the mouths of lions for Daniel, and, most important, the archangel Gabriel was sent to tell Mary that she would mother the Messiah. Angels sat in the empty tomb of Jesus, and told of His Resurrection. Revelation is teaming with angels, sent on all sorts of missions by God in the last times. Today, many Christians in the world's hot spots report having had angels help them when in mortal danger.

Thanks
Angels
Church
Feast
Michael
All
Genesis
Messengers
God
Sent
Intervene
Garden
Eden
Lot
Gideon
Balaam
Mouths
Lions
Daniel
Archangel
Gabriel
Mary
Mother
Teaming
Revelation
Danger



Daily prayers in Parliament

The Revd Patricia Hillas is the 80th Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

As Speaker's Chaplain, Tricia is most visible when she joins the Speaker's procession and conducts daily prayers in the Commons' chamber when the House is sitting. Her role also involves providing pastoral care for Members and staff of the Palace of Westminster - and includes being Priest in Charge of St Mary at Hill in the City of London.

Both the Commons' and the Lords' Speaker formally open their respective Houses each day with a ceremonial procession from their official residences within the Palace to their respective Chambers at the start of business. These processions can be observed by the public.

Records suggest that the practice of holding daily prayers in the Commons became established around 1558. It appears from these same records that the Clerk of the Commons was responsible for reading prayers during this period.

It took another 100 years before the House appointed its first clergyman to attend regularly to

conduct the prayers in the Commons.

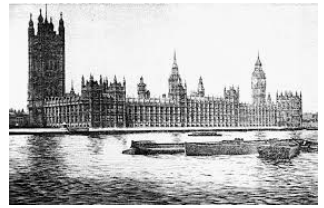
Edward

Voyce was the first person to be explicitly named as Chaplain for the Commons in 1660.

The Chaplain conducts daily prayers in the Commons' Chamber. Prayers take place immediately after the Speaker's procession to the Chamber. Only Members are allowed to be present in the Chamber during prayers, and by tradition, they stand up and face the benches rather than the centre of the House while prayers are said.

The origins of this custom are unclear, but it is thought this practice developed due to the difficulty Members would historically have faced of kneeling to pray while wearing a sword.

The Chaplain's other responsibilities include conducting a weekly Eucharistic service in the chapel, officiating at weddings, marriage blessings and baptisms of Members of Parliament and their immediate families, and providing pastoral care of both Members and staff at Westminster.



The form of the main prayer is as follows:

"Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our King and his government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep

in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. Amen

House of Lords

A senior Bishop (Lord Spiritual) who sits in the Lords usually reads the prayers. Prayers are read at the beginning of each sitting.

Thanks to Eileen B. for this interesting article.

ooooOoooo

AFTERNOON TEA AT SYKESIDE

Thank you for all those who attended the Afternoon Tea at Sykeside on Saturday 24th June. It was a lovely social occasion and I think we all enjoyed it. There was certainly plenty of food. We made £60 on the raffle for church.



Jan Norman

P.S. Thanks to Jan and the Fundraising committee for organising it. Don't forget, we have a Christmas Lunch

booked at Sykeside on Sunday 10th December.



A large city church held a dinner evening to celebrate the success of a fund-raising campaign. They were delighted when the bishop agreed to attend. The young people in the church were asked to be waiters for the event. One boy delivered a main course to the top table with his thumb on top of the steak. The embarrassed rector said to the boy, "You shouldn't be serving the bishop holding the plate like that."

The boy replied, "Sorry sir, but I assumed you wouldn't want it to fall on to the floor again."

THE CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS

In early July, Peter and I took a weekend break in Chester to see the Mystery Plays, which had been advertised online.

The plays took place inside Chester Cathedral and ran from 28th June until 15th July. They are a cycle of seventeen short renditions of Christian Bible stories, beginning with the Creation, Adam and Eve and Noah's Flood from the Old Testament, then followed by the life story of Jesus from the Nativity right through to the Resurrection and ending with the Final Judgement in Revelation.



Part of the cathedral had been cordoned off and set aside specifically for the plays. They were performed mainly in the nave, in one of the aisles and the space at the rear of the building, and the audience was seated sideways

alongside the aisle, thus allowing everyone a close and intimate view and a feeling of involvement.

