Parish Church of St George, Tyldesley



**Parish News November 2019**

Team Rector: Rev. Martin B Cox *01942 883313*

7 Holbeck Astley M29 7NL

Team Vicar: Vacant *0161 790 2957*

St. John’s Vicarage, Mosley Common

Ordained Local Rev. Angela J Dand *01942 879608*

Minister:

Reader: Vacant

Churchwarden: Mr. Iain Hodcroft 07976 314012

Team Clerk Miss Susan Mallon 07873 149627

**Astley, Tyldesley and Mosley Common Team Ministry**

“Together in worship, love and service”

**November 2019 Reflection**

**Dear friends**

Part of the talk that I gave at the Family Harvest Festival Service at St. Stephens this year was about the society in which we live. I wrote the first part of my initial talk after reading an article by the Rev. Charles Royden.

We live in a society where instead of being thankful, we are becoming more and more demanding. One of the problems that we have is that we throw away so much food and other goods like electrical equipment that is deemed to be ‘out of date’ or irreparable. Stuff that we either don’t want any more or that is not worth the cost of repairing. We all know that the more that we have does not mean that we will be any happier. Often we seem to have much more than we need. Jesus knew that people who are rich does not mean that they are happy. Often the more we have the more we seem to need. We have become spoiled and luxuries which we once deeply appreciated we now just take for granted.

Modern means of communication, which most of us now go along with, mean that unless folk belong to a large family, a church, a society or sporting group of some kind, mean that a large number of people do not now need to leave their own home and gradually, sometimes without perhaps realizing it become lonely and depressed. The use of e-mails, texts, ordering things ‘on line’ means that we do not have to leave our homes very often. Post Offices are closing, churches, social clubs and even pubs are shutting down in droves. You can walk down your own street and not meet anybody – unless they have a dog or have to take the children to school. You can drive down a main road and see few pedestrians. The world has changed dramatically in the last few years – is it really for the better? Our communities, as I wrote before, are full of people who are very lonely and see few other people.

Modern advances in communication and the way in which we lead our lives have stolen a lot from us when it comes to individual and community life. I have been reading the articles in St. Stephens Magazine by Dora Rawlinson about life in rural Astley when she was young. If you read the series you will find out how life has changed so dramatically in such a comparatively short period of time.

We as Christians meet and share with each other. We have all shared of the good things of the earth with less off folks during the Harvest period but what do we do in the future? All our three churches now have outreach groups of one kind or another such as ‘Meeting Point’ and our ‘Places of Welcome’ and many of us go out into the community to meet people in the name of Jesus but how can we develop this further in this ever-changing world.

Like most of us, I don’t have an answer but sur ely as Christians we should all do our best to get the often forgotten folk back into the community. Perhaps the church itself should use these modern means of communication to tell people what is going on in our church communities as well as spreading the gospel, the good news of Jesus, to those who are currently outside the fold.



I would like to finish by quoting Carrie Myers the Lay Ministries Officer in the Church of England when she writes ‘mission is about finding out what God is doing and joining in’.

Keith Revill October 2019

+++++++++++++++++

**From the Registers September 2019**

Welcome to the Family …

***Arthur George Thomas Swanton***

***Georgie Grace Mann***

***Arabella-Rose Craig Edmondson***

***Arlo Junior Davenport***

‘Newly Baptised.’

****

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Service** | **Commun - icants** | **Children** | **Adults** |
| **1st** | Holy Communion | **7** |  |  |
|  | Morning Praise |  | **8** | **50** |
| **8th** | Morning Prayer |  |  | **4** |
|  | Sung Eucharist | **32** | **3** | **2** |
|  | Holy Baptism |  | **20** | **150** |
| **15th** | Holy Communion | **7** |  |  |
|  | Sung Eucharist | **35** | **7** |  |
| **22nd** | Morning Prayer |  |  | **5** |
|  | Sung Eucharist | **45** | **30** | **53** |
|  | Holy Baptism |  | **20** | **130** |
| **29th** | Choral Evensong |  | **1** | **24** |

**INCOME (September)**

Cash (now all eligible for Gift Aid) £390.53

Planned Giving £411.00

Planned Giving (Gift Aid) £293.38

Restoration £28.25

Organ £

Community Fund £20.00 per week

Sundry Donations £

In last month’s newsletter, I failed to mention gifts of £50.00 for the sale of books in Church, overseen by Mrs. Margaret Connor; and a very generous sum of £200.00 from Mrs. Agnes Smith for our Restoration Fund.

I wish to apologise for these omissions and wish to pass on our grateful thanks to these two ladies and everyone else who contributes financially on a regular or a long term basis.

The diocese this financial year will spend some £964thousand more than it will have received.

St George’s has paid its ‘parish share’ in full for the last two years (in fact all the churches in Leigh deanery paid their shares in full in 2018!), and we have guaranteed to do so for the next three years.

