



ST. MICHAEL'S TIMES



PARISH MAGAZINE- MAR-APR-MAY 2026

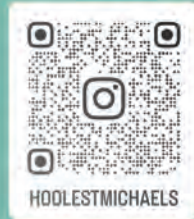
WWW.HOOLEPARISHCHURCH.COM

We actively post weekly updates
from our events and services on
our social media platforms.
Follow us today!

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www.hooleparishchurch.com



Our church is open everyday from
9:30am- 4pm (8:30 on sundays)

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

NEED HELP WITH A WEDDING, FUNERAL
OR BAPTISM?

Curate in Charge- Revd Mandy Hughes -
stmichaelshoole@outlook.com
07791 532461

*if you're not
sure- start
here!*

Church Warden
Jane Elphick
candjelpick@hotmail.com
07977 201199

Parish Office & Administrator-
Sharon Gregson
stmichaelshoole@outlook.com
07802 245634

NEED HELP WITH YOUTH WORK OR
SCHOOL?

Children and Young People's Minister-
Liz Boland
lizboland@yahoo.co.uk
07903 200204

Little Angels Baby and Toddler Group-
Revd Mandy Hughes
stmichaelshoole@outlook.com
07791 532461

Headteacher- Hoole St Michael's Primary School
Mrs Rebecca Holland
head@hoole.lancs.sch.uk
01772 613219

WANT TO JOIN A GROUP?



Ladies Group - Erika Penrose
johnanderika.penrose@gmail.com
01772 613816

Mens Group- Jock Davidson
sgtmajor@talktalk.net
07902 441055

Flower Group-
Lisa Redshaw
01772 614428

ANYTHING ELSE?



Parish Safeguarding Officer-
Jenny Tomlinson
stmichaelshoole@outlook.com
07984 797548

Health & Safety Officer-
Colin Wilson
southview1953@tiscali.co.uk
07905 719831

Verger
Irene Pickles
stanpickles13@gmail.com
07747 607552

Treasurer
Barbara Wood- bw12252@hotmail.com
07745 208617



THE REV'S REVIEW



I am writing this article on the day after we celebrated the Licensing of Revd Sam Crossley (Vicar of St Andrew's, Longton) as Priest in Charge of our Parish, and myself (commissioned) as Curate in Charge of our Parish. It was a real celebration following a time of preparation and interviews. You will see from the photos it was a real joy as Bishop Joe, visiting Clergy, Archdeacon Jane, and Hannah, our Area Dean, led a moving and spirit-led service and of course finished off with delicious cake! (Thank you, Lynn Smith).

So, what does this mean for our Parish moving forward? Revd Sam holds the legal position for the Parish, and a supportive role for my Ministry as I complete my Curacy over the next 3 years. As Curate in Charge, I am responsible for the day to day running of the Parish, the worship (services), funerals, baptisms, etc. and I will be able to celebrate weddings after I am Ordained a Priest at the end of June 2026. This sounds pretty complicated, but all it means is that I have the privilege of leading St Michael's into the next stage of life with the help of God and our wonderful team. Thank you to all who attended, in person and on-line. You can still find the service on our Facebook page if you would like to watch it.

We are about to enter the season of Lent, and this Magazine will also be covering Easter. The period of Lent began on **February 18th with our Ash Wednesday Service**. We also started a Lent Course on Mondays, at 7pm in the Lodge continuing through March. All are welcome.

With so much going on and my diary filling up rapidly including a move to the Rectory, it's easy to leave God at the door and battle on with all the 'stuff', that while important, can also take over. Part of my role is to take time to pray, to study Scripture (the Bible), and go on study days

(I'm still training), but actually aren't we all still training, as disciples of Jesus? Life gets in the way, but Jesus gives us this life, our families, work, leisure and all the other things that we do. I don't know about you but, I give thanks to God for my life, and everyone in it, my family and friends are all dear to me and deserve to be considered in the busyness. Let's just remember that Jesus is our greatest friend, he is our salvation, all things will one day pass away, and we will stand before him in Glory.

The Diocese of Blackburn have dedicated this Centenary Year to renewing our relationship with Jesus. The theme is 'All for Jesus', with our main goal being to deepen and strengthen our relationship with Him. As we move through Lent, we will be doing just that, knowing Jesus and all He is to us and this world. At Easter, we wait for the Joy of the resurrection after the sadness of crucifixion, when Jesus makes Himself known to us, defeating death forever, tearing down the past and opening us up to a direct relationship with God. We only need to ask and eternal life and life in abundance is yours for the taking!

