

Consider

Christ Church Aughton Parish Newsletter

No 522 ~ April 2017



Vicar's Viewpoint . . .

'The future is already here'

"People respond when you tell them there is a great future in front of you, you can leave your past behind."

Joel Osteen

CERTAINLY it seemed at the time that Jesus had run out of time. As he was nailed to the cross his future was to be measured in hours if not minutes. He and his mission were about to come to a humiliating end.

His disciples are now broken and disillusioned. After all they had been expecting great things for this Rabbi of Nazareth. They had left home and family to follow him. But now his bloodied body lay in a rock-hewn tomb.

"But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel," declared two of his company as they finally left Jerusalem for home. The full enormity of his defeat was beginning to register.

Their hopes for a glorious future had been buried along with the body of this failed Messiah. All they could see now was darkness and defeat.



Except of course, his was no failure at all. The resurrection of Jesus changed everything. The

future now looks very different.

In fact, God's glorious future, his promise to heal and renew his fractured creation, is not just in the future. This future is now already here, even with us as the risen Jesus cooks fish on the shores of Lake Galilee.

For these disciples, in fact anyone who chooses to place their faith in this crucified and risen Jesus, may claim his future now as our future.

As the apostle Paul reflects: "If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from death, lives in you, then he who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies by the presence of his Spirit in you." (Romans 8:11).

This is Good News of the first order. Whatever our past, we may now face the future with confidence and hope.

Christ is risen

He is risen indeed
Hallelujah!

Ross Moughtin

Services during Holy Week

Palm Sunday 10.45am

TO begin this special service on the day when we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, we will approach church led by a donkey. We will be gathering at the stables alongside the barn from the stables alongside the communication masts at the end of track at the top of the track opposite church.

For this service itself we are inviting musician Ian Yates to lead in worship alongside the music group.

Maundy Thursday

WE are having a quiet and reflective service for Maundy Thursday. This will be a special time to come together to re-enact Jesus washing his disciples' feet by sharing communion and to be anointed with oil for healing.

Good Friday

THE churches of Ormskirk join together for an open-air act of worship on Good Friday. This takes place at the Market Clock beginning 12 noon.

Coffee and hot cross buns will be served afterwards at New Church House.

Handel's Messiah, part 2, is being performed in church that evening with soloists Philip Clieve, Geraldine Holroyd, Sue Chu Miller, Barrie Moulton and Lois Powell. Ian Sharpe is the organist.

Easter Saturday

CHURCHES Together in Ormskirk are planning special activities in Ormskirk centre marking Easter. This will include the members of the different churches forming a cross to mark the triumph of Jesus

150th anniversary service

WE had a wonderful service on Sunday, 26 March ~ the exact date when the Bishop of Chester laid the foundation stone for our church 150 years ago.

The church was full to hear Bishop Paul encourage us to honour the crucified Christ by telling people about him, serving others

April 2017

Sunday, 2 April

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: Holy Communion
6.30pm: Evening Worship

Palm Sunday, 9 April

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: Family Service
6.30pm: Evening Worship

Maundy Thursday, 13 April

8.00pm: Holy Communion
We reflect on Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples

Good Friday, 14 April

12 noon: Good Friday Reflection in Ormskirk town centre.
This is followed by light refreshments at Ormskirk Parish Church
2.00-3.00pm: Standing at the cross
A simple, reflective service in church
7.00pm: The Messiah part 2

Easter Day, 16 April

Please bring a small posy of flowers to place on the cross

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: Family Communion
6.30pm: Songs of Praise

Sunday, 23 April

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: Informal service in the Ministry Centre
6.30pm: Holy Communion

This is followed by our church' Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 30 April

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: Family service with Baptism
No evening service

Sunday, 7 May

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: Holy Communion
Preacher: Rev Mark Stanford, vicar of Holy Trinity, Formby
6.30pm: Evening Worship

in his name and giving as generously as God gives to us.

During the service a special banner made by **Dorothy Harrison**, of Long Lane and **Irene Critchley**, of Ruff Lane, commemorating 150 years of Christ Church was unveiled by the Bishop.

The service was concluded with Bishop Paul along with our civic guests cutting a special birthday cake.

The day was commemorated by our team of eight bellringers, led by tower captain **Paul Coggon**, ringing a full peal of Plain Bob Triples. This comprised of 5040 changes which took just over three hours of non-stop concentration.

CONSIDER for March

SUCH was the demand for our special 150th anniversary edition that we ran out of copies and had to have more printed. For a few households this will mean that the March CONSIDER is being delivered with this April edition.

Annual Parish Meeting

THE Annual Parish General Meeting will follow the evening service on Sunday, 23 April, in church, when new wardens and new members of the church council (the PCC) will be elected and sidespeople appointed.

During the AGM the PCC publishes an annual report, with contributions from all the church organisations. This will be available from the back of church and the church office.

