

Hello everyone

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well and enjoying the warmer weather that hopefully summer will bring us. Since my last newsletter introduction, three out of the four of us finally caught Covid for the first time. So, as numbers seem to be spiking again please take care in confined spaces with lots of people.

This year is turning into a period of endings and new beginnings. Our two children are now adults and they have come to the ends of their school/college/sixth form educations. Esme has just completed her final unit of coursework for her L3 Childcare course, and she has two jobs. The first is in the nursery located at St John's Parish Hall in Flixton, and the second is at The Roebuck. Meanwhile, George has just completed his A level exams and has applied to do History or History/Archaeology courses at university. They'll both get their results in mid-August, so fingers crossed for them both.

Like many parents we are seeing less and less of them, and quite right too, as they create their own lives outside of the family home. The house does seem very quiet at times though! We are all going away together for our summer holidays, and who knows this might be the last when we all go away together for some time (but we said the same last year as well!).

At work, I am also seeing an ending and a new beginning. The Diocese of Manchester has sold 90 Deansgate and Church House will be relocating to Bury in early 2023 after over 100 years of being based in that building. Sadly, many people are deciding to apply for voluntary redundancy or apply for new jobs because of the impact on their daily commutes, especially for those who rely on public transport. In some areas of Greater Manchester, the return journey to Bury via bus is over 4 hours long. The next few months will be challenging, especially for my waistline, as Bury Market will be so close to the new office.

Endings and beginnings are sometimes positive, but they can also be negative. Regardless of our ages, they are difficult processes to go through without a constant underpinning of love and support to help you through. That can be provided by family members, friends, or work colleagues. Pastoral care is taught us from an early age as Christians, and it will be used a lot over the next few months.

Best wishes

Paul

Paul Bailey

- **LATEST NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Flixton Village Fete

Preparations are well underway for the return of our summer fixture. It starts at 12:00 with lots of family activities and entertainment until 15:00, then we'll have a short break to clear things away while we set up for an evening of music from DJ Huw and local musicians "Bongo Fury" from 17:00.

This is not targeting our congregation; it is an opportunity for our congregation to offer something to the local community and welcome families from across Flixton and Urmston.

So, if you haven't already, get creating crafts for the Craft Stall, get baking so our kitchen will be well stocked for customers, bring down vegetables and plants for the stall, tell friends and family, and see Vaughan, Lynda, Debbie, or Amelia to offer your time to support the day and volunteer.

FLIXTON VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 16th July 2022

Afternoon Family Activities

Evening Music & Drinks

St Michael's Church, Flixton

Activities 12:00 to 15:00 inside and outside: -

- Bouncy Castle
- Toy Tombola
- Craft Stall
- Whack the Rat
- Coconut Shy
- Hook a Duck
- Book Stall
- Sweet Stall
- Jewellery Stall
- Art Displays
- Church Tours of your ancient church and churchyard
- Local History Display
- Bric-a-brac Stall
- Plants and local produce
- BBQ, Hot Dogs
- Beer, Cider, Soft Drinks
- Teas, Coffees, Cakes in the Croft

Family Entertainment: -

- **Family Storyteller (3 sessions)**
- **Bernard Cromarty, Accordion Folk (all day)**
- **Scout Band**
- **Piano, cello, violin concert**

Bring a picnic blanket
Bring down the kids
Join in this local event

Music 17:00 to 20:00

Local musicians **Bongo Fury**
DJ Huw "spins the discs"

Eco church

Eco Church is a movement promoted by A Rocha UK, a charity committed to mobilising Christians to care for nature and God's world.

Eco Church is supported by many denominations and organisations across England and Wales. Scotland has a sister system. There are awards of Bronze, Silver and Gold to demonstrate how close each church is to living more sustainably and becoming carbon neutral. St Michaels registered before the Covid pandemic but so far has no award, although we are well on our way to becoming a Bronze Eco Church.

Would you like more information on how to join St Michael's Eco Team and help move forward in this vital work?

- ✓ Enter your name and contact details on the information at the back of church
- ✓ Give your details to Revd Huw on 0161 748 2884 or huwflixtonchurch@gmail.com
- ✓ Read more at ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Church WIFI funding

Thank you to the people who have kindly offered to fund the WIFI for St Michaels Church. We are now in a position to start to ask for funds. Sorry it took a while; we've had a few administrative hoops to overcome!

We'd be so grateful if you can provide an annual donation of £15 by standing order to cover the set-up, ongoing costs, and price rises in the coming year. Therefore, please can you set up an annual Standing Order with your bank for £15 to:

Account Name: St Michaels PCC

Sort Code: 08 92 99

Account Number: 65894785

With reference: "WIFI" and your initials

If you have questions or concerns please contact the Church Treasurer, Anna Scarisbrick, on 07887644737 or anna_scarisbrick@yahoo.co.uk. Alternatively, the wardens or Huw will be happy to help.

