

Consider

Christ Church Aughton Parish Newsletter

No 533 ~ April 2018

Vicar's Viewpoint . . .

'God's ultimate miracle'

But we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 1:23

THE apostle Paul once again had to defend his position. As the apostle for everyone and not just to the Jewish people he took a lot of flak even from fellow Christians.

So he summarises his life's purpose succinctly and somewhat provocatively: "we proclaim Christ crucified."

He knew his message made no sense, particularly to the intellectuals like the Greeks and the religious like his fellow Jews. To proclaim a crucified, humiliated and abandoned Jesus makes no sense at all. Just another, somewhat poignant, tragedy.

And yet this is where we are to encounter God in his love and justice. To see Jesus hanging alone and abandoned dying on the cross we behold the very power of God himself.

Obvious nonsense. But . . .

. . . but his Easter victory, Jesus' conquest of death and evil,

transforms the entire landscape. Certainly his resurrection has transformed my life. For as Paul goes on to say "Christ is God's ultimate miracle and wisdom all wrapped up in one."

This is my final letter in CONSIDER as vicar. Over some 25 years the theme of this letter ~ whether you may have realised it or not ~ has been the cross of Jesus. For there is no area of human activity which is beyond the transformational reach of this cross.

And it is this cross of Christ which beckons us into a glorious future promised by God to those who entrust their lives to him, a future which may be experienced even here and now by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen."

(Ephesians 3:20-21)
In his victory,

Ross Moughtin



Farewell to ROSS and JACQUI

THIS month our vicar Ross, takes his final Sunday service as vicar on **Sunday, 8 April** at 10.45am. He formally retires one month later.

Ross has been vicar of Christ Church since October, 1992, over 25 years. During this time he oversaw the building of our highly successful Ministry Centre while some 800 people have attended one of the 50 Alpha courses led by his wife Jacqui, exploring the meaning of the Christian faith.

He also served as chair of the Governing Body for Aughton Christ Church primary school for 22 years.

Church warden, David Dennison, writes:

"The time has come to bid farewell to our vicar, Ross and his wife Jacqui. He has been an excellent vicar, highly respected by our congregation and the wider community. He is very well liked and valued for his hard work and dedication to pastoral work.

Under his leadership the church has made tremendous progress as is evident in high church attendance and the degree to which the Aughton community make use of the Ministry Centre and especially Café Vista.

Ross has also been a well-known figure to countless numbers of pupils at Christ Church Primary School. His assemblies were always highly valued.

We are all very grateful for all his hard work and wish him and his wife Jacqui all the best as they head into retirement.

He will be a hard act to follow."

Originally from Crosby, Ross, ordained at Liverpool Cathedral in 1976, served in churches in Litherland, Heswall and Rochdale.

Two of their four daughters are married to vicars while one of these vicars' wives is herself ordained. Ross and Jacqui have nine granddaughters and one grandson.

An international 800m athlete in his prime, Ross ~ now 69 years ~ is still running and recently achieved his 100th Ormskirk ParkRun where his overwhelming ambition is to finally beat his great rival **Victor**.

Leadership at Christ Church

OUR annual meeting last month re-appointed wardens, **Jenny Rawcliffe** of Old Mill Hill and **Jaime Craig**, of Moss Lane

April 2018

Good Friday, 30 March

12 noon: Good Friday Reflection in Ormskirk town centre

2.00-3.00pm: Standing at the cross

7.00pm: *From Olivet to Calvary*

Easter Day, 1 April

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

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.45am: Family Communion

6.30pm: Evening Worship

Sunday, 8 April

The final Sunday of

**Canon ROSS MOUGHTIN
as vicar of Christ Church**

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.45am: Holy Communion

This is followed by a hotpot meal in the Ministry Centre. Everyone is welcome

Wednesday, 11 April

2.00pm: Holy Communion in the Ministry Centre

Sunday, 15 April

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.45am: Family Service with Baptism

6.30pm: Evening Worship

Sunday, 22 April

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.45am: Family Service

6.30pm: Evening Worship

Sunday, 29 April

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.45am: Family service

6.30pm: Holy Communion

Wednesday, 2 May

2.00pm: Holy Communion in the Ministry Centre

Sunday, 6 May

8.15am: Holy Communion

10.45am: Holy Communion

6.30pm: Evening Worship

Simonswood along with deputy wardens, **Ann Roberts**, of Prescot Road, and **David Dennison**, of Prescot Road.

Our two churchwardens are officers of the Bishop and along with the vicar are responsible for the running of the church and relations with all parishioners. They represent the main link between the Bishop and parishioners.

During the period of interregnum, the period between vicars, the wardens act in place of the vicar as sequestrators, that is they act as trustees of the income and property of Christ Church.

Elected onto the Church Council for three years were **Bill Casey** of Burscough Road, **John Critchley** of Ruff Lane, **Sarah Dennison** of Parkfield Close, **Kath Elliott** of Garnett Green, **Chris Matthews** of Swanpool Lane, **Angela Mellor** of The Reeds along with **Laurence Abernethy**, of Ryder Crescent, who will be standing again as PCC secretary.