In recent months, there have been many people who have suffered the sadness of loss, my family and I included. I say to all of you, through the tears and sadness, Jesus is with you, loving you, and reassuring you that death is not the end, we will be reunited with those we have lost, and, in the meantime, they rest in his loving arms.

This is the life of resurrection and life with Jesus. If you want to know more and would like to join us at any of our services, please get in touch. All are welcome at any time, and we will be praying for you all. We also want to invite YOU, the people of this parish to contribute articles to our magazine going forward. If you would like to share your faith journey please shoot me an email and let's discuss!

A very blessed Easter time. Christ is Risen; he is risen indeed, Alleluia.

Rev Mandy



(left to right) Jock Davidson (church warden), Revd Michael Woods, Revd Hannah Boyd (Area Dean), Revd Chris Boland, Revd Jane Atkinson (Archdeacon), Bishop Joe, Revd Mandy, Revd Sam, Revd Stuart, Barbara Wood (church warden)





Lenten and Easter thoughts for 2026

by Margaret Kirkman

The calculation of Easter is a complicated one dependent on lunar cycles, hence it is a moveable feast. This year, it is quite early so by the time you read this article Ash Wednesday may already have passed. It only seems a few weeks ago we were in another period of preparation and contemplation as we awaited the birth of the baby Jesus, the Saviour of the world. Now in Lent, we are again in a period of preparation for this is the time we remember the last days of Jesus' ministry on earth, his trial and his cruel and brutal death on the cross. As Christians we know that he will rise from death on that Glorious Easter morn and be seated with his Father in heaven. Even as the knowledge of Christ conquering death brings comfort to us in any period of trouble, adversity, sickness or loss we must keep in mind the importance of the sacrifice God the Father made by sending his only Son to die for us, and the sacrifice that the human form of Jesus made by dying in the cross.

When I was younger, we were always encouraged to "give something up" for Lent, usually sweets or chocolates and we were lucky if it lasted till Mother's Day, let alone Easter! My only real success was giving up sugar in tea and coffee. That was about 60 years ago and I'm still "sugar free". I even discovered that one of our Victorian poets, Gerard Manley Hopkins once gave up writing poetry for Lent, as he felt his writing developed his ego and distracted him from worshipping God. Fortunately, he realised that the two could be compatible and left us numerous poems celebrating God's beautiful creation "Glory be to God for dappled things.... He fathers forth whose beauty is past change Praise Him"

Nowadays we lean towards "taking something on", rather than giving something up. This doesn't have to be a physical activity, although the church never says No to new volunteers, it can simply involve a little more prayer time, reading those obscure

books of the Bible (look what we found out about the Minor prophets in Advent), in taking time to talk to old, and possibly lonely friends, or in just having quiet time away from the busy world.

Whatever you choose, it needs to be a recognised move and hopefully something that will keep going even after Lent. It's a new decision you are making in the name of Jesus as you bring to mind his temptations and suffering and appreciate what he has done and continues to do for you and for every one of us. As Easter day dawns we should not relax in our devotions and our determination.

Indeed, all our lives should be spent in that same attitude of preparation as we await the moment when either Christ calls us home, or returns in glory at the second coming. We need to declutter our lives of all the things that stand between us and God. We need to be ready to give as much as we can and perhaps even a little bit more to His cause. We need to be open to the opportunities of drawing more people to join us and follow Him. It's a lot to ask and a lot to give...and the first step is always the hardest...

Joining the family of God



We warmly invite you to join the Family of God, especially our community at St. Michael's Hoole. As you navigate through life, we offer unique opportunities from birth to beyond, there's truly no age limit to being welcomed into the Kingdom of God.

Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child: This beautiful, simple service allows us to thank God for the precious gift of a child. During this ceremony, we give the child their name and pray for them and their families. This can occur before a baptism, which they may choose to undertake later, or at any time during childhood. **Baptism:** These can happen at any age, and everyone is welcome. From 0-100+ there is no age limit to a welcome in the Kingdom of God. **Confirmation:** At any age from 11 and beyond, those who have been baptized can confirm their faith in church. If you haven't been baptized yet, don't worry; we can assist you with that beforehand! **Renewal of Baptism Promises:** Many people wish to renew the promises made at their baptism, either by their families or themselves, after experiencing a deeper faith. This is typically done at our annual Confirmation Service.

