



Bible verse and prayer for 2018

You will make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Psalm 16:11

May the road rise up to meet you,
may the wind be ever at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face
and the rain fall softly on your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

Traditional Irish blessing

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Letter from Andrew Housley

Dear friends,



At a recent collective worship at both church schools, I asked a couple of children to tie a shoelace together. It soon became clear that it would have been so much easier for them to do it by themselves. The message of the assembly was the importance of working together and in doing so, the need to listen and encourage. The Christian mission is based upon the belief that God works in partnership with His Church to extend His Kingdom. I have no doubt that there have been times when He has had His face in His hands, but He has never brushed us aside.

This month we celebrate Pentecost, the feast when we celebrate God sending the Holy Spirit and giving birth to His Church. The Acts of the Apostles teaches us of the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the early church. We need to remember that the work of the Holy Spirit did not begin and end in the first century. The same Holy Spirit is at work in God's church today. The evidence of His presence is in the behaviour of individuals' lives, how we encourage one another and work towards sharing the good news of Jesus in both word and action. It has to be said, things did not always run smoothly for the early church. There were splits and arguments, leading Paul to write letters to encourage love and unity.

Each one of us is part of a group or a number of groups within the church. PCC, SMT, Fellowship, Mothers Union, Book Club, Bible Study group, even the group we sit with for coffee after the service, to name but a few. When we meet, we meet in the presence of Christ and share the gift of His Holy Spirit. Let us remember the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to enable and encourage us to extend God's Kingdom, while also leading us to grow in our love for one another.

St. Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
 that my thoughts may all be holy.
 Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
 that my work, too, may be holy.
 Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
 that I love but what is holy.
 Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
 to defend all that is holy.
 Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
 that I always may be holy. Amen.

Andrew

Services in May

	<p>St Michael, Aughton</p>	<p>Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe</p>
<p>6th May Easter 6 White 1 John 5.1-6; John 15.9-17</p>	<p>8.15am Martin Holy Communion</p> <p>10.30am Bill Matins 10.30am Hall Service</p> <p>4pm Martin Holy Communion</p>	<p>10.45am Andrew Holy Communion</p> <p>3pm Andrew Rogation Service at Hall Farm</p>
<p>13th May Easter 7 White 1 John 5.9-13; John 17.6-19</p>	<p>8.15am Andrew Holy Communion</p> <p>10.30am Martin Family Communion</p>	<p>10.45am Andrew Commemoration of the departed</p>

<p>20th May Pentecost Red Romans 8.22-27; John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15</p>	<p>8.15am Martin Holy Communion</p> <p>10.30am Andrew/Martin Pentecost Praise</p> <p>4pm Andrew Holy Communion</p>	<p>10.45am Mark Morning Praise</p>
<p>27th May Trinity Sunday White Romans 8.12-17; John 3.1-17</p>	<p>8.15am Andrew Holy Communion</p> <p>10.30am Andrew Service of Baptism</p>	<p>10.45am Martin Holy Communion</p>

Worship & Learning



There are many more resources from *ROOTS for Churches Ltd* on our website each week, including Bible Notes, reflections, and prayers for both children and older people. Please visit

6th May: Lasting fruit *John 15.9-17*

Jesus encourages the disciples to keep his commandments and, above all, to love one another as he loved them. The greatest expression of love is to lay down one's life for one's friends and, he says, his friends are those who do what he commands.

A personal prayer

Just as I am, with the love I have,
with the love of you I know,
so guide me, God, in all I do and in all I am,
to bear fruit for you.
Amen.

13th May: Jesus' prayer *John 17.6-19*

Before his arrest, Jesus prays for his disciples that they may be one as he is one with the Father. He asks that they may be protected from the evil one, and sanctified in the truth.

A personal prayer

I often am not sure I am worthy to be called a Christian.
I often am not sure I understand all it means.
I often am not sure I know myself.
I often am in turmoil over what is truth and what is not,
it's hard to know.
Give me, O God, discernment
that I may live my life according to your will. Amen.