The annual meeting also affirmed members of our Ministry Team and appointed others as sides people and welcomers.

Waiting for a new Vicar

THE tradition for churches in the Church of England is to have a gap between vicars, an interregnum. Normally this would last between six months and one year.

During this time the Bishop consults the parish in seeking the right person for the position and usually this is advertised both within the Diocese and nationally.

Candidates for the position are interviewed at the same time with two elected representatives of the parish as well as the Diocese participating in the final decision.

Girlie Night In

ON **Friday 20 April** we are hosting 'crafty chatters'. An opportunity to have a chat and to have a go at some crafts: there will be flower arranging, brooch and card making, cake decorating.

We meet in Christ Church Ministry Centre 7.45pm-10.00pm.

Free admission, bring your friends.

News from the Scouts

Annette Marshall, group scout leader, writes:

The Scout Group held its very first 'Group Camp' during the first weekend of March and involved 72 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders staying overnight at Bispham Hall Scout Estate in Billinge.

The Cubs and Beavers slept indoors with the Scouts camping. However the weather was so bad on the first night that the Scouts slept on the floor indoors but were determined to get the tents up and sleep outside for the second night, even though the temperature dropped below zero!

During the weekend, activities were very much team work based with a blind fold trail, fire lighting and toasting marshmallows, cooking chocolate cakes in oranges, bouldering on the climbing wall and playing ball games.

We had our own Scouts' Own service on Sunday morning and sang campfire songs on Saturday evening. The weekend was a great success with all ages mixing well and helping each other and it is hoped that the weekend will become an annual event.

Two weeks later, a group of five very hardy Scouts took part in 'Operation Overlander' which is an event organised by the District.

The Scouts had to navigate a 17km route from Ashurst Beacon to Tawd Vale, via Harrock Hill, and complete four challenges on the way. They had to complete a route card before the event and were awarded points based on the accuracy of their timings as well as their teamwork.

On arrival at Tawd Vale, some seven hours later, they had to complete an obstacle course, pitch hike tents and cook their meal on a hike stove. By this time snow was falling quite thickly but the team of 11 and 12 year olds were undeterred and just got into their sleeping bags to keep warm inside the tents.

The next day, they had to cook a three course meal on a wood fire without using any pans or utensils and their menu of mushrooms with tomatoes and onions, followed by Cowboy sandwiches and then the famous chocolate cake in an orange with

baked apples and bananas was excellent.

Congratulations to **Tom Harrison** who has achieved the highest award in the Scout section, the Chief Scout's Gold Award. A lot of hard work has been undertaken for this award - well done!

News from the Guides

Sue Kerrigan, the local commissioner, writes:

So did you see a trail of lights across the fields up onto the hill on a Friday evening in February? If you did, it was over 200 members from across the Ormskirk and Skelmersdale area of Girlguiding who met at Christ Church for our annual Thinking Day event.

All members of Girl Guides across the world celebrate Thinking Day on 22 February. This date is used as it was the birthday of both our founder Robert Baden Powell and his wife Olave who was our World Chief Guide.

Looking down on the lights of Ormskirk on a clear evening was something rather special. The hot chocolate back at the hall was also rather good.

This has been a very short term but we have still packed a fair bit in.

We have seen various campfires ~ some outside and some (pretend) ones inside. Most have involved toasting marshmallows! There have been pamper nights, restaurant evenings, Chinese New Year celebrations plus Easter egg hunts in the dark. First Aid and knotting skills have also been improved.

The Guides have completed another Go For It challenge badge ~ to get this each Patrol organised its own activities over four meetings.

Rainbows have spent most of this term learning about plastic and exploring ways in which we can reduce our use of it.

One of the units finished the term with an Easter show which was based on the theme of plastic. They created their own songs and short plays about plastics and finished with a dance to 'Under the Sea.'

I often comment about the dedication of our leaders and Tawny Owl provided a great example of this before Easter. Just 6 days

after Baby no 2 arrived (a little early) she was at the Brownie meeting helping the girls with their Easter based crafts. Welcome to Benjamin!

Cafe Vista

in the Ministry Centre reopens after Easter on **Tuesday, 10 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

The Bishop of Warrington, Rt Rev Richard Blackburn, retires this month.

His very first act as Bishop was to lay the foundation stone for our Ministry Centre on November, 2009

Church Office 01695 424530

This is open Monday-Friday 9.00am-1.00pm in the Ministry Centre.

For any information, including requests for baptism and thanksgiving services, weddings, funerals and room bookings, call in or phone 424530, or email ChristChurchAughton@gmail.com

From the Registers

BAPTISMS

18 March: Matthew James Owen and Harry Edward Owen, sons of **Simon and Sian**.

18 March: Phoebe Rose Mary Hosken, daughter of **Nicholas and Jacqueline**

BLESSING OF MARRIAGE

24 March: Mark and Louise Musiitwa

FUNERALS

18 March: Eric Hargreaves, of Preston

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

Curate: **Rev Sarah O'Donoghue**

☎ 07847 931323