Jesus invites everyone to embrace faith or rediscover Him anew. There are no restrictions based on age or any other factors; all are welcome. We encourage you to visit us and discuss these meaningful moments. There are no fees associated with these special occasions, and a grand celebration is not necessary! The joy is genuine among all believers, and a relationship with God is a wonderful celebration in itself! We will meet with you to prepare for these services, ensuring you make informed decisions and understand their significance. Please feel free to call or email us through the parish email or our contact page on the website.

Our prayers are with you.

Revd Mandy



Space for prayer

Those of you that visit our church will see that we have a space for prayer at the front. It is an opportunity to hang a prayer on our prayer tree, and take a moment for private prayer. We are also available for prayer on the Sundays when we have a Communion Service. If you have particular prayer needs please contact me and we can add you/or the person you want prayer for, to the weekly prayer list, which is read out in Church, or we can pray for you after the service.

We can also guide you towards prayer resources or people who can help in special situations. You don't need to attend Church to receive prayer, but we would love to welcome you to our family, where you can find peace and comfort.

Thank you, our prayers are with you,
Revd Mandy Hughes



HOME FROM HOME

by Jane Elphick

Do you ever go to church when you're away from home?

Over the years, I've visited many churches as I'm sure a lot of you reading this have done. Of course there are the famous churches and cathedrals that everyone has heard of, where you can see incredible architecture, often built over many centuries, with beautiful windows, carvings and stonework. It can be awe inspiring to sit and imagine all the generations of worshippers who have been there before us, and to marvel at the skills of craftsmen centuries ago. It is impossible to imagine how people with rudimentary tools created such soaring spires and intricate details, when even today these structures would be an enormous project to build. But there are also smaller, even tiny, chapels and churches – the sort you stumble across when on a country walk or visiting a seaside village, built by small communities often with limited resources. And then there are

churches you visit for a special occasion – a wedding or funeral or

perhaps one you attend when visiting family members.

People who are not regular churchgoers, and who would perhaps say they do not have a faith, regularly talk to me about feeling emotional when they visit churches.

To me, this is not surprising. Often, it is the sense of history and continuity that has an impact, and many people mention feeling a sense of peace, of finding a place to be calm and rest, a place to think. Music can play a part too – listening to an amazing choir or organ in a beautiful building is much more meaningful than listening on the radio, and perhaps encourages us to appreciate music we wouldn't normally consider.

To me, all these emotions are understandable because our faith is a living faith which rests in the stones of our buildings. But faith also lives in the people of the church, which is why attending a

service when away from home can be so interesting and enjoyable. Time and again, I've been welcomed as a stranger into many different kinds of church services, and quite a few have left a lasting impression on me. The Lord's Prayer being said in many different languages at the same time; looking out onto a beautiful coastline while listening to a choir singing in Cornish; learning unfamiliar hymns; hearing different styles of worship –

all these are experiences that moved and inspired me while sitting in unfamiliar churches. And finally, there are the times when I have been in need of some comfort and peace, and have found the familiarity of a service, and the kindness of others attending, emotional and uplifting. Even though I have been away from my own wonderful church, people of faith have been welcoming, and that to me is equally wonderful.



St Andrew's, Manganui, New Zealand



Bishop Philip's Lent Course
Videos & Discussion

7pm

Feb 23rd
March 2nd
March 9th
March 23rd
March 30th

The Lodge
St Michael's
PR4 5JQ

All Welcome

Contact Revd Mandy
07791532461



FINDING A NEW HOME

BY REV DAVE & GILL

‘Are you coming to suss us out?’ was one of the first questions we were asked a year ago. Yes, we were. Two years ago, our former Archdeacon Mark Ireland was preparing us for our exit from Hesketh with Beconsall, All Saints. He strongly recommended that we come to St Michael’s to see if we could fit in and join you. When an incumbent retires, so much of what they did, collapses at a personal level, and a time of adjustment is needed. We were of course busy in finding a new home. We also needed a new spiritual home, a church to join, a place to meet other believers and join the family. We had a look at a couple of places, but it was obvious to us that St Michael’s was the place for us. We attended, prayed and asked The Lord, ‘where do you want us to be’ and it was, to our joy, here.

So, what did we find? A lovely and warm welcome. A church which loves God. A church which preaches Jesus and teaches the Word. A fellowship of real believers who are dedicated to the Kingdom of God and the cause of Righteousness.

Pews designed to keep us awake during sermons!! A heating system reborn – Praise the Lord. Have you singed your legs yet? We almost did on Warm Sunday 1.

