

# **PARISH MAGAZINE**

## **NOVEMBER 2021**



**St. Augustine and St. Aidan  
Tonge Moor and Hall i' th' Wood**

**30p**



FORWARDINFAITH

Parish Priest - Father Tony Davies

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Dear friends

We all get junk mail through our letter boxes from time to time, and if I'm being honest most goes straight onto the recycling pile. But one item I received recently made me sit up and think - and not in the way intended.

It was from a company providing what are known as "direct to crematorium funerals". When a person dies, their body is collected by this firm and subsequently taken to the firm's 'partner crematorium' for an unattended cremation. The ashes are later returned to the family who - the blurb says - are free to meet whenever they wish in order to remember the deceased in a way they wish (in effect, spend the savings on a party!).

Two of the advantages posited are: the funeral is cheaper than traditional funerals; and family members are not encumbered with the burden and distress of having to organise a funeral. Anything that saves money can seem attractive, but in this instance, is that saving worth it?

It seems to me that this is just another advance along the awful modern desire to make death invisible. Within living memory it was not uncommon for a family member to be laid out in the front room (I remember my Nan being in our front room) and for hearses to be a common and familiar sight on residential streets.

Since then, an increasing number of people die in hospital or in care, and are taken straight to the Funeral Director's. People have grown less and less accustomed to experiencing the proximity of death. Death, when it comes these days, can seem more like an apocalyptic aberration than the natural part of life that in reality it is.

Grief affects different people in different ways, but the working through of grief is assisted by the markers of being able to 'do something' for the departed one; of acknowledging the sense of loss; of having some kind of ritual that allows us to express the

depths of emotion that cannot be put into words; of sharing that experience with others. These are all things that a funeral affords us.

Many people would be distressed to think that their loved-one died alone. In this November month of remembrance, I wonder how many will later experience distress that their loved-one was alone at the very end, or experience a lingering sense of unfinished business?

A funeral is an important point in the grieving process, which is why similar rituals have taken place in every culture for thousands of years, and while its organising may well at the time be difficult and upsetting, I don't think I've met a family that regretted it. It can - and should be - a celebration of one's life, and - for Christians - an affirmation of the new and eternal life that Jesus has gained for us.

If you would like to help your family when the time comes for arranging your own funeral, there are forms for this purpose at the back of church. Please take one.

With my love and prayers

*Fr Tony*

## **ALL SOULS' DAY**

On Tuesday November 2nd we will again be joined at the 7.30pm Sung Mass by the families of those whose funerals we have conducted. The names of their loved-ones will be read out as they are commended to the love and power of God.

If you would like your loved-one's names to be read out also, please PRINT their names on the lists which are at the back of church. And come along to the All Souls' Mass to add your own prayers to those of the Church gathered together to praise and

glorify the God who won our salvation from death through his Son, Jesus Christ.

*Fr Tony*

### **LITTER PICKING**

We are out on the streets again on Saturday 6th November, as we make some of them a little tidier and more pleasant to live in. Join us as we pick litter - all equipment is provided. Children, bring your parents - parents, bring your children! We meet in the Parish Hall at 10.30am, after the 10am mass.

*Fr Tony*

### **ADVENT SERVICE**

We are joining with our brothers and sisters in Tonge Moor on Sunday 28th November to worship God in a joint Service for Advent Sunday. The service begins at 6.00pm, and everyone is invited.

*Fr Tony*

### **“THERE ARE VARIETIES OF MINISTRIES IN THE CHURCH....”**

This quotation from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians reminds us that not only the ordained exercise ministry in the Church, but all of us, and not all ministry is “front of house”. The Diocese of Manchester has a programme of lay training which, in the past, has led to people being accredited as Authorised Lay Ministers (ALM): our own David Taylor is one such.

All ten of the Ministry Electives courses offered on the ALM course are now also open as stand-alone courses to any lay people wanting to develop their calling and gifting to Christian ministry and service. Could any of them interest you?

