

CHORLEY PARISH CHURCH
OF ST. LAURENCE



THE PARISH MAGAZINE
DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020



NOTABLE DATES:

Advent Sunday 1 December

The Nativity of our Lord 24/25 December

The Feast of the Epiphany Sunday 5 January

The Baptism of Christ Sunday 12 January

Christmas Tree Festival Saturday 7 December to 14 December

with Christmas Market on Saturday 7 December from 10.30

WITH FULL DETAILS OF ALL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Suggested Donation **50p**



Chorley Parish Church
of St. Laurence

Christmas Tree Festival Programme

Saturday 7 December to
Saturday 14 December, 2019

with Christmas Market on
7 December





CHORLEY PARISH CHURCH
ST. LAURENCE

THE PARISH MAGAZINE
December 2019/January 2020

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Christmas Tree Festival Events

Saturday 07 December

Christmas Market and Festival

Opened at 10.30 by The Mayor of Chorley



Sunday 08 December

- 08.00 Holy Eucharist (Traditional Language)
- 10.00 All Age Eucharist and Toy Service
- 12.30 for 13.00 Ticketed Lunch
- 15.00 Sunday Light Classics
- Three Organists and a Trumpet

Monday 09 December

- 12.00** Fr Neil
- 19.00 Nativity Play (£3)

Tuesday 10 December

- 12.00** St. Laurence's School
- 19.00 Wreath Making (£15) **SOLD OUT**

Wednesday 11 December

- 12.00** Alan Winstanley
- 19.00 Concert of Medieval Music
(Entrance Fee of £15 payable at the door)

Thursday 12 December

- 13.00** Runshaw College
- 19.00 Holy Eucharist

Friday 13 December

- 13.30** St. Michael's High School
- 18.30 The Bees Country Kitchen
(Tickets available direct from
The Bees, on the Market)

Saturday 14 December

- Festival closes at 16.00
- All lunchtime concerts are free*

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

Christmas (and New Year particularly) often brings about a desire to assess our lives, to look at lessons learned from the year past (or ignore them at our peril) and perhaps to make some firm resolves for the future. That is the theory, at least! We often talk of New Year resolutions, though for Christians they should start on Advent Sunday when the 'new year' really begins.

The message of Christmas is that every moment of every day is indeed a precious gift from God. It is an opportunity either to embrace or reject God; the opportunity to choose one path over another or make a right decision instead of a wrong one. The true message of Christmas – Emmanuel (God-is-with-us) – is one we often fail to live out. We worry so much about past wrongs and the guilt that exists, often being far more harsh on ourselves than our heavenly Father would ever be. We are anxious so much for the future, and what that may or may not bring, that we fail to see the beauty that is staring us in the face. Go to a mirror and look into it. See what I am talking about. I am sure that many of the world's problems would disappear if we learned to love ourselves a bit more and take ourselves as seriously as God takes us!

That is what Christmas is about, you see – it is God's way of taking us seriously. God chose the only way he could to demonstrate just how serious he was about us: he came to be one of us.

Some years ago I had to read a book in preparation for a talk I was giving. It was by Peter Gomes and is called "The Good Book – reading the Bible with heart and mind". It's a fascinating book and full of very insightful approaches. Gomes says that "Good News is not that we are worse than we think but better than we think". He goes on to say that: "...at the very bottom of the whole enterprise is the indisputable fact that we are created, made, formed, invented, patented in the image of goodness itself. That is what it means, that is how one translates being created in the image of God: it means to be created in the image of goodness itself, we are cast from a perfect die and the imprint is on us, and it cannot be evaded or avoided. God made us, male and female, in the image of goodness, and goodness itself is who and what we are, and God pronounced it good, and hence it is good, because, as the kid in the ghetto said, 'God don't make no junk. What God makes is good'."

So look in the mirror this Christmas and view a 'good creation'. God saw all that he had made, and indeed it was very good! However, taking on board the fact that God doesn't create rubbish also challenges the way we view and treat other people. Loving others can be as hard as loving ourselves.

When we fail to try and love others we have lost sight of the spark of God within us. I said to someone the other day that part of me dislikes Christmas because when I wake up on 26th December the world is still in a mess. What has changed?

What can change is that we open ourselves up to the possibility of being changed and of growing in love. When we think that Christmas is about that “happy ever after/soft gooey feeling” then no wonder we are disappointed before New Year arrives. The very tough Christmas message challenges us to believe that we are loved and loveable. But humility is required in order for that to happen! That doesn’t come easy to many of us, despite what we proudly tell ourselves! (How many of us use the word ‘please’ in our prayers, either privately or in public prayer?) And many of us are so much ‘better’ than other people, aren’t we? Humility is the hardest thing in the world. Once you have mastered it, you’ve lost it!

