

Hello everyone

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you have been able to enjoy the sunshine over the past week or so.

I love this time of year as the days grow longer and the weather gets warmer. I look forward to spending more time outside in the garden watching it burst into life. I confess I am not a very good gardener. Each year I plant bulbs and sow seeds but usually forget by the time they grow what they actually are! That is part of the pleasure though – what is actually going to appear?

For us now, Easter is the time of hope and renewal. We give thanks for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus and the promise of the life this will bring to us all. For the Disciples though, this was a time of doubt, fear and uncertainty. Their faith was to be tested in many ways and faith may also be tested.

We all have probably hoped over the last few months that life would be better as we came out of the pandemic. Things would get back to some sort of 'normality'. We could not have imagined that a new, devastating war would be raging in Europe. It is difficult to see the desperation of the Ukrainian people and know that there is little we can do to help them. We could not have imagined that we would be facing a cost of living crisis that will plunge so many people into debt and misery. It is hard at times to look ahead with hope when there is so much doubt and uncertainty and our faith may be tested.

However, Easter reminds us that God loves us all and is with us at all times. If we look for him, we can see him in the faces of those rescuing people from besieged cities, providing food and shelter to refugees, risking their lives to protect others. We can see him in the faces of those who work in foodbanks, those who help the homeless, and those who donate to charity. If we look we can see God all around us through the actions of people who care. That is a cause for hope. Most people do care and we can all do something, however small it may seem, to support others. Let us take comfort in this even when we feel powerless.

Let us love one another as our Lord loves us.

Debbie

Debbie Gould

Churchwarden

- **LATEST NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jumble Sale

We are holding a Jumble Sale at Church Croft on Saturday 21st May 12.30 – 2.30p.m. Refreshments will be available. Everybody welcome.

We are looking for good quality second hand items to sell. Please bring any donations to St. Michael's Church on Sunday mornings between 9.30 a.m. and 12 noon or email Lynda Sandbach on lyndasandbach@gmail.com to arrange a collection or an alternative time.

All proceeds will go towards the upkeep of our church. We look forward to seeing you there!

Updated rota for 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

Flixton Community Choir

The choir has started rehearsing inside our church building on Tuesday evenings between 7.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. Their upcoming dates are 17th and 24th May; 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th June; and 5th and 12th July. Past members and anyone new who would like to join them will be welcomed.

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.

- **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH SERVICES**

Family Friendly services

Our Family Friendly services have restarted again on Mondays during term time only. They begin at 3.40 p.m. to allow as many people to attend following the end of the school day. The church doors will be open from 3.25 p.m. onwards.

Family Praise services

Our monthly Family Praise services are held inside our church building on the first Sunday of the month at 4 p.m.

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.

- **GIVING AND FUNDRAISING**

Please continue to support St Michael's Church

Thank you all so much, as you have currently:

- Donated over £3,300 via your online donations
- Raised over £250 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.