



BELOW THE PIKE

February 2026

THE MAGAZINE OF THE HORWICH & RIVINGTON TEAM CHURCHES

Price 90p

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MARCH 2026

DEADLINE: 15th FEBRUARY

Publication date:

MARCH 1st

We welcome contributions from you—articles, poems, photos, humour (clean!), reminiscences etc - it is your magazine! Details of who to contact are on page two.

HAPPY NEW MAGAZINE YEAR!

We hope you have had a good Christmas and will have a happy and healthy 2026.

Our Team Churches' magazine, Below the Pike, is published 10 times a year; the months of July/August and December/January are double issues. It can be delivered to you each month or you can collect a copy from church.

There is the option of an annual subscription or pay per copy. Sadly, as with everything these days, we have to implement a price increase. The printers are very fair to us, not increasing the price unless they have to and then the increase is never astronomical and we are thankful for that. For 2026 the price will be **90p per copy or £9.00 for the 10 issues**. Please pay your distributor or put the money in an envelope marked 'magazine' and hand it in at church.

Alternatively there is an online version— see online links on page 2. There is no charge for the electronic issue though if you do access this version **donations would be welcome to help balance the printing costs of complimentary issues given to visitors.**

Ash  Wednesday

February 18th SERVICES:

9.30am Holy Communion

**at Holy Trinity Church, Church Street,
Horwich BL6 6AA**

and

**7pm Holy Communion at St Elizabeth's
Church, Cedar Avenue, Horwich BL6 6EU**

OUR CHURCHES

If you have any concerns for yourself or anyone else please contact:

Holy Trinity and Rivington: Revd Nicola Butterworth on 07706979393

St Catherine's:

Revd Nicola Butterworth on 07706979393

St Elizabeth's:

Revd Gill Smart on 01204 468271

Due to occasional necessary changes to our service format, please check our churches on the A CHURCH NEAR YOU website for up to date information.

To access our churches' Web pages please go to:

Www.achurchnearyou.com/16052 for Holy Trinity; 16053 for St Elizabeth's; 16054 for St Catherine's and 16056 for Rivington



BISHOP MATTHEW NOTICES

Check out Bishop Matthew's column every other Saturday in the BOLTON NEWS
<https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news>

BELOW THE PIKE

Below the Pike is published by the Team Council of the Anglican Churches of Horwich and Rivington. Its aim is to link the Team Churches with each other and the wider community of Horwich. The contents are not exclusively religious, but encompass any matters of Christian or local interest or concern. Anyone who would like to make a contribution—article, photo, review, anecdote, event through the Editorial Team is most welcome. **Please be aware that articles do not necessarily reflect the thoughts of the Editor or Editorial Team, who are:**

Editor: Margaret Broadfoot: 01204 690283 or email: mbroadfoot283@btinternet.com

Nicola Butterworth (Team Rector) 07706 979393; Cynthia Pearcy: 01204 695737; Caroline Wakefield: 07812 994516; Gill Smart 01204 468271; Carolynn Higson 01204 695450



1st Sunday of the Month—6.30pm for 7pm, (refreshments from 6.30)

St Elizabeth's Church, Cedar Avenue, BL6 6EU

February 1st—speaker Rick Otto; theme Temptation or Suffering (James 1)

March 1st—speaker Gill Smart; theme Knowing or Doing (James 2)

ALL WELCOME!

**MONTHLY MUSINGS
FOR
FEBRUARY**

**This month is about—
“OVERWHELMED”
By Lynn Mitchell**

We, St Catherine's Home group, gathered at Rev. Caroline Tracey's for our first meeting of 2026, small in number - one person at a medical appointment, one person still unwell after a number of weeks, and one with car problems. We shared our Christmas joys, our family news and our Church family news - health and ageing and mobility problems and wondering what the Lord had in store for us all in 2026 - particularly with the deteriorating world news with invasions, bombings and threats from greedy powerful nations acting with apparent impunity. We then received a text telling us that the Lord had called yet another of our faithful Team Church leaders to glory and our need to support in prayer his lovely wife, the family and friends. We turned to the Day's reading and reflection from Daily Bread about Jesus calling the disciples and the time He spent living with them and guiding them and how important it is to spend time regularly in prayer. We turned to prayer - I was absolutely overwhelmed - where do we start? - the needs are so great! - HOW ON EARTH DO I PRAY?? In the silence we just lifted names and situations to the Lord.

