



**Welcome to our church - everyone is welcome here! March 2024**

**Message from the curate:**

As some of you know I'm spending a bit of time at home for the next few weeks due to recovering from an operation on my foot. As I'm usually rushing between teaching, this wonderful parish and my family, this is proving to be a good time for reflection, prayer and sometimes, boredom! It's good because it's helping me empathise with people who are confined to their homes for whatever reason and what life is like for them and how we support them as a church. People at home are still part of the Church and it's worth thinking about how we include them. We pray for many people in our weekly prayers. We can take this further by offering to visit them or take them home communion. Since I've been here, I found a beautiful order of service for this in the vestry which really stresses that when we take communion to people, it must be from the sacrament we have blessed on a Sunday – not just blessed by a priest but blessed by the whole church of St Michael's (and the Church across the world) as **we all celebrate communion together**. Please ask if you feel this is something you would like to become involved in. Furthermore, if you don't yet take communion yourself and would like to but are unsure about it, please talk to one of the ministry team about it. Jesus commanded us to do it and, along with the Word of God, it is the heart of our Christian life and sustains us. If you would like to come and have a chat with me in Heaton Moor, I am very much available! Please email me. May I wish you very blessing as we prepare for Easter. Rev Caroline

**Upcoming Events – Holy Week and Easter**

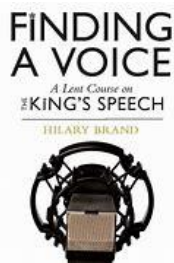
- Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup> **Mothering Sunday** Eucharist 10.15am
- Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> **Passion Sunday** Eucharist 10.15am
- Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> **Palm Sunday** Eucharist 10.15 am with Dramatic Reading of the Gospel
- Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> **Healing Service** 7.30pm
- Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> **Maundy Thursday** 7.30pm
- Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> **Good Friday** 10.15am Last Hour on the Cross 2pm
- Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup> **Easter Eve Easter Vigil** and renewal of Baptismal Vows 8pm
- Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> **Easter Day Eucharist** 10.15am and **Lighting of the new fire**

**Regular Events: (term time)**

- Monday: Family Church 3.40pm in church – all welcome
- First Wednesday of month: Walking group 9.15 am at the Croft Poetry Group at 6.30pm and 8pm Pub church in the Church inn – a Christian presence in the pub – **all welcome**.
- Third Thursday of month 2pm Mothers' Union in the Croft



**Items for this newsletter to be sent to: Rev Caroline Bailey carob2000\_2000@yahoo.com**



## Lent Discussion Group

We are holding a Lent discussion group: 'Finding your voice' based on the film 'The King's Speech' and what we can learn from it about faith - we will be meeting to discuss the film, finding a voice and faith. IN-PERSON DISCUSSIONS IN CHURCH : Tuesday 5 March, 12 March and 19th March 4pm ZOOM: Wednesday , 6<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> March and 20<sup>TH</sup> March 8pm – bring pets and snacks ! Please let us know if you are attending and give Rev Caroline your email address.

## PALM SUNDAY DRAMA

We'll be reading the story of Christ's Passion – the days before Easter – in a dramatic form – please let Rev Caroline know if you would like to be involved in this. We need about ten readers – no experience required just enthusiasm and no costumes!)

### Church Flowers from June HH and Maureen W.

With Lent upon us Maureen and I find we have the perfect opportunity to finally move away from doing fresh flower arrangements for church. While we hate to blame the pandemic, we have experienced since Covid many difficulties working with the conventional system. Regrettably the income from weddings, our main source, along with donations has reduced considerably, whilst the cost of flowers has increased far beyond the inflation we all accept as given.

Additionally, Maureen and I have been unable to attract practical support which has led to a huge commitment in both time and energy. One of us being an octogenarian with the other close on her heels, sadly lifting and carrying has become a problem. However, we have happily realised that the alternative of using silk flowers, much lighter to lift, has become a huge success for you and our church.

As we now pass into Easter you will find we have used purely silk arrangements throughout church. These we will ensure reflect not only the passing seasons, but also our periods of celebration such as Easter, Remembrance and Christmas. The silk do and will require care and attention, but nothing like the work of fresh flowers.

Finally, may we share with you our immense appreciation for the donations you have made over the years, along with your expressions of tribute to us personally and via Revd Huw, Revd Caroline and Revd Fi.

### The Tale of St Michaels' Church Mouse.

By the Retired Crafty Crofters

Oh No, it's Lent and I am spent, no more snacks will I find,  
except if children can be kind.

Ah, a baptism listed I see, so into church the children come, ably fed by Mum.

Crisps, cakes apples to boot, even some cheese, oh what a hoot.

With whiskers twitching I'm really itching to see these folk depart.

So I can feast on the banquet scattered, then retire to my self-made blanket, of shredded silk flowers and a little plastic.

Warm and snug, hidden deep, from their detection and real objection.

Some days I manage communion wafers to dine on, I know they are not blessed, but better than hymn books to digest.

Care I have to exercise, just recently the verger caught such a surprise,  
the sight of me scrambling under the sink, around the waste bin, as biscuits I smelt, custard creams and chocolate melts, What mouse can resist these God given treats?

I overheard talk of a humane trap, laden with cheese and peanut scraps.

My favourites I do declare!

I'll play their game, so I can return, they will never know of my lack of concern.

For down the church yard amongst the graves, I have a route that always saves; from the cold and the rain, the wind and snow, I'll scupper back where I'll remain the dedicated church mouse home again.

One day they will appreciate, my diligence so complete.

Keeping the church free by ensuring no rodent, larger than me,  
can take up residence where I should be.

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