Those involved with the plays were non-professionals – just ordinary people. The costumes and props were home-made and the music and singing were provided by an excellent orchestra of talented amateur musicians. The event is also very inclusive. We noticed that some of the actors had both physical and learning disabilities and there were people from different ethnic groups taking part too, as well as all age groups from young children to teenagers to the middle-aged and the elderly. As one of the volunteers put it, "Where else would you find a gathering of 200 people of all ages, sizes, backgrounds, experiences and diversity coming together to tell the greatest story ever told?"



The history of the plays is quite interesting. It is said that they were written by the Benedictine monastic scholars of the Abbey of St Werburgh, now Chester Cathedral, in the late 13th century when churches throughout Europe introduced them as a way to bring the Bible to a population that was mainly uneducated and therefore

illiterate (probably similar to the Oberammergau Passion Play that I wrote about last year). The Chester plays were given by the church to the local craft guilds that performed them on pageant wagons on the streets of the city. Although there is no clearly defined date, they were certainly well established by 1375. Each guild had its own play; for example the Bakers' Guild performed the Last Supper and the Water Leaders and Drawers of the River Dee performed Noah's Flood.



As time went on, the plays gradually became a curious blend of piety and slapstick and were banned by a decree from the Archbishop of York in 1572 for being too 'frivolous'. At first this was ignored in Chester and the plays continued until 1575, when all plays throughout the country were ordered to cease.

They were not seen in Chester again until 1951 when they were revived for the Festival of Britain. Since then the plays have been performed approximately every five years, both inside and outside the cathedral, and have welcomed members of the Royal Family, including Princess Margaret, Prince Edward (now the Duke of Edinburgh) and His Majesty King Charles when he was Prince of Wales.

The plays are a combination of the funny, dramatic and deeply moving, especially the Slaughter of the Innocents by Herod and the Crucifixion. The triumph of good over evil at the Final Judgement was spine-tingling and left us with a feeling of hope and optimism in what is still a troubled society and world. This was an entertaining and thought-provoking event and well worth the visit.

Jean Starkie

ooooOoooo

The church is the only society in the world that never loses any of its members, even by death. – *Anon*

Make sure it is God's trumpet you are blowing - if it is only yours it won't wake the dead, it will simply disturb the neighbours. - *W Ian Thomas*



THE BOARS HEAD NEWCHURCH

Proprietors: Shaun & Terri

Speciality food night on Thursdays
Food menu available all weekend
Fun and friendly atmosphere
All occasions catered for
Telephone: 01706 557742

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: The Golden Fish by Paul Klee

The Revd Canon Michael Burgess writes

A few years ago, I was sponsored by the Mothers’ Union in my diocese to go ‘swimming with sharks’ at the Blue Planet Aquarium near Chester. The prospect seemed daunting, but it proved to be a magical, memorable experience. When I went down into the water, it was like entering a new world – somehow both alien and attractive at the same time. Manta rays swam lazily by, and small fish gathered at my feet, inquisitive and waiting to be massaged by falling stones from my hand. The magic of that water-world is caught vividly in the painting, ‘The Golden Fish’ by Paul Klee.

Paul Klee was a Swiss painter who lived in Germany until he was expelled in 1933. He died seven years later, but in his lifetime produced some 9000 works of art, each one displaying inventiveness and versatility. ‘The Golden Fish,’ painted in 1925, portrays a unique creature gliding serenely through its underwater kingdom. The gold scales, the red fins and the powerful eye provide a

sharp contrast to the deep blue sea where other smaller fish are swimming to the edges of the canvas.



Is the artist showing us that secret, mysterious world that lies beneath the surface of the water, or is it simply an aquarium in his own house? Whichever it is, he is introducing us to a world that we, who live on the solid land beneath our feet, take for granted. Seven-tenths of our world is water, and our planet is really one gigantic aquarium. We can travel to the coasts of our island and see the great sea stretching out before us. It may bring to mind sandcastles and summer holidays, or a boat trip when the choppy waves made us feel queasy, or the memory of pirate stories about galleons and treasure, or the squawk of seagulls over our heads. Here in this painting, Paul Klee is telling us something of the nobility and wonder of this primeval element.