Thank you for your generosity. This will help the church fulfil our mission in many ways. In the words of Lizzie Robinson, Team Leader and Community Worker at Saint Philips, Chapel Street, Salford: By being generous to others, not only does it honour God's design for our lives and fill that person's love tank, but it refills ours too! Proverbs 11:25 says: "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

Flixton Community Choir

The choir is holding its first summer concert since 2019 on Tuesday 12th July inside St Michael's Church. Any donations made on the night will be given to the DEC appeal for Ukraine.



easyfundraising



Thanks to everyone who supports St Michael's by using easyfundraising. Making your online shopping purchases via this free service has so far raised over £240. Churches across the UK have so far raised over £56,000 via easyfundraising.

If you'd like to help to promote the easyfundraising service inside and outside of our church building, please email stmichaelflixton@gmail.com. We'll send you the details on how to do this via an email from easyfundraising which will also give you access to their free fundraising tools.

If you haven't signed up to support St Michael's using easyfundraising (or AmazonSmile) you can find out how to do this on pages 5 and 6.



You can now support St Michael's, Flixton from the comfort of your own home.

When you shop online using your computer or mobile phone you can now raise free funds for St Michael's. Whether it's a weekly grocery shop, hotel booking, train ticket, Friday night takeaway or a gift for someone special, if you use easyfundraising our church will get a donation too.

It is completely free to use and there are nearly 7000 shops to choose from so please visit our page and help us start raising.

Scan to get started for free today

or visit: <http://efraising.org/yjNpKUm2AY>



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• ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH SERVICES

New services starting this autumn

From September onwards, there'll be some new services starting at St Michael's:

- ✓ A pre-school age group service
- ✓ An intergenerational service on the first Sunday of the month starting at 10.15 a.m.
- ✓ A Sunday morning said service (a provisional start time of 9 a.m. will be confirmed later this month)

Thursday morning Holy Communion services

1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 10.30 a.m. at St John's, Flixton

2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 10.15 a.m. at St Michael's, Flixton

5th Thursday of the month at 10.30 a.m. St John's, Flixton

Sunday School

Parents and children are all welcome to attend starting at 10 a.m. in Church Croft, during term time only. It is an hour's worth of learning and activities which are linked to the services and readings taking place during the main Parish Communion service in Church. Each session lasts for approximately 60 minutes, and the children are brought

back into the church building for the end of the service. The parents/guardians of younger children are welcome to stay with their children for the first few weeks of their attendance or until they are settled.

Our Sunday School teachers plan and deliver the lessons each week. They are DBS checked by the Diocese of Manchester. If you are interested in volunteering please speak to a member of the Sunday School team.

Friday night prayer with Rev Fiona

Rev Fiona's night prayer services are taking place on a weekly basis at 9 p.m. each Friday. You can watch live, and comment if you wish, by visiting our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StMichaelsFlixton.

Walking Club

Our Walking Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month inside our church building at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us, whatever your level of mobility. There will be a shorter and longer walk on offer. Initially these will be walks from church, but hopefully in time we will go further afield in cars.

Pub Church

Pub Church takes place on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. The Church Inn pub is ideally located next door to St Michael's Church. Pub Church is a place to have a drink with friends (whether they be old or new), chat, have a laugh, and share in each other's fellowship.

- **GIVING AND FUNDRAISING**

Please continue to support St Michael's Church

Thank you all so much, as you have currently:

- Donated over £3,100 via your online donations
- Raised over £300 from your online shopping (via easyfundraising and AmazonSmile)

Please support our beautiful Grade II* listed building and churchyard in a variety of ways, as follows:

1. **Online donations** can be made at www.stmichaelsflixton.org/support-us
2. Please remember to use **easyfundraising every time you shop online!** Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate, so you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. They even have fair trade retailers who work with easyfundraising as well. These donations really help us out, so please sign up if you haven't yet. It's easy and free! You can get started at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmichaelsflix/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=en-n2
If you want to find out how easyfundraising works, please visit our website page at www.stmichaelsflixton.org/easy-fundraising
3. **If you have an Amazon account**, please make your purchases using AmazonSmile instead. It is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.co.uk. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to St Michael's Church. A full explanation on how you can 'convert' your existing Amazon account into an AmazonSmile one that supports St Michael's can be found here www.stmichaelsflixton.org/shop

If you do need to set up an AmazonSmile account please click here to get started
<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1134769-0>

4. You **raise money for us by searching on the web**. If you use easysearch as your search engine you can raise £20 a year for St Michael's by completing 10 searches a day. To get started visit <http://stmichaelsflix.easysearch.org.uk/> and save it as one of your internet browser's bookmarks.