The Green Spire

The Parish Magazine of

St Andrew, Orford with Longford

###### September 2016

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The *Green Spire* is published monthly. Copies are 35p per month, or £3.50 for a year’s subscription – normally payable in January. Enquiries about advertisements welcome.

School News



Many schools use the summer holidays to have work done and St Andrew’s is no exception. Last year, major works began at the end of August resulting in disruption for the whole of the first half term. With just a week before the new school year, everywhere was upside down. The Hall was full of furniture that had been temporarily moved out of classrooms and offices while work was completed. And in the last couple of days, order has been restored and the building is now ready to welcome the children back after their long holiday.

We are pleased to welcome two new teachers. Gemma Moulsdale joins the staff, having worked in mid Cheshire, to take charge of Year 3. Amy Shaw will lead Year 5 having previously worked at Sankey Valley St James. Finding your way around a new school and learning how things are done takes a little while but we feel sure they will be happy at St Andrew’s and will complement the range of talents already on offer.

 The end of the Summer Term went well. The Year 6 children did us proud in their SATs exams, not only reaching floor targets but exceeding them in some areas. (Floor targets measure the number of children who reach ‘age-related expectations in Reading, Writing and Maths combined.) Year 5 went to Robinwood and, like other classes before them, had a wonderful and memorable time in glorious weather. There were trips out and the Year 6 production. The term was rounded off by a ‘celebration worship’ on the final day at which every class took part. The school choir sang and children who had just started to play the keyboard performed, including a child from Year 1.

So now, at the beginning of September, there is a new canvas on which the children can shine. We look forward to an exciting year and will continue to report events as they happen in the *Green Spire*. We will build on the link between church and school and hope that members of the church will take the opportunities to visit school when they can. Tuesday morning worship will be held in church (projector permitting) at 9am until half term and everyone is welcome to come along. It usually lasts about 20 minutes.

From the Vicar:

I wonder if you have followed the Olympics over the summer. I have to admit that I was enthralled. I suppose being on holiday at the same time as the Games took place was a real advantage. After one or two late nights, I eventually settled for the breakfast recap of all the highlights.

There were lots of wonderful moments and some heartbreaking ones too. I watched our meteoric rise up the medal table just as I saw some athletes finish fourth – one by just three thousandths of a second!

Looking back, I think two or three events made me really think. The first was to realise that not all the competitors were particularly young people. For running and swimming, for example, youth is a positive advantage. Amy Tinkler won a bronze medal in gymnastics at just sixteen. At the other end of the spectrum, John Whitaker celebrated his sixty-first birthday as the Olympics opened before taking part in the Equestrian jumping event. Nick Skelton at fifty-eight won gold on his seventh appearance! In some sports, experience is more important than youth.

It struck me that this is also true in Christian discipleship. We may begin in our teens or twenties but it is something that we should nurture right through life. The zeal of youth might be replaced with the experience of maturity, but both are necessary if we are to get the most out of faith. What’s more, that maturity that comes with age is something we can and should pass on to future generations.

It is also true that the healthiest congregations involve both young and old whose gifts and ideas should equally be valued. Young people are not the ‘church of tomorrow’ but are part of today’s church.

My second ‘surprise’ was to see Jade Jones win her gold medal, the second in her sport (Tae Kwon Do) in successive Games. It wasn’t seeing her win that made such an impression but the fact that when she was interviewed later, you would have been forgiven for thinking that her coach had won the medal rather than Jade herself.

In her moment of joy, Jade credited her coach with her success. It was thanks to his hard work, meticulous planning and determination that she not only continued to train but also won her second gold. As she talked, it soon became clear that any thoughts she may have had about giving up her sport were quickly dashed by the man who had brought her on to succeed four years after her first appearance.

Again, it seems that disciples are most likely to succeed if they approach the Christian life with the same dedication, and the same support, as an Olympic athlete. We should never be tempted to feel that we know all there is to know or think we can relax in our prayer life and acts of service. Jesus warned his followers to be ready at all times as we do not know the day or the time of his coming.

Towards the end of the fortnight, Claire Balding congratulated the director of Team GB on the teams’ achievement. He said that most of it was down to preparation. When asked if there would be a short pause before planning their strategy for Japan in 2020, he said that planning start two years ago and there have already been a number of visits to the country.

Someone once said to me that faith is more like a long distance run than a short race. It takes time and patience if we are to win the prize.

At the beginning of this month, we celebrate our Dedication Festival. (You may remember that our church was dedicated on St Andrew’s Day, but since we returned to church after the fire some years ago at the beginning of September, we adopted this as the date for our Dedication Festival)

The beginning of September is like the start of a new year, not just for those involved in schools and colleges, but for many other people too. After a long holiday break, we feel ready to start again.

For those of us who try to follow in the footsteps of our Lord, which is what true discipleship really is, the beginning of September and the Dedication Festival together mark an ideal time to review our commitment and plan ways in which we might help our faith grow.

Whether sixteen or sixty-one (or even older than that!) we are all on the same journey, even if we are at different stages. Experience may show us different ways in which we can grow our faith, and we will almost certainly want to share our experience and insights with one another – that’s how we learn. We are each other’s coaches and we share the privilege and responsibility for helping one another. In the words of the letter to the Hebrews, together let us “run with perseverance the race marked out for us...”

