

The New Sentinel

November / December 2024



St Chad's, Poulton-le-Fylde

St Hilda's, Carleton

St Anne's, Singleton



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Magazine Editor:

Editor - Ian Files

Magazine Articles

Short contributions that may be of interest to

A warm welcome from the Benefice of St Chad's Poulton, St Hilda's Carleton and St Anne's Singleton. We are part of Blackburn Diocese within the Anglican Communion and are members of the Poulton and Carleton Churches Together community. We hold a pattern of regular prayer and worship at all three churches, details of which are published on our websites.

The *New Sentinel* magazine brings to you recent news from around the Benefice.

Magazine Deadlines

To ensure the magazine is published on time,

Dear Friends

The Archbishop of Canterbury has resigned. He did so having said that he would not, following the publication of the Makin Report into the failures of the Church's response to the abuse perpetrated by John Smyth. Some will argue that even in the Church, we have lost the honourable tradition of immediate resignation, to acknowledge a failure of personal responsibility. However, I have some sympathy for those in positions of authority, in all walks of life, who, in the age of social media, face a new level of scrutiny, in which they are constantly found wanting in someone's eyes.

We live in a culture that is quick to point out failure and demand that heads must roll but we should not be surprised if this fosters defensiveness and the constant temptation to cover your back. What is more, resignation sometimes allows people to avoid real accountability for their failures. It ends up being too kind to some and merciless to others. People who commit serious offences should not be allowed to resign but should face disciplinary action or prosecution. People who intentionally cover up wrongdoing should be dismissed and not allowed to resign. People who make unintended mistakes should be encouraged to acknowledge them and put right the problem they have created; not allowed or encouraged to resign. The trouble is that people differ about which of these categories apply to the Archbishop's failures.

I like the idea, championed in the NHS, of a "no blame culture" in which people are encouraged to be honest about their mistakes, in the belief that they will be better able to learn from them. I'm sure on occasion it works well but there are also times when it breaks down and different individuals and groups point the finger, patient against

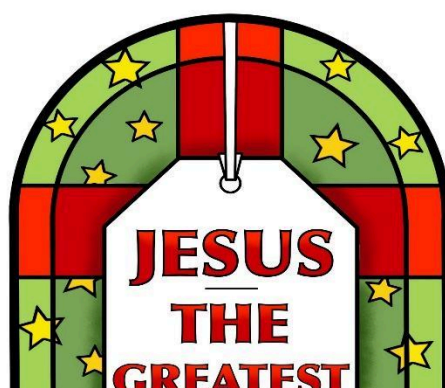
clinician, clinician against manager, manager against politician. All this seems so far from the Christmas story to which our thoughts begin to turn, as November rolls into December. Or maybe not!

The Christmas story is an account of God's response to our failures. In the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols we begin with The Fall, and Adam and Eve succumbing to temptation. No easy resignation option for them, but expulsion from the Garden and a life of toil. Yet God does not give up on them but keeps faith through the history of Israel, the patriarchs and prophets until the sending of Jesus, his Son. I recall a Governor Meeting when a former headteacher shared her opinion that the Christian faith was about helping to make people good. For once I managed one of those quick responses that you usually only come up with after the event, as I asked in reply whether it was not more to do with coping with the fact that we are not very good. The Incarnation is not a reward for our good behaviour but God's loving response to our abject failure. And what a surprising response it is! God does not come as a reforming headteacher, a rebuking judge or a triumphant king, but as a vulnerable baby born to a young woman in a backwater far from her home. There will be teaching, judgement and kingship as the story unfolds, but there is no doubting this a strange beginning, but as St Paul reminds us, "the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom"!

I close with words from a letter sent to us by the Bishops of Blackburn, Lancaster and Burnley following the Archbishop's resignation.

"Much of the days has Archbishop of

coverage in recent suggested that the Canterbury is the



'head' of the Church of England.

However, the Church of God, of which the Church of England is a small part, has only one Head who is Jesus Christ. It is he who can forgive sin and grant a fresh start. It is he who awakens our consciences to the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. It is he who is shaking His Church awake. It is in him that we will find the renewal we long for”.

May you find that renewal and new life this Christmas, as you ponder once more the story of the Child of Bethlehem, the Word made flesh, our Saviour and our God!