We are still settling in, but a few observations from us. Dave sits down in most hymns – he has chronic arthritis in his back and a knee that refuses to work in an Anglican fashion – an old Rugby training accident. Hence his slow walking. Also, where we sit, he can’t see the screen if he stands up. He also is very lazy by nature and much prefers sitting to standing. Dave also has huge problems with memory – an old medical issue dating back 30 years or so. If you need Dave to do anything, ask Gill to get the diary out and she will get him to the right place.

Gill is a retired peripatetic woodwind teacher. Dave was until 2013 an RE teacher and then School Chaplain and until July 2024 was one of the Chaplains at Hutton Grammar school. Dave is best friends with Rabbi Ariel Abel, an

an Orthodox Jewish Rabbi. We have attended services at Southport Synagogue when he has been on duty there, and he attends Hesketh with Becconsall All Saints and Hoole St Michael's whenever he can. He is of the opinion that for Jews to survive and thrive, this country needs to be resolutely and strongly Christian, hence, his family and ours are trying something new. An alliance of love between Jewish and Christian people. It's fun, wild, educational and we think, unique. Welcome on board to our strange experiment. Our friendship began in the aftermath of the Hamas attack and massacre on October 7th two and a half years ago.

Dave has been asked to give his testimony to the church, this will probably be at a Wednesday Bible study, sometime after Easter. Rabbi Ariel has also agreed to come and speak to us, again at the midweek group. He has also agreed to give us the Aaronic blessing in Hebrew at the end of a morning service and that can happen whenever Rev Mandy feels it is appropriate.

Rev Mandy and I are still getting to know each other, but we seem to be fitting in well together. Once Mandy is Priested, we can sit down and seek the Lord, whether I continue in my pattern here, or go out and take services elsewhere.

So, to all you angels at St Michael's thank you for loving us and welcoming us into the fellowship. This is a true Christian church, loyal to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 'May The Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you, and give you peace'.

Giving at St Michael's

The Church relies completely on the generosity of donations and gifts from both members and visitors. If you wish to contribute, you have several options:

- Place cash in a yellow envelope, available in the church, and drop it into the gifts bowl by the door.
- Use a credit or debit card with our card reader located in Church
- Donate through BACS.



Contactless available
at church

Bank transfer
HSBC - PCC Hoole Parish
Church

Account no 84453034
Sort Code 40 37 25

www.justgiving.com/charity/hooleparishchurch



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY, NOW,
IN THE PAST, AND
INTO OUR FUTURE
TOGETHER**

Your support of your Church is always so very much appreciated when we recognise your time volunteered, your skills shared and your donations given.

In order to meet our commitments, we know your support is our primary source of revenue. You ensure our church continues to thrive by funding clergy, the necessary running costs and a variety of worship which includes welcoming family-friendly services of all types.

We would therefore respectfully ask each and every one of you to continually review your Giving to God's work via His Church. Ideally, we would ask you to do this on an annual basis. So, if it is about a year since you last reviewed your giving, could you please take time out now to think, reflect and pray for guidance.

Thank you most especially to our planned givers; those of you who donate via standing order or the regular giving envelope system because this is an essential element in our budgeting for the year ahead.

2026 PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

(they are pink this year)

These have been available for collection from church since the beginning of December, so if you haven't got yours and you were expecting one, please check church or get in touch.

Not a Planned Giver?

If are a tax payer and do not donate via one of the above methods and would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As a result of ALL the donations we have received in 2025, by whatever method, our projected Gift Aid & GASDS refund claim, to be submitted to HMRC in 2026 is **£10,500.00.**
once again, thank you to you all

Barbara Wood on behalf of the PCC
Treasurer & Gift Aid Recorder



GRANDPARENTS CHURCH

8TH MARCH

3:45

THE VENUE, MUCH HOOLE

BRING ALONG YOUR GRANDPARENTS!



OUR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Report by Liz Boland,
Children & Young People's Minister



Our children and young people have been busy over Christmas and into the new year.

December saw the Toy & Christingle service, which was, as always, well attended and a lot of fun as we thought about what the Christingle stands for and how we were getting ready for Christmas and why that was important. The church members were incredibly generous and my car was full when I took the many donated gifts to the Women's Refuge in Preston.

We then had our Sunday School Christmas party, which was small, but a lot of fun as we decorated biscuits, made some beautiful Christmassy pictures, reminded ourselves why we were celebrating and ate lots of party food.

On Christmas Eve, we had our annual Crib Service. We told the Christmas story as though we were opening an advent calendar. The children (with very little practice)

guided us through, with carols and drama bringing the story together, and a tableau of the nativity at the front of church by the end. Everyone had a good time, and it started the Christmas celebrations for us all.