C. S. Lewis (in “Mere Christianity”) said “According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.”

The Christmas Crib, in place until Candlemass, speaks to us of the humility of God, counting the ‘low estate’ the best place on earth to be! “With the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.”

If we do any soul-searching and resolution-making at Advent, Christmas or New Year, it must surely be to try and discover how loveable we are and how we need to let go of our pride and let God take control.

It is a daily process; there are no quick fixes or magic solutions. However, the process can work if we have the humility to allow that to happen. So, if you are looking for a ‘New Year resolution’ I suggest perhaps that you find a few minutes each morning to start the day with the piece overleaf, entitled “Just for Today”.

Try saying this – just for today – and see what happens!

With my love and prayers at this holy season,

Father Neil.



Father Neil, Rev Mo and all the team

send everyone in our congregation and community their warmest greetings at this holy season.

Just for today

Just for today I will live through this day only, and not set far-reaching goals to try to overcome all my problems at once. I know I can do something for 24 hours that would appall me if I thought I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

Just for today I will be happy. Abraham Lincoln said, "Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be." He was right. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. I will chase them out of my mind and replace them with happy thoughts.

Just for today I will adjust myself to what is. I will face reality; I will correct those things that I can correct and accept those things I cannot correct.

Just for today I will improve my mind. I will not be a mental loafer. I will force myself to read something that requires effort, thought and concentration.

Just for today I will do something positive to improve my health. If I am a smoker, I'll make an honest effort to quit. If I'm overweight, I will eat nothing I know to be fattening. And I will force myself to exercise - even if it is only walking around the block or using the stairs instead of the lift.

Just for today I'll do something I been putting off for a long time. I'll finally write that letter, make that phone call, clean that wardrobe or straighten out those dresser drawers.

Just for today before I speak I will ask myself, "Is it true? Is it kind?" and if the answer to either of those questions is negative, I won't say it.

Just for today I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will look as good as I can, dress becomingly, talk softly, act courteously and not interrupt when someone else is talking.

Just for today I will not try to improve anybody except myself.

Just for today I will have a programme. I may not follow it exactly, but I will have it, thereby saving myself from two pests; hurry and indecision.

Just for today I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

Prayers for the Season

Advent

Father in this season of Advent we prepare our hearts for your coming.

You are the vine, we are the branches.

Come and tend us, prune us, clean us.

Discard in us everything that does not bear fruit,

Nourish in us everything that bears much fruit.

As we celebrate your coming as a vulnerable baby

Our hearts await your glorious return
as the eternal King.

Nurture in us expectant hearts, O Lord.

Cultivate in us a deep longing for more of you.

Until that Day when you burst through the heavens,
And flood our horizons with your glorious splendour.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
throughout all ages and generations. Amen.



The Epiphany

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

Darkness covers the earth and its people,

but the radiance of God's Light
burns away its shadows,

illuminates the smallest corner,
and heralds in the start

of a new dawn,

where hearts no longer fear,

souls might be set free,

and sister shall follow brother,

nation shall follow nation,

and kings and princes bow down in awe
before the one who comes to reign.

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

Alleluia! Amen

Prayer and Spiritual Growth

Prayer Chain

The St Laurence's Prayer Chain is available to all who wish to use this small group of church members. They are prepared to pray daily in response to any requests for private prayers. The group treats all requests with sensitivity and complete confidentiality.

Please contact:

Doris Smethurst 410829

Prayer Circle

Prayer circle continues to meet on the 4th Thursday of each month.

No meeting in December

23 January 2020

All are very welcome -

Anne Watts 261036

Cursillo

If you'd like to know more about Blackburn Cursillo please come along, see Sally Calley or Anne Watts, or ask around as there are a lot of members at St. Laurence's.

House Group

Next Meeting:

Thursdays at 10.00

02 January

16 January

at 38 Merefield. PR7 1UR





“Bonding Church and Community Together”

‘Crowd Funding’.

For those of you, like me, who are not overly familiar with what Crowd Funding is and what it tries to achieve, here’s a very brief synopsis: -

“Crowdfunding is a method of raising money through the collective effort of friends, family, colleagues and the general public who have an interest in helping fund the restoration of specific buildings or the supporting of projects in general. This approach taps into the collective efforts of a large pool of individuals.”