Yours Sincerely
Martin Keighley

I hope your Christmas has a little touch of Eternity in among the rush and pitter and all. It always seems such a mixture of this world and the next – but that after all is the idea! – Evelyn Underhill

From the Registers

Baptisms

October	27th	Robyn Ann Armer
November	10th	Karter Mac Harrison

Funerals

September	24th	Geoff Barlow
October	8th	Leslie Turton
	14th	Doreen Steel
	16th	George Christie
	18th	Shaun Boardman-Harper
	24th	Harry Townsend
	25th	David Sharrock
	29th	Ian Bromell
November	8th	Ann Martin
	14th	Maurice Holden
	18th	Alan Almond
	19th	Stephanie Wilkinson

Vicar's Notes –

Advent Sunday 1st December

At 3.00 pm there will be an Advent Workshop at St Hilda's followed by the Service of Light at 4.00 pm.



Christingle for The Children's Society

This year our All-Age Christingle Service will be on Sunday 1st December, at 10am at St Chad's. In return for Christingles, representing Jesus, the Light of the World, we make our gifts to support the work of The Children's Society with disadvantaged children and families.

Blessing of the Churchyard Crib - Friday 6th December 4.00pm

This year as part of the Christmas Festival and Market, the Churchyard Crib will be blessed, and the Christmas Tree lit on Friday 6th December at 4.00pm.



Gifts for the Homeless

As in previous years we will be collecting gifts for the homeless, up to and including Sunday 22nd December. Gifts should be clearly marked for a man or woman and brought to church at any of our services. They will be taken to Vincent House, in time for distribution at Christmas.

Nativity and Carol Services at St Chad's

Tuesday 3rd 1.30 pm Poulton CE Infant Nativity

Thursday 5th 1.30 pm Poulton CE Infant Nativity

Sunday 8th 2.30 pm Masonic Carol Service

Wednesday 11th 7.00

mothers
union



Christian care for
families worldwide

Friday 13th

1.30 pm Poulton CE Carol Service

Monday 17th 1.30 pm Poulton CE Carol Service

Sunday 22nd 6.30 pm Service of Lessons and Carols

Christmas Services at St Chad's

Christmas Eve

5.30pm

Crib Service

11.30pm

Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day

8.00am

Holy Communion

10.30am

Parish Communion

Christmas at St Hilda's

Saturday 21st Dec

4.00pm

Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

4.00pm

Crib Service

Christmas Day

11.00am

Family Eucharist

Christmas at St Anne's Singleton

Sunday 15th Dec

4.00pm

Carol Service

Christmas Eve

4.00pm

Crib Service

11.30pm

Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day

9.30am

Holy Communion

Mothers' Union

Our opening service on 25th September was part of our campaign for RISE UP against domestic abuse. I have now taken 3 large collections of toiletries, cleaning items and nappies to the Refuge.

They were particularly grateful as they had run out of nappies.

Thank you to all members and to those in the church who have contributed. We will continue to collect for them.

On 30th October, 24 attended the interesting talk about Life in Algeria by Wendy Ouali.

The evening group had a Desert Island Discs Evening on 8th October with thanks to Katy and Jenny for organising it. Then on 12th November, Rev John Squires will spoke to us. Our evening Christmas Get Together will be at Jennie Sly's on Tuesday 10th December.

Our next afternoon meeting will be on Wednesday 27th November when Penny Walters will talk about 'Called or Collared'.

Then on Wednesday 11th December we will have our Christmas lunch at Stanley Park Golf Club arriving 1pm for 1.30pm.

As this is our last Sentinel of the year, I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Transformation Now –Women's equality and Empowerment

The Lord is my shepherd I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

he restores my soul. Psalm 23:1-3.

When our lives are dull and dry, the colour drained by the demands we face, Lord, lead us to pastures green.

Transform our parched souls into abundant places of fruitfulness with your verdant refreshment.

Shelter us in leafy shade.

Restore us in times of dryness by the waters of the Spirit as we soak in your Word.

Plant us in fertile places.

Transform our barrenness into lives that will produce a vibrant harvest of faith.

Surely your goodness and mercy will colour all the days of our lives, until we dwell in your house forevermore. Amen.

June Challis

What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped, and stared at him in horror. “Didn’t you get my email?!”

Study Morning on Saturday 25th January 9.30am -12.45pm

The Message of 2 Corinthians.

The Apostle Paul’s second letter to the church in Corinth is full of

encouragements for Christians who feel hard-pressed and ineffective in their witness. In this letter Paul reminds us that God’s glory and power is best seen in the weakness of Jesus on the cross.

Come and join us for this encouraging morning of Bible teaching from well-known speaker and author Jonathan Lamb.

Saturday 25th January 2025 in Poulton Community Hall.

9am coffee. 9.30am start. 12.45pm finish.

There will be a sign-up sheet in church for this free event nearer the time.

