

**Flower List for December/January**

3<sup>rd</sup> ADVENT NO FLOWERS  
10<sup>th</sup> ADVENT NO FLOWERS  
17<sup>TH</sup> ADVENT NO FLOWERS  
24<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE  
31<sup>st</sup>

**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**

5<sup>th</sup> November Henry James Curtis

**Funeral**

**Dates for your Diary**

**Family Carol Service**

**17<sup>th</sup> 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**

**24<sup>th</sup> 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**

**25<sup>th</sup> 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**

**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday**

9.30am Communion  
Service

Coffee Morning will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:formby.htc.office@btconnect.com)**

**St Michael's Phone Number 01704 832998**

### **Cleaning Rota November**

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

### **Cleaning Rota December/**

4<sup>th</sup> December Hilda & Bob  
11<sup>th</sup> " "  
18<sup>th</sup> " "  
25<sup>th</sup>

### **Volunteers needed**

Are you able to help with cleaning the church please?

See Liz or Dave

### **Sidespersons rota December/January**

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