After the meeting, I arrived home and the Prayer letter from **Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF)** had just arrived and there in the middle was a superb article entitled " HOW ON EARTH DO I PRAY?? " - written by Jess Soames (Prayer Communications Lead for MAF) which stopped me in my tracks and began to point me in the right direction. Jess says " It is easy to feel paralysed by the scale of global suffering --but Scripture doesn't ask us to carry the weight of the world on our shoulders - it invites us to bring it to the One who already does. (Isaiah 41.10 NKJV). Further on Jess gives us some simple guidance for when we don't know what to pray because the needs are just too great "1. **Pray for healing** - for those affected by the crisis or illness to be relieved of pain and anxiety 2. **Pray for those in power** - for God to raise up people of integrity who will lead with wisdom and justice. 3. **Pray for the helpers, the first responders, aid workers and volunteers**. 4. **Pray for the Church** - for Christians to rise up and shine their light in whatever situations they find themselves. And - whenever that feels too much - a whispered " God, your kingdom come, your will be done" is often the most powerful thing we can offer." Thank you, Jess, for reminding us that God is always listening and we are never alone and that prayer changes things - check out James 5.16 and John 16.33. I hope and pray that this helps you as much as it helped me!! *Lyn Mitchell*

MAF is the world's largest humanitarian air operator flying medical supplies, doctors, and nurses to places no one else can reach and ensuring critical care gets to where it's needed most. Donations mean that together, we can bring help, hope and healing to isolated people in need.

Pictured below: QUEST KODIAK 100: Up to 9 passengers / 1219kg supplies; Cruising speed 212mph; The Quest Aircraft Company was set up in 2001 by a group of ex-missionary pilots and engineers, specifically to design and provide aircraft suitable for humanitarian aviation.

<https://maf-uk.org/pray/>

<https://maf-uk.org/ways-to-give>

© MAF for photograph and for use of text from their magazine.



Please see page 5 for information about this month's Prayer Vigil at Holy Trinity

LOVE IN A BOX

A bit of a different shoebox photo for you! These are some of the many thousands of boxes being loaded for the four day journey to Ukraine, many of them from our churches and schools—smiles at this end and even bigger smiles at the other end!

However, for 2026 we are suggesting a different way of doing things.

Rather than wait till the latter part of the year when everyone is already busy, how about each family (or person) taking a shoe box now (i.e.



February) and then each month purchase an item and put it in your box? Easier on the purse and a lot less stressful, plus the joy of giving lasts all year! Each shoebox will have a list of suitable items.

The boxes will then be brought to church on **Sunday 22nd November** (date for your new diaries!) when, during the service, the boxes will be topped up with other items

that have been brought in and placed in donation boxes by those not

wanting to take a box home. We hope you will be on board with us as we try a different way of doing things.

Thank you. *David Hawes* <https://internationalaidtrust.org.uk/>

Our dedicated staff and volunteers in Eastern Europe, West Africa and India also share Christ's love with people in need through a wide range of ministries. These include schools, children's homes, prison ministry, rehab centres, Bible college, evangelism, healthcare, Christian holidays and clubs for children and training courses such as tailoring projects all funded through donations and charity shops—such as the one on Lee Lane, Horwich!



CLUB'S 'GREEN' IMPACT

No matter how well or how badly The Wanderers are doing on the pitch, they are trying to reduce their environmental impact. They are partnering with Voltalis, a European leader in response to smart energy systems at the Toughsheet stadium. It will help the club better manage its energy use, lower its costs, and contribute to national net zero targets. They will be one of the first football clubs to adopt this smart technology.

And their sponsors, **Toughsheet**, are pretty green themselves!

Dougie Mercer, their CEO, says "Toughsheet Building Products are committed to sustainable environmental improvement in all of our areas of operations."

They have **recycled over 1,200,000 tonnes of plastic**, to make damp-proof membrane, Radon Gas Barriers and innovative products like ToughTimber.

Find out more at: <https://www.toughsheet.co.uk>

SO PERHAPS WE SHOULD FORGET "COME ON YOU WHITES" AND MAKE IT "COME ON YOU GREENS!!!"