Michael Raynor

What’s on in September...

Saturday 3rd Sept 3.00pm Wedding of Stephen Smith and Claire Kelsall

**Sunday 4th The Dedication Festival**

 **10.00am Sung Eucharist**

 **12 noon Holy Baptism**

Thursday 8th 8.00pm Thursday Ladies' Club meet at the vicarage

**Sunday 11th The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

 **10.00am Sung Eucharist**

Tuesday 13th 8.00pm PCC meeting in church

Wednesday 14th 9.30am Distinctiveness and Ethos Committee meet in school

Saturday 17th 10aam – 4pm Walsingham Festival at Liverpool Cathedral

**Sunday 18th The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

 **10.00am Sung Eucharist**

 2.00-4.30pm Garden Party at Bishop’s Lodge

Thursday 22nd 8.00pm Thursday Ladies' Club meet at the vicarage

Saturday 24th 12.30pm Wedding of Daniel Wilson and Jenna Wakefield

**Sunday 25th The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**

 **10.00am Sung Eucharist**

**Sunday 2nd The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**October 10.00am Sung Eucharist**

 **12 noon Holy Baptism**

There are regular weekly celebrations of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) on Wednesday evening at 7.00pm and Thursday morning at 10.30am. Celebrations on Saint’s Days are published on the Sunday sheet. All are welcome.

Who’s on in September …

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2016 | sides-people | reader | intercessor | offertory |
| 4 Sep | J. DevereuxM. Ellison | B. Boscoe | Sunday School | A. GormanM. Parker |
| 11 Sep | L. GiblinP. Smith | N. Lee | D. Kirk | I. AppletonM. Harrington |
| 18 Sep | F. GreatorexO. Vowles | F. Greatorex | J. Raynor | E. ChorleyJ. Stamp |
| 25 Sep | B. BoscoeB. Glover | O. Vowles | Don Miller | Sunday School |
| 2 Oct | M. GreatorexH. Smythe | A. Gorman | K. Rowan | M. EllisonZ. Zahorcova |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2016** | **Tea Rota** | **Counting collections** |
| 4 Sep | M. Harrington / L. Manfredi | V. Carter / J. Raynor |
| 11 Sep | B. Boscoe / B. Glover | B. Boscoe /B. Glover |
| 18 Sep | M. Ellison / P. Smith |  |
| 25 Sep | F. Greatorex / L. Giblin | I. Appleton / M. Ellison |
| 2 Oct | M. Harrington / L. Manfredi | V. Carter / J. Raynor |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2016** | **Read on Weds Eve** | **Hall Cleaning** |
| 4 Sep | Fr Michael (7 Sep) | J. Devereux |
| 11 Sep | N. Lee (14 Sep) | C. Worrall |
| 18 Sep | D. Kirk (21 Sep) | Fr Michael |
| 25 Sep | Fr Michael (28 Sep) | J. Devereux |
| 2 Oct | N. Lee (5 Oct) | C. Worrall |

Church cleaning takes place on Thursday morning, usually from 9 to 10.30am Thanks to three faithful souls, we enjoy a clean church. However, it is a big job for them and they would appreciate some help. If you would like to help but can’t make it on Thursday, it will be possible to come in at another time by mutual arrangement. Please have a word with Beryl Glover or Fr Michael if you’d like to know more. Thank you.

The Diocesan Clergy Conference

 or why you couldn’t find a vicar in mid July!

In mid July, Fr Michael went on the Diocesan Conference. Most dioceses hold them once every four years and Liverpool normally follows the same pattern, though when the last one was due, Bishop James was just about to retire so it’s now seven years!

Most clergy have mixed feelings about the conference. I suppose we all feel there are other things we could be doing but when it comes to the crunch, it is a welcome and refreshing change from normal parish life. It’s a chance to meet with colleagues (and realise just how few you now know) and make new friends. It’s a chance to relax (despite what some may tell you, there is provision to wind down a little) and to worship together, often trying out new forms of worship and music. And as important as all of these, it’s a chance to hear some fresh ideas about what it is to be a priest in the Church of England today.

There were three main speakers at this year’s conference: the Rev Richard Coles (of *Saturday Morning live* [BBC Radio 4], *Have I got news for you* and latterly *Masterchef*); the Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell and Loretta Minghella, CEO of Christian Aid. The theme of the conference was *A place at the Table*, taken from Bishop Paul’s inaugural address.

**Richard Coles** spoke about hospitality. Although he is a well-known media figure, he is first and foremost the parish priest of Finbury in Peterborough Diocese and he spoke in the morning about ministry in Knightsbridge (his first appointment) and then in Finbury where his family provided priests at the time of the Reformation! Some of the people he mentioned were people who had severe health issues yet he had, or his congregation, had integrated them seamlessly into parish life. In the evening, he spoke of his life story – a colourful one – which included being part of a top rock band called the Communards. He spoke about the spread of HIV and friends he had lost in the 60s and 70s. It was fascinating to see how all these experiences had shaped his ministry.

