

Dear friends,

As we move from the gentleness of Ordinary time, we've seen physically the changing of the seasons- just a few weeks ago we struggled to keep cool in searing heat and now we hover over the thermostat, wondering if an extra blanket or jumper is a better option than turning the heating on.

Throughout this year we've seen unrest and felt unsettled, thinking we were moving on from the pandemic into something which more closely resembled our lives before. For many, life will be much the same but for others there are tough choices to make, and I hope as a community we can work at ways to support those we live amongst for whom the tightening of finances will be a real concern.

I hope it gives you hope to know that through the turmoil of the times each generation lives through some things are unchanging. Sometimes the constant and reliable rhythm of the church year is a helpful reminder that there are some anchor points in this life to hold on to. With the turning of the season, we enter one of the busiest periods in the church year, with each weekend bringing something different, even before we reach the Churches New Year on Advent Sunday.

This year, whilst we know Covid is still around, we feel more able to open our doors and return to some of the celebrations that have been missing from our calendars since 2019. We also feel it's a time to experiment and grow with our new inter-generational Orchard service, the return of midweek pre-school age worship, and of course having Caroline here to inspire our thinking is a true blessing.

The constancy of the church year is a helpful reminder of God's constancy. Whilst the troubles of the world are very real, our hope and faith in our unchanging creator hopefully sustains us, and as we gather as a community for worship, fellowship or service it's a reminder of the hope we have in one another.

With love, thankfulness and blessings,

Fi

Revd Fiona Jenkinson

- **LATEST NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Church cards for sale

Please take time to have a look at the cards which are on sale at the back of church.

Get well, Thinking of you, Sympathy, Devotional and Baptism. All cards cost £1 and the money goes towards church funding.

Mothers' Union Cream Tea

A big thank you to everyone who helped, attended or baked for the Cream Tea on 13th August. The event raised in the region of £250. Not only was it a success financially but also for the friendship and fellowship of St Michael's.

Licensing of the new vicar at St John's, Flixton

Revd Debbie Blair is to be licensed as vicar of St John's at 6 p.m. on Sunday 23rd October. Please go along and celebrate this special occasion with Debbie and our friends

at St John's. There will be refreshments afterwards, and extra car parking will be available at Wellacre School.

An introduction from Revd Caroline Bailey

I'm delighted to be with you in Flixton. I am training as a self-supporting minister so I also work as a teacher of English at Xaverian Sixth Form College. I feel like the two roles have a lot in common in interpreting stories and texts and being with and supporting people. I'm also interested in spirituality and social justice and love to support people in their journeys of faith in whatever way I can.

I was brought up as a Baptist in Rotherham but moved into the Church of England when I was 19 as my brother was a priest and he introduced me to the liturgy and traditions of the Anglican Church where I found a home.

I studied English and Philosophy at the University of East Anglia in Norwich many years ago and then came to Manchester to do a teaching qualification where I met my husband Karl who has a woodworking business. We lived in Italy for a year when we were first together and this has given us a lot of inspiration.

We have two children Ethan (17) and Frances (16). Frances is a very good student and wants to be a vet. Ethan lives in residential care as he has complex needs - this has been a big part of my spiritual journey and I'm always happy to talk about disability and theology and how our images of God can be challenged by disability and how we can make the church more accessible for people with disabilities.

I'm interested in using Art in thinking about faith and God and how we can encourage young people to experience church and faith. In my spare time I like films and reading and I like wild swimming too or any combination of the above! We have two cockapoos called Alfie and Oscar so I do love a Pet Blessing service!

I look forward to getting to know you all and sharing some of my passions and yours and journeying together in faith.

• ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH SERVICES

Services for the rest of the year

9 th October, 10:15am	Harvest (please bring food for harvest)
9 th October, 3pm	Pet Service (in the churchyard)
16 th October, 10:15am	Healing Service
23 rd October, 10:15am	Bible Sunday
30 th October, 10:15am	All Saints
30 th October, 6pm	All Souls Service
13 th November, 10:15am	Remembrance Service
20 th November, 10:15am	Christ the King
27 th November, 6:00pm	Advent Carol service
4 th December, 10:15am	Toy Service (Please bring new toys for Wood Street Mission and Trafford Domestic Abuse Services)
17 th December, 12-4pm	Victorian Christmas Fair

18th December, 6pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
21 st December, 8pm	Church Inn Beer and Carols
24 th December, 4pm	Scratch Nativity
24 th December, 10.30pm	Singalong Carols
24 th December, 11.30pm	Midnight Mass
25 th December, 10.15am	Christmas Day Service

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 called 'Sprouts' will be starting at 9.15 a.m. on Wednesday 5th October. It will be taking place each week during term time. Please contact Jen Durber for more details
- ✓ Orchard Service, an intergenerational service on the first Sunday of the month starting at 10.15 a.m.
- ✓ A said Eucharist Service is taking place at 9 a.m. on the first Sunday of the 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

Sunday School is back. Parents and children are all welcome to attend starting at 10 a.m. in Church Croft, during term time only. Please note, it will not take place on the first Sunday of the month due to the Orchard intergenerational service taking place.

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, unless she's at work or on holiday. 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.

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 £3,000 via your online donations
- Raised over £300 from your online shopping (via easyfundraising and AmazonSmile)

Our top 3 supporters in easyfundraising have raised the following sums for our church:

1. £116.49
2. £43.14
3. £42.60

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.