The opening pages of Scripture introduce us to the great waters of Creation, when the wind of God swept over the face of the deep, and separated the seas from the dry land. On the fifth day God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures,' and God saw that it was good. Rupert Brooke in his poem, 'Heaven,' imagines that world of fishes and sea creatures pondering what is beyond this element of water, just as we on land ponder the future of our world.

*'Somewhere, beyond Space and Time,
Is wetter water, slimier slime!
And there (they trust) there swimmeth
One Who swam ere rivers were begun,
Immense, of fishy form and mind,
Squamous, omnipotent and kind.
And under that Almighty Fin
The littlest fish may enter in...
And in that Heaven of all their wish,
There shall be no more land, say fish.'*

Poet and painter invite us to ponder the majestic glory of this element of sea and ocean which is part of God's good creation. In 'The Golden Fish' we glimpse something of the wonder of life it contains and find ourselves echoing the psalmist in Psalm 104: 'Here is the immeasurable sea in which move creatures beyond number. Countless are the things thou hast made, O Lord. Thou hast made all by thy wisdom.

(The Revd Canon Michael Burgess is priest of Oughtrington and Warburton in the diocese of Chester. A former sub-warden at Gladstone's Library in Hawarden for six years, he has been involved in ministry training and CME along with parish work. His interests include music and choral singing, the theatre and reading.)

Observations on our Christian faith

They stand best who kneel most. - Anon
You are a Child of God. Please phone home! - Anon
Prayer moves the hand which moves the world. - Anon

ROWAN'S FAMILY BUTCHERS

3 Burnley Road East
Waterfoot

Local Butchers. Local Produce
Friendly service
Home cooked meats
Home cured bacon
Award winning sausages
Delivery available - Tel 215943







Creative Professionalism

**Beauty Treatments available Thursday,
Friday & Saturday**

63 Church Street Newchurch Rossendale

Open: Tuesday – Saturday

Late Night – Thursday

Good parking

Proprietor: Natalie Ashworth

Tel: 01706 216553 e.mail: geminihairandbeauty@hotmail.co.uk

Jolly Tots



What a fun time we had on Friday 7th July at our Jolly Tots Teddy Bears' Picnic! The weather was just right! Thank you to our wonderful children and



their parents/carers, our amazing Jolly Tots team and a special thanks to Rev. Janet for coming along to join us and bless the children and their teddies!

After our break in August for holidays we will be back on Friday 1st September. We'd love to see you!



Jean Starkie.

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after a discussion on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out - it's probably just your dad".

Rev'd Janet O'Neill , Team Vicar of Rossendale writes....

Hello everyone! I've been asked to write a little bit about myself, so here we go!

My name is Janet and I'm one of the Team Vicars here in the Rossendale Team. I moved to Bacup almost 2 years ago and I love life here in Rossendale. I have oversight of Christ Church, Bacup, Holy Trinity, Tunstead, St John's, Facit and St Bartholomew's, Whitworth but I am hugely blessed to work in different ways across all our 9 churches. It is my great privilege to lead the Wednesday Eucharist at St Nicholas' and it has been wonderful to meet so many fabulous people there.



Before moving to Rossendale, I had lived in Bolton all my life. My Mum and Dad still live there, my brother Daniel, now lives in Dundee with his family. I love going up there to see them all. Living with me here in Bacup is my 23-year-old son, Tobin. He is currently doing his PhD in Manchester and he works in the library at his university. We also have 2 Jack Russels that we got from Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary 5 years ago; they are complete fools but we love them!

I haven't always been a Christian. When Tobin was 6 years old, he asked if we could go to church because his friend Joe, went to Sunday School. At first, we said no, we weren't going to church. But he didn't let it drop, so we gave in saying, 'right, we'll go, you'll see how boring it is, and that'll be that.' Well, I guess my current role tells you how wrong I was about that! I found after Tobin was born, I was surrounded by the thought there's so much more to life than I assumed there was. When I went to church, I found the answer to what I'd been searching for. Everything I came to learn about Jesus was everything I realised was missing from my life.