We came back to launch Children's Church on the 4th January, with special prayers for the children in church before we left the service and a beautiful cake allowing the whole church family to be involved in the launch. Our aim, with Children's Church, is for the children to grow deeper in their faith as we play games, read the Bible, pray, sing, make crafts and talk together about what the Bible passage means.

The change of name is partly about a change of emphasis, with more focus on the Bible, and less on producing perfect and finished crafts and partly to highlight that the work that goes on in the Lodge on a Sunday morning, is an extension

of what is happening at church, rather than an extension of school. The children are very good at reminding me to turn our candle on when we start a session, and making sure it is switched off at the end. They are enjoying the addition of a song each week, and some good conversations happen each week. Family Church came back for 2026 with Kings Church on 11 January. We looked at the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus, saw real frankincense and myrrh, played a game of follow the star, made crowns, made gifts for Jesus and then gave them to Him in our prayers. This was done by leaving the gifts at the manger, even though we talked about Jesus being around 2 years old, rather than a baby when the Wise Men visited. It's great when families come together to worship God and see that having fun is part of worship – we don't have to stand still and keep quiet to worship God!



- 1 March – 10:30 Children's Church**
- 8 March – 3:45 Grandparents Church in the Venue**
- 15 March – 10:30 Children's Church**
- 22 March – 10:30 Children's Church**
- 29 March – 10:30 Children's Church**
- Friday 3 April – 10:45 Children's Hour at the Cross in the Lodge**
- 5 April – 10:30 Children's Church with Easter egg hunt**
- 12 April – NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH TODAY**
- 19 April – 10:30 Children's Church**
- 26 April – 10:30 Children's Church**
- 3 May – 10:30 Children's Church**
- 10 May – 10:30 Children's Church**
- 17 May – 3:45 Birthday Church in the Venue**
- 24 May – 10:30 Children's Church**



LITTLE ANGELS

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

EVERY WEDNESDAY 9:30-11:00AM

HOOLE ST MICHAELS, THE LODGE, PR4 5JQ

TERM TIME
ONLY

£2.50





BIRTHDAY CHURCH

17TH MAY
THE VENUE
15:45



HOOLE ST MICHAEL
CHURCH
WE KNOW, WE CARE, WE BELIEVE

100 • CELEBRATING 100 YEARS •
All for Jesus
OF BLACKBURN DIOCESE

(ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING)
THE APCM 2026

This meeting will take place in the Lodge
Sunday 26th April 2026 after the 10:30 service

Everyone is encouraged to attend but
only members of the Electoral Roll have voting rights

On the Agenda:

Minutes of Last Meeting

Election of Churchwarden(s) & Church Officers

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Electoral Roll Update

Leadership Team Report

Year End Report & Accounts

(previously circulated to PCC & Electoral Roll Members)

The Year End Reports & Accounts 2025

will be available to view in advance of the APCM

no later than Sunday 12th April 2026

from the following sources:

Church website: Hooleparishchurch.com

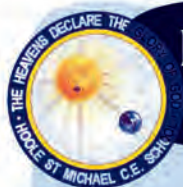
In hardcopy in church: limited supplies available

By email: upon request from the treasurer

This report will provide you with a comprehensive insight into
the life and work of our church over the past 12 months
covering the practical, the pastoral, the people, the outreach,
the services and the finances.

Barbara Wood (Treasurer)

bw12252@hotmail.com / 07745 208617



Life at Hoole St Michael C of E Primary School

by Rebecca Holland, Headteacher

The children here at Hoole St Michaels have bounced back into school for the Spring term with renewed energy. We have been taking part in lot of sporting and extracurricular events. Our children were seen to rise to the challenges of Dance from the heart competition and Spelling Bee, already this half term. In these events the children have the opportunity to compete against children from other local schools.

Whatever your talents there is opportunity to shine at Hoole St Michaels. We are looking forward to more developments in school this term with the introduction of a new sensory reflection space. This is a multiuse space for reflection, quiet contemplation or regulation. We are excited to open this space after our February half term holidays.

Our mental health and pastoral support team have been working closely with the children in our happy art club to design new library space. This will be an exciting development for the children as they will have access to a newly enriched assortment of reading books to share in school and at home. We are excited to open this space on World Book Day, when we celebrate the joy of reading with children being invited to come dressed as a tradition character from a book.

