

cycling training in the Bikeability programme and they have enjoyed some transition workshops as they prepare for High school. Year 6 also enjoyed a fantastic week up in the Lake District for our annual residential at Tower Wood. Outdoor education is a super part of our curriculum and we know how much the children gained from their experience at Tower Wood. Once again, their attitudes and behaviour were tremendous and made us all very proud.

As I write, our drama club are very busy preparing for their annual production. This year, they are preparing 'Christ Church Musical' and as always we know we will be truly entertained during the final weeks of term with some exceptional song and drama. Year 4 presented a superb class assembly which was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole school and their families reflecting all of the tremendous work they had done this year. Our year 3 children also demonstrated their amazing ukulele skills as they presented a concert to their families. All of our infant children have also been enjoying their PE lesson with our cricket coach and are busy getting their sporting skills ready for their up and coming sports Day. Reception, in particular have been busy as they have all undertaken their road safety work. We've had a successful term in terms of sports especially as our year 6 girls cricket team were crowned champions of West Lancashire and our year 5/6 mixed team were runners up in their event! We also had success at District Sports as we finished second in our category and **Rebecca Mitchell** from year 6 won the overall event for girls to be crowned champion.

So, as we enter the final weeks of this school year, we are preparing to say good

bye to a fantastic group of Year 6 children who have been such a credit to themselves and our school. Whilst we will be sad to see them leave, we know the experiences they've had at our school will support them as they make their next step. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all. We are also enjoying welcoming our new children who have been visiting the Reception for their taster days this term. The next time I update you the summer holidays will have started and our attentions will turn to the start of a new year. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Summer and hope you all find an opportunity to relax and enjoy time with your families.

David Kennedy, Headteacher

Summer Serenade

WE are delighted to welcome to Christ Church professional tenor **Philip Clieve** along with two of his professional friends. **Jonathan Clayton** will be accompanying on the piano.

The Aughton male voice choir will be performing.

Saturday, 22 July at 7.00pm in church.
Admission: £5.00.

From the Registers

BAPTISMS

18 June: Rosa Margaret Litherland, daughter of Ross and Tracy

18 June: Xavier William Livesley, son of Paul and Helen

FUNERALS

30 May: Brenda Jackson, of New Lane

1 June: Billy Virgo, of Liverpool Road, Skelmersdale

22 June: Judith Wiltshire, of Hillcroft Care Home

Consider

Christ Church Aughton Parish Newsletter

No 525 ~ July/August 2017



Vicar's Viewpoint . . .

'What is the point of life'

"I gave in, and admitted that God was God."

C. S. Lewis

IT doesn't come naturally, giving in to God. And yet strangely it is the core reason for our existence.

For why do we live? What is the point of life?

This was answered head-on in the Westminster Shorter Catechism, a succinct summary of the Christian faith produced in 1647 by a team of English and Scottish theologians learning to work together.

Their answer: our chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

As simple as that.

Not to fear or obey or even trust God. Our main purpose in life is to enjoy God for the simple reason that God longs 'to lavish his love on us.'

And yet life can so often seem the opposite when we would suppose that God is aloof and detached.

It is the cross of Jesus which gives us a direct view into God's heart. There in the body of a man deserted and dying, alone and abandoned we may see the extent of God's compassion and commitment even to us.



As ever it is his resurrection, his conquest of death, which changes everything. Now we can begin to believe what Jesus taught as he urges us to "believe in God, believe also in me." (John 14:1)

Even so, as C S Lewis found out, it is a struggle. On the one hand we may dare trust that God is a God of love who wills our very best, who promises a creation healed and restored in Jesus. And yet we would hold on to our independence such as it is.

But Jesus has been through this himself. Quite remarkably God knows what it is like to be human: he's been there. And he is a God who communicates, even in the most unlikely of situations.

But the most remarkable of all, God has made us in such a way that we can freely choose to trust him or live our lives apart from him. Like the father of the prodigal son, he waits for our free response.

Such is the wonder of God's grace.