I became a church warden and not long after began to feel God leading me to serve Him in a different way. My vicar at the time, Nick and I began to explore ordination. At first this didn't make sense, I was working as a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist with young people, and I loved my job; why would God be calling me to something else? But that was indeed what He was doing. I trained at St. Mellitus North West, which was based at Liverpool Cathedral. This was a mix of traditional theological learning and church placement. This was a great way to train and gave me the opportunity to learn from the different traditions within the Church of England. I served my Curacy in the

West Bolton Team, a Team of 5 churches and my time there was a huge blessing.

And now I find myself even more blessed to be a part of the fabulous Rossendale Team! This is a new way for churches to work together, and we are still taking our first, early steps, but coming together means we can support and learn from one another.

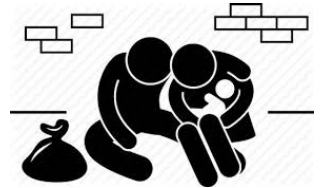
It is wonderful that although we are different and might have different styles of worship, we, together, make up Christ's body here in Rossendale; and that is a very good thing! Coming together means as many people as possible, in as many ways as possible, get to hear about, and meet with Jesus. I am so excited for what the coming years will bring!

Rev'd Janet O'Neill

ooooOoooo

Lead bishop for housing backs Prince of Wales homelessness project

The Church of England's lead bishop for housing Dr Guli Francis-Deqhani, has welcomed the launch of the five-year *Homewards* project by the Prince of Wales to end long term homelessness.



"The leadership of the Prince of Wales will undoubtedly have a tangible impact; his determination to address this crisis will be welcomed by churches up and down the country.

"The *Coming Home* report from the Archbishops' Commission on Housing, Church and Community set out the role that the Church can play in addressing a lack of truly affordable and high quality housing - a major factor behind homelessness.

"Good homes provide a foundation for communities where everyone can flourish. Together we have substantial resources to bring to bear, and so we look forward to adding our support to the Prince of Wales as he leads on this vital issue."

Continuing our series on the spiritual disciplines. By Canon Paul Hardingham.

Spiritual Disciplines: Service

'Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.' (John 13: 14-15).

We are all familiar with those requests for more to *'serve on a team'* at church, whether the coffee rota or with the children. However, these can hinder our understanding of the spiritual discipline of service.

The discipline of service involves learning from Jesus' example, when He washed the disciples' feet. Like His disciples, we are all called to take the place of a servant and be willing to serve those around us. Richard Foster in *'Celebration of Discipline'* contrasts *'self-righteous service'*, human effort wanting to impress others and be rewarded, with *'true service'*, which is rooted in our relationship with Jesus and delights in the service itself.

In his book, Richard Foster highlights the value of small, everyday sacrificial acts of service which flow from the place of being a servant: *'service is not a list of things to do, though in it we discover things to do. It is not a code of ethics, but a way of living.'* He goes on to highlight a number of acts of service, including: hiddenness (working behind the scenes); small acts of service; guarding the reputation of others; being willing to be served ourselves; practising hospitality; listening and bearing the burdens of each other. We need to pray for wisdom and discernment, so that we know when to say *'yes'* and *'no'* to serving. If we say *'yes'* too much we can easily find ourselves becoming bitter or burned out!

Why not make it your prayer each morning: *'Lord Jesus, if it would please You, bring me someone today who I can serve?'*

BOOKSWAP

WE NOW HAVE A REALLY GOOD COLLECTION OF BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHX.



If you know of any friends or family who would like some books, please feel free to help yourself

Another one from the church notices....

"Newsletters are not being sent to absentees because of their weight. "



Wardens' Warblings

Since the last magazine, the Rossendale Team have produced a rota for the Sunday services, so that we are mostly covered by the team vicars with Alastair also covering two Sundays. In a five week month it will most likely to be a morning prayer service due to the way things work out, The Rossendale team is :- Rev Rod Bevan, Rev Janet O'Neill, Rev Samuel Hameem, and Rev Laura Brinicombe, We will only see Laura a couple of times as she is going on maternity leave. We have had one Baptism during August and one coming up in September. We welcome the ones being baptised to our church community and we also have a wedding in September. There have been no events at Church due to it being summer holidays. In September we have the Heritage Weekend.