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, HORWICH

PRAY FOR PEACE

PRAYER VIGIL

TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2026
7PM

'MY WELLBEING JOURNEY'

Explore aspects of your well-being that you maybe hoping to maintain, improve and understand a little bit more.

at
New Chapel United Reformed
Church
New Chapel Lane
Horwich
BL6 6QN

Wednesdays 11-am—12noon

Feel free to join us any
Wednesday from January 14th

ADMISSION TO COMMUNION PREPARATION

This year's preparation session for Admission to Communion for children from across our four churches who are in school Year 5 or higher will be on **Saturday 14th March 2026**



10am-1pm at Holy Trinity. Children will be admitted in their own church in the weeks which follow.

Any child who has been baptized and is in school years Year 5 upwards can come and join us to discover more about what Holy Communion means. We invite children to think about whether they would like to be admitted to receive Communion; it is their choice. It will mean that when they come to any Communion service, they can receive bread and wine.

This is a decision we are encouraging our young people to think about. Although we are running the preparation for this as a team, the Admission to Communion service will be in the church they usually attend as part of the usual Sunday service. Just to give us an idea of who will be coming please can you contact Rev Nicola Butterworth. We will need to ask you to sign a form on behalf of your child.

For any further information please contact Revd Nicola Butterworth via email n.butterworth@outlook.com



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Nigeria— The theme is:

I WILL GIVE YOU REST, COME

(Matthew 11 vs 28—30)

**On FRIDAY MARCH 6th at
2pm**

We will be welcomed into

RIVINGTON CHURCH,
Horrobin Lane
Rivington
BL6 7SE

***Please be aware parking is
at a premium and car share
if possible.***

Free Dementia Music Café

Come and join the fun!

Every Thursday

1.30pm - 3pm

During term times.

• Bolton Wanderers Tough Sheet Community Stadium, Horwich, Bolton, BL6 6JW

Full schedule on
Musicinmind.org

People with dementia and their carers welcome - No musical experience needed

"A little piece of heaven in our week"

"We enjoy seeing mum enjoying herself.. we never stop smiling"

"The sessions are full of playfulness, laughter, tears.. they are so inclusive and so much fun!"

To attend and for more information on parking and accessibility, contact:
boltondsg@gmail.com or 07704594585



- Free to attend
- Make new **friends**
- Improve **wellbeing** and mood
- Help **people with dementia** to communicate and express themselves

HELP! I CAN'T HEAR YOU!



St Catherine's Church is in great need of an updated audio-visual system so that everyone can see the screen and hear everything that is said/ sung/played. It will cost £7,100, so please, if you are able to make a donation, no matter how small, these are the details you need:

ACCOUNT: RBS: St Catherines Church, Sort Code: 16-12-53,
Account number: 19257931.
St Catherine's Church

- A rare worn down pencil thought to have been used by William Shakespeare has been found—experts are still not sure if the pencil is 2B or not 2B.
 - Being retired is being tired twice –first tired of working then tired of not.
- Robert Armour*

HORWICH AND RIVINGTON CHURCHES TOGETHER LENT MEETINGS 2026

DAY	DATE	VENUE	SPEAKER
Monday	23rd February	HOLY TRINITY, CHURCH STREET	PAUL PAYNE
Tuesday	3rd March	ST MARY'S, CHORLEY NEW ROAD	REV. ROBERT KASEMA
Wednesday	11th March	THE BRIIDGE, ROCK STREET	LINDA GILLETT
Thursday	19th March	HORWICH EVANGELICAL, WRIGHT STREET	TBA
Friday	27th March	ST JOHN'S, VICTORIA ROAD	ERIC KENT

Please come and join us for some thought provoking reflections and discussion. Followed by a brew and fellowship. **ALL WELCOME. All services start at 7.30pm**

CHRISTMAS 2025 ROUND UP

CHRISTIAN AID CAROL SINGING 2025

Just to let you know that the total amount we raised carol singing was £208.82 .(there were a few euros in the collection!) Together with £25 donated by a house group, we were able to bank £233.82

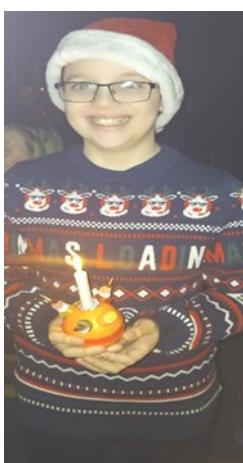
Not only did we raise a significant amount of money for Christian Aid but we got to spread some Christmas cheer, see friends and Nicola Gillard had the privilege of praying for a baby. God kept us all safe and well.