**Loretta Minghella** told us how a lawyer and financial regulator became head of Christian Aid. She then told us about some of the projects she had visited in that role and how injustice affected the lives of millions of people (700 million go to bed hungry each night) and how it affects us in this country too. She told us how Christian Aid campaigns for justice and has four principle campaigns running at present: tax evasion, gender inequality; climate justice and migrants. She encouraged us (church and clergy) to support these campaigns as it gives Christian Aid real clout when negotiating with politicians. Doing nothing is the same as voting for these injustices. It’s not possible in an article of this length to capture the sense of injustice in the world today, but supporting Christian Aid can make a real difference

**Stephen Cottrell** visited St Andrew’s in the late 1990s with the Springboard Mission, long before he was appointed Bishop of Chelmsford. (Some of you will remember hosting four clergy for a weekend and then an introduction to the Emmaus Course). He is now a high-flying bishop with a heart for parish ministry. He spoke about mission, making it seem the easiest thing in the world. It is about meeting people where they are – people who are, in fact, hungry for faith but unaware how to take the first steps. He has an interesting project in Chelmsford called Renegotiating the Sunday Contract, encouraging churches to rethink what they do on Sunday morning. There were some very practical ideas amongst them.

We were also treated to delightful and thoughtful worship with interesting music, a range of preachers who used the readings of the day and tried to interpret them in the light of A Place at the Table. And there was entertainment by a poet (who only read four poems) but entertained us with funny stories, mostly about going into primary schools. Catherine Fox, wife of the Dean of Liverpool did a tongue in cheek Power Point presentation which poked fun at the diocese, and the bishops and anyone else she could think of! Overall, it was an excellent few days and well worth the time.

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**LIVERPOOL MARIAPOLIS 2016**

This year about 200 people came to the Mariapolis in Liverpool.  This was a lot less than last year because there was another in the South and also one in Scotland.  A lot of people preferred this because, I think, they had found the previous one, with so many people, a bit overwhelming.  It was lovely to have a group of people with us from Norway and on one occasion to be with them in an Ecumenical Service based on the Word that they had prepared.

The theme for the year has been Unity and from that the theme for the Mariapolis was Mercy and Forgiveness. A man shared an experience of how he was giving support to an elderly man whose son had been imprisoned for a sexual crime.  A woman shared an experience of having new neighbours move in next door to her and one of the sons immediately chopped the top off her favourite plant.  She wasn’t best pleased and found relationships difficult.  She had been hoping to move out of her house and into a flat for some time and so she was pleased when she was offered the right one.  She felt she had to do something about healing the relationships with the people next door before she left so she spoke to the young man and asked him if he would like her to move the plant before she left.  Not only did she move the plant she healed the relationships and hopefully made things better for the new people who moved in after her.

My favourite moment was when a small group of children who were about 8 or 9 years old sang a song composed by a focolarina. I share it with you.  I feel it says it all.

CARRY ON LOVING

Why do we feel unhappy sometimes?

Why do we want to cry?

Why do we feel we’re really all alone?

We don’t understand the reason why,

We don’t understand the reason why

But Jesus on the cross was lonely

And he was feeling sad

And even though he didn’t understand

He knew what to do when things were bad

He knew what to do when things were bad:

He carried on loving, he carried on loving

He carried on loving, carried on loving all the time!

Carried on loving

Carried on loving everyone

Carried on loving

Carried on loving

Carried on loving all the time!

So when we feel unhappy, Jesus,

Then we remember you

And then at last we start to realise

You’re showing us what we have to do,

You’re showing us what we have to do:

We’ll carry on loving, we’ll carry on loving

We’ll carry on loving, carry on loving all the time

Carry on loving

Carry on loving every one

Carry on loving

Carry on loving

Carry on loving all the time!

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**The Pokemon Effect**

In early July, groups of people were spotted congregating around the front gate to the church. It didn’t take long to realise that St Andrew’s Church was a ‘Pokémon gym’ and people playing the game on their phone were being directed to the church to ‘top up their energy levels’. Curiously, most were young men in their late teens and twenties – there were not many children though one or two complete families appeared from time to time!

It turned out that many public buildings were identified as stopping places in various forms for the mobile phone game. Some church quickly jumped on the band-wagon, inviting gamers to special services or just drop in for a cup of tea on their travels.

The effect came and went fairly quickly as many folk quickly bagged all the local sites – but it was fun while it lasted and shows there are ways of bringing people to church even today. The trick is making the connection when they come.

**Sing it again, Psalms!**

How much do you know about the psalms? Well, how about the 23rd psalm? Surely this is the most well-known and best loved of all, not to mention the most re-written. You find its themes repeated in hymns and it is often quoted partially or in full, at funerals. Curiously, The Lord’s my Shepherd to the tune Crimond had been around for a long time, mostly in Scotland and only came to fame when the Queen chose it for her wedding. Only later did it become so popular at funerals.

At my school, psalms were thought ideal to be set as a punishment for minor misdemeanours. “Write out Psalm 119” was a favourite with the staff (though not the pupils) and as it had 176 verses, it was a laborious task. I wasn’t endeared to Psalm 119, with its talk about keeping all God’s laws and statutes.