Ross Moughtin

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

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

July/August 2017

Sunday, 2 July

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: Holy Communion

We welcome Janet Roberts, vicar of St Nicholas' Blundellsands and assistant minister at Christ Church 1992-1998

6.30pm: Evening Worship

Wednesday, 5 July

2.00pm: Holy Communion in the Ministry Centre

Sunday, 9 July

8.15am: Holy Communion

Breakfast is served in Café Vista from 9.00am

10.45am: Parade Service
6.30pm: Evening Worship

Sunday, 16 July

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: Family Service with Baptism
6.30pm: Service of Hope

Our service for those who are bereaved

Tuesday, 18 July

2.00pm: Aughton School Leavers' service
We welcome pupils and parents from St Michael's and Town Green school

Friday, 21 July

1.00pm: Christ Church end-of-term service

Sunday, 23 July

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: All-age Family Service
6.30pm: Holy Communion

Sunday, 30 July

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: All-age Family Service
No service at 6.30pm

Sunday, 6 August

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: All-age Holy Communion
6.30pm: Evening Worship

Sunday, 13 August

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

Sunday, 20 August

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: All-age Family Service
6.30pm: Holy Communion

Sunday, 27 August

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: All-age Family Service
No service at 6.30pm

Sunday, 3 September

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

Café Vista

Cappuccino with a view

Tuesday to Friday, 10.30 to 3

Light refreshments and lunches are served in a friendly environment with a view to match. It is possible that Cafe Vista may be closed towards the end of August.

Saturday breakfasts, between 10.00-12 noon, offer a variety of cooked breakfasts during July. However, there will be no Saturday breakfasts over August.

Sunday breakfast is served in the Ministry Centre between the 8.15 and 10.45 services

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sweet shops while the Leaders visited the outdoor shops!

Two Scouts have gained the Chief Scout's Gold Award which is the highest award in the Scout section, so congratulations to **Josh Wright** and **Aaron Jutla** on their hard work.

The **Explorers** have been out and about during their weekly meetings, canoeing at Tawd Vale, activities on Gorse Hill and a photograph trail to name a few. They are currently planning their camp to Cheshire in July which will include white water rafting in North Wales.

A number of the Explorers are also taking part in the 'Young Leader Scheme' which sees them helping out with the younger sections. They have attended training weekends, gained First Aid Certificates and brought back games and activities to use with the younger members which greatly enhances the programme and helps the Leaders too.

News from Christ Church school

Monday, 3 July: Year 1 visit to Martin Mere
Year 6 transition workshops at Church

Tuesday, 4 July: Infant Sports Day

Wednesday, 5 July: Christ Church Musical production for the Luncheon Club
7:00pm - Year 6 dance group to perform at Dance fever – Ormskirk High School

Thursday, 6 July: Year 5 Kayaking
Christ Church Musical Production - 6.00 to 8.00pm

Friday, 7 July: Teddy Bears Picnic
Christ Church Musical Production - 6.00 to 8.00pm

Tuesday, 11 July: Year 6 climbing wall
Reception Visit to Blackpool Zoo

Wednesday, 12 July: Junior Sports Day

Thursday, 13 July: Crosby Marina – Kayaking for year 5



Friday, 14 July: Year 2 Class Assembly

Cricknet Club visit to watch Lancashire v Yorkshire at Old Trafford

Tuesday, 18 July: Aughton Leavers Service at Aughton Christ Church – 2.00pm

Wednesday, 19 July: Year 6 leavers event for parents

Friday, 21 July: Last Day of Term – Leavers Service at Christ Church

As we approach the end of our school year, it is an opportunity to reflect on everything we have achieved and done together. Throughout everything we have done in school this year, the superb attitude of all of our children has continued to shine through. This is especially evident through our work on 'Christian Values' that are delivered through worship and then embedded through all aspects of our school life.

This year, the children have created a new garden with the help and support of our PHA. They designed the garden and then voted and named the garden 'Friendship Falls' which very much reflects the ethos of the children in our school. As one of our key values, we all know the importance of friendship in life and we know the garden will be there for many children to enjoy now and in the future and learn about friendship during their time at Aughton Christ Church C of E Primary School. As it has grown this year, it has been lovely to watch the project flourish and involve all members of our school community. We now know that it will continue to grow and develop and be a place of quiet reflection for everyone.