Miranda Williams



Above: Croft House Nursery Nativity at Holy Trinity

Below St Catherine's Christingle left; Seniors' Tea centre; Messy Church decoration making, right



St Catherine's held its latest afternoon tea on Tuesday 16th December. (photo above). This regular event has become ever more popular with young and senior people.

The highlight of this event was carols sung by the children of St Catherine's school. Everybody thought their performance was magic and it was greeted with loud applause. *David Spencer*



BELOW: Rivington Nativity



FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS & THANKSGIVINGS

We welcome to the family of the Church:

18th January: Evelyn Rey Jones
18th January: Poppy Grace Jones
18th January: Theodore John Wolstencroft



FUNERALS

We offer love and sympathy to the relatives and friends of:

17th November Jean Chester
21st November Tessie Howarth
2nd December Lynn Crawshaw
18th December Jean Greeley
29th December John Harper



**COFFEE MORNING FOR
CHRISTIAN AID**
**ON SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY
10AM -12.30PM AT**
**ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH,
HORWICH.**

There will be a Gold and Antiques Valuation so bring any scrap gold or silver along, with the scrap value going to Christian Aid. Also, if you have any items, antiques or collectibles, that you would like to be assessed, bring them along.

There will be a small valuation fee with all proceeds going to Christian Aid. There will also be coffee and cake!!



BABY BABBLE AND BOND

FREE fun and interactive group session for families with babies 0-12 months.

 **Bolton
Family Hubs**



Songs, sensory play and topic chats with our Family Hub Practitioners.

Horwich Health and Well Being Hub, Victoria Road, Bolton, BL6 5PY

Fridays

9:30am-10:30am

&

1pm-2pm

No booking required, just turn up.

Term Time Only - Please see Family Hub Guide for details.



Scan the QR code with your mobile camera to access the full Bolton Family Hub 'Guide to What's on'

**Bolton
Council**

GROUPS AND SESSIONS FOR ALL AGES



Horwich Parish Wiggle Tots: Mondays 9–11am (term time), Horwich Parish Hall, Church Street. Sessions include refreshments, free play, creative activities, Storytelling with Wiggle the Bible Bookworm. Free of charge. Email Sue for further information: suzeerayner@yahoo.co.uk



Time 4 Twos! Fridays 10.30am (term time), Children aged between 2 and 5 years are invited together with their parents/ carers, so please pass the word around and keep an eye on the Time 4 Two's. [Time For Twos | Bolton | Facebook](#)



Family Fun at **Messy Church**—suitable of all ages: crafts, talk, songs, free food. Held at St Catherine's Church, Richmond Street at 3.30pm. Any queries check out St Catherine's Facebook page. www.facebook.com/stcatherineschurchhorwich.



INSPIRE For those in school years 5 to 9 -

Now at St Catherine's Church, Richmond Street, on Wednesdays (term time) 7pm to 8.15pm. For more information contact Graham Smith (tel. 01204 699875).



OPEN DOOR Usually 2nd Thursday of the month. All welcome in the **Narthex at Holy Trinity Church at 7.30pm**. £5.00 per evening including refreshments. A variety of speakers and outings throughout the year so please come along. Next meeting February 12th: Graham Gough speaking about Rivington Terraced Gardens.

FEELING CRAFTY?



CRAFT CLUB is held **ON THE 1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH IN THE NARTHEX AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH FROM 1.30pm to 3.30pm** Please bring your crafts along—all welcome! A light lunch will be available from 12—1pm at Warm Welcome.

WHAT'S ON IN THE COMMUNITY

Horwich Library—Jones Street. Lending Library—books, DVDs etc; Help with using computers; Knit and Knatter Group; Quiz afternoon and lots more—oppo along to see what's available.

