

### ADVENT SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

9.30 am. Parish Eucharist - St Stephen's 10.00 am. Choral Matins - St Peter's 11.00 am. All-Age Eucharist - St Peter's

3.30 pm. Advent Carol Service 'From Darkness to Light' - St Stephen's

### SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER

9.00 am. Burnley Prayer Breakfast - St Stephen's

3.00 pm. Carols on the Green. Join us to sing Carols outside in our Community -

St Stephen's

### ADVENT 2 SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

9.30 am. Parish Eucharist - St Stephen's 11.00 am. Parish Eucharist - St Peter's

3.30 pm. St Stephen's Sings Christmas - St Stephen's

### ADVENT 3 SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER

8.45 am. Wake up & Worship followed by The Eucharist at 9.30 am

- St Stephen's

11.00 am. Parish Eucharist - St Peter's

4.00 pm. Traditional Lessons and Carols - St Peter's

### CHRISTMAS EVE 24TH DECEMBER

9.30 am. The Nativity' led by our Sunday Club - St Stephen's

11.00 am. Parish Eucharist - St Peter's

4.00 pm. 'The Nativity' led by our Sunday School

St Peter's

11.30 pm. Benefice Midnight Eucharist St Stephen's

### CHRISTMAS DAY 25TH DECEMBER

10.00 am. Benefice Eucharist - St Peter's

### New Year's Eve 31st December

10.30 am. The Patronal Feast of St Stephen followed by Canapés & Bucks Fizz

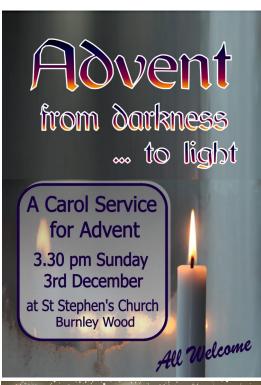
- St Stephen's



The Parish Magazine of The United Benefice of St Peter & St Stephen, Burnley DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024



http://www.stpetersburnley.com http://www.ststephenschurchburnley.org.uk















Rector of the United Benefice: Fr Andrew Holmes
Tel: 07460 899451 Email: andrewinburnlev@gmail.com

Tel: 0746	60 899451 Em	ail: andrewinburnley@gmail.cor	n	
ST PETER'S		ST STEPHEN'S		
CHURCH WARDENS: Mrs Sandra Davies Mr Jason Walsh		CHURCH WARDENS: Mr Keith Pounder Mrs Jean Beeston	臂414390 管432986	
<u>VERGER</u> Mr Stewart Hacking	譽 438224	ASSISTANT WARDENS Mr Paul Hannah	轡07967 644709	
PCC SECRETARY Mr Andrew Buchanan	含7565 347524	PCC SECRETARY: Mrs Maureen Hanson	譽434865	
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER Mrs Joan Ainsworth	魯07971 711250	VISION CHAMPION: Mrs Linda Pounder	含414390	
<u>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:</u> Mr Philip Tomlinson	含777132	MOTHERS' UNION: Mrs Beverley Laycock (Branch Leader) Mrs Jackie Cosway (Secretary)	含543766 含411967	
VISION TEAM: Mrs Joan Ainsworth (Making Disciples) Mrs Meena Tomlinson Inspiring Children & Young	營07971 711250 營07806 623466	Emma Hopley	營07968 782210 營07789 952470	
People) Mrs Alan Roadley (Growing Leaders)	含07588 556640	HEADTEACHER: Mrs Jo Roberts	辔427848	
MOTHERS' UNION: Mrs Carol Waddington	魯 07846 139241	SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Mrs Barbara Hasty	含07783006284	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Mrs Cynthia Bramley	<b>2</b> 07903341700.	<u>Verger</u> Mrs Edith Meek	魯456170	
SUNDAY SCHOOL (DJs): Mrs Meena Tomlinson	轡777132	CHURCH FLOWERS: Vacant		
HEADTEACHER: Mrs Crowther	含426873			
FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S: Mrs Heather Slater	轡432775			
FLOWER GUILD: Mrs Alice Binns	<b>含</b> 789632			
<u>BELFRY</u> Mr Richard Parker	含19906			
Kitchen/Catering Manager Mrs Cynthia Bramley				
I	Church M	AGAZINE EDITOR: :		

CHURCH MAGAZINE EDITOR: :

Mrs Pam McGrath: Email: pamelamcgrath1@hotmail.com

## Don't forget - if you need anything, don't hesitate to contact us



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Please ensure that all articles for inclusion in the February Magazine are submitted no later than

15th December pamelamcgrath I @hotmail.com

# Useful Information

Mechanics Theatre. Tuesday - Friday 11 -3.30 and Saturday 11 - 2.30. Cafe and first floor bar will be open for hot and cold drinks, snacks and meals.