- Children and Families
- Community and Social Outreach
- Digital Church and Online Media
- Ecology and Creation
- Mission and Evangelism
- Parish Admin, Finance and Governance
- Pastoral Outreach and Listening
- Prayer and Spirituality
- Worship and Liturgy
- Youth Work (Plus Specialism)

There are 12 sessions, so the courses are also a little shorter, and the next set of courses begin in April next year. If you would like more information and/or an application form, please go to the Manchester Diocesan website, and under “Development and Training” click “General Lay Courses”. Please also feel free to speak to me.

*Fr Tony*

## **STOP PRESS: BISHOP GLYN'S RETIREMENT**

As many of you may know, Bishop Glyn will retire as Bishop of Beverley on 8th January 2022. On that day at noon Bishop Glyn will preach and celebrate Mass in York Minster, which will be an opportunity for us to give thanks for Bishop Glyn's ministry, say thank you for his work amongst us, and pray for him as he takes this next step on his journey.

Due to COVID restrictions, numbers in York Minster are limited and so places must be reserved. We can apply for tickets on the

Minster website from 10 November, where there will also be details of how to access the livestream of the service. If you would like to attend, please let me know, and we will do our best with the restricted number of tickets. If necessary, we will draw lots for the tickets available, but depending on numbers we may look into the possibility of hiring a coach.

Many of us have reason to be grateful to Bishop Glyn for his sensitive and pastoral oversight of this parish. If you wish to contribute to his leaving gift, please put your contribution in a sealed envelope and hand it to either me or one of the Wardens. Thank you.

*Fr Tony*

### **Miscellaneous musings on modern life...**

In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify': I put 'DOCTOR.'

Member of the congregation to minister: "I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you."

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Where there's a will, there are relatives.

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. - *Mark Twain*

Don't worry about avoiding temptation...as you grow older, it will avoid you. - *Winston Churchill*

If at first you DO succeed, try not to look astonished. - *Anon*

*Congratulations and all our Best Wishes to  
Irma Griffiths who celebrates her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday on  
24<sup>th</sup> November 2021*



*Also to*



*Luci Watson who  
celebrates her 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021*





Keep Tonge Moor tidy!  
Join us on the first Saturday of  
each month



We will meet after the 10am Mass  
approx 10.30am in St Augustine's  
Parish Hall.  
Grabbers, bags  
High viz jackets provided.  
Do as much as you feel able!  
Meet back at The Parish Hall for Brew  
& Bikkies approx 11.30am

*The next litter pick dates are Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November & 4<sup>th</sup> December*



## WHEN WILL IT BE!

Messy Church is back! Do  
come and join us

The next session has us finding out about  
**A GREAT DAY AHEAD**

Find out more

**Saturday**  
**20<sup>th</sup> November**  
**2021**  
**11am - 1pm**



## St Augustine's Parish Hall

- Whatever your age – come and enjoy being creative!
- Join us for activities, crafts, and a short period of worship then a simple meal.
- There will be no charge for this event.
- Children will need to be accompanied by an adult at all times.

St Augustine's Tonge Moor  
Thicketford Road, Bolton



# Christmas Fair



Refreshments

Games

Raffle

Santa



Teddy Tombola



STALLS

Saturday 27th November 2021

Opening by  
Tonge Moor School Choir

11am - 2pm



Entry 20p Prize Draw



**CHRISTMAS**  
**FAIR**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021 11.00am - 2.00pm

We will have some usual stalls **Chocolate Tombola, Teddy Tombola** and **Lucky Jars.**  
**Cake Stall, The £1 Lucky Dip** (prize every time), **Grand Christmas Draw, Crafts, Gifts, Books, and Refreshments.**

We are asking for help with manning and providing items for the stalls.

Chocolate items for the Chocolate Tombola

Cakes homemade or shop bought.

For the Lucky Jars - Small toys which you can pick up in Pound Shops and Wilkinson's. They are usually classed as things to put in Party Bags. Erasers, small racing cars, bubbles, small pencil crayons, bouncy balls etc. Sweets like Haribo or Miaow mix, they do small bags of sweets, sticks of chewy toffee etc. They must be wrapped.