‘Friends of Saint Laurence’ started ‘Crowd Funding’ initiatives for two areas in church which need a great deal of work: -

Firstly, **The Stained-Glass Window Appeal**. The Belfry, on the first floor of the Tower looking-out over Park Road towards the Town Hall, has a window, designed by Henry Hughes in 1890, and includes a depiction of the Virgin and Child. The rainwater dripping on to the interiors of these windows is gradually eroding the images so the definition is being lost. Similarly, The Tower Window is fitted with leaded clear glass with smaller glass panels, it has great character and is an important source of light for the Church. However, metal dowels in the stone have corroded and the tracery is cracking and joints coming apart. In order for this window to be preserved, its present tracery must be removed and rebuilt using new stone and stainless-steel pins.

Estimated cost £33,000.

Secondly, **The Organ Appeal**. The Church Organ was built in 1872 and is used for concerts and organ recitals as well as regular worship. Re-builds were carried out in 1952 and 1990 and the organ now needs a refurbishment to replace worn out parts and improve the sound quality and performance. However, prior to the refurbishment, the lead covering the roof of the organ loft needs repairing to prevent rainwater leaking through and damaging the organ itself.

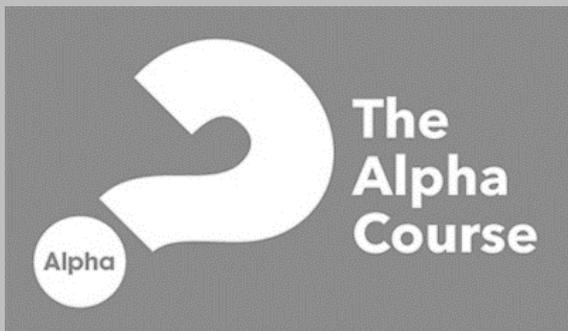
Estimated cost £27,000.

So, a great deal to do, but we can all help – not financially or by getting directly involved (but it would be tremendous if we could). How? By making sure that we mention, again and again, how to access the web-sites for the above **Appeals** i.e.

- If you're a member of a social media group like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc. then '**Share**' the **Appeals** pages at:
<https://www.friendsofstlaurencechorley.org/donations.html>
- Scroll down and you will find the two relevant fund-raising boxes and select the one you're interested in, Stained-glass Window or Organ; key on the relevant 'Donate with Just Giving' box and it will take you direct to the fund.
- From there people can just follow the procedures on how to donate.

In addition to the above, i.e. the fund raising and the church with the wider local community, which is their primary objective, they realise that there are limited resources for getting things done. Why? because the 'Church Family' is already involved with many other projects. That leaves very little for new projects, so, 'Friends' are trying to recruit 'helpers' from outside church, but it's proving difficult. They accept they cannot place too big a burden on an already busy church but if you do know of anybody, who is willing to help, or if you, personally, want to be involved, in any way, let Father Neil, Bernard or myself know.

Paul Lengden (on behalf of 'Friends of Saint Laurence').



explore the
meaning of life

The Alpha course is an evangelistic course which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions. It is described as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life". The course began in Britain and is being run around the world by various Christian denominations

Starts on Tuesday 14 January, 19.00

A Christmas Story

"It was only a couple of weeks to Christmas Eve and the Lord looked down from above at all His children. It had been over two thousand years since the birth of His Son and turning to one of His angels the Lord said.

"Go down to Earth and bring back to me the one thing that best represents everything good that has been done in the name of Christmas."

The angel bowed and descended from heaven to the world of man all the while contemplating his mission. So much had been done in the name of honouring the birth of the Christ Child. For this day, wars had temporarily ceased, cathedrals had been built and great novels had been written. With so little time what could he possibly find to represent all this?

As he soared above the Earth and he suddenly heard the sound of church bells below. Their tone was so beautiful that it reminded him of the voice of God. Looking down he saw a small church whose bells were ringing out the carol 'Silent Night'.

As the final note died away it was replaced by one lone voice singing inside the church. It was shortly joined by a second voice that embraced the first in perfect harmony and then another until a choir of voices rose through the night. Enchanted by the magic of what he was hearing he found himself listening until the song was finished.

As he resumed his flight through the night, he was delighted to hear these sounds everywhere, from the largest cities to the smallest villages. He heard melodies from massive orchestras and in the voices of single soldiers alone at their posts. And any place where he heard these songs, he found hope in the hearts of men. Grasping a song out of the air, he held it in his hand and thought that maybe these songs could be the one thing that best represented Christmas. They seemed to give voice to man's greatest joys as well as hope to those deepest in despair. But, though at first glance it appeared to be the answer he sought, his heart told him that this music alone was not enough. There had to be something more.