Saint Matthews Church, Harriet Street is open on Saturdays for free breakfast club, and on Wednesdays for for soup and sandwiches.

Gannow Community Centre provides free drinks and snacks Mondays and Thursdays 9-30 and Tuesday Wednesday and Fridays 1-3pm

**The Hub in Padiham** is open Monday -Friday 10-2pm for hot drinks, toast and daily activities.

**Burnley Central Library** is open Monday-Saturday 9-5 for reading, crafts and cultural events.

Barbara Marshall

# FOR SALE

ELECTRIC HOSTESS TROLLEY Excellent Condition \$20.00

Contact: Keith Pounder

Dear Friends,



In "A Christmas Carol," Charles Dickens wrote, "I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all year long." A



narrative that contrasts with the commercial aspects of the month's countdown in days towards Christmas Day, Boxing

Day, New Year's Day on 1st January 2024, and time off in between.

I welcome the countdown of days in the season of Advent, which begins on 3rd December, Carol services, the nativity, and other special events within our Benefice as we look forward to the celebration of the birth of Christ on Christmas Day. However, what if we had the above celebrations throughout the year?

In the words of Charles Dickens, "We honour Christmas in our heart all year long." We would have enough time to reflect on the impact of peace and goodwill between our churches and our community and make a difference. Charles M Schultz said: "Christmas is doing a little extra something for someone else," that 'extra something' for every month of the year.

In "Miracle on 34th Street", my favourite film to watch with my children on Christmas Eve, even though they are now in their twenties, tissues at the ready, it is quoted that "Oh, Christmas isn't just a day. It's a frame of mind." A frame of mind held and maintained throughout the year.

If we are in an incarnational way of mind, we strive to be more Christ-like, **Courageous, Compassionate, and Loving.** This can lead to something positive and lasting that comes from within us into the world.

Christmas is a marker for goodwill, not just a holiday season. Instead, we can make a real difference with our loved ones, family, neighbours, community, schools, and church. After all, the most important two commandments in the Bible are summarised from the 12th chapter of Mark's Gospel: "Love God and Others!" The impact of this goodwill is extraordinary – reaching beyond the boundaries of our churches overflowing into our community. We help someone, and that blessing is passed on. Are we genuinely open to doing something new? The journey

begins with greater self-awareness of Christmas and the incarnation and what it means to accept love from God and use it to make changes that positively impact others.

I hope we can take Christmas and Jesus out throughout the year, way beyond the 25th day of this month, the wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity recognised as a baby lying in a manger and wrapped snuggly in strips of cloth. Jesus is the light for people who walk in darkness, shining on the world for us in the present and the future.

I hope you will take the time to join us in one or more of our Christmas Services.

On behalf of our Benefice, may I wish you and your families the love of Christ, His peace and goodwill this Christmas season, and a new year of blessings.

Fr Andrew





# ... with Keith, Jean & Paul

St Stephen's Churchwardens

Can you believe that we're approaching the end of another year? Overall, led by Fr Andrew, we've accomplished such a lot, but there's still a lot more to come with Christmas on the horizon! Please do take a look at the back page of the magazine for a calendar of events coming up through December.

### CHANGING THE LIGHTS

Thank you very much to all those who have given (or pledged) a donation in response to Keith's request to replace the fluorescent lights in the Community Room with LED fittings. It is hoped that the work will start shortly and be completed by Christmas; however, donations are still welcome! Please see a warden if you're interested.

### **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

By the time you are reading this, the Confirmation service will probably have taken place, but we wanted to tell you what a joy it was to host the first of the two confirmation classes when the 14 candidates gathered at St Stephen's. After filling themselves with lunch, they all then had a fun afternoon ending with hot dogs and cakes etc., followed by a firework display. Grateful thanks to Linda for the catering and Paul for the fireworks and to everyone else involved which made the day a great success. A video



was sent to Keith from a fan at Burnley's game at Turf Moor, who saw the display from the lames Hargreaves stand and said that the firework display was the most exciting thing to have happened during the game!!



### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Our annual service was again one that people have said how moved they felt, especially with the video showing all

those from our parish who fell during both World Wars. Our two Parish Ambassadors took part in the service and we also welcomed representtatives from St Stephen's Girl Guides. Grateful thanks to Rev Frances for presiding.