The Repair Café—Got something you think can't be fixed? Try the Repair Café—third Saturday of the month 1.30-3.30pm, at Brazley Community Centre, Cedar Avenue, horwichrepaircafe@gmail.com

HORWICH COMMUNITY CENTRE, BEAUMONT ROAD, Tel: 01204 668157 Something for everyone—classes; exercise groups; writing; toddler groups; support groups; arts and crafts etc horwich.hrc20@gmail.com

WHAT DO HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, WORKHOUSES

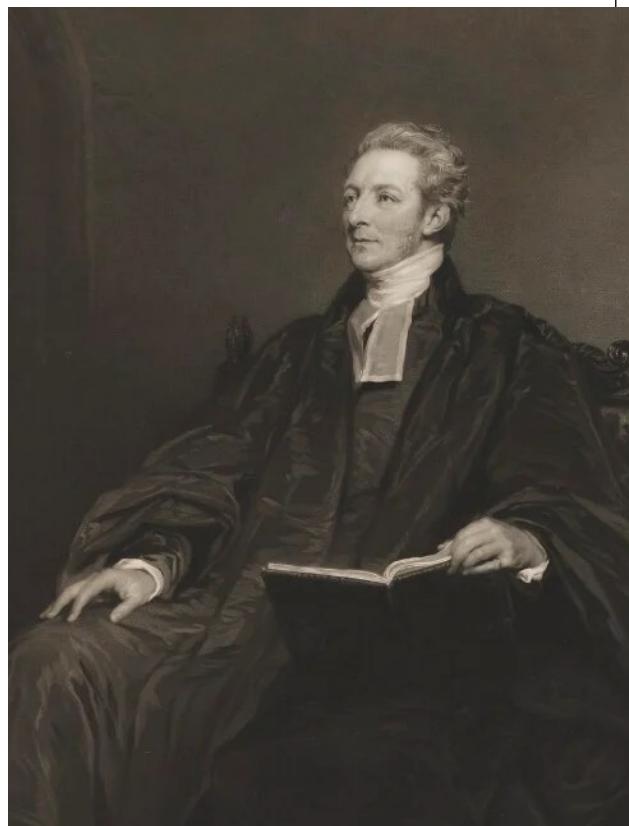
AND THE GREAT EXHIBITION HAVE IN COMMON?

The answer is John Bird Sumner, the Bishop of Chester who consecrated Holy Trinity in the early 1830s. Though perhaps now forgotten, in his lifetime he was quite a prominent figure in public affairs, including in some ways we might these days look on askance.

He became Bishop of Chester in 1828, and was a keen supporter of the then-current drive to build more churches in response to a growing population and an increasing concentration of people in towns and cities. At the same period he served on the Royal Commission whose report led to the 1834 Poor Law which set up the notorious regimes of Victorian workhouses.

In 1848 he rose to even greater heights, becoming Archbishop of Canterbury. In this role he officiated with a prayer at the opening of the Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace by Queen Victoria in 1851. His senior position in the Church meant that he was present on other important occasions, and so, for instance, he attended the state funeral of the Duke of Wellington, presided over by the Bishop of London at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1852. Within the Church itself, during his archbishopric, among other things, the Convocations of Canterbury and York assembled, for the first time since 1717, and met regularly thereafter, and he was in the spotlight also by being involved in a then-famous controversy, the 'Gorham case', concerning whether the clergyman George Gorham, who held unconventional views about baptism, should or should not be appointed as a bishop. By the time of his death in 1862, he had, then, been quite heavily engaged in public life, and, paid for by public subscription there is an effigy of him on a memorial in Canterbury cathedral.

Robert Butterworth John Sumner Bird Portrait ©The National Portrait Gallery



WISE WORDS: Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step. *Martin Luther King Jnr*

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others, it has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has the eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. THAT is what love looks like". *Saint Augustine*