So, he continued through the night until he suddenly felt the touch of a father's prayer on its way to heaven. He looked and he saw a man who was praying for his child whom he had not heard from in a long time and who would not be home that Christmas. Seizing upon the prayer, the angel followed it until it reached the lost child.

She was standing on a corner, in a quiet snowfall, looking very small in a very large city. Across from her was an old city Pub, the kind that only the lost seemed to know how to find. The people who were inside rarely looked up from their drinks and seemed not to notice the young woman.

Now, the bartender in this Pub had been working in there longer than anyone could remember. He believed in nothing except his bar and his cash register. He had never married, never took a holiday and as matter of fact, had never been seen out from behind his bar by most of his regulars. He was there when they arrived and he was still there when they left. He gave no credit and for one pound twenty-five, served shorts of un-watered whiskey to people who used their drinks like a moat around their lives. For them, he provided a safe, unchanging world.

Suddenly, the door opened wide and into this world walked a young child. The bartender could not remember the last time that a child had been in this place, but before he could ask him what he was doing there, the child asked him if he knew that there was a girl outside their door who could not get home. Glancing out the window, he saw the girl standing across the street.

Turning back to the child, the bartender asked him how he knew this. The child replied "Tonight of all nights, if you can get home, you'd be already there."

The bartender looked back toward the young woman as he reflected on what the child had said. After several seconds, he slowly went over to the cash register and removing most of the money, came out from behind the bar and followed the child across the street. Everyone in the Pub watched as he spoke with the young woman. After a few moments, he called over a taxi, put the girl inside and told the driver: "Manchester Airport." As the taxi pulled away, he looked around for the child, but the child was gone. And what was stranger still, even though his own tracks leading from the bar were still clearly marked in the snow, the child was nowhere to be found.

Returning back inside, he asked if anyone had seen where the child had gone, but like himself, no one had, for they also had been watching the departing taxi. And then some would later say that the most amazing thing of all happened, for the rest of the night, no one paid for a drink.

Later that night, the angel returned back to heaven and placed in the Lord's hand the wish of a soul for the happiness of another. And as the heavenly host looked on, the Lord smiled."

ANON.

(Submitted by Paul Lengden)

The Singing Dancing God



Do you see dancer, moving through the trees?
Do you see His footprint lingering in the leaves?

For He danced the world into being,
He created the Heavens with song,
And then He created His children,
With a love that's eternally strong.

Do you ever wonder where it all went wrong?
Do you hear Him crying, when He sees you've gone?

His world He intended for dancing,
For singing and laughter and joy,
So He moved in His power to put things right,
with a love we can never destroy.

Do you know He loves you? Really know it's true,
know you are His precious child, no one else like you?

It was Love which descended at Christmas,
Fulfilling what Prophets foretold
For the Prince of Peace and the King of Kings
Is God's gift far more precious than gold.

Do you hear His whisper when He calls your name?
Do you understand child, Jesus took the blame?

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor a pedestal at Christmas in thanksgiving, celebration or in memory of a loved one please put £30 in an envelope with your name on and give it to Pat Roberts or Anne Watts who will give you a card to enclose with the arrangement. Alternatively all donations will be gratefully received.

Thank you



Services and Events for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany 2019 -20

ADVENT

December 2019

Sunday 01 Advent Sunday

08.00 Holy Eucharist (Traditional Language)

10.00 Parish Eucharist

18.30 Advent Carol Service at St. George's

Tuesday 03 12.15 Holy Eucharist

Thursday 05 19.00 Holy Eucharist

Sunday 08 Second Sunday of Advent

08.00 Holy Eucharist (Traditional Language)

10.00 All Together Eucharist and Toy Service

Tuesday 10 *No Lunchtime Eucharist*

Thursday 12 19.00 Holy Eucharist

Sunday 15 Third Sunday of Advent

08.00 Holy Eucharist (Traditional Language)

10.00 Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 17 12.15 Holy Eucharist

Thursday 19 19.00 Holy Eucharist

Saturday 21 December 19.30
in The Lancastrian, Chorley Town Hall
Choral Society with Intrada Brass

Sunday 22 December Fourth Sunday of Advent

08.00 Holy Eucharist (Traditional Language)

10.00 Parish Eucharist

15.00 Sunday Light Classics : Christmas Voices

18.30 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
at St. George's Church

Monday 23 December

19.30 Guild Singers Concert in Church

CELEBRATING OUR LORD'S NATIVITY

Tuesday 24 December | Christmas Eve

15.00 Blessing of the Crib, Procession and Carols

16.30 Blessing of the Crib, Procession and Carols

**23.30 Midnight Mass, Procession
and First Communion of Christmas**

(Incense will be used)

Wednesday 25 December | Christmas Day

10.00 Parish Eucharist for the Family

Christmas Day Lunch served at 12.00 and 13.30 – All are welcome!