It has been a very exciting month for our Year 5 children who have been undertaking a kayaking course at Crosby Marina. They also recently stayed in school 'til 9.00pm on a Thursday night as they undertook the now annual 'Space Camp' to support their learning about their Summer Term topic of Space. Year 6 have also been taking their

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Bereavement Service

BEREAVEMENT is the sharpest challenge to our trust in God; if faith can overcome this, there is no mountain which it cannot remove.
– Dean Inge

If you have been recently bereaved, especially over the last three years, you are most welcome to our annual bereavement service in church on **Sunday, 16 July at 6.30pm.**

We want to stand alongside those people and offer support and during the service we will mention the names of those who have died. *Please give these names to the church office or contact the clergy.*

Our busiest month was January when meals were provided to 62 people. The main reason that the clients cannot afford the food is still because of benefit delays (25%), other reasons include low income (22%) and benefit changes (21%) and Jobcentre Plus in Ormskirk continues to be our main source of clients ~over 60%.

In October, because of the increase in rental for the Boiler Room, we moved from the Boiler Room to New Church House at Ormskirk Parish Church.

The food (over 11 tonnes of it!) has been collected from a number of sources – including Tesco in Burscough, churches, schools, Edge Hill University, businesses and individuals. The Trussell Trust has a national agreement with Tesco and we had major collections in July and December. In addition to these two collections there is a permanent food collection point.

As well as collecting food, Tesco also make a cash donation based on the weight of the food collected ~ this year it has totalled over £900.

We are also collecting food from Morrisons which they can't sell for various reasons, such as the packaging is damaged or it is close to its Best Before date. Edge Hill University also held a couple of special events to collect food ~ the students held a 'Big Student Clearout' day and the staff held a 'Hot Cross Bun' day and a Christmas collection; the midwifery students also collected two large boxes of sanitary products.

If we have any surplus food this is sent or collected by other local foodbanks in Skelmersdale, St. Helens, Liverpool and Waterloo.

During the year we had a Quality Assurance visit from the Trussell Trust and their report on the visit said that Ormskirk Foodbank 'are providing a warm, welcoming and friendly service to the local community and should be so encouraged by the impact you are making'.

This could not have happened without the

active support of about 50 volunteers to whom we are most grateful for all their time and dedication to the service.

We continue to pray that we may find suitable premises to merge the warehouse and distribution centre activities into a single location somewhere near the centre of Ormskirk.

News from the Scouts

THIS term, the **Beavers** have enjoyed working towards the 'Space Activity Badge' and have learnt about the planets in the Solar System. They have also been looking at different constellations in the night sky and have found out about a space mission.

35 **Cubs** and Leaders from both Wednesday and Thursday Cub Packs, together with a few Scouts and Explorers, took part in the District's Cub Camp at Tawd Vale in June.

The weekend was action packed with activities such as canoeing, climbing and circus skills and the weather was superb - no wet tents to dry out at the end of this camp!

The **Scouts** had a fantastic week's camp in the Lake District during May half term week. 24 Scouts, Explorers and Leaders headed up the M6 on Saturday morning and just managed to pitch all the tents before the rain came, and in true Lake District style, it poured!

There was also a spectacular thunder storm thrown in as well, just to test how waterproof the tents were (they didn't leak). During the week, the Scouts canoed a 4 mile trip on Windermere, hiked up Stickle Ghyll (in the rain!), completed an Orienteering Course, cooked backwoods style (without using any utensils), undertook the Naturalist Badge which involved a study of the local wildlife and visited the swimming baths at Ulverston, followed by the outdoor shops in Ambleside. Or rather, the Scouts went to the

on **Sunday, 9 July**. Enjoy croissants and coffee, bacon sandwiches and toast!