Any item that can be used for the £1 Lucky Dip stall.

**The Grand Christmas Draw**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - Mixed Case of Wine

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - Bottle of Whisky

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - Christmas Hamper

Plus many other prizes

Thank you to those who have already given or pledged donations, but more are needed. A box is at the back of church, for your contributions, particularly bottles of wine.

Tickets on sale priced at just 50p each. They are in books of 5 tickets so just £2.50 for a book.

## CHURCH CLEANING

There is a small group of parishioners who give up a morning each month. Apart from the cleaning they have tea/coffee, biscuits and social chat as well,



The next dates for cleaning are  
**1<sup>st</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**  
**Meeting at 10.00am.**

Many hands make light work!

The date/time could be subject to change, but usually decided by the Sunday, the day before, and is coordinated by Lilian Schofield 01204 303137. Check with the church's Facebook group.



## 100 CLUB NEWS

The seventh monthly draw was in the Parish Hall on  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**First Prize Number 22 – Joyce Harwood - wins £25**  
**Second Prize Number 36 – Kim Pennington - wins £15**  
**Third Prize Number 64 – Doreen Johnson - wins £10**

The eighth draw for this term will be on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2021, in  
the Parish Hall

**If you are not a member contact David or Ruth Taylor to be  
allocated a number just £12 a year. Also to renew and/or take on a  
new number**

*Mothers Union*  
*Annual Christmas Meal*

Percivals the Caterers have been booked for our annual Christmas meal to be held at

## St Augustine's Parish Hall

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022

7.00pm for 7.30pm



The cost is £23 for a 3 course Festive Dinner (Vegetarian option available)

Tea/coffee & After Dinner mints  
Do feel free to bring your own drinks

Names and £10 deposit to Ruth Taylor by 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021 also please let us know who you want to sit near so a seating plan can be arranged.

## WALSINGHAM



How wonderful to have the invitations to our Walsingham Festival accepted and for Bishop Glyn to be the preacher and principal celebrant. Father Tony was well supported by fellow clergy from Society parishes across the diocese and we welcomed friends and visitors old and new. It was lovely to welcome Sheila Cotton from the Chesterfield area who is in the Order of Our Lady of Walsingham and has a long term association with this parish through our own “Dame” Doris. A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way to prepare the church beforehand and those who gave so generously to provide the delicious buffet and drinks. The music was wonderful and, as Andrew led the procession with the Image of Our Lady of Walsingham at just the right speed, we kept the variation of the Pilgrim Hymn going all the way round. The day’s celebration concluded with Benediction. Many of our visitors came to say thank you before they left and commented how lovely our church is, how welcome they felt, how generous and imaginative the buffet was and how overdue it was to share in the fellowship of Our Lady of Walsingham and a love of the place many of us hold so dear.

Earlier in October I went to the Craft Week at the Priory of Our Lady. The first one was two years ago and, having missed 2020, I was really looking forward to it. The purpose is to make and donate items for their charity of the year. Four of us were resident and we were joined at various times by both locals and pilgrims who were staying during the week. The stock for the stalls in the green room in Stella Maris and the Priory cloister grew in quantity and variety. Although there was no expectation to join the sisters daily in chapel, we did manage to do so from the Office of Readings at 7a.m. through to Compline at 7.30p.m.

We proved to be rather more adept with what we needed to be following and where to find it than we were two years ago.

The two sisters have Mondays as a “day off”, which means that they still say the offices but not in chapel. So, we all agreed that I’d lead a day out doing a North Norfolk church crawl - probably described as the liturgical equivalent of a busman’s holiday! As we were in Salle church (about 40 minutes from Walsingham) at noon, Sr. Angela led us singing the Angelus. The acoustics in the chancel of this truly magnificent church were stunning and it was definitely one of those unforgettable occasions. Back in Walsingham I acquired a temporary role as guide to the Priory chapel. A friend I grew up with was staying at the shrine and she thought the last time she was in there she was about fourteen - and she celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday late in 2019. I also took in a friend who Elsie and I knew from the Partnership Scheme. She has been a very regular pilgrim since 1965 and had never been in before. How fortunate we are to have had the link to the Priory through Doris being one of their Associates.