Thursday 26 December | St. Stephen, First Martyr

10.00 Holy Eucharist at St. George's

Friday 27 December | St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

10.00 Holy Eucharist at St. Laurence's

Saturday 28 December | Holy Innocents

10.00 Holy Eucharist at St. Laurence's

Sunday 29 December | The Holy Family
08.00 Holy Eucharist (Traditional Language)
10.00 Parish Eucharist

EPIPHANY AND CANDLEMAS

January 2020

New Year's Day (Wednesday 1 January)

10.00 Holy Eucharist at St. George's

(Note No Eucharist on Tuesday 31 Dec and Thursday 2 Jan)

Saturday 04

10.00 - 13.00 in Church Messy Epiphany

Sunday 05 Eve of The Epiphany of Our Lord

08.00 Holy Eucharist (Traditional Language)

10.00 Parish Eucharist

18.30 Epiphany Carol Service at St. Peter's

Tuesday 07 12.15 Holy Eucharist

Thursday 09 19.00 Holy Eucharist

Sunday 12 The Baptism of Christ

08.00 Holy Eucharist (Traditional Language)

10.00 Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 14 12.15 Holy Eucharist

Thursday 16 19.00 Holy Eucharist

Sunday 19 Second Sunday in Epiphany

08.00 Holy Eucharist (Traditional Language)

10.00 Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 21 12.15 Holy Eucharist

Thursday 23 19.00 Holy Eucharist

Sunday 26 Third Sunday in Epiphany

08.00 Holy Eucharist (Traditional Language)

10.00 Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 28 12.15 Holy Eucharist | Thursday 30 January 19.00 Holy Eucharist

Sunday 02 February Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

08.00 Holy Eucharist (Traditional Language)

10.00 Parish Eucharist | 18.30 Solemn Evensong

December 2019

| | | | |
|-----------|----|-------|---|
| Wednesday | 04 | 10.30 | Quiet Day @ Tabor Retreat House, Preston |
| Saturday | 07 | 10.30 | Opening by The Mayor of Chorley of the CHRISTMAS MARKET CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL Open each day 10.00 to 16.00 till Saturday 14 December |
| Sunday | 08 | 15.00 | LIGHT CLASSICS <i>Three Organists and a Trumpet Christmas Special</i> |
| Tuesday | 17 | 19.15 | PCC |
| Saturday | 21 | 19.30 | Chorley Choral Society Christmas Concert with Intrada Brass @ The Lancastrian at the Town Hall |
| Sunday | 22 | 15.00 | LIGHT CLASSICS <i>Christmas Voices – Directed by Alan Winstanley</i> |
| Monday | 23 | 09.00 | Rehearsal for Christmas Services |
| | | 10.00 | Christmas Clean and Flowers from 10.00 onwards |
| | | 19.30 | GUILD SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT |

January 2020

| | | | |
|-----------|----|-------|--|
| Wednesday | 01 | 10.00 | New Year's Day Holy Eucharist at St. George's |
| Saturday | 04 | 10.00 | Messy Epiphany (with members of St. George's) |
| Sunday | 05 | 18.30 | Feast of the Epiphany Epiphany Carol Service at St Peter's |
| Sunday | 12 | 15.00 | LIGHT CLASSICS – Angela Hicks (Soprano) |
| Tuesday | 14 | 19.00 | Alpha Course |
| Wednesday | 15 | 19.15 | PCC |
| Tuesday | 21 | 19.00 | Alpha Course |
| Saturday | 25 | 10.45 | Holocaust Memorial Service (Astley Park) and launch of the Chorley Interfaith Forum |
| | | 19.00 | 'Thank You' and 'Welcome' Social Evening (St. Laurence's School) |
| Sunday | 26 | 15.00 | LIGHT CLASSICS – Alan Winstanley (Organ) <i>Mayflower 400 Theme</i> |
| Monday | 27 | 19.30 | Service of Healing and Wholeness |
| Tuesday | 28 | 19.00 | Alpha Course |