**LOOKING FOR A FRIENDLY CHAT, WARM FOOD, COMPANIONSHIP? COME ALONG TO ONE OF
OUR WARM SPACES**

DAY	VENUE
Mon	Horwich Evangelical Church, Wright Street 12pm – 1.45pm Waiting list 07835-749496
	Talking Tables, Chill at the Cowshed 10.30 – 11.30am Just turn up!
	KD Over 50s Lads Club, Community Centre, Beaumont Road 2 – 4pm £3 subs Just turn up!
Tues	Horwich Community Centre, Beaumont Road 12 – 2pm Lunch and entertainment. Small charge. 01204 668157
	Talking Tables, Blanco Lounge, Middlebrook 10.30—11.30 am You purchase what you want while you sit and chat Just turn up!
	Horwich URC, New Chapel Lane 10.30am—12.30pm Brews, soup, roll, biscuits and games, quiet time 01204 696424
4th Tues	Rivington Church, Hall, Horrobin Lane 11am Faith and Fellowship
Wed	Food and Friendship, St Elizabeth's Church Hall ,Cedar Avenue 11am – 1pm 07967 585670
	The Bridge, Rock Street 9.30am – 11.30am Warm welcome and a cuppa 01204 361704
	St Mary's Church, Chorley New Road Luncheon Club—waiting list 01204 468209
	St John's Methodist Church, Victoria Road 10.30am – 12.30pm 07581 181862
	Lend-a-Hand, The Bridge Inn, Church Street 10am 07939 500591
Thurs	Warm Welcome, Horwich Parish Church (Holy Trinity), Church St. 11am – 1.30pm . 01204 690283
	Talkin' Tables, Brewed Coffee, Lee Lane 11.00am to 12pm Just turn up!
2nd & 4th Thurs Over 50's Club, Horwich Community Centre, 12.30—2.30pm 0800 804 4343	

FOOD COLLECTION FOR URBAN OUTREACH

11.00am -1.00pm at St Elizabeth's Church

The day for the Food Collection has changed to Wednesday at St Elizabeth's 11.00am-1.00pm

February Weds 11 and 25

March Weds 11 and 25

April Weds 15 and 29

May Weds 13 and 27

June Weds 10 and 24

Food can be left in the Grub Tubs in the churches if you are unable to bring the donations to St Elizabeth's

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, Church Street, Horwich BL6 6AA:**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

4th Sunday: 8am Holy Communion

Every Sunday: 9.15am Informal Worship
(occasional United Services at 10am)

1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays: 11am Holy Communion

4th Sunday: 11am Morning Prayer

5th Sunday: 11am Holy Communion with Healing

Weekdays: Every Wednesday at 9.30am a said service of Holy Communion

RIVINGTON PARISH CHURCH Horrobin Lane, Rivington,

BL6 7SE:

SUNDAY SERVICES:

1st Sunday: 11am Family Service

2nd, 3rd. 4th Sunday: 11am Holy Communion BCP (with occasional service of Morning Prayer)

10.45am Family Communion (1st Sunday)

ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH, Richmond Street, Horwich,

BL6 5QT:

SUNDAY SERVICES ALL AT 11am

1st Sunday: Sunday Worship with Communion

2nd Sunday: Informal Worship

3rd Sunday: Sunday Worship with Communion

ST. ELIZABETH'S CHURCH, Cedar Avenue, Horwich, BL6 6EU:**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

1st Sunday: 08.30am Holy Communion BCP

9.30am All Age Worship

7pm Alive & Free (1st Sunday of month)

2nd , 3rd, 4th Sunday: 9.30am Holy Communion (occasional service of Morning Worship)

For information about groups and sessions for babies, toddlers and young people, please refer to the relevant pages in the magazine.

With many thanks to The Print Quarter for their excellent service & the quality and printing of this magazine

THE MINISTERIAL TEAM

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07706 979393

Email: n.butterworth@outlook.com

Team Vicar: Vacancy

Minister in Secular Employment :

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Email: nicola.gillard2020@gmail.com

Associates: Peter Harley 01204

694611

Email: revpdh@hotmail.com

Caroline Tracey 01204 692303

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Gill Smart 01204 468271

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Honorary:

Glenda Bush 01204 691539

Michael Williams 01204 667162

Readers:

David Hawes 01204 693727

Dr Ron Knott 07719 274700

THE TEAM CHURCHES:

Holy Trinity

Church Wardens:

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Treasurer: Lesley Greenhalgh 01204 693973

Secretary: Susan Kerr 07740 464810

Rivington

Church Wardens: Peter Holden 01257 433919

Secretary:

St. Catherine's

Church Wardens: Kath Jackson 01204 770958

Treasurer: Joshua Dayavaran

Secretary: Pam Smith 01204 699875

St. Elizabeth's

Church Wardens: Sharon Sharrocks

07854 130010

Graham Smith 07505 760859

Treasurer: Richard Skidmore 01204 693415

Secretary: Lynne Croston

BAPTISMS: Initial enquiries for baptisms to

Emma Shawcross:

horwichandrivingtonbaptisms@gmail.com

WEDDINGS: Initial enquiries for weddings to

Revd. Peter Harley at 01204 694611 or email:

revpdh@hotmail.com