We both thank you all for your help and support enabling us to carry out our duties as church wardens.

Mitchell Lord and Iain Blair

Come back to church!

Back to Church Sunday on 17th September, is when church members are encouraged to invite their friends and neighbours to come along ...

To encourage them to attend, we could offer....



Beds - for those who say Sunday is their day to sleep-in.

Safety helmets – for anyone who fears the roof would fall in if they entered a church door.

Blankets and hot water bottles – for those who find our church too cold.

Fans and ice cream - for those who find our church too hot.

Cushions - for anyone who find our seats too hard.

Bicycles – for those who exercise on Sunday mornings.

Hearing aids - for those who find the minister speaks too softly.

Cotton wool - *for those who find the minister speaks too loudly.*

Score cards - *for all who want to rate the hymns/sermons/coffee.*

Ready-meals - *for anyone who can't come because they have to cook Sunday lunch.*

Some flowers - *for those who prefer to seek God in nature.*

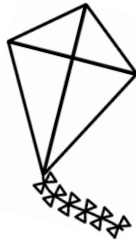
Christmas poinsettias and Easter palms - *for all those who have never seen the church without them.*

See you Sunday!!

ooooOoooo

Feel the tug

Have you ever wondered how you can be certain about who and what God really is? One Christian put it this way: I'm reminded of the story of the little boy who was out flying a kite.



The wind was brisk and large billowing clouds were blowing across the sky. The kite went up and up until it was entirely hidden by the clouds. Then a man came by and asked the little boy what he was doing, staring up at an empty sky. "I'm flying my kite," he replied.

The man replied: "What kite? How can you be sure it is still there? You can't see a thing."

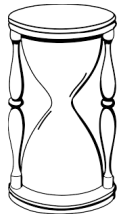
The little boy agreed that he could see nothing, "but every little while I feel a tug, so I know for sure that it is still up there and is connected to me!"

When it comes to God, you don't need to take anyone else's word for it. You can find Him for yourself by inviting Jesus Christ into your life. Then you too will know, by the warm wonderful tug on your heartstrings, that though you

can't see Him, He is up there, and that He lives in you. You are connected!

A grain of sand at a time

This autumn, do you feel overwhelmed with all the things that you need to get done?



Then think of your life as an hourglass. There are thousands of grains of sand in the top of the hourglass; and they all pass slowly and evenly through the narrow neck in the middle.

We are like that hourglass. When we start in the morning, there are hundreds of tasks which we feel that we must accomplish that day. But if we do not take them one at a time, and let them pass through the day slowly and evenly, as do the grains of sand passing through the narrow neck of the hour glass, then we are bound to break our own fragile physical and mental structure.

Do not attempt more than God designed you to do.

Church of England sets out hopes for Flourishing Schools System

The Church of England has launched a new publication outlining its hopes for students, teachers and educators to flourish across the schools system.



Underpinned by the Church's 2016 Vision for Education, the new document, entitled 'Our Hope for a Flourishing Schools System' makes recommendations including a once-in-a-generation re-imagining of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) funding, provision, training and development, wise and compassionate accountability systems for school inspections, and performance measures and steps to ensure teaching is again regarded as a vocation in which adults can flourish and commit long-term.

The document sets out the importance of collaboration in different local contexts, particularly between schools in smaller rural areas, to ensure every child in every community receives an effective provision.

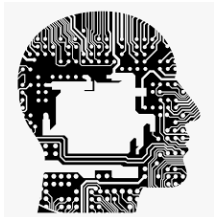
It concludes with recommendations for four leadership levels: Schools, School Trusts, Dioceses and Government, and invites dialogue and engagement across the sector to develop flourishing partnerships.

At the School Leadership level, the document includes encouragement of further development of young leaders, while alleviating negative pressures on work-life balance for all staff.

School Trust Leaders are encouraged to prioritise formation of character and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, focusing on the needs of particular communities and supporting those schools in need of the greatest support.