St Laurence's Light Classics Sundays at 15:00 £5 includes Tea and Cake

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 12 January | Angela Hicks (Soprano) with Neil Kelley (Piano) |
| 26 January | Alan Winstanley (Organ) Mayflower 400 Theme |
| 09 February | Innsaei String Quartet |
| 23 February | Jack Rainey (Flute) with Neil Kelley (Piano) |
| 08 March | Festivo Winds |
| 22 March | The Guild Singers |
| 26 April | South Ribble Strings |
| 10 May | Kevin Gowland-Mahon (flute) with students from the Royal Northern College of Music |
| 24 May | Lynne Rogers (Soprano), Jack Howard (Oboe) and Brenda Redmond (Piano) |
| 14 June | Camira (Wind Trio) |
| 28 June | George Laurence Singers |
| 12 July | Brian Williams (Baritone), Alison Davies (Mezzo Soprano) with Neil Kelley (Piano) |
| 26 July | Harvey Stanfield (Organ) |
| 13 September | Julie Bale (Soprano) and James Mooney-Dutton (Piano) |
| 27 September | David Usher (Baritone) and Neil Kelley (Piano) |
| 11 October | Light Classics Recital Peter Morrison (Organ) and Ian Hunter (Trumpet) |
| 25 October | Chuva Guitar Duo |
| 08 November | Aquarius String Quartet |
| 22 November | Gordon Blackledge (Organ) |
| 13 December | Christmas Special Directed by Alan Winstanley |

What Does the Christian Church say about the Environment?



For many Christians, the guiding principles are to respect God's creation, not to exploit any aspect of it, and to accept that we are only 'stewards' and need to consider the needs of future generations. In the recent past many Christian Denominations have applied the principles of taking an active stand in reducing our personal 'carbon footprint' on the environment. Here is a summary of what the major Denominations have said on the subject: -

1

The Roman Catholic Church has responded to the challenges by stressing the need for every individual and nation to play their part.

The important points that the Church makes include the beliefs that: -

- a. creation has value because it reveals God the creator;
- b. creation has value in itself;
- c. humanity depends on God and everyone has a responsibility for the World and the environment.

Pope John Paul II said: -

"...the dominion granted to man by the Creator is not an absolute power, nor can one speak of a freedom to 'use and misuse', or to dispose of things as one pleases."

2

The Church of England has made many statements about environmental issues.

The Anglican Communion Environmental Network said the following: -

"Christianity is first and foremost a concern for the whole of the created order -- biodiversity and business; politics and pollution; rivers, religion and rainforests...

...If Christians believe in Jesus, they must recognise that concern for climate change is not an optional extra but a core matter of faith."

Anglican Communion Environmental Network.

3

The Methodist Church has identified that mission includes 'caring for the Earth' in the life of the Church at national and local level.

“Christian mission includes sharing in putting right the relationships within God's creation that have gone wrong, and growing towards the balance and good stewardship envisaged in the Biblical vision of the world as it is meant to be.”

4

The Evangelical churches are very aware of how much environmental issues are linked to human poverty:

“We recognise that poverty forces people to degrade creation in order to survive; therefore, we support the development of just, free economies which empower the poor and create abundance without diminishing creation's bounty.”

Evangelical Declaration on the Care of Creation 1994

This principle could apply to the issue of deforestation, especially when it is carried out by poor people who are trying to grow enough food for their families.

5

The **Quakers** are very conscious of humanity's effects on the Earth. They encourage their members to make changes in their lives which enable them to live simply and minimise their exploitation of the Earth:

“Where we see crisis, we also see opportunity to remake society as a communion of people living sustainably as part of the natural world. By leading the simpler lives of a low-carbon society, we draw nearer to the abundance of peace, freedom and true community.”

So, the Christian view, obviously, sees the universe as created by God, and humankind accountable to God for the use of its resources. Stewardship, for many Christians, is the guiding principle to respect God's handiwork of creation, not to exploit any aspect of it and, also, to be aware of the needs of future generations.

Paul Lengden (on behalf of the Prayer and Spirituality Group)

CHORAL EVENING SERVICES 2020 at 18.30

05 January

Epiphany
Carol Service

St. Peter's

02 February

Solemn Evensong

St. Laurence's

01 March

Choral Evensong

St. George's

12 April

Festal Evensong
for Easter Day

St. George's

Mayflower 400 | A year long Celebration

A collaboration of Chorley's heritage and cultural societies, the Myles Standish Steering Group, is launching this exciting project centred upon the Pilgrim Fathers' military captain, Myles Standish. Given 2020 sees the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Pilgrim Mayflower and the establishment of New Plymouth in America, this is a timely step.