Café Vista in the Ministry Centre is closed over Easter for two weeks from **Tuesday 11 April** and reopens on **Tuesday, 25 April**.

It is then open Tuesday to Friday, 10.30am-3.30pm and Saturday for cooked breakfasts, from 10.00am to 12 noon.

Everyone, not just church members, is welcome.

News from School



David Kennedy, Head teacher, writes

THE last month has been a truly memorable one in school with so

many things going on.

All of the children in school enjoyed contributing to the piece of artwork presented to the Church for their 150th birthday. Every child created a portrait which together created the shape of 'Our Church School Family'.

The school council also supported year 5 in making flowers to decorate the centre aisle of the Church for the very special service.

On behalf of everyone at Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School we'd like to wish everyone at Christ Church a very 'Happy Birthday'.

All of the children in school also thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to visit church and undertake the 'Easter Experience'. Everyone in school visited church the last week of term to participate in workshops ran by the church community.

As a school we very much appreciated all the support of the Church community in helping to run the Easter experience and broaden our children's understanding.

In addition to Easter, we have also had another very successful month from a sporting point of view. As a school we finally received our Gold award for school sport and P.E for the 3rd year running. This award reflects our commitment and work in this area.

Our school swimming team attended the local swimming gala and it was fantastic to see our team pick up many individual medals. The team performed superbly overall and as a result won the overall event becoming West Lancashire Champions.

We also attended bench ball and football tournaments and were delighted with all the attitudes and performances of all the children who attended. The football team are currently half way through their Spring League and lie in second place heading into the Easter break.

We have also enjoyed two superb class assemblies. Year one presented to parents and families as they told their favourite fairy tales and Reception held their very first assembly for parents which focussed on forgiveness and reflected how far they have come since they started school.

Year one also enjoyed their visit to Ellesmere Port Boat museum to support their class work on different homes.

We are also delighted as many of our musicians in school performed at the Annual 'Aughton School Music Festival' and did exceptionally well on the day.

All of the children in school have enjoyed watching as the school council have led our garden project and phase one is now complete.

The children are really looking forward to using the garden in the Summer Term.

As I write, our Year 6 children also are looking forward to the opportunity to have a go on a climbing wall as a reward for their hard work this term, something I know they are all very excited about.

Finally, as we return to school after our two week break, our school value will turn to friendship. Once again we are all looking forward to exploring this with the children. Our work on forgiveness this last term has been very rewarding and linked well with our work on Easter leading us nicely into a very well deserved rest.

On behalf of everyone at Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School I'd like to wish everyone a very 'Happy Easter'.

Tuesday 18 April: School reopens

Wednesday 19 April: Football league

Wednesday 19 April: PHA meeting

Thursday 27 April: Super stars event at St Bede's

Friday 28 April: Year 5 Class assembly

West Lancashire Debt Advice

WLDA now embarks on its fifth year of operation since it was set up by members of Ormskirk Churches Together. It is affiliated to the national debt advice charity, Community Money Advice, which has a network of over 100 debt advice centres around the UK.

"We saw our first client in March 2013 and since then we have helped over 70 people; each with their own very personal stories to tell.

"Many have become fully debt free with others well on the road to recovery. In all cases our clients have been offered at least a cup of tea and a chat and made aware of other services open to them. Many have

been helped by the Food Bank and some have been offered practical support from local churches and others signposted to local agencies.

"Our trained volunteers provide confidential advice and practical support. Once we have details of a client's circumstances, we can discuss with them the possible options and agree a way forward, dealing with creditors on their behalf. Making that first call or visit to us, however difficult their situation, will reassure them that support is available and debts can be dealt with.

"We presently operate from premises at Emmanuel Methodist Church on a Tuesday evening, Thursday afternoons (when we welcome 'drop ins') and occasionally on Saturday mornings but by appointment only."

Moving to Lichfield

ONE of our former curates, **Rev Michael Follin**, who served with us from 2002 to 2006, is preparing for a move to the Diocese of Lichfield. Currently Team Vicar of the Maghull and Melling Team Michael has been appointed as Vicar of Werrington and Wetley Rocks and he is being instituted to his new ministry next month.

We wish **Michael and Lynn** every blessing in their new parish.

From the Registers

FUNERALS

8 March: Linda May Aspinall, of Lydiate

14 March: Reginald Berrington, of Silver Birch Lodge Nursing Home

21 March: Sylvia Miranda Ferrington, of Scarisbrick Street, Ormskirk

29 March: Colette Therese Campbell, of Maghull

31 March: Frank Louis Treasure, of the Royal Hospital Chelsea

Vicar: **Canon Ross Moughtin**, 22 Long Lane, Aughton ☎ 422 175

Curate: **Rev Sarah O'Donoghue** ☎ 07847 931323