For Diocesan Leaders, there is encouragement to provide pastoral and wellbeing care to leaders, focussing on the sustainability of schools within the mission of the wider diocese. Dioceses should encourage continuous improvement with particular regard to RE, collective worship and with support for SIAMS inspections, and recruit and retain governance leaders. Children and Young People should be at the heart of the diocesan vision and strategy.

By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.



How to fight back against artificial intelligence

I've been writing Christian comment columns for newspapers and radio for more than 30 years – but I had a shock when I asked an artificial intelligence computer programme to write one for me.

The question that I posed was simple. Could an AI programme produce a column that would match up to one penned by a team of writers who regularly produce articles for a local newspaper in St Albans, my home city north of London? These are all people who know the area and have a living faith.

The answer? The AI fared pretty well and – worryingly – it produced several insights that could have been written by one of our experienced team.

My experiment with artificial intelligence gave me a glimpse of what AI can already do, with – looking ahead – the potential for 'systems with human-intelligence' to make radical changes to society, including taking away people's jobs and making 'fake news' much easier to invent and distribute.

Many people are worried. A group of technology leaders have called for a pause in development while we study AI's potential impact.

But what 'my' AI-generated article lacked – and, of course, it would – was a living faith that would inform its writing. For anyone who is a Christian communicator – from the pulpit, online, in print, via video or drama or in our personal lives – this is a vital lesson.

In an age when AI can generate sermons, write articles and design compelling graphics, those of us who seek to speak about the faith, and bring others to it, will need increasingly to 'bring ourselves' into our messages.

Like John the Baptist, we need to be pointing to Christ – always – but it'll become increasingly vital that we bring our own lived experiences, our testimonies, into how we communicate.

That's the challenge for all Christian communicators, and anyone seeking to share their faith. Words and arguments that could be drawn from a text-book or the web can easily be replicated by AI programmes.

Actions of love, and sharing our personal story will always be the most persuasive way of presenting Christ's gospel of sacrifice and love.

And AI – I pray – will never be able to match that authenticity and truth.

ST NICHOLAS CHOIR GOES ON TOUR!!



We were very privileged to be asked to sing at the Society of Friends' Meeting House in Crawshawbooth on the afternoon of Saturday 19th August. This had been organised by Bob Dawson, one of our choir members who is also a Friends' member.

The Friends were holding an Open Day where they invited the public in to visit their meeting house and garden, which are beautiful. The house is so quaint and quite small inside, but very cosy and with a real sense of peace. They had also invited Stacksteads Band, who played later in the garden and were excellent. The event was well attended with people wandering in and out throughout the afternoon.

The choir sang five pieces and a hymn, all unaccompanied, to a sizeable audience of about 45 (who filled the house and stayed to listen!!), and we were very well received. We were told it was probably the first time ever that a choir had sung in that place, as of course, Quakers worship in silence.

Later we went out into the garden with a cuppa and cakes to listen to the band.

We sang really well and all the hard work and extra practising certainly paid off! Thank you to Janet for putting us through our paces over the last few weeks. Thanks also to Bob and the Society of Friends for inviting us to what was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Jean Starkie

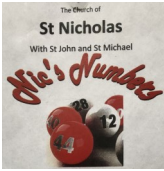
ooooOoooo

Shout

Verger's advice to visiting preacher: "You'll 'ave to shout very loud in this 'ere church, vicar. The agnostics are somefink terrible!"



St Nicholas Church, Newchurch, Rossendale needs your help! Sign up to easyfundraising & raise FREE donations every time you shop online with over 6,000 retailers. John Lewis, Argos, Uswitch, eBay and many more are waiting to give a free donation. Plus once you've signed up and raised £5 in donations, easyfundraising will give us an extra £5 bonus donation! Please have a word with our Treasurer for more information



Membership of the 100 Club is available to anyone with a connection to St Nicholas Church, The cost per number is £1 per month payable in advance, preferably by Standing Order by 20th of each month. Cash and cheques are also acceptable.

Each month 50% of the monies paid in is divided between 3 'winners'.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our Taskforce committee has been busy planning social events to take place throughout 2023. Upcoming dates...