A year long programme of activities will begin with fireworks, music and drama at the ancient Parish Church of St Laurence's Chorley, a key supporter of the project. A short history of Myles' life will be distributed free to libraries, schools and other community hubs. There will be several lectures, guided walks and interpretative tours of Myles related sites such as St Wilfrid's Standish, Duxbury, which name Myles used for his own settlement in America, and villages like Croston and Mawdesley wherein he claimed lands. Highlights include a Gala Concert in the Town Hall in May, a Pageant focused on Duxbury in the summer and a Thanksgiving service at St Laurence's in November 2020.

The town should see many new visitors to Chorley, not least from America. Volunteers to assist events and local business owners to monitor footfall will be most welcome. Chorley and district folk should find many free and interesting events and younger people in particular will benefit from educational materials, opportunities and the fun of the pageant.



Gala Concert

Saturday 16 May 19:30

The Lancastrian @ THE TOWN HALL

CHORLEY CHORAL SOCIETY, THE GUILD SINGERS AND
CONCERT ORCHESTRA WITH JOYCE TINDSLEY SOPRANO

*including Feel the Spirit - John Rutter and music by
Elgar, Copland and other American Music*

Service of Thanksgiving

to mark the end of the
Mayflower 400 celebrations

Sunday 15 November 2019, 16:00 in Church

With Brass Ensemble and local choirs



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Chorley Cricket Club

Sandringham Road, Chorley

Tel: 01257 275096

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For more details ring Tracey Holding on:

07594 633948

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from the Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into the family of the church:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| <i>15 October</i> | Reggie-Lee Speakman Edward (Teddy) Thomas Lister Emily Elizabeth Constable Jack Thomas Peter Brindle |
| <i>17 November</i> | Noah John Moss Samuel Walter Hester Marcie Sophia Atherton Isla Williams Willis-More |

Funerals

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| <i>18 November</i> | Alan Hunter |
| <i>19 November</i> | Urmila Clare Gregson |

✠ *May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

Donations

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Mrs L Johnson | 200.00 |
| James Laider | 50.00 |
| Paul Lengden | 160.00 |
| Anon | 1000.00 |
| Anon | 10.00 |
| Anon | 10.00 |
| Anon | 40.00 |

Harvest Flowers

Anonymous Donations and Collections of:

*25.00, 20.00, 39.10, 5.00 and 28.50
were gratefully received*

117.60

Preparing for Christmas: Monday 23 December

Rehearsal for Christmas Services 09.00 Clergy | Servers | Organist | Duty Warden etc

Christmas Clean and Flowers from 10.00 onwards

Money Matters & Parish Statistics

September and October, 2019

Regular Income

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Refectory Opening September | 669.00 |
| Refectory Opening October | 650.00 |
| Coffee after Sunday Morning Service | 133.00 |

Other Donations

Candles 4.00 | Books 23.00 | Wall Safe 43.00 | Cards 4.00

Fund Raising Events

| | |
|--|---------|
| Sunday Raffle (Tea and Cakes, 1 st September) | 50.00 |
| Flower Demo (6 September) | 450.00 |
| The Hoyles 'at home' | 1361.00 |
| Chorley Live Refreshments and 25% of Ticket Sales | 428.00 |
| McMillan Coffee Morning | 300.00 |

Light Classics

| 13 Oct | 27 Oct | 10 Nov | 24 Nov | Running Total 2019 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| 267 | 223 | 198 | 215 | £5,833 |

Weekly Attendance and Collections : September 2019

| Week ending | 01 | 08 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sunday | 162 | 242 | 154 | 177 | 208 |
| Mid-week | 12 | 46 | 23 | 39 | 23 |
| Cash £ | 151 | 268 | 137 | 190 | 276 |
| Envelopes £ | 520 | 586 | 413 | 548 | 498 |

Weekly Attendance and Collections : October 2019

| Week ending | 06 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| Sunday | 262 | 175 | 159 | 160 | |
| Mid-week | 17 | 33 | 31 | 21 | |
| Cash £ | 327 | 207 | 119 | 382 | |
| Envelopes £ | 455 | 461 | 569 | 498 | |

Parish Organisations

The following organisations meet in Church

SCRAMBLERS, CLIMBERS AND EXPLORERS

Sunday School 3 to 10 years

The children join the start of the 10.00 service before going to their classes.

They re-join their parents for the conclusion of the service.

