

Flower List for December/January

3rd ADVENT NO FLOWERS
10th ADVENT NO FLOWERS
17TH ADVENT NO FLOWERS
24TH CHRISTMAS EVE
31st

Flower List is at the back of Church

Or speak to Marjorie Dickinson on 0151 924 5043 or Hilda Cannon on 876192

From our Registers

Weddings

Baptism

5th November Henry James Curtis

Funeral

Dates for your Diary

Family Carol Service

17th December at 4.30pm

During advent there will be a bucket at the back of church for donations for the Christmas Flowers.

Christmas Eve Service

11.30pm

Christmas Morning Service

9.30am

ADVANCE NOTICE

Liverpool Male Voice Choir Concert

10 November 2018

In Commemoration of 100 since the end of the First World War

Will advise near the time the price of ticket



Parish Newsletter of St Michael and all Angels,

Altcar

December 2017 & January 2018 Issue 243

Angel

3rd Sunday

Isaiah ch.64 v1-9
Corinthians ch.1 v3-9
Mark ch.13 v24-end

6th Wednesday

2Peter ch.3 -8-15a
Mark ch.1 v1-8

Christmas Eve

24th Sunday

9.30am Morning Prayers
11.30pm Communion
Service

10th Sunday

Isaiah ch.40 v1-11
Peter ch.3 v8-15a
Mark ch.1 v1-8

13th Wednesday

1Thess ch.5 v16-24
John ch1 v6-8 & 19-28

Christmas Day

25th Monday

9.30am Communion
Service

17th Sunday

Isaiah ch.61 v1-4 & 8-end
Thess ch.5 v16-24
John ch.1 v6-8 & 19-28

20th Wednesday

Romans ch.16 v25-end
Luke ch1 v26-38

New Year's Eve

31st Sunday

9.30am Communion
Service

Coffee Morning will be held on Wednesday 13th December at 10.15am 2017, why not come along and enjoy a chat with a cup of tea/coffee and meet your friends and neighbours or come to the service at 9.45am as well.

A friend at Christmas

The majority of Christmas advertisements that I have seen this year have a clear underlying message. In their glossy, VERY expensive, highly produced messages the advertisers are saying that Christmas is about bringing people together, in family or extended family units. That, they say, is the best place to consume the product they offer. Around the table of

tempting fare from the grocery retailer they show how Christmas can be complete. And that's not a bad sentiment in many ways. It is certainly one which the Church can subscribe to. We are about community, coming together around Jesus, learning together, journeying together as we try to understand God's love for us and the world. Obviously, the gift we want is not materialistic but the precious gift of the God who loved the entire world, and came to us as a poor baby.

But among all these happy messages I have a nagging worry about loneliness. Research in 2016 showed that a million older people face a lonely Christmas, isolated from the festivities and dreading the season. Maybe it is the call of the Church this year, of your Church, our Church, to do something about that isolation.

Over the past few weeks I have been encouraging everyone in the churches to "Bring One Friend" - in other words to think who it is that each one of us might invite into the worshipping and serving life of the Church. When I started talking about this, I had in mind the desire to share God's love with more people. That is the heart of Jesus' story, his mission, and his purpose in life. Jesus, who was born in the relative loneliness of the Bethlehem stable wanted to embrace the whole world and show them the reality of the love of the kingdom of God.

We started talking about "Bringing One Friend" now because we knew that during Advent and at Christmas the Church is still blessed with many ways in which we can connect with our community. We still provide services and events that chime in with the national mood. But we have a still deeper purpose, as we introduce people to the Lord and to the Kingdom. This year, the Christmas, if we can make a bigger difference in one person's life by "bringing one friend" into the community of church and pointing them in the direction of the Kingdom of God then that will be great.

For our table is not filled with the superficial gifts of the consumer-led Christmas; it is the table made by the carpenter. On it are the symbols and gifts of the carpenter. On it are the reminders of his story that started in the Christmas stable and ended in the bursting out of the Easter tomb. Around it are the people he invites into his story, the friends he chose to

bring. It's not an exclusive group - Jesus's table has room for more, for you and me, and - yes! - for the friends we bring.

Bishop Paul Bayes
The Bishop of Liverpool

Contact Information

Priest in Charge **Mark Stanford 386464**
Assistant Priest **David Taylor 873304**
Curate **Poppy Thorpe 461841**
Churchwarden **Liz Chestnutt, 07734004909**
Churchwarden **Dave Hedges 877653**
PCC Secretary **Liz Chestnutt 07734004909**
PCC Treasurer **Carol Kenyon 876133**
Gift Aid Secretary **Sarah Phillips 07525281566**
Electoral Roll **Bob Cannon 876192**
Organist **Les Drewary 875963**

Holy Trinity Office

Phone No. 01704 878913

Email formby.htc.office@btconnect.com

St Michael's Phone Number 01704 832998

Cleaning Rota November

6th Janet Lee & Joyce Horton
13th Janet Barnes & Pat Burns
20th Helen Cormick & Pauline
27th Pam & Alan Jackson

Cleaning Rota December/

4th December Hilda & Bob
11th " "
18th " "
25th

Volunteers needed

Are you able to help with cleaning the church please?

See Liz or Dave

Sidespersons rota December/January

26th November-10th December Mr & Mrs P Collins
17th – 31st December Mrs E Alcock & Mrs J Horton
7th January – Mrs J Wardlaw & Mr D Hedges
28th January – 11th February Mrs M Read & Mrs R Cannon