In the good old days (?) when the standard fare on Sunday was Matins and Evensong, the psalms were a regular part of worship, whether they be said or sung.

Down the years, the psalms have been revised and rewritten in ancient and up to date language, Authorised and Revised. One of my favourite revisions is known as the Grail settings which were one of the earliest forms of responsorial psalm. Published in 1963, the language is easy to understand and the music has a sublime quality. The impact was all the greater as there had been nothing like it before. The 23rd psalm as we knew it began:

 “The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing”

The Grail translation was much more poetic: The first verse goes:

 “God is my shepherd,

 There is nothing I can lack.

 Fresh and green are the pastures

 Where he gives me my repose.

 By restful waters he leads me

 to revive my drooping spirit.”

The exact form of the psalm varies from one Church to the next. The ‘metrical psalms’ often used by the Church of Scotland are often thought easier to sing and remember. They were the songs of the people. In a novel by Elizabeth Goodge (I think), the ploughman sings metrical psalms to his oxen – and if he stops or falters, so do they. They were part of the thread of life.

Psalms are the original ‘songs of praise’ and would have been used in the Temple and Synagogue as we use hymns today as an enrichment to worship, no matter what our churchmanship. This was brought home to me recently when I watched “Songs of Praise” on BBC1. It featured a religious ‘pop group’ called *The Shiyr Poets* (pronounced sheer) who have recently begun to add their re-writes of psalms to the repertoire. They call it “An Introduction to the Psalms Project.” They were concerned initially that their fans would object, but not at all. This new version has been warmly welcomed and the group leader has said he will continue to add them to the act. We thought writing our one psalm to be hard work. A hundred and fifty rewrites: the best of luck!

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Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson returned home one night to find themselves locked out of their flat.

Watson went to find Mrs Hudson but when he returned, Holmes had already let himself in with a key he’d fashioned from a piece of fruit.

“How on earth did you do it, Holmes?” he asked.

“Lemon entry, my dear Watson!”

**Toddlers Group**

Almost a year ago (doesn’t time fly?) some of us became aware that there was need for a new initiative to involve parents and young children in play and work together as a preparation for entry into the Reception Class at St Andrew’s School.

For a variety of reasons, this has taken a while to get off the ground, but now we are in a position to begin. In the next few weeks, we will be preparing the toys we have collected, buying new ones (we were given a grant!) and talking to local mums whose children will shortly be entering Reception.

No children? Too old? Don’t think you won’t be involved. If you are reading this, you can help support us with your prayers. You are our ‘support network’ and vital to St Andrew’s Mums and Tots. We’ll keep you informed!



**The Summer Fair**

The Summer Fair seems a very long time ago – the first weekend in July to be precise, and a lot has happened since then. However, it’s not too late to say thank you to everyone who supported the Fair again this year. Unfortunately it fell on a weekend when everybody was having similar fund-raising events. There were ten locally as well as an event on Orford Park. Nevertheless, we raised £485, largely due to draw tickets sold in advance. A list of winners can be found in church.

Name changes for two deaneries

*A small reorganisation leads to new names for two deaneries in the Knowsley and Sefton Archdeaconry*

Two deaneries were renamed recently following a successful period of consultation and approval from the local church and the Church Commissioners. As from July 11th, Bootle Deanery was renamed Sefton South with Sefton becoming Sefton North. The names mirror the naming scheme used in Liverpool.  Consultation and the process, which involved widespread consultation, was extremely smooth with no objections made.

The changes enable us (the Bishop of Liverpool and his Team) to announce that Revd Anne Taylor is to become Area Dean for Sefton North while Rev Tom Rich is her counterpart in the south.

St Helens, Sefton will join Sefton South deanery and with St Oswald Netherton form a new Team ministry.

Archdeacon Pete Spiers said “In many ways this is a small step but it is a significant one. In Sefton North and Sefton South we have two strong deaneries that relate well to their local communities. With Anne Taylor and Tom Rich we have the ability to lead churches in mission and make a bigger difference to their local areas”.

St Andrew’s Charity Shop

every Wednesday

from 10.00am to 3.00pm in the Hall

Drop-in for tea and toast.

Carer’s advice desk most Wednesdays

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The Dedication FestivalTakes place this year on Sunday 4th September and there will be a special celebration to mark this special day. It would make a real difference if we were all there together at the altar. Do try to join us on the 4th – we look forward to seeing you! |  |

Bishop’s Garden Party

The Bishop of Liverpool has invted members of our Archdeaconry to a Garden Party at Bishop’s Lodge on Sunday 18th September from 2 to 4.30pm. If you are interested, please have a word with Fr Michael. We should be able to offer transport. Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis so if you would like to join the fun, please mention it as soon as possible.

Charity Shop Clearance Sale

Thanks to everyone who helped at the Clearance Sale in July. It raised nearly £400 and proved to be popular. We will be holding another shortly. As it depends on having plenty of furniture to sell, we cannot give a date as yet. Once we have enough ‘stock’, we will fix a date. Please watch the Sunday sheet for more details.