Easy Sudoku

	9	8		2	4			
		3	5		9			
2			6			7		
1	6	2				3		4
9	7						6	2
3		4				9	5	7
		6			7			5
			2		1	4		
			4	3		8	7	

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Parish Dinner at Singleton Lodge

Thursday 27th February 6.30 pm for 7pm

How is Christian faith still relevant in this modern scientific world?

You are warmly invited to a 3 course dinner & coffee at Singleton Lodge. As we meet together as a church family, why not bring a friend or family member to hear our guest speaker Rev Andrew Sach address this intriguing question which is asked by many people today.

Andrew Sach is a vicar in London and a regular conference speaker and author.

The cost is £35 per person. Please contact David on davidpgascoigne@gmail.com or 07768 303462 to book your tickets - £10 deposit required.

Easy Sudoku - answer

6	9	8	7	2	4	5	1	3
7	4	3	5	1	9	6	2	8
2	5	1	6	8	3	7	4	9
1	6	2	9	7	5	3	8	4
9	7	5	3	4	8	1	6	2
3	8	4	1	6	2	9	5	7
4	1	6	8	9	7	2	3	5
8	3	7	2	5	1	4	9	6
5	2	9	4	3	6	8	7	1

Archbishop of Canterbury warns against legalising assisted suicide

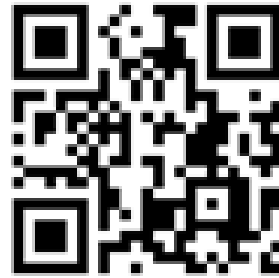
This, the Archbishop's statement on assisted suicide below, was made ahead of a

recent new Private Member's Bill introduced in the House of Commons.

"Though our society might be divided over the question of assisted suicide, we all ultimately want the same thing for those who are suffering. We want compassion offered to those in deep distress and we want our loved ones to be able to die with dignity. My concern is that however well-intentioned, the Private Member's Bill being introduced in the House of Commons today will not achieve those things.

"The introduction of this Bill instead serves as an important call to properly fund and resource palliative care, community support services and mental health provision. As we listen to many of the heart-breaking experiences of those who have lost loved ones, it is important to remember that dying in pain is not inevitable. Good palliative care can provide us with the dignity and compassion we are all searching for as we reach the end of our lives. This proposed legislation risks eroding funding for palliative and hospice care.

"Furthermore, legalising assisted suicide would disproportionately impact many millions of vulnerable people, who might perceive themselves as a burden on those around them and the health service. My concern is that once you can ask for assisted suicide, it soon becomes something that you feel that you ought to do. Permission slips into being duty. This does not represent true choice for all, and I worry that no amount of safeguards will ensure everyone's safety at the most vulnerable point of their lives.



Websites and Social Media Information

St Chad's and St Hilda's Websites:

www.stchadschurch.org

www.facebook.com/st-chads-parish-church

www.facebook.com/St-Hildas-Church-Carleton

St Anne's Website: www.singletonchurch.co.uk

Contacts

Licensed Lay Minister	- David Gascoigne	07768 303462
Churchwarden (St Chad's)	- Lynne Brackpool	01253 892440
Churchwarden (St Chad's)	- Geraldene Rogers	01253 822877
Churchwarden (St Hilda's)	- Joan Swan	01253 883743
Churchwarden (St Anne's)	- Frank/Hilary Loftus	01772 673201
Safeguarding Officer	- Lynne Brackpool	01253 892440
Verger (St Chad's)	-	
PCC Secretary	- Dorothy Griffith	01253 899602
Mothers' Union	- June Challis	01253 864534
New Sentinel Distribution	- Geraldene Rogers	01253 822877
New Sentinel Editor:	- Ian Files	07778 521233

email - ianf723@gmail.com

The Clergy and Churchwardens will be happy to field enquiries and put you in touch with the correct contact in Church.

Sunday Service Times

8:00 am	Holy Communion (St Chad's)
9:30 am	Holy Communion (St Anne, Singleton)
10:00 am	Parish Communion (St Chad's) All Age Worship (1st Sunday of the month)
11:00 am	Holy Communion (St Hilda's)

The 10 o'clock Sunday Service from St Chad's will be streamed to the St Chad's Website and Facebook page (which can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Chads-Parish-Church-474539146054369>)

Midweek Services

Tuesday	10:00 am	Holy Communion (St Chad's)
Wednesday	11:00 am	Holy Communion (St Hilda's)
Thursday	11:30 am	Holy Communion (St Chad's)
Friday	7:30 pm	Holy Communion (St Chad's)

For any queries about our churches, baptisms, marriages or about our services, please contact the Vicar

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