This will almost certainly mean withdrawals from the interest we will receive on investments from recent bequests. In some senses this is unsustainable, as our regular income is not sufficient to meet our monthly outgoings. Our regular giving has dropped alarmingly in recent months as people move on and personal circumstances change.

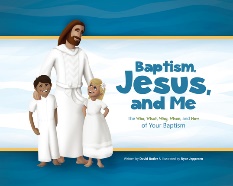
I have hinted before that stewardship will have to be raised in PCC meetings, as we move into another new church year and further thought will need to be given how, as a church/team, we pay for our budgeted expenditure.

**++++++++++++++++**

**Service information for November 2019**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **8am** | **10.30am** |
| **3rd** | Holy Communion (MC) | Morning Prayer (KR/JW) |
| **10th** | No service | **9.00am: Service of the Word** (MC)  **11.00am** Cenotaph  **6.30pm** Team Holy Communion at St John’s |
| **17th** | Holy Communion with Healing (AD) | Sung Eucharist with Healing (DC)  Holy Baptism (DC) |
| **24th** | Morning Prayer (CE) | Sung Eucharist (AD) |
| MC – Rev Martin Cox, AD – Rev Angela Dand, DC – Rev Dan Connolly, MW – Rev Michael Williamson  KR – Keith Revill, JW – Jean Williamson, SH – Shane Hopkins, DC – Debbie Clark, MS – Mike Stuckey, DK -David Kendrick, SH – Sarah Hughes, CE Cath Eccles | | |

**++++++++++++++**

Our first new **Sunday Afternoon service for baptism families – “Families@Four”** on Sunday 6 October was a great success with several new families joining with established ‘church’ families.

Some 19 adults and 16 children enjoyed, activities, action songs, relaxed hospitality and food!

Why not come along and join in the next ones – *Sunday 3 November* and *Sunday 1 December*, both at 4.00pm.

**++++++++++++++**

****Friday prayers: members of all three churches and guests meet for prayer at 9.30am, every Friday morning in the Lady Chapel. Everyone is made welcome – and there is a mix of bible readings, a reflection and open prayer, with space for silent prayer. Come along and join us, and then move straight into the Place of Welcome for ongoing fellowship.

**++++++++++++++**

It’s always useful to examine what others say about us, so I will try and extract some comments about ‘Place of Welcome’ that have appeared in Helen Donlan’s recent “blog”. Helen is employed by Wigan Council as a ‘community capacity officer’ in the Deal for Communities Team. Her role allows her to explore, support and build up community capacity across local areas. She encourages local communities to promote their assets and initiatives in a way that will allow them to become sustainable and retain their passion for their local area. Her responsibilities include constant consultation and engagement with existing and new community groups within her assigned area. I have asked Christine to add her recent presentation to the church website … and you can read more there!

**“Tyldesley St George’s Church ever Friday 10.00am-12.00noon**

*Place of Welcome is a fantastic opportunity for local people, volunteers and services to socialise and share their personal stories, ideas and interests with each other. It is an initiative that brings the community of Tyldesley and surrounding areas together, to reduce social isolation but also to build up community networks and social groups. Everybody is welcome and they can get involved with the gro*  *up as they are most comfortable and capable; this could be through socialising and meeting new people, assisting to make refreshments or arranging the flower displays in the local church. Individuals are able to freely communicate, relax and put their passions and skill into practice.*

*The group is attended by many generations. This ranges from new born and pre school children with their families, working age volunteers, retired volunteers and carers who bring somebody each week. Having such a wide range of attendance has occurred through the strong, positive, friendly and relaxed atmosphere that is offered at this group. The group is initiated by church volunteers, co-ordinated by Susan Mallon. Input is also present from Rector Martin Cox, who is keen to meet local people from across the community that he serves. No religious pressure is given at this group, the venue acts as a safe and welcoming place for people to drop in and attend as they please.”*

**Is this what you recognise each week?**

**+++++++++++++++++**

**October Flower List**

'We thank the following members of our congregation

for Altar flowers in October”



Sunday 3 November **‘open for offers’**

Sunday 10 November ‘**Remembrance’**

Sunday 17 November **‘open for offers’**

Sunday 27 October **Mrs Doris Whitworth**

Thank you to Carly Melissa Lomax and Halit Jon Bozdogan who were married in church on 19th October and provided flowers to celebrate their wedding We wish them every happiness.



Many thanks to Mrs Agnes Smith for Altar flowers in Loving Memory of her dear husband, Paul.



*Thank you to everyone who has supported the Flower Fund during October. LF*

**CHURCH CHANGES:**

1. ***Arrangements for booking baptisms***

Martin has introduced an ‘office hour’ to meet with families making enquiries or wishing to book baptism at St George’s.

