

Consider

Christ Church Aughton Parish Newsletter

No 532 ~ March 2018

Vicar's Viewpoint . . .

Christ, our security

“Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death ~ even death on a cross.”

Philippians 2:8

AS hopeless situations go, you can't get any more hopeless than the cross of Golgotha. There for all the world to see is a man, abandoned and alone, betrayed and beaten, nailed to a Roman cross with only minutes to live.

Even so, Jesus held on to God's faithfulness, relying on his vindication. "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Those watching were deeply moved, even impressed. The centurion responsible for yet another execution is on record as saying "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Quite what he meant by that it is difficult to say. But certainly he was under no illusions: this was the end of a very inspiring life. Of all people he knew that death was final.

Except that it wasn't.

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" taunts the apostle Paul some 20 years later.

For the resurrection of Jesus, his conquest of death, has changed everything.

As an event in history it is unique.

But it is more, his victory has the power to transform not just the

lives of those first disciples but of anyone who makes Jesus their hope.

"No matter how devastating our struggles, disappointments, and troubles are," observes the Christian apologist Josh McDowell, "they are only temporary."

He continues: "No matter what happens to you, no matter the depth of tragedy or pain you face, no matter how death stalks you and your loved ones, the Resurrection promises you a future of immeasurable good."

So as we prepare for Easter we approach through the events of Holy Week culminating in the cross of Good Friday. It could so easily have been a pathway of despair and resignation to the power of evil, the menace of death.

The cross of Jesus represents our deepest fears, our greatest anxieties. But they pale into insignificance once we look to our risen Lord. They simply cannot touch us if we have chosen to make Christ our security.

So the apostle Paul may proclaim: "May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (*Galatians 6:14*)

Ross Moughtin



Mothering Sunday

EVERYONE is welcome to our Parade Service on this special **Sunday, 11 March**, in which the very young will play a special part. There will be our usual distribution of flowers while the Mothers Union will be presenting their banner for this special day.

The path of the cross

THE churches of Ormskirk join together for an open-air act of worship on **Good Friday, 30 March**. This takes place at the Market Clock beginning 12 noon.

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

From Olivet to Calvary

ON **Good Friday at 7.00pm** in church, our choir lead a time of meditation as they sing this sacred cantata by J H Maunder recalling some of the incidents in the last days of the Saviour's life on earth. There will be a final rehearsal in church that afternoon at 4.00 pm.

Soloists **Philip Clieve** tenor and **Barry Moulton**, baritone.

Organist: **Ian Sharp**

Annual Parish General Meeting

THE Annual Parish General Meeting will follow the evening service on **Sunday, 18 March**, 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 back, following the refitting of a new kitchen along with decoration. Open Tuesday to Friday, 10.30am - 3.30 pm and Saturday for cooked breakfasts, from 10.00am to 12 noon.

However, it will be closed for two weeks over Holy Week and Easter Week from Tuesday 27 March. It reopens on Tuesday, 10 April.

Everyone, not just church members, is welcome.

March

Sunday, 4 March

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

Wednesday, 7 March

2.00pm: Holy Communion in the Ministry Centre

Mothering Sunday, 11 March

8.15am: Holy Communion
Breakfast is served in Café Vista between these services
10.45am: Parade Service with
6.30pm: Evening Worship

Sunday, 18 March

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: Family Service with Baptism
6.30pm: Evening Worship
This service is followed by the church's Annual General Meeting

Palm Sunday, 25 March

Palm crosses distributed during the day
8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: Informal worship in the Ministry Centre
6.30pm: Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, 29 March

8.00am: Holy Communion
We reflect on Jesus' Last Supper

Good Friday, 30 March

12 noon: Act of worship in Ormskirk town centre
2.00-3.00pm: *Standing at the cross*
A simple devotional service
7.00pm: From Olivet to Calvary

Easter Sunday, 1 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

Wednesday, 4 April

2.00pm: Holy Communion in the Ministry Centre

Sunday, 8 April - the final Sunday of Ross Moughtin as vicar of Christ Church

8.15am: Holy Communion
10.45am: Holy Communion
This service will be followed by refreshments in the Ministry Centre

Girlie Night In

AN evening with **Nisha Katona**.

Barrister Nisha Katona had a nagging obsession to build an eatery and so in 2014 she opened the first 'Mowgli' restaurant in central Liverpool, serving the kind of food, Indians eat at home and on their streets.

Mowgli has now restaurants in Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham and Nisha plans five more in the next year. She has written cookery books and appeared on television.

Come and hear her amazing story on Friday 16 March, 7:45-10.00pm, in the Ministry Centre. Bring your own drinks.

Everyone is welcome.

Why it took ten years

... to build Christ Church?

This is the title of the talk being given by our vicar to the Ormskirk and District Association of National Trust on **Wednesday 7 March** in the Ministry Centre.

Thank you to our choir

THE Ormskirk Hospital League of Friends has written to thank our church choir under the leadership of **Eunice Woolf** for their carol singing in the hospital foyer over three days over the Christmas period.

"The seasonal carol singing has given the many patients and their families visiting the hospital to attend clinics or visit in-patients an enormous amount of pleasure."

News from the Scouts

IN January, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts entered the District Swimming Gala, which was held at Edge Hill. All swimmers had a great afternoon taking part in fun races as well as straight races with the Beavers winning the Beaver Trophy.