### MEMORIAL BOARD

Designs have been submitted for a board, which will be placed in church to commemorate those whose ashes have been interred in our Memorial Garden. It is hoped this will be finalised early in the New Year.

#### **ADVENT BIBLE COURSE**

There will be four sessions (looking at the Book of Ruth) starting in Church on Wednesday 26 November at 7:30pm Do come along and enjoy fellowship, a cuppa and looking at the wonderful story of Ruth – you'll be most welcome!

### **CHRIS POWELL ORGAN CONCERT**

This event is scheduled to take place in church on Friday, 15th December at 7:00pm, when there will be a Christmas theme to Chris's repertoire. Requests for tickets has been a little slow so far, but we do need your support to help us raise the ever much-needed funds for our Church! It's always a great night with plenty of toe-tapping, clapping and singing, and there'll be refreshments on sale too. Please come along and support us.

Tickets are £8.00, and are available from Keith, Linda, Pam or Jean

#### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

As we look forward to this time of year, we shall once again be erecting our giant, 15-foot Christmas tree which was given to us by Tesco. Thank you to Rev Frances for donating lots of baubles, which, we understand, she won in a raffle anyway!

All the services taking place in the Benefice throughout the Christmas period are detailed in the magazine we look forward to welcoming you! We hope that you will support all the activities during Christmastide -There are lots of events being planned for 2024 - but all will be revealed in the New Year - keep a look out!!

Finally, we know we've said it before but it's true - we are very grateful and thank all of you (too many to mention...) who HELP IN ANY WAY with the smooth running of our Church – it truly is appreciated.

All that's left is to wish you all a wonderful, blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year – we'll be back in February!

Keith, Jean & Paul



A verse to encourage us to let go of the past and look forward to the future:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 4:6-7)



### Churchwardens' News from St Peter's



Hello everyone,

The dark nights are back and the rain has been coming down heavily, but we hope you are managing to stay warm and dry nonetheless. Christmas is almost upon us once again, which should provide a bit of festive cheer, and if you're anything like us we're sure you'll have already cracked open the mince pies!

Fr Andrew led our service on Remembrance Sunday as we honoured those who have died in war. Wreaths were placed at the war memorials in church and the Sunday School laid one at the memorial in the churchyard. It is always very moving to hear the names of those from our parish who lost their lives in the First



and Second World Wars read out, sometimes multiple men from the same family. The Act of Remembrance was appropriately read this year by exserviceman John Cruickshanks who served in Afghanistan. Thanks also to John for his help with putting the flag up in readiness for the day.

After the success of the Bible Course over the last couple of months, which has been very well attended, Thursday Chat continues with a course looking at the book of Romans. There will be ten sessions with a break for Christmas and February half-term. So do drop in to Thursday Chat which takes place every week at 10am.

It's hard to believe it's nearly Christmas again! There is plenty to look forward to this year though. Join us for the concert on Saturday 2nd December at I Iam - 'A Celebration of Christmas' - featuring traditional carols for all to sing accompanied by the choir and Young Singers, with seasonal refreshments served. You'll be guaranteed more magnificent music at our 'Nine Lessons and

Carols' on Sunday 17th December at 4pm. The Lunch Club holds its Christmas Lunch on Thursday 21st December, and 'The Nativity' will be led by our Sunday School on Christmas Eve at 4pm. And if you are able to join us for the Eucharist on Christmas Day, it will be at the earlier time of 10am to enable you to get Christmas dinner sorted.

There is plenty more happening throughout the month at both St Peter's and St Stephen's, so look out for the poster with all the details.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Take care,

Sandra and Jason





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Start saving early for Christmas with our savings cards that can be topped up and used anytime throughout the year, or give that special someone a Heys gift card.





We look forward to welcoming you, come and see us soon!



There is a list of folks I know all written in a book And every year at Christmas time I go and take a look And that is when I realise these names are all a part Not of the book they're written in, but of my very heart. For each name stands for someone who has touched my life some time And in the meeting they've become the 'Rhythm of the Rhyme' I really feel I am composed of each remembered name And which you may not be aware of feeling quite the same. My life is so much better than it was before you came For once you have know someone the years cannot erase The memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine of names upon a list, forgotten in between For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you It is because you're on the list of folks I am indebted to. And whether I've know you for many years or few In some way you have had a part in shaping things I do So every year when Christmas comes I realise anew The biggest gift that God can give is knowing friends like you!