20th May: Life after Jesus *John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15*

Jesus will send the Advocate, the Spirit of truth, to testify on his behalf, and guided by the Spirit the disciples will continue the testimony to the world. The Spirit will glorify Jesus and instruct the disciples about what is still to come.

A personal prayer

Lord, I am not who I want to be...
well not always, maybe not often.
But you take me as I am, and you give to me.
Fill me with the urge to love more, to care more,
to know more, to share more - in your name.
Kindle within me the love I have of you,
that it may warm the hearts of those I know and love,
that I may pass the flame and share the gentle breeze,
and offer the peace of the reassuring dove.
I am not who I want to be...but you can transform me.
Make me who you want me to be. Amen.

27th May: Children of God *John 3.1-17*

Speaking to Nicodemus late at night, Jesus says that to see the kingdom of God, one must be born of water and the Spirit, and to receive eternal life one must believe in God's only Son.

A personal prayer

When I hear your voice, Lord God,
when I hear you whispering my name,
when I hear you call 'Whom shall I send?' –
give me the courage, the love, the faith
to respond as Isaiah did: 'Here am I; send me!'
Amen.

Benefice News

Communion in the Community



The Holy Communion Services in St Michael's Hall and Bickerstaffe School are a wonderful opportunity for outreach. Please invite friends!! **All welcome!**

"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."
1 Corinthians 11:26

St Michael's Church Hall Wednesday 9th May with our friends from St Mark Scarisbrick, followed by a soup lunch, and on 30th May (Communion only) both at 11am.

Bickerstaffe School Communion on Friday 25th May at 2.40pm.

Confirmation

This year's Confirmation service will be at St Michael's, Aughton on Sunday 21st October at 4pm. Starting in September, there will be two confirmation classes, one for adults and the other for young people in school year 9. If you would like to be Confirmed this year, then please speak to Andrew.

Rogation



There will be a service to celebrate Rogation Sunday on Sunday 6th May at 3pm. This lovely service will be in a field at Hall Farm, Hall Lane, Bickerstaffe. Afterwards, there will be a bring-and-share tea in the barn. *All welcome.*

Ascension Day

There will be a Holy Communion service at St Michael's on Thursday 10th May at 7.30pm to celebrate Ascension Day.

Archdeacon's Visitation at St Michael's, Aughton

The Archdeacons visitation is primarily for sideman and church wardens. The service will be on 17th May and start at 7.30pm.

Men's Breakfast

The next breakfast will be Saturday 12th May at Bickerstaffe School. If you are able to help with the cooking, please speak to Andrew. We especially need more volunteers to arrive early to set up about 8am and also stay behind to tidy up and mop the floor in the kitchen. New members welcome!

If you have good quality men's clothes, then please bring them to be taken to the Salvation Army in Bootle. Thank you.

Charity Collections

A reminder that we continue to collect good quality **children's clothes** and other school items such as football boots, and goggles, which will be donated to Litherland Moss School.

Gift of **men's clothes** will be forwarded to Bootle Salvation Army, and the Skelmersdale **Food Bank** remains as important as ever. Non-perishable food items are therefore very much appreciated. Please leave any items at the back of church. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Friends of St Michael's 'Strawberries & Fizz' Tickets On Sale Now!

On Friday 8th June 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the Church and Church grounds, we will have an evening filled with Swing, Strawberries and Fizz. Tickets are £10.00 (no charge for children) from Jean Parker or Ann Barnes.

Fusion Youth Events for the 11 plus



Fusion aims to bring together teenagers (11-18 years old) from all churches in Ormskirk & surrounding areas for encouragement, fun & friendship.

On Friday 11th May there will be a Film & Games Night at Christ Church. On 1st & 2nd June, Fusion will have a 'Big Church Day Out' at Capesthorpe Hall, Cheshire, and on Saturday 9th June there will be a trip to Manley Mere. Further information is available from Anthony Bearon.

Trinity Sunday Songs of Praise

As in previous years, there will be a Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity, Bickerstaffe on Sunday 27th May at 4pm.