Congratulations to **Patrick Dobson** and **Daniel Roberts** who represented the Beavers.

On a cold, wet Saturday at the end of January, four Scout teams and an Explorer team took part in the District's annual 'Moonlight' event. This is one of the highlights of the scouting year and is a huge game of cat and mouse!

Teams have to navigate their way from 'A' to 'B' without losing one of their ten lives, the distance between, in a straight line, being approximately ten miles but the reality is that teams can cover in excess of 18 miles trying to avoid and hide

from catchers. In total, 117 teams took part.

The event starts around 9.00am with kit checks and then teams are bussed out to the secret location, released at midday and have until 8.5 pm to get back.

The Scout Solo team came 2nd out of 24 with the other three 'Led' teams coming 3rd, 10th and 44th out of 58.

The Explorers came 25th out of 31.

The footpaths and fields were just thick, squelchy mud which made the going very difficult and hiking boots and over trousers soon became caked in sludge. There were some very tired Scouts (and Leaders) by the end of the day but the teamwork demonstrated throughout and the sense of achievement when everyone crossed the finish line was incredible!

Congratulations to **Mark Jones** who has worked very hard to achieve the highest award in the Cub Section ~ the Chief Scout's Silver Award. Well done!

From Christ Church school

Headteacher, **Mr David Kennedy**, writes:

ALTHOUGH it has only been a short month in school, February has been a busy few weeks.

All of our Year 5 children dressed up as Victorians and went back to the Victorian Era. They had a fantastic day in school as they re-enacted a Victorian style class room.

Year 3 really gained a fantastic experience to support their learning in R.E as they visited the Buddhist Centre in Preston and Year 5 enhanced their learning in R.E as they visited a Hindu Temple.

We also had a lot of Year 5 and 6 children attending a local chess tournament; they played their games really well and represented the school superbly as always.

Twelve of our children also enjoyed attending a West Lancashire event for athletics and we were pleased that out of the many children there on the night our Year 5 children did exceptionally well and picked up two medals.

We have also had a fantastic focus on online safety in school. Whilst the internet provides a fantastic resource, is important to teach the children how to stay safe online. We do this all year through the curriculum but as part of internet safety day we held parents meetings, special assemblies and workshops with the children to focus on this topic.

In particular, this term we have been focussing on the enjoyment of reading through a wide variety of activities.

Our book fair went really well and all the children enjoyed the opportunity to buy a new book. We were also really pleased with our 'Book Cover Competition' and the winners from each year group are now on display in school.

All the children were excited to take part in our extreme reading competition and we have enjoyed seeing photos of children reading in exciting places from aeroplanes to trees.

We have really enjoyed starting to learn about our value of justice this term and the children have produced some fantastic work on this.

Lots of children enjoyed attending our PHA school Disco and we are all looking forward to dressing up as our favourite fairy tale characters and celebrating literature for National Book Day on 1st March. I look forward to letting you all know how it went!

As our vicar, **Canon Ross Moughtin**, will be retiring in April, we are welcoming him into school on the final day of this term to thank him for the tremendous support and encouragement he has provided our whole school community for many years in his role as Chair of Governors and also as Vicar. We are looking forward to marking this occasion with a special worship in school on the last day of term.

Charity Sports event

THE young people of Christ Church are holding a charity fund event on **Saturday, 17 March** in order to raise finance for a sports ministry in Uganda. There will be both a football and a netball tournament to be held on Christ Church school field.

Former church member **Andy Monks** is going to serve at Emmanuel Cathedral Mvara Arua in Uganda for six months in April. There he will be using football to engage young people to give an alternative to crime as well as to improve their health. He aims to set up a Revs football team and the money raised will fund their kit and equipment.

The football tournament, which takes place from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm, is for all those from school year 7 and over, including adults. You can enter the tournament, either individually or as a team, costing just £5 per player.

There will also be provision for younger players.

The netball play and play is for all ages and abilities, taking place from 2.30 to 4.00pm.

You can ask the church office for more information or simply to sign up.

Alternatively email aughtonccy@gmail.com

Cancelled Caribbean evening

WE have cancelled the Caribbean evening advertised locally for **10 March** and booked in the Ministry Centre. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Alpha on Thursdays

at the Kicking Donkey

What do we make of life?

Does my life have a purpose?

How can I discover if God is active and involved in this world?

Some key questions we all ask from time to time ~ and then move on to the next activity.

We need time, space and an opportunity to ask the big questions of life ~ without pressure and with an opportunity to talk things through.

Alpha gives such an opportunity.

At Christ Church we have run 50 Alpha courses and the next one, our 51st, will be very different.

This time around we are privileged to meeting at The Kicking Donkey, Narrow Moss Lane, Scarisbrick, beginning on **Thursday 1 March 7.30pm**. There will be no formal charge but there will be an opportunity to give a donation.

Great for couples on a night out and for those trying to get a handle on life. It will still be possible to join on the second week, on **Thursday 8 March**.

To know more or book a place contact the church office or contact **Geoff Fallows (07713 321 423)**.

From the registers

FUNERALS

1 February: **CATHLEEN MARY BERTWISTLE**, of Hillcroft residential home

21 February: **CHRISTOPHER JAMES ROPER**, of Broad Lane, Downholland

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

Curate: **Rev Sarah O'Donoghue** ☎ 07847 931 323