Edna was a much-loved member of St Stephen's Church for many years, and is much missed.



Cupcakes
Brownies
Birthday Cakes
Christening Cakes
Cakes for most occasions

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Email: emmahopley70@qmail.com

by Emma



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WHY NOT VISIT TO LOOK AROUND?

St Stephen Street:

**2** 422434

### St Peter's Flower Guild ROTA FOR DECEMBER Towneley Chapel Sanctuary 3rd No Flowers required 10th during Advent 17th Flowers donated by 24th Mrs A Binns & Mrs M Brown ROTA FOR JANUARY Mrs E Dawson 7th Vacant 14th Mrs S Barritt Vacant Vacant 21st Vacant 28th Vacant Vacant

Arrangements for decorating the church for Christmas will appear on the weekly newsheet plus any other events.

On behalf of the flower guild may we wish you all a very happy Christmas and all best wishes for 2024.

Thank you for your support.

Alice and Maureen

On gravestones, they ought to divide in two, and display in a table or grid. The things we always intended to do, And the things that we actually did

Nick Aubury



### St Peter's Branch

We had a very interesting and enjoyable meeting in October. Joanne came and spoke to us about the history of walking days, the first Faith Walk having taken place on Whit Monday 1801 in Manchester. By the end of the century most of the Anglican churches in and around Manchester were taking part, thousands of people walking from their respective churches, some setting off as early as 6.00am, and gathering in Albert Square for a service and blessing before setting off back home. Soon the Roman Catholic churches started their own annual procession on the Friday, with Manchester's Italian Community walking in the evening. Faith walks, or "Whit walks", spread outwards from Manchester throughout the northwest. Freda then showed photographs of St Peter's Walking Days from when she was a small girl and a Sunday school teacher up to more recent times when her daughter was Sunday school queen.

On 29th November we will be having our annual lunch at Towneley Garden Centre at 12.30pm. Always an enjoyable occasion.

There will be no meeting in December, we meet again at 2.00pm in church on Wednesday 31st January 2024. carol



### **LOOKING BACK**

#### **ANNUAL AUCTION**

Keith hosted and officiated at our auction in October. He did a fantastic job. managing to persuade us to part with our hard earned pensions and cash and buy things we didn't even know we wanted. Raising over £300 was amazing.

#### WRAPPING FUN

We all met up on November 14th to wrap presents for the Christmas Fair, whilst listening to some early Christmas music and munching on mince pies.

### **LOOKING FORWARD (December, 2023)**

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Saturday 2nd December from 11 am.

Our presents are wrapped and ready for the MU stall. All donations for the MU cake stall would be gratefully received.

CHRISTMAS MEAL: Tuesday 12th December, 2023

Thank you all for paying up! Arrive for noon and the buffet will be served for twelve-thirty. Please remember to bring along your own drinks and glasses.

### **LOOKING FORWARD (January 2024)**

AGM AND NEW YEAR REFRESHMENTS: Tuesday 9th, 2pm in the community room

### **DECEMBER 2023 CELEBRATIONS**

Happy Birthday to all ...

Jean Beeston, 2nd, Linda Hannah, 11th and Renie Pearson, also 11th.

### **IANUARY 2024 CELEBRATIONS**

Happy Birthday to all ...

Jackie Cosway, 10th, Barbara Catlow, 13th and Elaine Taberner,

Happy Anniversary to Jackie Cosway for the 3rd.