The Carol Service

It seems very early to be planning for Christmas or even mentioning it, but the choir start practising at the beginning of October. We would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to augment the choir for the Carol Service. Last year, Barbara and Ian Richards and Lynne Giblin (one-time members of the choir) joined us and we’d love to see other former members (whether choristers or not) swell our ranks. If you know of someone who might be interested, please tell the vicar so that we can invite them along. Rehearsals take place on Tuesday evenings at 7pm, beginning of the 4th October.

Car Boot Sale

Many thanks to everyone who gave up their Bank Holiday to run the Car Boot Sale. It raised £166.34

Walsingham Festival 2016

Liverpool Cathedral is hosting a Festival this year on September 17th, starting at 10am with an act of worship at which the Bishop of Liverpool will preach. Also present will be the Bishop of Chichester and Master of the Guardians of the Shrine who will give an address “Called, like Mary, to be God-bearers, pointing people to Jesus’.

At midday, there will be a celebration of the Eucharist and after lunch, the Bishop of Burnley will speak about ‘Sacramental Evangelism’. The day will conclude at 3pm with Choral Evensong and Benediction.

There will be something for everyone with workshops and activities during the day and Godly Play and Messy Church sessions for younger pilgrims. A copy of the programme can be found on the church notice board.

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**The Electoral Roll**

The parish Electoral Roll is a list of people eligible to vote at Annual and Special Meetings. These are the people who elect the Parochial Church Council and representatives to Deanery Synod.

In order to vote at next year’s annual meeting (please put 23rd April in your diary while you think on), your name must have been on the Electoral Roll for at least six months. A copy of the Roll can be found on the notice board in church. Please check, and if your name is not on the list, have a word with Kathy Rowan who will give you an application form. **Please do it now before it’s too late**!

**Fr Norman Carter**

Fr Norman passed into glory just before his ninety-third birthday at the end of July. Many founding members of St Andrew’s have fond memories of Norman who worked tirelessly to lay the foundations for this missionary parish. When he preached as part of our fortieth anniversary celebrations, he told the story of being driven round the parish (what there was of it at that time as much of it hadn’t been built) at break neck speed and being asked the then Bishop of Warrington, Charles Claxton, “Carter, doesn’t your pastoral heart bleed for all these people?” “Well,” thought Norman to himself, “that wasn’t my immediate reaction!” But for lack of a good reason not to come, he arrived on 1st September 1954.

It was quite a change from inner city Liverpool. It was all very sow at first but Norman wasn’t one for giving up and worked hard canvassing support first for a school (he needed a quota of people willing to send their children if the Local Education Authority were to build one) and then a church. Eventually, the Bishop was persuaded to have a wooden hut erected which served as the first church and social centre and is still here today. Norman went out collection weekly giving from the community which eventually helped with the parish’s share of the church building.

While in Orford, Norman met his wife Barbara, a teacher at St Margaret’s School. From a curacy at Liverpool Parish Church, Norman also served at Holy Spirit Dovecot in Liverpool and St Peter’s in Formby. He was made Canon of Liverpool Cathedral, supporting its work and bringing that depth of spirituality that characterised his whole ministry.

That sense of the presence of God in all of life made him much sought after as a spiritual director; a gift he shared with the diocese as it began to establish a network of spiritual support for the clergy and readers.

Music was always a great passion that he loved to share with others. When Norman was received into Holy Trinity Church the evening before his Requiem, his grandson played the piano – something Norman would have wholeheartedly loved. He was proud of his family and revelled in their many achievements. Norman was a very humble man but was described by the vicar of Holy Trinity, Canon Rod Garner, as the nearest most of us will ever come to meeting a saint.

**Snippets from the Church Times**

Recently installed Prime Minister, Theresa May, pledged £33 million to tackling human trafficking from ‘high-risk’ countries to help end modern slavery. It is estimated that there are between ten and thirteen thousand victims of slavery in this country. The Diocese of Derby leads the way thanks to the efforts of the diocesan bishop, Dr Alistair Redfern, who played a significant part in bringing in the Modern Slavery Act. Churches in the diocese are working to provide a welcome for the stranger, fund-raising to help victims and training events to raise awareness.

The Diocese of Liverpool, as part of Churches Together in Merseyside, was commended for its recent publication *Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants: Welcoming the Stranger*. It is part of a ‘hate busting’ strategy which complements publications and initiatives from many other dioceses.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation estimates that poverty costs the public purse at least £78 billion a year. Benefit costs are only a small proportion: spending on health care, schools, housing and the justice system all bring an additional cost in serving the poor. They found that the effects of poverty cause ‘widespread damage in society’. About 20% of government spending on public services goes towards making up for the ways in which poverty has ruined lives. Even putting aside the moral imperative to rescue Britons from poverty, eradicating deprivation would save the Exchequer significant amounts each year.

Dr Fiona Tweedie’s work as statistician for the Church of Scotland has shown that an increase in clergy numbers over time is associated with attendance growth. Amalgamating parishes did not have such a significant impact on declining numbers as was once thought.

The Olympic Games were covered in August, bringing to light some of the issues surrounding the Rio Games. There was a discussion about the cost to Brazilian people, the effect of Zika virus (much inflated in the media according to the correspondent and the first ever ‘refugee team’. The Pope was quoted as saying that he hoped the Games would “inspire all ... to fight the good fight and finish the race together” – a symbol of the construction of a society in which solidarity reigns.