Contact : Michelle Wareham 07970 559853

LITTLE EXPLORERS in School

Kathy Bentley 278848

PATHFINDERS

Michelle Wareham (See above)

MOTHERS' UNION

First & Third Thursday, 19.30 – 21.00

Secretary: Irene Jenkinson 264312

Treasurer: Kath Sharples 264975

Branch Leader: Jean Fishwick 263658

MEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Second Thursday, 19.45 – 21.00

Chairman: Rob Kelly

Secretary: Eric Crompton

BELLRINGERS

Thursday 19.30 – 21.00

Ringing Master:

David Thistlethwaite 271904

BAPTISM AND WEDDINGS

For baptism or wedding enquires contact the Parish Office.

CHOIR AND WORSHIP GROUP

Meet at 9.25 each Sunday.

For further details contact:

Alan Winstanley 241995

CURSILLO

Meetings are advertised on the notice board or contact:

Sally Calley 413891

Anne Watts 261036

The following organisations meet in St. Laurence's School

CHURCH LADS' AND GIRLS' BRIGADE

Wednesday 18.00 – 19.00

Band 19.00 – 20.00

BROWNIES

Tuesday 18.00 – 19.00

Liz Davy 233567

GUIDE ASSOCIATION

RAINBOWS

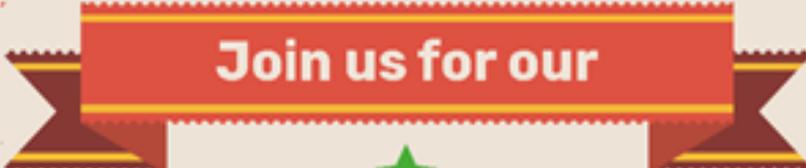
Thursday 18.00 – 19.15

Julia Joteko 231845

GUIDES

Tuesday 19.30 – 21.00

Julie Eccles Mob: 07720843894



Join us for our



CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

At St Laurence's, Union St, Chorley

25th DECEMBER 2019

12noon & 1.30pm

A free, traditional Christmas dinner for anyone who would appreciate some food and company on Christmas Day.

No need to book in beforehand, just come along to the Refectory. Dinner will be served at 12 noon and again at 1.30pm.

All are welcome.

The Parish Directory

Web site: www.stlaurencechorley.co.uk

The Parish Office : Tel (01257) 231360

Email: office@stlaurencechorley.co.uk

Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 09.15 – 14.00

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Rector | Fr Neil Kelley | 266037 |
| Assistant Curate | Revd. Mo Baldwin | 07592 838726 |
| Assisting Clergy | Canon Ken Barrett Revd Martin Wray | |
| Licensed Reader | Joan Hayward | 234706 |
| Church Warden | Bernard Oakley | 01254 831693 |

Parish Staff and Officers

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Bookings Officer | Betty Kelly | 279983 |
| Church Archivist | Wally Rouse | 231360 |
| Church Historian | David Thistlethwaite | 271904 |
| Deanery Synod Reps | Kathy Bentley, Tony Checker, Paul Lengden | |
| Deputy Wardens | Margaret Shackleton | 279818 |
| | Anne Watts | 261036 |
| Events Co-ordinator | Claire Hale | 231360 |
| Hon PCC Secretary | Michelle Wareham | 07970 559853 |
| Hon Treasurer | James Laidler | 231360 |
| Organist and Dir. of Music | Alan Winstanley GLCM LLCM | 241995 |
| Parish Administrator and Rector's PA | Jackie Gemson | 231360 |
| Parish Safeguarding Officer | Mark Wilkinson | 07731 765089 |
| Pastoral Assistant | Phil Hall | 415602 |
| Pastoral Assit. <i>Emeritus</i> | Dodie Jones | 265189 |
| Publicity Officer | Karen Pemberton | 241223 |
| Ringling Master <i>Emeritus</i> | David Thistlethwaite | 271904 |
| Site Manager | Rob Kelly | 279983 |
| Stewardship | Parish Office for enquires | 231360 |
| Verger <i>Emeritus</i> | Philip Staziker | 265478 |
| Wardens <i>Emeritus</i> | Rob Kelly 279983 David Thistlethwaite | 271904 |

Schools

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------|
| St. Laurence CE Primary | Headteacher | Mrs E Marquis | 262940 |
| St. Michael CE Academy | Headteacher | Mrs J Jenks | 264740 |

Magazine

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|--------|
| Production | Alan Winstanley | 241995 |
|------------|-----------------|--------|

Email news/events to alan@stlaurencechorley.co.uk

Deadline for February/March 2020 Edition : Wednesday 15 January, 2020