I managed to spend some time with Keith and Isobel Syed. Keith was one of the pilgrims from Tonge Moor on that famous visit in 1947 and Isobel has been the Shrine’s Archivist for many years. Her role has been included in the duties of the recently-started Sacristan, Glynn Usher, but they will overlap until the end of next year. She has an amazing knowledge of the history of the Shrine and it is always a great privilege to listen to her.

Here’s another link - Howard sends a copy of our magazine to the every month and they have been regular readers of our on-line editions. Crumbs - you never know who reads what!

We will be looking at putting a programme of events and worship/devotions together for 2022. Please ask if there is something you’d like us to include or do now we are able to meet regularly as a Cell once again.

*Linda Parkington*



## 1<sup>st</sup> November - All Saints Day

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

He wants not friends that hath thy love,  
And made converse and walk with thee,  
And with thy saints here and above,  
With whom for ever I must be...

As for my friends, they are not lost;  
The several vessels of thy fleet,  
Though parted now, by tempests tost,  
Shall safely in thy haven meet....

The heavenly hosts, world without end,  
Shall be my company above;

And thou, my best and surest Friend,  
Who shall divide me from thy love?\*

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints – a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

*\*(Maurice Frost (ed.), Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern (London: Clowes, 1962), no. 274, verses 1,3,6.*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> November - All Souls Day**

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain ‘the Beatific Vision’ through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls’ Day should follow the feast of All Saints’ Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls’ Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.

On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of

these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church.

## Remembrance

Have you seen the film *'Saving Private Ryan'*? The first 20 minutes of the film is a powerful account of war, portraying the first landing crafts arriving at the Normandy beaches on D Day. The film successfully brings to life the events of that day, as a vivid act of remembrance.

From a biblical perspective, the word *remembrance* means making present a past reality, so that we can benefit from it today. On Remembrance Sunday we think about those who have given their lives in wars over the years, as well as those who continue to grieve over their lost loved ones. We want to make their sacrifice in past conflicts real for us today, so that we can engage with the horror of war and those enduring suffering today.

It involves dealing with the *why* question in the face of relentless tragedies and injustices: *why does God allow such suffering to take place?* One of the great themes of the Scriptures is that God identifies with the suffering. But the Christian faith goes beyond this! It affirms that in Jesus, God's Son, divinity became involved in suffering and death on the cross. It is at Calvary that we see how God Himself knows what it is to lose a loved one in an unprovoked attack. *'I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the Cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?'* (John Stott).

Although we don't fully understand the reason why God allows evil and suffering to continue, we do know what the reason isn't! It can't be that He doesn't love us! God so loved us and hates suffering that He was willing to come down and get involved in our hurting world. This can be a source of real strength on such an occasion.

However, how can we ensure that those who have given their lives are truly honoured, not forgetting those who are risking their lives in conflicts today? An appropriate response is to actively work and pray for justice in our world, especially where there is inequality and conflict. In a divided world we are also called to renew our efforts to work for peace. We need to be serious about being peacemakers, especially where it involves those close to us. As Jesus said, *'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God'* (Matt 5:9).

## **Lest We Forget**

*'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'*

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol for those who have sacrificed their lives in war, especially as we remember those who died in Afghanistan. But why do we remember?

*‘They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.’ (Micah 4:3).* Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria fell due to the aggression of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *‘We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.’ (Micah 4:5).* Let’s ask God’s Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today’s world.