The Church in Finland, part of the Diocese of Europe, has reported impressive growth this year. The revival is largely a result of the settlement of large numbers of Anglican refugees from Sudan and South Sudan.

**George Fackrell**

After a long and difficult illness, George also passed into the heavenly kingdom at the end of July. George was well-known to us at St Andrew’s. He regularly helped when Fr Michael was on holiday and was part of the local group of churches.

George’s nephew put it well when he said that George could say the most outrageous things to you and get away with it because of that huge smile that always gave it away! And the more outrageous, the more people came back for seconds. Talking of which, until ordered by his doctor to eat less, George loved his food and enjoyed going out for meals. He equally loved other people’s company.

George’s father was headmaster at Bewsey and his aunt, a formidable lady by all accounts, taught at St Margaret’s School. George told some colourful stories about his aunt, and I heard later that the same was true in reverse!

George loved his visits to St Andrew’s. His sermons were always interesting and often thought-provoking. After the service, he would pull up a seat (or rather ask someone else to pull it up for him) and wait for someone to bring him a cup of tea. He would then talk to people as they left giving them something to smile about on the way home.

George trained in accountancy and held a number of high powered jobs locally and in Manchester. Long after retirement, George still had a number of clients he continued to look after and only stopped after his illness came to light.

Mike Finlay, who gave George’s eulogy, mentioned George’s love for tennis and also the fact that George was an international table tennis referee.

When George came to live in Warrington, having grown up in the south west, he made St Margaret and All Hallows his spiritual home. The ‘All Hallows’ bit was very important to George and if you wanted to upset him, you simply dropped it from the title of the church, stood back, and waited for the reaction. You were never disappointed. He served as Reader for many years and was the creative force behind some of the ‘specials’ that he, Fred and Mike Finlay prepared together. George will be missed there as he will everywhere he went.

**Dedication**





In our day of thanksgiving one psalm let us offer

For the saints who before us have found their reward.

When the shadow of death fell upon them we sorrowed

But now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord.

Earlier this summer, we lost an old friend – one of the trees to the right of the man door. It didn’t give us a sign, or make any kind of fuss. That morning, it stood as always, but an hour later it fell, two trunks over the front wall and one resting against the corner of the church.

It’s falling was sad. It had been there giving shade and shelter to birds and insects for over fifty years. In the spring, it came to life and filled the air with a glorious scent before filling out magnificently and majestically. It left behind just one trunk – and several stumps to show where it had been.

Nearly two months later, we have suddenly, today, seen a row of tiny shoots, spring green, pushing up through the grass below the tree, presumably following the line of one of its roots.

Left alone, they will grow in strength to give rest and shade to future generations of wildlife and pleasure to future congregations.

So it is with the Church. Our much loved family and friends, who built the church and sustained the spiritual life of the parish, offering worship week by week, gradually hand over to a new generation as God’s Spirit gives new life – a promise of renewal for every generation.

As I see it …by Church Mouse

For it’s a long, long while

from May to December,

But the days grow short when

you reach September”

So sang Grandpa Mouse as he whirled Granny Mouse around the floor on Monday afternoon recently in the Hall.

“Oh, it’s so romantic. Look at the dear old things,” muttered my wife Millicent.

“Dear old things, my foot” snapped Granny Mouse whose hearing was always sharper than I remembered, “and I mean my foot. Your Grandpa has never been light on his feet – and he’s heavy on mine!”

“Just look at them,” said Millicent, “still together after all these years.”

“That’s because if they didn’t hold tight they’d fall over,” said a cheeky young mouseling.

Millicent goes in on a Monday to help Beryl and her happy band with the teas. It’s a great way to meet friends and the whirl round the floor is optional – just a chat and a cuppa is all you need.

Of course, it all started after the parish holiday when a few people felt they’d missed out by not knowing the steps and so wanted to learn to dance before the following year’s holiday.

Nowadays, dancing is strictly optional! It’s particularly enjoyable to people who live on their own and a good place to have a chat. Even if you are afraid of mice (the church-kind that is) you’ll find a warm welcome. So come and join us on Monday afternoons at 2! We’ll look out for you.

The Hall has been fairly quiet particularly in August. Scouting finished in mid July (though they went off to camp for a week without us) and some of the other activities had a well-earned break too.

We found a way up onto the roof and have spent a day or two (or more) sunning ourselves. One side of the roof is south facing and the black felt gets wonderfully warm. Granny Mouse says it does her rheumatism the world of good. The mouselings paddled in the puddles which were just deep enough for them without getting into trouble.

We also had our own Olympics. Inspired by a guinea pig that can jump eighteen inches and featured on You Tube, we set up our own track. The black line of tiles round the edge of the Hall was our running track; the leaking tap in the kitchen soon provided us with a pool for diving and swimming and some of the furniture was readily converted into an obstacle race. Grandpa Mouse said it would keep us fit and agile for the Christmas Fair so that none of us would get trodden on.

Now we’re at the beginning of September and things are starting up again. It’s not just that we enjoy the crumbs you leave behind but we enjoy your company too.

