

Sandale's Annual Secret Santa Appeal

This year's Secret Santa appeal is probably more needed than ever before.

With many people on zero hours contracts or have been made unemployed, families are going to suffer at Christmas this year. We are asking for new toys (unwrapped) for girls and boys, all ages to distribute to our neighbours in order to bring some help and cheer. Also required are food bank items. Items can be dropped off at church when we return, or given to me at the vicarage. Thank you so much.

Picture of the Week

Please send pictures to me at andrew.greiff667@gmail.com

Janet Hallows Morecambe Bay



Prayer Chain If you, or someone you know needs urgent prayer call John Whitely (01274 676670)

Contacting us

The Team Vicar—Revd. Andy Greiff Tel. 01274 676 335

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Or follow us on Facebook

St Michaels & St Aidan's lockdown

NEWSLETTER

November 22nd Christ the King

Collect God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. **Amen**

Matthew 25:31 to end

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?

³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Homily

The ecological doomsayers are not backward at telling us how the human race is damaging the earth and that the future is bleak. There is some truth in their argument, it is beyond doubt that we often do not care for the world as we should.

At this time of year the lectionary always points us forward to end times and our responsibilities we have TODAY with regard to those end times. There will be consequences to our decisions and actions, a judgement, a separation, like a farmer separates the sheep from the goats, two animals that look similar but aren't.

With this in mind, and with a question I was asked earlier this week, it made me wonder if we are as urgent in our warnings to others about the future as the ecologists are and indeed Jesus is.

My granddad lived in a time when people preached the gospel at any opportunity they could. He would often stop his push bike on the way home from work if he happened upon a gathering of people. This could be a crowd outside a pub or shop or just a busy part of town. He'd lean the bike against a wall or lamp post and preach. No church, no hymns, no congregation of helpers, just him, telling people the way to God through Jesus. Street preaching seemed to be a calling that attracted the most transformed and strange personalities of the church, and my grandfather was friends with some of them and would sometimes preach alongside them. They often had amazing testimonies of the transforming power of salvation. Geordie Morton was one of these saved from the gates of hell characters. He had been a drunk from the slums of Sunderland who had killed a man in a drunken brawl and been sent to prison. While inside he'd been converted to Christianity and grown in his faith and enthusiasm. On finishing his sentence and being released he declared that, knowing his

previous sins, 'if God can save Geordie Morton he can save anybody and I'm going to tell the world about it'. And tell the world he did on the streets of his own town. Poverty was of course rife in the 1930s in the north east. It was a time of hunger marches and unemployment. There wouldn't have been much work for an ex con on the breadline. So Geordie threw himself on the mercy of the Unemployment Assistance Board and took the dreaded means test, which required a signature at the end. Geordie read the wording which said, "Declaration – all other means of support have been exhausted." He pondered the declaration he was being asked to sign for a moment before tossing it back to the official, "here", he said in his thick Sunderland accent, "I'll come back when God dies".

Points to consider: Am I ready for that day of judgement? Are the decisions I make now about how I treat others and the world in line with what God wants for my life? Andy

NEWS & NOTICES

**We are currently in lockdown. Watch out for further notices regarding when we can return to church.
Zoom group Monday 23rd November 12.30**

APCM

APCM: Wednesday 25th November 7.30pm via ZOOM
Not everyone will be able to connect with Zoom but we will endeavour to distribute the APCM REPORT either via email or hard copy. If anyone has questions or comments they can email or ring me and I shall respond. Here are the Zoom details for those who can connect: An email will be sent on the day with these details as a reminder.

Meeting ID: 849 8220 7987
Pass code: 059852