*‘They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.’*

## **Prayer for November**

*Father,  
In these short, dark days of November, with all the uncertainties and complications in our new Covid 19 landscape, help us to feel the reassurance of Your presence in the gift of each new day. Help us to be guided through the darkness by Your light - by Jesus, who will never leave us or forsake us.*

*In His name - the name above pandemics and shortages and rising bills and all anxieties - we pray.  
Amen.*

*By Daphne Kitching*

The Rectory  
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren



You really should not worry about having reversed your car into the bishop's gatepost, knocking it over and destroying his rosebeds. It gives him an opportunity to exercise Christian forgiveness. Your real mistake was scribbling a note of apology and pushing it through his letterbox. Far better would have been to have sent an anonymous letter (and to have written it on lined notepaper in capital letters, preferably in green ink, to make it look truly authentic) saying that you had seen the archdeacon do it, and then you had watched him drive off without stopping. That would have taken the minds of the senior clergy away from parish matters for quite some time.

No, never worry about the wrath of bishops; dangers lurk much nearer home. For a start, never incur the displeasure of your flower arrangers. I only crossed their path once - and arrived in church the following Sunday, to see a ten-foot-high floral arrangement at the front of church. I assumed it was by way of

making amends, until I discovered it had been placed in front of the pulpit. I was obliged to preach, hidden behind a large multicoloured hedge, while the congregation listened to what were apparently talking chrysanthemums.

A colleague offended his own ladies and arrived to find that the contents of the safe had been removed and replaced with all those exotic pieces of equipment that seem to be indispensable for arranging flowers. He was obliged to administer Communion using a small vase until peace was re-established and his chalice returned to him.

Similarly, organists are a delicate breed. Congratulate him on the anthem, and if it happened to be unaccompanied, he would assume you were implying that the services were better without his playing. Offend your organist and you can be guaranteed that hymns will be played at either half or double speed, stopping one verse short and that the final piece of music as you process out will stop, leaving you and the choir stranded halfway down the aisle.

And finally, never, ever upset your verger. One forgotten Christmas present and you can be sure you will get half-way through a baptism to find he hasn't put water in the font; at marriage services, the sheets for last week's funeral will have been accidentally put out and when you sit in your stall you will discover where he now stores the mop and bucket.

No, bishops are warm, fluffy bunnies; real dangers lurks much nearer home.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace



***The Joyful Heart***  
Newsletter -- since 1996  
Dr. Ralph F. Wilson  
Joyful Heart Renewal Ministries  
[www.joyfulheart.com](http://www.joyfulheart.com)  
21 October 2021 - ISSN 1528-5642 - Circ. 65,000+

## 28 Advent Scriptures

Readings and Resources for the Christmas Season  
(160 page book)  
by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

Advent, the season preceding Christmas, is a time for thoughtful meditation as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's birth. *28 Advent Scriptures* is different from most Advent readings. Rather than a brief inspirational thought, each day you'll find an exposition of a key Bible passage that relates to the Advent season -- brief, but complete enough to help you understand the text and have an intensely rich time feasting on God's Word.

Readings are based on the best-known messianic prophecies, as well as the gospel accounts of Christ's birth. Each Advent exposition has



enough meat to provide a thoughtful window into God's Word. For pastors who will prepare several Advent-related messages each year, the book is a treasure trove, with plenty of footnoted research that enables you to develop each passage into a sermon or talk.

Since the start date of Advent varies from year to year, most Advent booklets are designed for a particular calendar year. This series of Advent meditations, however, can be adapted to be used *any year*. Thus, you'll find a full 28 meditations (plus one for Christmas Day) to encompass the longest conceivable Advent season. Many families and churches use Advent Candles to celebrate the season. We include readings for each of the four Sundays of Advent, as well as one for Christmas Day.

*28 Advent Scriptures* will strengthen your faith and increase your joy this season and for many Christmases to come. It also makes a great gift for your pastor or group leader.

*28 Advent Scriptures: Readings and Resources for the Christmas Season (160 pages)*

### **First Week of Advent**

1. Gabriel's Announcement to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
2. Blessed Are You Among Women (Luke 1:39-45)
3. Christ Comes to His Rightful Kingdom (Genesis 49:10)
4. The Seed and the Sacrifice (Genesis 22:8, 18)
5. A Great Light Has Dawned (Isaiah 9:1-2)
6. For unto Us a Child Is Born (Isaiah 9:6).
7. Reigning on David's Throne (Isaiah 9:6-7)

### **Second Week of Advent**

8. The Angel Appears to Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)
9. Today I Have Begotten You (Psalm 2)
10. A Priest Like Melchizedek (Psalm 110).