We’re looking forward to the Mums and Tots group and all the exciting new toys they will have. It will be like Christmas come early for the young ones. Another favourite, though not till next month, is the Harvest Supper. We’re keeping a beady eye on the Sunday sheet so that we can buy tickets as soon as they come out. And then it will be over to church to start practising for Christmas.

I don’t know where the time goes. Perhaps it’s a sign of growing old that time passes more quickly than it once did. (I know it doesn’t really speed up but it certainly feels like it at times). So here’s to the last few peaceful days until everything starts up again for the autumn.

**Churchmouse**

Praying for the world-wide Church

Prayer is central to Christian discipleship. At its best, prayer needs to be informed. It illuminates our prayer when we know for whom we are praying and what their situation is. Sunday by Sunday (and day by day), Anglicans around the world take it in turn to pray for one another, following a two year cycle. In our worship in church, we join together with fellow Anglicans in praying for the people of those dioceses. Here are the Churches and dioceses that will be mentioned on the Sundays this month:

**Sunday 4th September: The Anglican Church of Tanzania**

Originally known as the Diocese of Equatorial East Africa from 1884 and led by Bishop James Hannington, it grew out of the work of the University’s Mission to Central Africa and the Church Missionary Society. Over the years, it has been part of several different provinces. In 1955, Geoffrey Fisher consecrated two Kenyans and a Tanzania as the first African bishops in the Province. In 1970, the Province of Tanzania was formed. In 1997, it became known as the Anglican Church in Tanzania (ACT).

There are around 2.5 million Anglicans in a population of 34.5 million people – around 7.5%. The Province numbers 27 dioceses, each with its own bishop. Though a member of GAFCON (the alliance opposing the ordination of practicing homosexuals and the blessing of same-sex unions particularly at the time in the United States), it has taken a more reconciliatory approach under the guidance of the Archbishop of Canterbury. There is a range of tradition across the Province with both Evangelical and Anglo-Catholic members represented.

Its three largest associations, semi-independent of the Provincial Office are the Mothers’ Union, the Tanzania Anglican Youth Organization (TAYO) and the Anglican Evangelistic Association (AEA).

**Sunday 11th September: The Church of the Province of Uganda**

After its founding in 1877 by the Church Missionary Society, the Church grew through the evangelization of Africans by Africans. The first Ugandan clergy were ordained in 1893 and the Church of Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi became an independent Province in 1961. The history of the Church in Uganda has been marked by civil strife and martyrdom. In May 1980 the new Province of Burundi, Rwanda, and Zaire was inaugurated; the Province of Uganda has grown since then from seventeen to twenty-seven dioceses.

The people of the Province are no strangers to violence. The Church remembers annually its 45 martyrs killed in Namugongo village 130 years ago. Today, people fleeing from bloodshed elsewhere are helped by Christians in Uganda. The Diocese of Northern Uganda has been praised by the country’s armed forces for its crisis response in support for the thousands of refugees streaming into the country from South Sudan.

The diocese responded to the crisis with an emergency mobilisation of support people providing refugees with water, biscuits, and medical kits. A small medical team from the diocese’s St Philip’s Health Centre provided emergency first aid, while an ambulance was provided to help those seriously injured.

**Sunday 18th September: The Episcopal Church**

With Presidential Elections taking place in November, the Episcopal Church (in the United States) is encouraging its members to use their vote. "The New Testament tells us that we are to participate in the life of the polis, in the life of our society — the principle on which Christians must vote is the principle, Does this look like love of neighbour?" Racial Reconciliation is another key issue for the life of the Church in that country. Episcopalians are reminded that reconciliation was at the heart of Jesus’ message and should part of everyone’s everyday life.

The Episcopal Church is strong on Missional Relationships. Groups from around the world have formed official links, finding their rewards in new friendships, mutual learning, and an expanded awareness of the world.

The Church came into being after the American Revolution when it separated from the Church of England. It remains part of the Anglican Communion and its structures mirror those of the C of E. Since the sixties, it has taken a decidedly more liberal approach, opposing the death penalty and supporting civil rights for all. The call for full equality for gay and lesbian people finds its roots in the civil rights movement which fought for racial equality in the 1950s. Wikipedia suggests that Episcopalians tend to be wealthier and better educated than other religious groups in the US.

The Episcopal Church is divided into nine separate Provinces and extends beyond the mainland to places such as strong. [Taiwan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiwan), [Micronesia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Micronesia), the [Caribbean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean), [Central](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_America) and [South America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_America), as well as the [Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convocation_of_Episcopal_Churches_in_Europe) and the [Navajoland Area Mission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navajoland_Area_Mission) are all part of TEC (The Episcopal Church). Around 3% of the population identify with the Episcopal Church.

Washington National Cathedral

**Sunday 25th September: The Church in Wales**

The Church in Wales is the [Anglican Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglicanism) in [Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wales), composed of six [dioceses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocese). It defines itself as "the ancient Church of this land, catholic and reformed. It proclaims and holds fast the doctrine and ministry of the [one, holy, catholic and apostolic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Marks_of_the_Church) Church" However, the Church in Wales is autonomous from the C of E following disestablishment in 1920. Since then, it has its own archbishop (elected from the six diocesan bishops) who also retains leadership of one of his own diocese. Curiously, there are eighteen ‘cross-border’ parishes (part of which are in England and part in Wales). At the last count, there were 350 thousand people belonging to the Church spread across 1500 congregations.

