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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK — A poem by Mike Howe

'Hunger'

When the baby awakes no crying he makes
which amid the attentions of wise men
and shepherds and lowing cattle and all
those conformant crowds coming to be
counted is somewhat miraculous
don't you think? But then, after days shuffling
a weary path to Bethlehem, after
the pangs of a backyard birth, his mother
would surely tell a different tale:

that it's the bawling to the bright sky
of her infant child which is the real deal,
the real miracle. When all the stardust dreams
of Christmas night have fled away, forms
been filled, inns emptied, it's the fierce carnate fact
of his tears she'll remember. She'll wonder
at such hunger for a mother's breast, wonder
at the frail gift of flesh and bone, eyes
opening with her own, what is yet to come.

*In your daily prayers, please
remember especially the following
members of our church family:*

Stephanie Cater, Brian
Fairclough, Sarah Russell,
Dorothy Williams, Mike
Oswald, Janet Humphries,
Sue Kirby, Lesley Davies,
Agnes Yarwood, Peter
Fallows, Bernadette Hallman,
Alf & Maureen Fairclough,
Carol Swinyard, George
Pennington, David Brooks,
Catherine Howe, Rob Scott,
Rob MacDonald, Roger
Jenkins, David Mason, Dan
McDowell, Dave Smyth,
Gwyneth Shackleton, Gordon
Orritt, Stuart Prendergast, Ellie
Clark, Anne & Joe Johnson,
Cathrine Munikwa, Adam, Gill
Sanderson and the bereaved
family & friends of Geoffrey
Riley



Names for this prayer list
can be e-mailed to:
stnicspa@gmail.com

St. Nicholas Church, Bridge Road,
Blundellsands, Liverpool L23 6SS



Keep up to date online with our church family at:

www.stnicholasblundellsands.org

and



[stnicholaschurchblundellsands](https://www.facebook.com/stnicholaschurchblundellsands)

LATEST CHURCH FAMILY NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS



Fit For Mission Sefton is starting to build the teams needed to move forward. If you are interested in being part of the initial Navigation Team please have a look at the Terms of Reference and Roles document and prayerfully consider completing the expression of interest form.

Both are on our church website www.stnicholasblundellsands.org



We would appreciate any help with making Christingles at **6pm on Monday 22nd Dec** in the hall. The more the merrier!

Our Christingle Service for all the family is on **Christmas Eve at 4pm**.

It would be lovely to see you there!



Storyhouse Cafe in Crosby village will be closing on Christmas Eve.

It will be re-opening in the New Year under the new management of Danny and Frankie and known as Open Heavens, also a Christian cafe and centre. They also have Open Heavens cafe in Bangor which you can find online.

Let's support this new venture in the village.



A huge Thank You to everybody for your generous donations, time and talents this Advent.

We are so grateful to all those who have decorated the church so beautifully or volunteered in any way, donated to the Food Bank and Salvation Army, given Advent calendars and toys and those involved with organising and staffing the wonderful Christmas Tree Festival.

Thank you once again!

PRAYER OF THE MONTH



Prayer For December

God with us, thank you that you came to live like we do.
Thank you that you came to love and teach and heal.
Thank you that you are still with us each day.
Light our way with your powerful love and guidance.

Amen

 St. Nicholas Church, Blundellsands



OUR REGULAR SERVICES/EVENTS

SUNDAYS

8.30am - Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer on **1st Sunday** of each month)

10.30am - Eucharist

10:30am All Age Service on **2nd Sunday** of each month (No Eucharist)

4.30pm - Picnic Praise on **1st and 3rd Sundays** of each month.

MONDAYS

6:00pm – Prayers together in the council chamber

WEDNESDAYS

9:00am -10:00am Church is open for private prayer

10:15am - Eucharist and Bible Study

THURSDAYS

9:00 am - 1:00pm - 'Soupa Thursday'.

Tea/coffee, toast, soup, company and chat

6:00pm - 7:00pm - Bridge Youth Group



St. Nicholas Church, Blundellsands



THIS MONTH'S RULE FOR LIFE

**Called to pray, read and learn.
Sent to tell, serve and give.**

Suggestions for December...

Read a chapter of Luke each day. It's the reason for the season!

Pray for God's light for all who struggle at this time of year.

Learn about a troubled country that doesn't make our news and pray for its peace.

Tell 3 people what Christmas means to you and ask about their plans.

Serve God in the way you care for others.

Give out personal invitations to our Christmas events and services.

Please e-mail items for newsletter
(by Wednesday 9 a.m.)
to: stnicspa@gmail.com



Our 10:30 Sunday Service is
LIVE STREAMED

@



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Feel free to contact us:

Rev. Beth Anderson (Vicar)



07734 088 039



bethanderson68@hotmail.com

MORE NEWS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

There is one 9.30am communion service on Sunday 28th December.

The following things will start again on these dates in the New Year -

Wednesday Communion and Bible study - Wednesday 14th January.

Soupa Thursday - 8th January

Picnic Praise - 18th Jan

Bridge Youth Club - 15th Jan



We did it!!

The very first Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas Church has now finished and it's all good news. It's been a great success and fulfilled the primary aim of bringing the community together to raise funds for 20 local and national charities, the total being over £600!!

Thanks go to all the businesses and organisations who joined in the event by sponsoring a tree, decorating it, making donations before the event and, most importantly, coming along themselves and bringing friends, family and clients.

We'd also like to thank St Faith's Church for the advice and support they gave us at the planning stage, Tony Almond Home and Garden for their generous discounts, Stephen Green and the Working Party who sourced and installed the wooden platforms, all the hardworking volunteers who played their parts during the event, those who kindly donated batteries for the 20 sets of fairy lights and to Indigo Vibe Choir for the Christmassy singing that rounded off the Festival.

We had wonderful feedback from all our visitors – 3 dogs, 70 children and 215 adults who commented on the warm welcome and friendly atmosphere at St Nicholas. They also appreciated the refreshments and the range of gifts available on the stalls.

Sally Baldwin went above and beyond by making the dough for the gingerbread before she went on holiday and Jan Warren and the Soupa Thursday Crafters created a wonderful range of items for the craft stall. We're especially grateful to Helen Martin, a Soupa Thursday regular, who donated the proceeds of her sales on the gift stall to St Nicholas. Funds raised from the two stalls and the refreshments totalled just over £450!!!

So thank you everyone – a fantastic event all round!



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