Friday 15th September **Quiz Night.** *Pie and pea supper*

16th and 17th September **HERITAGE WEEKEND**

Saturday 18th November **Christmas Fayre**

Sunday 10th December **Christmas Lunch at Sykeside Country House Hotel**

CELEBRATION OF A NEW MINISTRY

On Monday 10th July about twenty of us went over to All Saints & Martyrs Church in Langley to share in the licensing and induction service of Fr Scott. It was a lovely, meaningful service and it was good to see Scott and Carol settling into their new church and home. The fellowship there were very welcoming and we enjoyed a lovely buffet afterwards. All agreed, it was worth the trek across the Diocese and we continue to uphold Scott in prayer as he embarks on his new ministry.



This month we remember two well known literary ‘giants’

JRR Tolkien

Fifty years ago, on 2nd September 1973, JRR Tolkien, the fantasy writer, poet, scholar and educator, died. He was best known for his novels *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Born in Bloemfontein and descended from a family that originated in an area that was then East Prussian and is now Russian, Tolkien – always known as Ronald – thought of himself as unmistakably English. He was brought up in the Birmingham area after the death of his father, who had stayed in South Africa while his wife and children visited England.

Ronald’s mother then died when he was 12, and he was raised by aunts, uncles and a guardian who was a Roman Catholic priest, Father Francis. Tolkien later became a devoted Catholic and insisted that his fiancée, Edith Bratt, join him in that faith. She did so, reluctantly, and they had a long and extremely happy marriage. His beliefs were a significant factor in C S Lewis’s conversion to Christianity.

Tolkien had a longstanding fascination with language and became an acknowledged expert in both linguistics and mythology, which led to his writing his two most famous works – and several others. Despite assumptions by some, none were intended as children’s books, and *The Lord of the Rings* was never a trilogy – it was printed in three volumes for cost reasons.

The huge success of his writing led to unexpected fame. He and his wife eventually moved to Bournemouth and lived there until she died in 1971. He was then given rooms in Merton College, Oxford. He said in an interview shortly before his death: “A pen is to me as a beak is to a hen.”

Since 2003, The Tolkien Society has organised Tolkien Reading Day, which takes place on 25th March in schools around the world.

W H Auden

Also, fifty years ago, on 29th September 1973, W H Auden, British-born American poet, died. He is widely – though not unanimously – regarded as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century.

Wystan Hugh Auden had been born in York and died in Vienna. In later years he had been splitting his time between Austria and New York, having become an American citizen in 1946 (though retaining his British citizenship). Having studied English at Christ Church, Oxford, he taught in British private schools, travelled to Iceland and China, and taught in American universities.

Auden’s poetry is technically varied, ranging widely in style from haiku to villanelles and far beyond. Altogether, he published about 400 poems and a similar number of

essays and reviews. He also collaborated on plays, notably with Christopher Isherwood, with whom he had a relationship for some years. His most famous poem is probably *Funeral Blues*, which is recited in its entirety in the comedy film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

His grandfathers were both Church of England clergymen, and he grew up in an Anglo-Catholic household that nurtured his love of music and language. Possibly of Icelandic descent, he loved Icelandic legends and Old Norse sagas. He returned to the Anglican Church after what he called a “vision of agape” in 1933, seeing Christianity as “the only mature way to understand human darkness and potential”.

In 1935 he married Erika Mann, the lesbian daughter of novelist Thomas Mann, to protect her from the Nazis; the marriage lasted until her death in 1969, though they never lived together.

It was recently revealed that Auden was considered as a possible Poet Laureate in 1967 following the death of John Masefield, but was finally rejected because he had taken American citizenship.

ooooOoooo

THANK-YOU to those who have contributed to this edition of our magazine. Please **let Christine have any articles for the October copy by SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER**

You will have read in the Wardens' Warblings in the last edition that I am relinquishing my position as editor of the Parish News . It is not a decision I have taken lightly but the main reason is that I feel that 'things have moved on' and the number of people interested in reading this magazine has decreased quite considerably over the past number of years. There are so many other means of reporting events in the church or advertising forthcoming events, mainly via social media.

However, if anyone is interested in taking responsibility for the production of our magazine, I am more than happy to work with them to ensure a smooth transition.