The Church in Wales has its own strategy for growth called 2020 Vision which coincides with its centenary that year. The web site says, “We’re taking a fresh look at our structure and ministry to see how we can best serve Wales in the 21st Century and make the most of our rich resources. Our vision is to be the prayerful heart of the community, sharing the Christian message in a way that engages, inspires and transforms.

Some of the changes are radical as we push the boundaries of long-established traditions while others are developments of ministry already taking place. All, however, are changes we as a Church identified and it will be in making them together that we will re-energise and re-invigorate our life and ministry across the country.

**From the Registers**

**Holy Baptism:**

 10th July: Charlie James Micheal Cookson

 George James Watson

 31st July: Harper Olivia Heald

 Darcy May Marsden

 Riley Stephen John Paget

 Ronnie Ray Paget

 Bella Mae White

 Leo Daniel White

 Ethan Thomas Worsley

 21st August: Daniel Mark Boucher

 Jacob Thomas Boucher

 Harper-Rose Green

**Funerals:**

 15th July: Brian Flaherty

 5th August: George Fackrell (at St Margaret and All Hallows’)

**Communicants and Collections:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2016** | **Sunday****Communicants** | **Midweek****Communicants** | **Loose****Collections £** | **Planned****Giving £** |
| 3rd July | 33 | 9 | 18.55  | 399.16  |
| 10th July | 28 | 8 | 176.03  | 125.12  |
| 17th July | 30 | 0 | 6.17  | 149.10  |
| 24th July | 28 | 0 | 54.09  | 145.78  |
| 31st July | 28 | 9 | 2.20  | 191.50  |
| 7th Aug | 29 | 10 | 185.14  | 294.26  |
| 14th Aug | 27 | 0 | 2.00  | 212.50  |
| 21st Aug | 31 | 0 | 97.05  | 147.50  |
| 28th Aug | 24 | 7 | 7.00  | 120.50  |

D

**onations**

 We would like to thank everyone who has made a gift or donation to our various funds recently. Our special thanks go to:

##### General Fund

* Loving memories of a dear brother John Fearnley (May 13th) and uncle to all my family from Joan Clegg
* In remembrance of my husband, Harry (July 31st 2003) from Beryl
*(The above two donations were omitted from the last edition in error. Apologies to both donors).*
* Gemma Clarke
* Barbara Richards GA
* Verger's fee (2)
* Mrs Hilda Smith
* In loving memory of Derek Lowe from Renee Hollingsworth

##### Flower Fund

* Wedding flowers (3.9.16)

*Elle and Esse*

Hair and Beauty Lodge

Unisex Hair Salon

**LYNETTE and SUE**

Lodge Lane, Bewsey

Warrington

Tel: 01925 232282

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot’s wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. Little Darren interrupted and said, “Rather like my Dad; he looked back once while he was driving and turned into a telephone pole.”

**Prayer Intentions for September**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| Thu | 1st | Northway | Those with mental illnesses |
| Fri | 2nd | Sandy Lane | St Elphin, Warrington |
| Sat | 3rd | Poole Crescent | Our ecumenical partners |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sun | 4th | **The Dedication Festival** |
| Mon | 5th | Ajax Avenue | Church Urban Fund projects |
| Tue | 6th | Winwick Road | Our School – its staff and pupils |
| Wed | 7th | Elm Road | Italian earthquake communities |
| Thu | 8th | Fisher Avenue | Home Care staff working locally |
| Fri | 9th | Eskdale Avenue | Holy Trinity, Warrington |
| Sat | 10th | Mendip Avenue | Warrington Youth Club |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sun | 11th | **The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity** (Proper 19) |
| Mon | 12th | Buttermere Avenue | Guild of Church Braillists |
| Tue | 13th | Grasmere Avenue | Bishop Paul |
| Wed | 14th | Petworth Avenue | Somalia |
| Thu | 15th | Sinclair Avenue | Hollins Park Hospital |
| Fri | 16th | Lancing Avenue | St Philip, Westbrook |
| Sat | 17th | Keswick Crescent | The Diocese of Virginia |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sun | 18th | **The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity** (Proper 20) |
| Mon | 19th | Marron Avenue | Samaritans and ChildLine |
| Tue | 20th | Dean Crescent | Social workers |
| Wed | 21st | Cleveland Road | Those starting Higher Education |
| Thu | 22nd | Kentmere Place | Our Scout Group |
| Fri | 23rd | Poole Avenue | St James, Westbrook |
| Sat | 24th | Seaford Place | Those with mental illnesses |
|  |  |  |  |
| Sun | 25th | **The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity** (Proper 21) |
| Mon | 26th | Armour Avenue | Christian Aid |
| Tue | 27th | Cartmel Avenue | Staff at St James’ House |
| Wed | 28th | Densham Avenue | The southern United States |
| Thu | 29th | Newton Road | Local residents’ groups |
| Fri | 30th | Ulverston Avenue | St Mary, Great Sankey |
|  |  |  |  |