Run completely by volunteers, we welcome anyone who would like to help in any capacity. **Contact the church office for more information.**

New ministry for Michael and Lynn

ONE of our previous curates, Michael Follin, who served at Christ Church 2002-2006 and then vicar of St Peter's Maghull, was installed as vicar of Werrington and Wetley Rocks in the Diocese of Lichfield last month.

This is a rural parish with two churches in the Staffordshire Moorlands, six miles from the centre of Stoke-on-Trent.

We wish Michael and Lynn every blessing in this new chapter in their ministry.

Underneath are the everlasting arms

WE extend our condolences to the family of **Edna Hearne**, of Colinmander Gardens, a longstanding member of Christ Church. Always cheerful with a love of people, Edna was a staunch supporter of the Mothers' Union and a member of our Luncheon Club. We shall miss her.

Her funeral service on church is on **Friday, 7 July at 11.00am.**

Contending for the weak in Argentina

FOR nearly 40 years Christ Church has been supporting the Leake family, firstly Bishop David and Rachel, and then their son Andrew along with Maria, in their ministry with the indigenous people of the Chaco in northern Argentina.

Last month our vicar Ross along with his wife Jacqui travelled to Salta, the main city in northern Argentina to meet up with Andrew and Maria, to show our support for

their ongoing ministry.

This is his report:

Within hours of arriving in Salta we found ourselves in the personal conference room of the President of the Legislature of the province of Salta. In total contrast this was the first time that Sheila, a resident of Salta for over 40 years, had been inside the building!

Our mission partner, Andrew, was about to give a key presentation on the effects of deforestation and how this has devastated the lives of the indigenous people, the Wichi.

Sadly the Wichi people continue to be disparaged by the powerful and wealthy.

In fact, one student in Salta, a privileged teenager from a wealthy family, wrote in an essay: "Wichis are so ignorant that they do not understand that if they want to improve the way they live, they will never progress and what is worse they will continue being a problem for producers."

We could tell this was a key moment for Andrew in his long slog to protect these peoples of the Chaco.

He later explained that because the meeting had been called at relatively short notice, Jacqui and I were the only members of the Church present, apart from one member of Andrew's church who actually worked at the Legislature.

I was very conscious of being in role, that is I was there as the vicar of Christ Church, Aughton, representing our congregation's support of the Leake family over the years.

As members of the worldwide family of God, we share with them in their quest for justice for these vulnerable people even though they are on the other side of the world.

When Andrew's grandfather, Alfred Leake, arrived here 90 years ago as missionary to the Wichi people, one of the key roles for these pioneers was to protect these indigenous people from the ravages of the early Argentinean settlers. The forests then covered the area of France and Spain.

This advocacy ministry was continued by Andrew's father, David, who served as the

Anglican bishop here in Salta from 1963. Deforestation was not a big issue at time, for the simple reason that there was so much forest.

The big problem for the indigenous people was that they were not recognised as citizens and so much of David's ministry was supporting them in their battles with officialdom.

When Andrew began his ministry in the Chaco in 1999, the forests had been reduced to the size of Italy. But as third generation he has had to adopt a very different set of skills to protect the indigenous peoples and to advance the policy of his diocese in creation care.

All very hi-tech, for which he was awarded a PhD from University of Hertfordshire here in the UK.

Then in 2007 the country recorded the highest rate of deforestation in the world. This has had a terrible effect on the indigenous people who rely on the forests for their livelihood. So the need for advocacy is more urgent than ever.

So in his presentation, as Andrew explained to the politicians and then to the media his aim was to summarise the contents of his recent book on the dangers of deforestation, co-authored with his daughter, Cecilia, studying law and the fourth generation of Leakes engaged in this drawn-out struggle for land rights for the Toba and Wichí peoples. They contest some very powerful people.

For God is a God of justice. He intervenes to help the poor; he sends people to challenge the status quo.

"Stop doing wrong," pleads Isaiah. "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." (1:16)

So Andrew made a powerful case defending the oppressed people before these key people. I could see he was on top of his brief and clearly had a clear understanding of the issues facing the provincial and national

governments of Argentina.