CHURCH CLEANING

A massive thank you to all the people who turn up regularly to keep brasses polished, toilets cleaned etc etc. The next session is planned for Tuesday 19th September. Please have a word with Janet B. if you feel able to help.

THE CHURCH FAMILY

BAPTISM: 20th August Hugh Peter Sagar.

Please uphold him and his family in prayer.

NIC’S NUMBERS

JUNE: 1 Constance Fisher 2 Janet Booth 3 Philip Booth
JULY: 1 Caroline Watts 2 Philip Booth 3 Christine Worrell



FLOWERS FOR AUGUST:

12th Glenice Trippier in memory of Jack
27th Margaret Magee in memory of Elizabeth Bracewell

FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER:

9th/10th/11th Jennifer Hargreaves -celebration of grand daughter's wedding, Jennifer's parents’ anniversary and Jennifer and Les's 58th wedding anniversary.
17th Judith Rothwell in memory of Stephen
24th Christine Worrell in memory of Allan

Also, donations for flowers have been received from a few members of the congregation but not detailed above.

Answers to the Green Quiz Greenpeace, Greenland, Green Cross Code, Green Man, Green Goddess. Green Shield Stamps, Green Flag, Green & Black’s, Greensleeves, Green Giant <i>And some of the vegetables.....</i>	Artichoke	pepper
	Asparagus	Green pumpkin
	Broccoli	Kale
	Brussels sprouts	Kohlrabi
	Cabbage	Leek
	Celery	Lettuce
	Coriander	Mint
	Cucumber	Okra
	Edamame	Pea
	Green bean	Romaine lettuce
	Green capsicum	Spinach
	Green chili	Watercress
		Zucchini

Answer to the wordsearch



2023

DIARY for SEPTEMBER

Friday 1st

09.30 Jolly Tots

Sunday 3rd

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 6th

10.15 BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 10th

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 13th

10.15 BCP Holy Communion followed by Welcome Munchies

Friday 15th

19.30 Quiz Night

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th

HERITAGE WEEKEND

Sunday 17th

10.30 Parish Eucharist.

Tuesday 19th

10.00 Church cleaning

Wednesday 20th

10.15 BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 24th

10.30 Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 26th

14.00 Laura Jane Moore meeting

Wednesday 27th

10.15 BCP Holy Communion



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."

Celebrate your life, your way.

Fixed price pre-paid funeral plans offering
peace of mind for you and your family.



- ✓ YOUR FUNERAL
YOUR CHOICE
- ✓ LOCAL, CARING
FAMILY CONCERN
- ✓ FACE TO FACE
APPOINTMENTS
AVAILABLE
- ✓ 25 NOMINATED
FUNERAL
DIRECTORS

OUR FAMILY HELPING YOURS FOR OVER 25 YEARS


HAVEN
PERSONAL FUNERAL PLANS LTD

www.HAVENFUNERALPLANS.CO.UK
WE'RE LOCAL AND AVAILABLE 24/7 ON 01706 230 285
CEDAR LODGE, 227 BURY RD, RAWTENSTALL, ROSSENDALE BB4 6DJ

AUTHORISED AND REGULATED BY THE FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY
Haven Personal Funeral Plans Ltd, Registered address Cedar Lodge, 227 Bury Road, Rawtenstall, Rossendale, BB4 6DJ

Sunday Services

Parish Communion 10-30 a.m.

Weekday Services

Wednesday 10-15 a.m.

Saint's Day Eucharist - see Diary

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in church and the Holy Communion can be taken to the sick and house-bound by arrangement.

ROSSENDALE TEAM MINISTRY

Rev Janet O'Neill	janet.oneill@rossendalecofe.church
Rev Samuel Hameem	samuelhameem@rossendalecofe.church
Rev Rod Bevan	revrodbev@hotmail.com

Churchwardens

Mr Iain Blair	07733 007755
Mr Mitchell Lord	07854 736890
	wardens@stnicholasnewchurch.com

PCC members

The churchwardens *plus*

Tony Abbey	Philip Booth	Jan Norman
Stan Alcock	Emily Hewitson-Townley	Julia Robertson
Janet Booth	Robin Jones	Jean Starkie
		Adrian Watts