11. The Spirit Will Rest upon Him (Isaiah 11:1-3)
12. Messiah's Righteousness and Justice (Isaiah 11:3-5)
13. The Peace of the Messiah (Isaiah 11:6-10)
14. In the Fullness of Time (Galatians 4:4-5)

### **Third Week of Advent**

15. Birth in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)
16. Glory to God in the Highest (Luke 2:8-14)
17. The Shepherds Visit the Christ Child (Luke 2:15-20)
18. Image of the Invisible God (Colossians 1:15-20)
19. Who Can Endure the Day of His Coming? (Malachi 3:1-4)
20. The Blessing of Simeon (Luke 2:25-35)
21. The Blessing of Anna (Luke 2:36-38)

### **Fourth Week of Advent**

22. Wise Men from the East (Matthew 2:1-6).
- Christmas Day. We Have Seen His Glory (John 1:1-14)
23. Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh (Matthew 2:7-12)
24. The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-23)
25. The Everlasting Kingdom of the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14)
26. The Boy Jesus (Luke 2:39-52)
27. The Suffering Servant (Matthew 1:21; Isaiah 53:4-6)
28. He Emptied Himself (Philippians 2:5-11)

# Smile Lines

## Parade for Remembrance Service

Local newspapers advertising church services don't always get it quite right. Such as the local paper advertising a Remembrance Day service, who should have printed: *There will be a parade of uniformed organisations.*

Instead, they printed: *There will be a parade of uninformed organists.*

## Daily Mail

At a recent church meeting, our Sunday School teacher requested that a notice be put into the weekly pew-sheet, asking for church members to bring in any old copies they had of the Daily Mail. She wanted the newspapers for a big Christmas project involving lots of paper mache, and thought that the ink on the Daily Mail would be less messy.

The secretary made a rough note, and the notice went in: 'Wanted by our Sunday School teacher: lots of daily males.'

## Know what to do

The town's fire prevention officer was conducting a health and safety course at the local church. The officer said to the minister: "Now imagine this: it is a Sunday morning, and you have a number of people, spread throughout your church building. Some are in the choir stalls, some are in the kitchen, and some are in the nave. Suddenly, a big fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?"

The minister thought carefully for a moment. "Really big ones," he said.

## The congregation

A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation were like, and especially the church council. So, he rang the minister who had just retired from that church.

The retiring minister hesitated a moment and then replied: "Some of them are wise; some are otherwise."

## **Rooms**

When the vicar moved his family into the large Victorian vicarage, a member of the congregation asked the young son how he liked his new home. "It's great," the little boy replied. "At last I have my own room, and Mike has his own room, and Jemma has her own room, and Robbie has his own room. But poor Mum is still in with Dad."

## **Family tree**

At a drinks party at a wealthy golf club, the conversation turned to the subject of ancestry. "Of course, we trace our family back to coming over with William the Conqueror," observed one lady with satisfaction. She turned to a second woman, who was new to the club, and asked, "What about you dear? Can you go back very far?"

"Not very far," came the reply. "You see, all the early family records were lost in the Flood."

## **Hold her hand**

While out in the town, I saw an elderly couple holding hands while they were walking. As they approached, I commented on how romantic it was.

The man replied, "We have been holding hands when we go out in public for over 30 years. I have to. If I let go, she shops."

## **Ketchup**

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the bottle. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her four-year old daughter to answer it. "It's the minister, Mum," the child said to her mother. Then she told her caller: "Mummy can't come to the phone right now. She's hitting the bottle."

## Blossom

Overnight

The cherry tree is thick with plumes of blossom.

Layer upon layer of downy whiteness waves

Against the blue sky,

Parting at times to glimpse black branches

In silhouette

Against the white and green.