Following his address he was interviewed by the local media - television, radio and print. Advocacy work is difficult, drawn-out and occasionally dangerous. It is an ongoing and relentless ministry

Within days his presentation was attacked in a two page spread in the local paper. Powerful economic groups have a direct interest in extending commercial cultivation in their region.

So we continue to support this remarkable family in their long drawn-out struggle for justice in an unjust world.

This year's Summer Camp

Be thou my vision

EVERYONE is welcome to join some or all of our church camp at the Scarisbrick guide camp site over the weekend **7 - 9 July**.

Once again we have tried hard to provide something for everyone. With family games and sport, separate children, youth and adult seminars on Saturday morning, cream tea, campfire sing a long, barbecue, we are praying for a fantastic weekend together.

We welcome back **Emily Stanford** along with a colleague from **Ykids** in Bootle, and also have seminars from **Peter Partington** and **Olly Elliott**, associate minister at St Peter's Harold Wood in Essex, all joining us to help us see God's vision for ourselves, our church, and the world around us.

Some of our young people are also being baptised in the lake on the Saturday afternoon.

Full details and booking form from the church office.

Simon Guillebaud

... a remarkable man

ORMSKIRK Churches Together are hosting a meeting at our Ministry Centre on **Tuesday, 4 July at 7.30pm**. This is to welcome one of the most challenging speakers in the

church today.

Author, speaker, social entrepreneur, family man, cyclist and charity founder, Simon had a very clear call to central Africa, to Burundi in 1999, when it was regarded as the most dangerous country on earth.

Having unexpectedly survived seven years of genocide and civil war, he set up Great Lakes Outreach with the vision to transform Burundi and beyond through holistic mission, working with gifted local leaders of integrity.

Now married with three young children, he still lives in Burundi, which is currently the 'hungriest country in the world' but enjoying a fragile peace and an economy that is starting to grow.

Simon is much in demand as a speaker and has a significant worldwide following through his dramatic blogs. He is also author of *More Than Conquerors* and *Dangerously Alive*.

Diddy Disciples . . .

another book from the vicarage family

LAST month Christian publishers SPCK released Diddy Disciples, written by **Sharon Moughtin-Mumby**, daughter of Ross and Jacqui.

Sharon, who taught Old Testament at Cuddesdon College, Oxford before she was ordained, used the experience of having three daughters to develop a ministry with babies, toddlers and young children. The resources she has developed are now published as Diddy Disciples.

"This is a book for those who take children seriously," writes Archbishop Justin. "A wonderful, practical resource who want to nurture children to be disciples in their own right: to pray, to engage with Scripture, to contribute to worship, to play their part as children of God. A must-read for those who work and volunteer with very young children."

In the forward to the book our own

Charlotte Chappell, of Noelgate, is quoted: "Diddy Disciples gives all types of children a chance to engage in a variety of activities: the chatty ones can sing, the active ones can move, the creative ones can get arty but the highlight of the week is always "What's in the Box?"

"Diddy Disciples 1: September to December: Worship And Storytelling Resources For Babies, Toddlers And Young Children" can be bought online.

West Lancashire Debt Advice

FOLLOWING the article in last month's 'Consider'.

If we can help you, or someone you know, email debtadvice@wlda.org.uk, leave a phone message on **07731 482120** or call into the Ministry Centre Office weekday mornings and ask for Peter.

The hardest step is the first one to ask for help.

Ormskirk Foodbank

WE are a small charity run entirely by volunteers to provide emergency food and advice to people in Ormskirk and district who are at a time of crisis in their lives.

It is an initiative established through Churches Together in Ormskirk and opened in June 2013 with support from the Trussell Trust, a Christian charity that provides guidance on setting up and running foodbanks.

We meet with clients in New Church House in Church Street, Ormskirk and are open on Tuesdays and Fridays between 11.00am and 2.00pm.

Peter Chalk, Foodbank coordinator, writes:

The number of food vouchers processed in this last year has reduced slightly to 254 (down 13%) with meals provided to 360 adults and 127 children. There doesn't appear to be any particular reason for this decrease.