We try to provide as much opportunity for children to shine and have been working hard to provide an increased offer of enrichments. In addition to our breakfast club and after school club at school, we also provide musical instruments lessons for drums, guitar and piano. We also have just established a partnership with Rock Steady Music School. During our lunchtimes we provide sketch club, choir, worship warriors and Christian crafts, in addition to our already full calendar of interschool sports competitions. To help inspire our children and encourage a love of reading we have also invited the traveling bookfair to



our school. Children will be able to come and select a book to buy and take home. To roll this out to our wider community we are installing a new local library outside our school. When completed, please feel free to donate your unwanted, good condition books and take an alternative read home with you.

As with all of our school projects, we need to fundraise and work with many different contractors and

agencies to make these things happen. If you have services in plastering, painting and decorating or landscaping these would be most welcome. As we enter the next phase of our school journey, we are also excited to redevelop our Early Years outdoor play area and outdoor classroom, allowing our children who access forest school to be able to learn outdoors all year round.

We are excited for what Spring has in store our children.



Pop-up Prayer Space at St Michael's



Honey Bees Nursery



- ❖ Ages 3 - 4 years
- ❖ Early Years Foundation Stage Standards for learning
- ❖ Forest School provision
- ❖ Early Education funding can be used
- ❖ Access to before & after school care 7:45am - 5:45pm



Ofsted 2021 'Leaders promote reading well. Staff teach phonics in a logical order, this supports pupils in key stage 1 and children in the early years, to learn sounds.'

CONTACT US

HOOLE ST MICHAEL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

BURSAR@HOOLE.LANCS.SCH.UK

01772 613219





SHARE (Social, Health, and Reconciliation, Education), Faith in Action is dedicated to serving those in need in Romania by promoting education, health, and unity through Christian principles. Our mission is to put faith into practice, focusing on the well-being of individuals facing hardship and fostering ecumenical relationships. Here are some key initiatives:

Jim's House: Raising sufficient funds remains a challenge, with donations covering less than 25% of care costs. Despite this, Jim's House continues to provide a stable and nurturing environment for children like Bianca, Ionuț, and Alex. Through high-quality care and enriching activities, they experience growth in confidence and emotional well-being, highlighting the importance of sustained support.

The Bianca Project: In October, nine dedicated volunteers returned to Speranța for two weeks, facing recruitment challenges due to rising university fees and a shortage of qualified supervisors. Although the number of children at Speranța remains steady, there is a growing presence of children with challenging behaviors, particularly among those who have been abandoned. These children, who might have been placed in orphanages a decade ago, present complex needs. Nonetheless, our commitment to support them remains unwavering.

Dacia Project: We continue to enhance the community in Dacia by renovating Parish Rooms to create a welcoming space for children's classes. Our efforts also ensure that children receive a daily lunchtime meal. A highlight of the year was the visit from the Coventry Cathedral Girls Choir, which brought joy and celebrated community spirit, faith, and friendship.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Hoole St Michaels for their unwavering support. For regular updates, please follow us on Facebook (QR code below)



Facebook



Donate

St Michael's Flower Group

The dedicated flower group decorates
St Michael's weekly with beautiful
arrangements funded by generous
sponsors.

During Easter, Harvest, and
Christmas, the group collaborates to
enhance the church's beauty for
congregations and visitors. We also
provide arrangements for various
events throughout the year, including
Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals.
New sponsors and arrangers are
always welcome.

Get in touch today!

Contact Lisa Redshaw
for more information on
01772 614428

*'Beneath the patient sun, flowers open like quiet smiles in
nature's endless beauty.'*

Flower Group

We would like to thank all our existing and new sponsors and donors for their kind and loyal support, and without whom we could not continue. We therefore look forward to another year of decorating our beautiful church. We also offer a bespoke service of floral arrangements for baptisms, weddings, funerals and other life events, and are always happy to discuss your wishes. We can decorate both inside the church, outside (weather permitting), and on our lychgate. Jillian Davidson is our creator and advisor. Here's a roundup of what we got up to last year!

🌸 Mothering Sunday saw sprays of daffodils given out at each service.

🌸 Lent is a barren time in the church's calendar with no flowers.

🌸 Easter saw a blaze of glorious yellow and white floral creations in celebration of the new life of the risen Christ.

🌸 At Harvest time the church was filled with flowers, fruit, vegetables and much of which was donated by the Burney family. St Michael's school children donated parcels of food during their Friday service and donations were added during the Sunday Harvest Service. The baskets of produce were distributed to local people and the surplus fresh food was donated to the St. Catherine's Hospice kitchens.

🌸 At the service of Thanksgiving for Loved Ones, roses were offered to each member of the congregation as a token of remembrance and comfort.