St Michael's Dates and News

5th May	Wedding
6th May	Rogation Service
10th May	Ascension Day Communion
27th May	Trinity Evensong
9th June	Wedding
13th June	Summer Coach Trip
7th July	Wedding

Parish Giving Scheme

The Parish Giving Scheme is an efficient way to give your monthly donation to the church. With it being a Direct Debit, it saves work for the treasurer, while also automatically claiming the gift aid on your donation. More information about the PGS will be sent to members of the congregation. If you gave any questions about the scheme, please speak to Andrew, Brian, James or Anthony. Thank you.

Giving in Grace

It has been eight years since our last giving campaign. Since then, the costs of running the church have increased resulting in there being a deficit in the accounts. In July, we will send information and a letter to members of the congregation and to those on the electoral roll, to encourage an increase in giving. We very much appreciate all the support that is currently given to the church.

Parish Praise in 2018

Please invite friends, family and neighbours to our Parish Praise Services:

20th May	Pentecost Praise
17th June	Fathers' Day
15th July	First Communion
16th September	Education Sunday (Service of Prayer and Celebration for St Michael's School, in church)
21st October	Brass Band led Community Songs of Praise (t.b.c.)
11th November	Remembrance Sunday/Parade
16th December	Christingle



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Sunday School



This month, we are meeting on May 13th and May 27th at 10.20am in the church hall. We warmly welcome all children of three years of age and over to come and join us. The older children will meet in the church vestry.
Sunday School Leaders

Wednesday Fellowship Group

Meetings begin with coffee at 10.30am in the church hall and new members are always welcome.

2nd May Elizabeth Robins will give readings from Marjorie Holmes' Letter 'Memories of Aughton'.

16th May Janice Steel will give a history talk.

6th June Card making with Maureen Thomson. Please bring your own scissors, glue stick, tweezers, and a piece of card for a work board.

20th June The summer meal at The Rufford Arms.

We hope you enjoy the summer and look forward to meeting you again in September.
Janet Glennon

The Children's Society

A very big 'thank you' to all our box holders, who this year raised a total of £1,148.54 to help fund the vital work of The Children's Society with vulnerable children and young people across the country.

If anyone else would like a collection box, I would be happy to supply one to you.
Pat Richardson

Book Club

Next book is 'Persuasion' by Jane Austen. We will meet on Wednesday 16th May from 8.00pm at The Derby Arms in Aughton. All Welcome!

Steve Hall

Janice & Mike welcome you to

The Derby Arms



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St Michael's Church Hall is available for hire.

This is an ideal venue for:

- * Children's parties
- * Social events / activity groups
- * Committee meetings
- * Business meetings and/or training

The main Hall has a Digital Projector and P.A. System. There is also a smaller committee room and a fully fitted, well equipped kitchen.

For further information, please contact Colin Bulmer,
Tel. 01695 421823 or 07709 662 432.

Summary of Parochial Church Council Meeting held on 22nd March

The key issues discussed at the above meeting were:

Treasurer's Report – 2017 Accounts. Brian DeVonald led members of PCC through each section of the report. The Rector thanked Brian on behalf of PCC for his hard work in preparing the accounts. Brian DeVonald proposed their acceptance by PCC and this was seconded by Paul Moss. PCC members agreed unanimously.

Synod Report. This was given by Pam Pilkington who described the meeting in January which covered clergy movements including retirements, Bishop Richard at Warrington who is also retiring, encouraging more people to have their relatives' funerals in Church, encouraging students at Edge Hill University to come to Church, and Church giving in the face of an ageing congregation profile.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). James Parsons explained how GDPR will become effective on 25th May 2018 when there will be enhanced requirements to protect personal and sensitive information held by all Church groups to protect it from inadvertent loss, destruction or unauthorised access. GDPR will also mean obtaining consent from individuals for personal information held about them by the Church. The Electoral Roll will also need to be re-issued and consent obtained for those people listed in it.

Heating in the Vestry, Kitchen and Toilet. Peter Fogden said that Tom Beesley will be invited to make suggestions for improving heating effectiveness in these areas of the Church.

