

Hi everyone, and greetings from Culcheth!

Well, the move has been completed and we're now 6 weeks into our new bungalow in Culcheth.

It's really strange being 25 minutes away and writing a newsletter from a different desk.

Same laptop – but a different view out the window.

How can I talk about what's going on at St Michael's when you probably know much more than I do about current issues? (I do have my 'informants' so behave yourselves)

Everyone at St Michael's has been so kind and wished us well and kept in touch by telephone, cards and messages and Irene and I would like to thank you all so much for your best wishes and kind thoughts.

We intend to see as much of you as possible and I will continue to take services, including communion, baptisms, funerals and the odd wedding and Irene hopes that she will also be able to see all her friends at the sewing group as well as coming to the Sunday services.

There is a church community here in Culcheth and they worship at 'New Church'.

Newchurch was erected sometime around 1528 and the original wooden building was replaced in 1743, which is around the same date as the current St Michael's building was built.

This building was burnt down in 1903 and the present 'Newchurch' was consecrated in 1904.

It's strange how the two church histories have run side by side for many centuries.

We haven't attended as yet, but we will in the fulness of time.

Culcheth village is quite similar to Flixton in many ways. They have village festivals and the parish is quite visible. There is a café run by the Christian community and there is a village choir as well.

Our neighbours have all taken the trouble to introduce themselves which was really nice, so taking everything into consideration, I'm sure we will be very happy here, especially as the community is so similar to what we have been used to for the last 40 years in Flixton.

I look forward to the time when some degree of normality returns and we will be able to meet properly and chat to a greater extent than we have been able to do for so long.

May God's blessing be upon you and those you love.

Alex

- **LATEST NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A message from Rev Huw

I'm really sorry I couldn't be with you in church on Sunday morning, as I have to self-isolate due to being in close contact with my cousin who has Covid. This, and the

number of people locally and nationally having to self-isolate, highlights what a highly infectious disease this still is.

We are still waiting for the diocese to decide what is the best course of action for worship spaces. However, as transmission rates are so high and the death rate has gone up 50% in the space of a week nationally, I feel for the time being we must stick to the risk assessment and continue to wear masks in church and practice social distancing. I also feel we are unable to sing at present, sadly.

I, with you, dream of a time when we can get back to some sort of normality. However, for the time being, I don't feel we are living in normal times and your safety is paramount.

Please stay safe.

Your brother in Christ

Huw

Online services and coffee mornings

The above online activities will be taking a holiday during August, which will allow our volunteers and Ministry Team to take a break. During this period, if you still wish to attend online services you can access them from a number of local churches (or further afield, if you wish), and some of the options available to you are shown in the links below:

- [Manchester Cathedral](#)
- [Benefice of Littleborough](#)
- [Salford All Saints Team Ministry](#)

Plans are being worked on to livestream the 10.15 a.m. Sunday service from our church building, hopefully from September onwards. Further details will be available about this in due course. This means our online coffee mornings, which take place after the 11.30 a.m. Zoom service, will be ending in their current form.

Many thanks to everyone who set up and helped to run our online church for the last 17 months, and particularly to those people who joined us for our services via Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube. We've been running two churches during this time, which has caused many challenges, but as a church community we've learned new skills to overcome them.

Restoration & Development Trust

The Trust are holding their Annual General meeting on Sunday 25th July in church at 12 noon. Please join us if you can. Also, subscriptions for 2021 are due and if you haven't already paid then please come along to the meeting or hand to Jean Rostron or Rev Huw.

If you haven't joined, further details and an application are available here www.stmichaelsflixton.org/restoration-and-development-trust

Heritage Open Day

September is the time of the year when buildings and places of interest open their doors to the public for free as part of the National Heritage Open Scheme. Our Heritage Open

Day is taking place on Saturday 18th September, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Please put this date in your diary!

The Restoration & Development Trust are hosting it and we are sure it will prove as popular as previous years. Trust members are beavering away in the background to ensure that it is as successful as previous years, we have always received such positive feedback. We are hopeful that there will be no government restrictions in place and that this will be a relaxed social day.

As always, it would be great if you could come along and support us on the day and chat to our visitors or even volunteer as a helper. Please speak to Jean Rostron if you'd like to be part of it.

- **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH RECENT AND UPCOMING SERVICES/EVENTS**

Sunday services inside our church building

Our 10.15 a.m. service this weekend is being held on the eighth Sunday after Trinity. Full details on how you can attend our socially distanced services, including a downloadable service sheet, can be found here www.stmichaelsflixton.org/socially-distanced-services

Online Sunday morning services, including our coffee mornings

Our online service this weekend will be taking place at 11.30 a.m.

You can participate in this service via Zoom using your electronic device, mobile phone or landline. This service will also be available to watch via a simultaneous broadcast using Facebook Live, and later on in the day via our YouTube channel. The service is accessible by a PowerPoint presentation which is shared on the screen.

If you'd like to receive the details to log on via Zoom please subscribe to our full newsletter here www.stmichaelsflixton.org/emailnewslettersandaskingforhelp

Online coffee mornings

Our shift to online coffee mornings after our Zoom services has been popular, with a number of Zoom attendees staying on to have a chat, and people who have attended our church building service logging on to take part.

They start at around 12.15 p.m. and last for no longer than 30 minutes. This means they should be finished by 12.45 p.m. at the latest, but if you need to leave earlier that is fine as well.

If you'd like to receive the details to log on via Zoom please subscribe to our full newsletter here www.stmichaelsflixton.org/emailnewslettersandaskingforhelp

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. You can watch previous week's recordings on our [YouTube channel](#).

Please note, there will be no Friday night prayer on the 4th of June.

Our Online Church

We have already been sharing our services and prayers on our web and social media sites. If you don't know how to find these, please use the links below:

- www.stmichaelsflixton.org
- <https://twitter.com/StMichaelsFlix>
- [St Michael's You Tube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
- www.instagram.com/stmichaelschurc hflixton
- www.facebook.com/StMichaelsFlixton

- **GIVING AND FUNDRAISING**

Please continue to support St Michael's Church

Thank you all so much, as over the last year you have:

- Donated over £2,300 via your online donations
- Raised over £150 from your online shopping (via easyfundraising and AmazonSmile)

Whilst self-isolating or socially distancing, you can still 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.