

Dates for your Diary  
 August 29<sup>th</sup> Holiday at home 2 to 4pm at St Michael's

Contacts

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Organist TBA

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Sidespersons Rota July

23<sup>rd</sup> - 7 July Mrs Reed & Mr R Cannon  
 14<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> July Mr & Mrs Jackson

Cleaning Rota July

Voluntaries are needed for Cleaning

July 1<sup>st</sup> Janet Lee & Joyce Horton  
 8<sup>th</sup> July Sue Taylor & Christine Gregory  
 15<sup>th</sup> July Pam & Alan Jackson  
 22<sup>nd</sup> July Maureen Hendry & Family  
 29<sup>th</sup> July Edwina Alcock & Helen Cormick

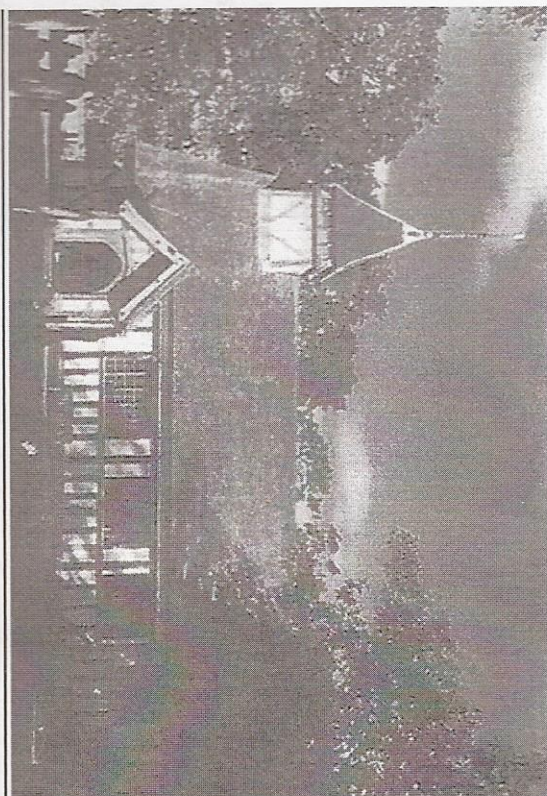
Are you able to help with cleaning the church, please see Liz or Dave?

Flowers for July

6<sup>th</sup> July Wedding  
 4<sup>th</sup> August Joyce Horton

If you wish to donate or buy flowers for the Alter, please see Hilda or Mary.  
 With a special thank you to everyone who has given a donation or provided  
 flowers for the Alter.

**No Coffee Morning will be held in July or August**



**Parish Newsletter of St Michael's and all Angels, Altcar**  
**Angel July & August 2019 Issue 262**

<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>
Romans Ch 12 w 5-18	Ephesians Ch 3 w 20-21	Corinthians Ch 12 w 1-11
Luke Ch 22 w44-48	Luke Ch 1 w 11-25	Luke Ch 17 w 11-19
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>
Genesis Ch 3 w 1-13	Genesis Ch 18 w 1-15	Genesis Ch 29 w 14-35
Romans Ch 12 w 5-18	Ephesians Ch 3 w 20-21	Corinthians Ch 12 w 1-11
Luke Ch 22 w 44-48	Luke Ch 1 w 11-25	Luke Ch 17 w 11-19

Luke Ch 11 w 1-13



As a curate, I spend some time each year experiencing ministry in a different context. After some thought, I decided that I would love to do a placement with the Spiritual Care Team at Alder Hey children's hospital. When I arrived, I thought *this does not feel like a hospital*. Cinderella was playing on a giant TV in front of a pile of bean bags, there was no clinical hospital smell and overall, people seemed cheery.

As soon as I got to the chaplaincy, I was made to feel very welcome. After a cuppa, we went down to the bereavement suites and met a lady from the bereavement team. These suites are designed to be a comfortable space for bereaved families. What those families go through is just unimaginably awful. But it's great that in those dark times, there is a lovely space just for the people who need it.

The next day, I had a tour of the rest of the hospital. Unlike other hospitals, most of the wards in Alder Hey consist of individual cubicles. This means that infection is massively reduced, which is wonderful. However, for the Spiritual Care Team, this makes visiting difficult because it feels intrusive to walk into a cubicle uninvited.

On Wednesday I did a lot of chatting! I saw two mothers and a father who had previously received care from the SC Team following the death of their little ones. These people all greeted the chaplains with smiles and real warmth, clearly fond of them. What a wonderful thing hospital chaplaincy is. It is an opportunity to be alongside families in their ~~darkest~~ darkest moments and to form real ~~bonds~~ bonds with people that stand the test of time.

After that day, I saw a boy who has recently had a brain tumour removed. Despite having temporarily lost his speech, he was full of character. His Dad showed us a video of his son sat in a hospital bed before he went to theatre saying the Lord's Prayer and asking God to keep him safe. It was one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen.

Thursday was taken up with a trip to Bishop's Lodge to meet with other secular chaplains. There were so many! There is a Christian presence in all kinds of places, from retail, to schools, to hospitals, to prisons, to railways! Secular chaplains are out of parish at the coalface of ministry, being a presence in some intense, difficult and challenging environments.

On the final day, I did a lot of thinking about that big question: *Why? Why is it that some families lose their precious children in the most tragic of circumstances?* Sadly, there is no answer.

The Chaplain at Alder Hey has written a booklet about caring for families after the death of a child. It highlights the importance of just being with people in these times, without any clever answers or pithy sayings.

All we can do, as ministers, as Christians, as people, is to be there. I have seen families who have really benefited from the gentle and caring presence of the chaplains, and it is a tiny light in a big darkness. Chaplaincy is not just important, but essential. In those times and places where people suffer, it is vital that we, as a church, equip, encourage and enable people to shine that light.

Full article and pictures available at: <https://revpoppy.com/2019/06/25/5-days-at-alder-hey-hospital/>