The blackbird sings on the topmost bough

And gentle breezes curl the feathery snow.

Sometimes a sharper gust – then petals lift

And part and fall

Lazily over the lawn.

Now grey rain from a grey sky beats down

Lashing the branch that shakes and quivers.

Grey, limp, bedraggled plumage droops and drops

The whole tree sways and sighs.

The blackbird, silent now, shelters beneath the leaves

The frosty, shimmering swansdown veil has gone –

But look

The apple tree's in bloom!

*Jocelyn Darbyshire*

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### HOLY BAPTISM

September 26th

Finley Mark Kevin Rothwell

October 10th

Loui-Bleu Martin-Shipperbottom

Teddy-Lee Martin-Shipperbottom

Thea-Rose Martin-Shipperbottom

24th

Zachariah Asif

### CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

October 17th

Joyce Martin (interment of ashes)

26th

Maxine Taylor (59)

## Calendar and Intentions for November 2021

Mon	1	feria: The development of God-given creative skills
Tue	2	All Souls' Day: The Departed
Wed	3	feria: Bolton Deanery, its churches and congregations
Thu	4	S Charles Borromeo: Seminaries and theological colleges
Fri	5	feria: Those receiving the Blessed Sacrament in their homes this month
Sat	6	feria: Those who live and work in Tonge Moor
<b>SUN</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God</b>
Mon	8	feria: Confessors and their penitents
Tue	9	<b>DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA:</b> Our PCC and Church officers
Wed	10	S Leo the Great: A greater understanding of the Incarnation
Thu	11	S Martin of Tours: Those who work with the homeless
Fri	12	S Josaphat: Reconciliation between the Churches of East and West
Sat	13	feria: The homeless, the unemployed and the lonely
<b>SUN</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: The Parish and the People of God</b>
Mon	15	feria: That General Synod may be attentive to the guiding of the Holy Spirit
Tue	16	feria: The work and mission of Forward in Faith and The Society
Wed	17	S Hilda: The work and mission of the Mothers' Union
Thu	18	feria: Our local tradespeople
Fri	19	feria: The Unity of Christ's church
Sat	20	feria: Those sharing in our Messy Church
<b>SUN</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>CHRIST THE KING: The Parish and the People of God</b>
Mon	22	S Cecilia: Church musicians
Tue	23	feria: The work of ACS and Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood
Wed	24	S Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions: All who suffer for the sake of the Gospel
Thu	25	feria: The fire, police and ambulance services
Fri	26	feria: Those attending our Christmas Fair tomorrow
Sat	27	feria: The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and its Priests Associate
<b>SUN</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>ADVENT SUNDAY: The Parish and the People of God</b>
Mon	29	feria: The Churches Together in Tonge Moor
Tue	30	<b>S ANDREW:</b> The People of Scotland

## CHURCH WARDENS

David & Ruth Taylor: 31 Wisbeck Road. Tel: 01204 396409

### OFFICERS AND ORGANISERS

*email addresses can be completed by adding "staugustinestm.org.uk"*

PCC Secretary: Katherine Taylor Tel. 01204 531053 - email: pccsec@

Treasurer: Sue Loftus Tel 01204 302051 - email: treasurer@

Walsingham Cell: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586

Church Flowers: please contact the wardens for the time being

Child Protection: Margaret Mullen Tel: 01204 695964 - email: safeguarding@

Brownies: Nichola Smith Tel: 07748 188215 - email: brownies@

Sunday School: Ruth Taylor Tel: 01204 396409

Mothers' Union: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586 - email: mu@

Organist: (St Augustine's) Mike Cheetham Tel: 01204 391963

Organist: (St. Aidan's) Peter Pemrick Tel: 01204 527699

Parish Hall Bookings: Sandra Anderson Tel: 01204 383158  
- email: hallbookings@

Wednesday Morning Coffee Shop: John Harrison Tel: 01204 792691

Caretaker - St Aidan's Hall: Andrew Settle Tel: 01204 450321

Parish Paper: Mike Cheetham - email: magazine@