The next two are as follows:

Mondays 4November/2 December 6.00pm – 7.00pm.

+++++++

1. ***Eucharistic Assistants***

Several people stepped up to become our new Eucharistic Assistants.

If anyone else missed the preparatory meeting and wish to become involved, please see Martin.

+++++++

1. ***Intercessions***

If anyone would like to volunteer to lead weekly intercessions, please see Martin or Iain.

Help will be offered!

We only have four regular contributors, so please join us!

**Church Events:**

**Fruits of the** **Harvest Gin Festival**

This was reported on in last month’s newsletter, and there are just a few comments to add. Around a hundred people attended and enjoyed the evening, despite disappointment that the new heating hadn’t been switched on! Many of these people were new to church and many of them remarked on how welcoming everyone was. This was not intended to be a fund-raising event, more a way of introducing church to a wider community – a community that rarely thinks about church!

Additional costs had to be covered, such as licenses and first aid cover. Refreshments were provided free of charge, covered by the proceeds from the raffle. When everything was taken into consideration, a surplus of £100.00 was donated to church funds. Not bad when everyone had agreed it was a pleasurable event!

**Christmas begins early …**

The Feast of St Andrew is this year the day before Advent Sunday (Saturday 30 November). It is also the day that that has been designated for when Tyldesley’s Christmas lights will be switched on, This is being celebrated by Tyldesley Traders’ Group who are organising a Christmas Market in Tyldesley Square, additional lights in front of Top Chapel and additional attractions. Both St George’s Central and Sacred Heart primary school choirs have been invited to sing traditional carols and ‘Freddies’ brass band will play Christmas music! There may be insufficient space on the square for the stalls that wish to attend and church has agreed to accommodate some indoors in church. It makes sense then to combine this with our own ‘Christmas Fair’. Discussions are still taking place and arrangements are incomplete, so more information will be announced in church about our

**‘Combined Community Christmas Attractions’.**

**Team Events:**

**Fireworks**

Despite missing the irreplaceable Julian

St John’s are hosting another spectacular

Firework Display

On Tuesday 5 November at St John’s School

Get there early … and enjoy refreshments and fellowship before the main entertainment starts at around 7.30pm.

**HEATING :**

Church is beginning to return to ‘normal’ now that our new heating has been installed.

 In any undertaking of this size, teething problems are to be expected and so far we have dealt with a small leak in the café area, leading to drops in pressure which meant that the boilers turned themselves off! Impressively from around 9/10o when the problem was resolved, the temperature was raised to 17o throughout church, within an hour. And, a bigger expansion tank is necessary to equalise pressure in the system because of the length of pipework in the system. Work should be completed by 1 November

A bill of over £60,000 has been paid (+Vat - but this can be reclaimed!) a further smaller bill is due soon, with a final retention fee to be paid after 12 months. Consultancy fees will also need paying. A £75,000 sum was budgeted for and it looks as though this will be close to the actual costs.

The lads from HeatinGlobal have been easy to work alongside, have respected funerals and other times where quiet has been needed. They are on call to answer problems as we learn how to get the best from the new system and they will be contracted to ensure maintenance is carried out efficiently and effectively.

Our thanks also need to be extended to John Book from JRB Environmental Design who was recommended from both Atherton Parish and the diocese, and who has ensured the system will meet our requirements for many years to come.



**Community Support**

**FurKlemt Café**

Startwell Centre, Prospect Street, Tyldesley (adjacent to Tyldesley Clinic)

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

Snacks and drinks available from around 10.00am

Lunches from about 11.30am (depending on what is available for cooking!)

Finishes some-time after 1.00/1.30pm (depending on demand!)

***Please support this local ‘junk food initiative’ designed to prevent wasted food going to landfill, remember it is a ‘pay as you feel’ basis.***

**Atherton and Leigh Foodbank**

Another 6 bags of food were taken to St John the Baptist last Friday, and the staff and volunteers want to pass on their thanks for continuing donations from St George’s Church. The bad news is more food is needed – especially during school holidays and sadly during the festive season s to come.

***Please continue your support.***

**Kindness Box**

The box at the rear of church is now overflowing and I need to check on where it is to be delivered to or make arrangements for its collection!

***BUT Please don’t stop bringing items in ...!!***

++++++++++++++++

**Historic England:**

**Tyldesley Regeneration Scheme Phase 1**

A couple of local people, Paul Kinsella and Ian Tomlinson have submitted a bid to Historic England for money to refurbish some of the historic buildings in Tyldesley town Centre. They have preliminarily been awarded around £1.5m.

A local consultation now has to be completed throughout the community by 20 December; so If you’d like to know more contact me, asap. iain.hodcroft@gmail.com

++++++++++++++++

***St George’s Church***

***“Rooted in God’s love,***

***Growing together with Jesus,***

***Ministering in the power of the***

***Holy Spirit.***