



## ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY UPDATE ISSUE NO 91 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

### INTRODUCTION

- If you have a friend or neighbour who would like to receive this, please forward their details.
- I also invite you to send in poems, quizzes and jokes!
- For all correspondence, please use [office@stombsands.org](mailto:office@stombsands.org)

### SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Date	Day	Time	Service / Notes	Livestream / Location
26/11	Sun	10.30am	<b>Toy Service *</b>	<a href="https://youtube.com/live/grgiG0Jlwss?feature=share">https://youtube.com/live/grgiG0Jlwss?feature=share</a>
		6.30pm	Holy Communion **	Small church hall.
3/12	Sun	10.30am	Advent Sunday Holy Communion	No livestream this week
6/12	Wed	10.30am	MU Holy Communion	
10/12	Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion	<a href="https://youtube.com/live/nO1fxyyo65g?feature=share">https://youtube.com/live/nO1fxyyo65g?feature=share</a>
17/12	Sun	4.00pm	Carol Service	<a href="https://youtube.com/live/roZSps697Y?feature=share">https://youtube.com/live/roZSps697Y?feature=share</a>
24/12	Sun	4.00pm	Christingle	<a href="https://youtube.com/live/hwOcmxl4suU?feature=share">https://youtube.com/live/hwOcmxl4suU?feature=share</a>
25/12	Mon	10.30am	Christmas Morning Family Celebration	<a href="https://youtube.com/live/yE8l2QZEWV4?feature=share">https://youtube.com/live/yE8l2QZEWV4?feature=share</a>

### NOTICES AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Jocelyn Mayne

We are sad to announce the death of Jocelyn Mayne  
Her funeral will be on Wednesday 6th December 12.30pm at St  
Michaels Church.

#### **\*Toy Service - Sunday 26th November**

The Salvation Army Brass Band will lead our Worship.  
There are two ways you can support the Christmas Children's appeal by  
Walton Salvation Army.

1. Bring new unwrapped Christmas Presents for either boys or girls  
0-18.
2. The collection on Sunday will go to their Christmas Appeal.

**\*\* 6.30pm Evening Communion.**

This service will be held in the warmth of the Small Hall.

**Mothers Union**

The Open meeting 2.00pm Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in the small church hall, welcomes Carol Lloyd speaking on South Africa.

MU Diocesan Carol Service 2.00pm Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 – all welcome.

**The Arts Society**

Next meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024, at 2 pm in the church hall.

Lecturer: Keith Bonser

Topic: Caravaggio

On 14 February Anna Beer is speaking on Literature and Feminism.

Please put the dates in your diary. Richard Ainsworth

**Community Christmas Dinner at St Michael's School (Free)**

(replaces Heavenly Food this month)

Will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 12.00 noon.

*For catering purposes please phone Clare on 924 0561 and leave a message or email [office@stmbsands.org](mailto:office@stmbsands.org) by 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023.*



**Carol Concert  
Merrilocks Park**



## Remembering and Thanking.

Last Sunday we had a very moving service for all those who have lost loved ones. Helen outlined different types of bereavement and Jean very bravely shared about her own bereavement. The pain of loss is brilliantly captured by this poem by Jeffa Kay.

### The Bed by Jeffa Kay

*There was a moment when I knew that the counsellor did not understand.*

*I referred to your side of the bed, and indicated with my left hand where you should be. She looked puzzled, 'But it's your bed now. You have lived alone for two years. I think you should somehow come to terms with the fact that you alone own this space.'*

*She has not been widowed. I have a friend who likes the weight of trade magazines beside her. Another where the disordered state reminds her of the man who tossed and turned for thirty years and half compensates for the unnatural silence, dulls the fears when she wakes in the dark, alone in her space.*

*My mother was alone in bed for twenty years, and in her illness his side became a desk, undisturbed by her unnatural stillness, so pens and scissors for newspaper cuttings could safely lie with no fear that they would cut her throat or pierce an eye. What do I keep, what do I do to own this space?*

*On your pillow lies a warmable lavender filled bear, here the crossword puzzles I cannot complete alone and there, on your bedside table, bookmarked, the last novel you started. I will finish 'Birdsong' for you, one day. Sad song. Broken-hearted. Will I feel better if I own our space?*

I have encouraged Jeffa next Sunday to bring a supply of her booklet entitled 'Step by Step', poems of grief. £5 These would be good to give to family and friends who are grieving. Neil

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW BISHOP

This will be my first Christmas among you in Liverpool and I am looking forward to experiencing how you do Christmas in Liverpool. Over many years in many places, I notice how churches build their own fabulous traditions around Advent and Christmas and I am excited to see how you mark this great festival.

But I am reminded that in our extravaganza and paraphernalia of festivities, we can lose sight of the harsh realities of the nativity story: a stable, the cold night, the Inn's closed door, refugees fleeing to Egypt, the brutal slaughter of the innocent.

These harsh realities mirror the harsh realities of the world we live in. We see war, natural disasters, chronic anxiety, and poverty all around us. God embraced this world when sending Jesus at Christmas and God asks us as a church, who face challenges of our own, to lift our heads and show love to the world. To be encouraged by the nativity story and encourage others because of it.

Have a blessed, peaceful, hope-filled Christmas.  
Bishop John

### ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE



Neil Short 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Getting back to normal with God's help.



**WHO'S WHO at St Michael's**

Vicar	Rev Neil Short
Vicar's PA	Clare Kerrigan
Churchwardens	Richard Kemp / Brian Dunning
Treasurer	Jenny Givens
Readers	Helen Hunter / Bill Mainey
Safeguarding Officers	Lorna Swainbank / Helen Hunter
Mothers Union	Bev Boden
Children's Work	Lucy Faulkner
PCC	Lynne Bold / Phil Flynn / Cynthia Rees / Colin Robinson / Jenny Givens / Richard Kemp / Brian Dunning / Helen Hunter / Bill Mainey
PCC Secretary	Jan Owen
PCC Chair	Rev Neil Short
Deanery Synod Reps	Helen Hunter / Bill Mainey / Lynne Bold / Rev Neil Short