Handrails in the Churchyard. Rene Bulmer said this topic was discussed with Tom Beesley, the Diocesan Buildings Adviser and Rebecca Grimshaw, our Architect. A quotation has been received from the

company that installed the Church Hall rail. Discussions have also taken place with Ian Bond, Head of Conservation at WLBC. Following discussion by PCC, there was a proposal to take no further action at this time. Pam Pilkington proposed, and Paul Moss seconded. There were nine votes in favour and two abstentions, so the motion was carried.

PA System. Andrew said that he believes we need more monitors in Church to improve the effectiveness of the PA system. He recently walked round Church with Denis O'Brien to assess locations and will invite PAS to come out and provide advice. He will then return to PCC and consult with English Heritage and the Diocesan Buildings Adviser.

Church Warden. Andrew said that Peter Fogden has now served for seven years as Warden, with Rene Bulmer due to complete her four year term next year. Ideally, a new Warden will be appointed in April so there is an overlap of one year with Rene. At present there is no volunteer for the post of Warden. Andrew outlined to PCC what would happen if no new Warden is appointed and how future responsibilities would be shared with Bickerstaffe.

James Parsons, PCC Secretary

Prayer Time



That we can glimpse you within creation
is a beautiful thought
but also tells us that you desire to be seen
to be found and known.

Open our eyes, Lord,
as we walk through this world,
feel the wind and sunshine,
see the majesty of creation
unfolding before our eyes.
Help us to see you. Amen.

Social Group News

Summer Coach Trip to Trentham Gardens: Wednesday 13th June

Adults £24

Booking is now underway for our early summer visit to the award-winning gardens at Trentham, full details of which are printed in April's Newsletter. A £5 non-refundable deposit is required at the time of booking to secure a seat on the coach. Final balances become payable on or before Sunday 3rd June.

Summer Coach Trip to Penrhyn Castle on Wednesday 1st August

Adults £27 / National Trust Members with card £15

Penrhyn Castle, situated in Penrhyn, Bangor, North Wales, is the destination for our second summer coach trip this year. We will have an early start once again with a refreshment break en-route at the Tweed Mill in St. Asaph, before travelling on to this magnificent castle with its extensive gardens for the entire afternoon. Included in the cost is full coach travel, admission to the castle itself and all gratuities. A £5 non-refundable deposit is required at the time of booking to secure a seat on the coach. Please note this is a National Trust property. The cost to NT members is £15. please remember to bring your membership cards!!

Autumn Coach Trip to The Harrogate Autumn Flower Show on Friday 14th September. Adults £33 including admission.

The small print: Please note that all of our coach trips are open to members of the congregations of St Michael's Church, Aughton and Holy Trinity Church, Bickerstaffe, their families and friends. A £5 non-refundable deposit is required at the time of booking to secure a seat on the coach with the balance payable on or before the specified date, after which, we regret, no refunds can be given. Refreshments are not included.

Lynn Trelford



**Murder Mystery Night in aid of
The Cystic Fibrosis Trust**

Friday 11th May 7.30pm for 8pm
Aughton Institute, Bold Lane L39 6SG
Ticket price £15 which includes a hot supper
For tickets contact Margaret Ellams
mfellams@hotmail.com or 07753801345

Cystic Fibrosis why we're here

Fundraising for The Ava Foundation

On 10th June, Mo Segar from the 8.15am congregation is taking on the challenging 'Hero Assault Course' at Avenham Park, Preston in aid of The Ava Foundation. This small charity exists to support children, young people, and their families who have a cancer diagnosis and/or a condition that requires them to undergo a bone marrow or stem cell transplant at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and Alder Hey Hospitals. Inspired by their own family's journey through childhood cancer, The Ava Foundation raises money to fund 'Be There' boxes. Boxes contain treats and essentials to help support children and their families whilst in isolation.

If you would like to support Mo, he would welcome any donation passed to him, alternatively, please visit:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/mohansegarajasinghe1>

Thank you for your support. Every penny counts!

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Editorial News



The deadline for the June magazine is **Friday 18th May**

As always, please pass articles to myself or e-mail it to jo.housley@gmail.com. I will do my best to publish articles when space and copyright allows. Thank you for all your support.



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