🌸 Remembrance Day saw the drape of hand knitted and crocheted poppies, by Betty Wignall, over the Tom Wignall Garden. The school children helped create a field of poppies in the churchyard using additional hand-knitted and crocheted poppies. A poignant arrangement using wartime memorabilia, union flag and large poppies was placed by the altar.

🌸 The Christmas arrangements embraced nature, using green garden foliage, white flowers and recycled baubles. Christmas lights helped show off the arrangements as well as lighting our traditional nativity display and beautiful Christmas tree. Many thanks go to Mrs. Ball for the stunning wreath she creates every year for our church door.

Men's Group Update

by Stan Pickles

We began 2026 on January 13th with a talk by one of our own members Geoff Demack, showing us something of a holiday taken about 18 years ago in Russia, and at that time there were no restrictions as to him taking some of the spectacular photographs which added great interest to his talk. The holiday actually was a train journey from Moscow to Beijing. Geoff explained that the track gauge in China is different to that in Russia, and quite remarkably at the border the rail carriage was lifted and supported with a subframe, whilst the under-carriage and running gear was changed to suit the different gauge. The operators carrying out this procedure were all women, and all the passengers had to stay in the supported carriage whilst all this took place. The whole talk was very interesting.

We look forward to another interesting talk on February 10th when one of our regular speakers, Keith Hick, will be telling us all about the 'Bluebird', the story of the record breaking Donald Campbell. This will be followed on March 10th when Mebs Ahmed comes along to give us part three of his life in the Lancashire Constabulary. This is our meeting to which the Ladies Group members are invited.

The men's group warmly invites new members to join, and look forward to continuing our fellowship in 2026.



Men's Group

**Tuesdays (2nd of every month)
19:30**

The Venue, Much Hoole

**for enquiries please contact
Jock Davidson - 07902 441055
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Ladies Group Update

We were delighted that 29 members attended our AGM last month who after the minutes and reports were presented, enjoyed a few games of beetle followed by “prizes” for everyone. The new programme of events for 2026 was well received for which we can thank Sheila and Helen.

So, on 19th February, Sheila Walsh is coming along to speak about “Trains, Boats & Totems”. On 10th March (note it’s at 7.30pm) the Men’s Group members have invited us to their meeting in the Poppy Lounge in the Venue, when Mebs Ahmed is returning to give his third talk on life in the Lancashire Constabulary.

On 16th April we’ll be having a talk entitled “Life as a Journalist” by Angela Danby and on 21st May Roger Woods will be speaking about “Magic, Magicians & Mystery”.

If you are reading this and are interested in coming along to our meetings you would be made very welcome – you could try us for a month before committing to membership. We are a friendly group and do welcome new members. We also offer lifts to anyone living locally who is unable to drive. Do give me a call on 07791 068360 or 01772 613816.

Erika Penrose
Leader



Ladies Group

MONTHLY MEETING
2PM (3RD THURSDAY)

The Venue, Much
Hoole

Any enquiries please contact Erika Penrose on
07791 068360 or 01772 613816
johnanderika.penrose@gmail.com



Parish Registers



The Departed "Rest eternal grant unto them"

GEORGE SAMUEL LINCOLN HUGHES

Died 4th January 2026

Born sleeping 6th January 2026

Church Service followed by burial at the church.

On Thursday the 15th of January, baby George was laid to rest at St Michaels Church, in the presence of his family and loved ones. Carried down the aisle by his father, Ben Hughes (son of Revd Mandy), the service was poignant, emotional and at times peaceful. His big brother Harrison (7) led a tribute, and his mother Rosie helped lower him into the burial site. All who gathered shared in their pain, while Revd Sam Crossley reminded us of all of the Hope that we will one day be reunited with George. He now rests peacefully with his grandfather, Revd Steven Hughes.

**7th January JEAN MURRAY TURNPENNY aged 95 years of
Tarleton.**

Interment of ashes only in the Churchyard.

During the time she lived in Hoole, Jean was a regular worshipper at St Michael's with her husband Lester. However following his death, she moved to Tarleton to be nearer to her family, and for a few years still continued to come to St Michael's. Her death and funeral service took place in September then subsequently in January her ashes were interred alongside those of her husband, in the churchyard.



**29th January JEAN GLEAVE aged 88 years of Little Hoole.
Church Service followed by cremation at Burscough.**

Jean and her husband Barrie were active members at St Michael's, both being heavily involved with the Transit of Venus celebrations in 2004. However, not many years later Barrie died and Jean then decided, as a traditionalist, to transfer her worship from the 10.30am to the 9.00am service of Holy Communion. As is often the case, we found out much more of Jean at her funeral, than we had previously known, getting involved in some quite risky adventures. We continue to pray for her family.



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**Mar
5**

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**May
7**

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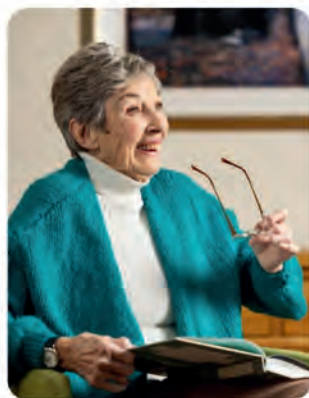
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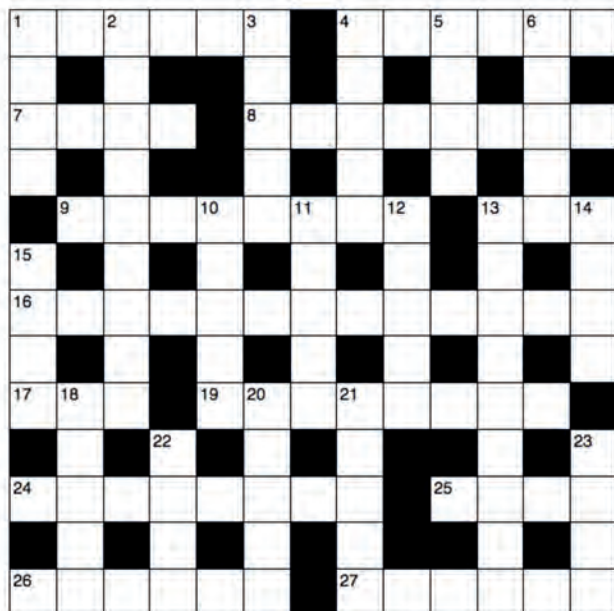
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- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)
Down
1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
4 Belief (5)
5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant —' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
10 A seer (anag.) (5)
11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
20 'Today, if you hear his —, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

Magazine Subscription

We do hope you are enjoying our new look magazine, which on average, is produced bi-monthly with a full parish circulation at Easter and Christmas.

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Children's Colouring Page



March Schedule of Services

Date	9:00 service	10:30 service	Other
1 st March	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Childrens Church
2 nd March			Bible Study 19:00
3 rd March			Midweek Service 10:15am
4 th March			Little Angels 9:30
8 th March	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Family Church 15:45
9 th March			Bible Study 19:00
10 th March			Midweek Service 10:15am
11 th March			Little Angels 9:30
15 th March	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	MOTHERS DAY Childrens Church
16 th March			PCC 19:00
17 th March			Midweek Service 10:15am
18 th March			Little Angels 9:30

22 nd March	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	PASSION SUNDAY Childrens Church
23 rd March			Bible Study 19:00
24 th March			Midweek Service 10:15am
25 th March			Little Angels 9:30
29 th March	Morning Prayer	Morning Worship	PALM SUNDAY Childrens Church
30 th March			Bible Study 19:00
31 st March			Midweek Service 10:15am

April Schedule of Services

Date	9:00 service	10:30 service	Other
3 rd April			GOOD FRIDAY Children's hour at the cross 10:45 Adults hour at the cross 11:00
5 th April	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	EASTER SUNDAY Easter Egg Hunt during childrens church
7 th April			Midweek Service 10:15am
12 th April	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	
14 th April			Midweek Service 10:15am
15 th April			Little Angels 9:30
19 th April	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Childrens Church
21 st April			Midweek Service 10:15am
22 nd April			Little Angels 9:30
26 th April	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Childrens Church
28 th April			Midweek Service 10:15am
29 th April			Little Angels 9:30

May Schedule of Services

Please note all services of Holy Communion in May are subject to change
due to clergy availability

Date	9:00 service	10:30 service	Other
3 rd May	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Childrens Church
5 th May			Midweek Service 10:15am
6 th May			Little Angels 9:30
10 th May	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Childrens Church
12 th May			Midweek Service 10:15am
13 th May			Little Angels 9:30
17 th May	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Family Church 15:45
19 th May			Midweek Service 10:15am
20 th May			Little Angels 9:30
24 th May	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Childrens Church
26 th May			Midweek Service 10:15am
27 th May			Little Angels 9:30
31 st May	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	

This magazine was designed, and produced by Adina Jensen. For enquiries , please contact
adina.jensen07@gmail.com