### Congratulations to all!

Christmas peace and all good wishes,





#### DECEMBED / IANIJADY IN THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF ST STEPHEN'S

DEC	DECEMBER/JANUARY IN THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF ST STEPHEN'S				
lst	lan David Young, George Church Lancaster	lst	David Saunt, May Thornton, Emma Bell, Jack Sharp		
2nd	Arthur Hill Dixon, Dorothy Ward, James William	2nd	David Edward Jones, Peter Hall, Kathleen Sharp		
2 .	Baker, Helen Hudson	3rd	Emily Law, Jean Thornber		
3rd	Gladys Fielding, Irvine Stephenson, Phyllis Blythe, Margaret Thorburn	4th	Dora Higson, Leo Waterworth		
4th	Arthur Dixon, Mary Ellen Rycroft, Lottie Jobling	5th	Gertrude Healey, Hannah Wilkins, William Beaumont,		
5th	Albert Henry Baker, Craig William Beeston, Wilhelmina Baker	6th	Don Laing, Gordon Morris		
6th	Mary Jane Clegg	7th	Alice Heap, Samuel Farrer, James Marcus Yates  Edward (Teddy) Garner, Bernard Rodgers		
7th	Edwin Taylor, Julia Busfield, Maggie O'Hara, Barbara	8th	William Heyes, Bertha Parkinson, John Meek		
7 (1)	Cryer	9th	Christopher Hodgson		
8th	George Leonard Tegerdine, Joyce Stuttard				
9th	George Berry, Ralph Hampton Warren, Tom Corless, Alfred Green (Priest)	10th	Frank M Ascroft, James Edward Wadsworth, Harry Mason,		
I0th	Walter Walker, Amy Hopwood, Ivy Hindle,	llth	James Edward Garner, Annie Parker		
	Dorothy Martin	I2th	Elizabeth Scholes, Eveline Farrer		
llth	Charlotte Astwood	I3th	Alfred McGeorge, Thomas Henry Scholes, Kathleen Hopwood		
I2th	Clifford Harrison, Frank Haighton Jackson, Muriel Cockcroft	I 4th	•		
l 4th	John Weston Whitham, John Geoffrey William Eddison, Rita Mary Imeson, Elsie Glennie	I5th	John Green, Tom Mitton, Alan Morley, Nora Hindle, Marion Tillotson		
l 5th	Elsi Schofield	I 6th	Alice Scott, William Whalley, Derek Whalley, Hilda Burton, Lesley Cowling		
16th	Sarah Jane Duckworth, Jack Arthur Catton	l 7th	Doris Edmondson, Harry Hebden		
17th 18th	Harry Hebden, Rose Ellen Harris  Anne Grice, Betsy Berry, Norah Lindsay	I8th	James Bell, Thomas Murray, Arthur Jackson Heys, Stanley Stratton, Margery Ludlam		
19th	James Astin, Cecil Herrett, William Hampden	20th	Bertha Mellor, Emily Beaumont		
. ,	Riddiough	2lst	Emma Bastable, Ernest Ridge, Doris Sculthorpe		
20th	John Pim		Thomas Ward, Harold Smith, Harry Walsh, Thomas		
21st	Patricia (Pat) Allen	ZZIIG	Barkess		
22nd	Adrian Lewis Meredith, Harry Heap, Jane Sunter, Ann Park	23rd	Thomas Wilson, Rhoda Riddiough		
23rd	Dora Entwistle, Laura Schofield, Pamela Swaine	24th	Maggie Meredith, Minnie Jackson, Maud Taylor, Elsie Simpson, Roland Henderson, John Titley		
24th	Lewis Nichols, Louisa Frances Medforth, Ernest Alston, Beatrice Waterworth, Harold Hensman	25th	Alice Watson, Mona Stanworth		
25th	Maggie Astwood, Elizabeth Ann Sawley, Norman	26th	Arthur Percy Kenyon, Winifred Hebden		
2301	Henry Helme	27th	Sydney Harrison		
26th	Albert Heyslop, Leonard Tomlinson, June Chapman	28th	Charles Frederick Hargreaves, Raimond Kull, Roland Jasper Smith		
27th	Fred Archer	29th			
28th	Sarah Eliza Hebden, Ethel Beaumont, Fred Walton		Nancy Hall, Allan Harker, John James Mould		
29th	John Edmund Lord, Edith Heyes, Arthur Whitehead, Robert Cryer, nLillie Ada Balderstone, Isabell Fitton	31st	Arthur William Benns, Brian George Davis, Lorinda		
30th	Florrie Vernon, Margaret Briggs, Edward Ingham Dand, Annie Powell, Eunice Furness		(Laura) Halton		
2.	Manus Karai Cattan Flair Walton Maniania Callan				

K OF REMEMBRANCE OF ST PETER'S

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DE	CEMBER/JANUARY IN THE BOOK
lst	Edith Francis, Dr Erwin Falik
2nd	Margaret Yates
3rd	Alice Newbold, Marion Edmondson
8th	Marguerite Jane Thompson
9th	Elizabeth Astin
llth	Silas Theodore Bellinger, George Henry Waring
I2th	Harold Shaw
I3th	Rose Green
I4th	Harry Smith
18th	Ester Alice Hadfield, Alfred Earley Hadfield, Henry Watson, Sarah Ann Potts, Mary Jane Taylor
I9th	James Arthur Ryan, Annie Bunney
20th	Willie Gudgeon
22nd	Mary Brown, Frank Jackson
24th	James Reid, Joyce Jones
25th	Anna Lozinski, William Taylor Foulds, Florrie Barritt

26th William Egar

31st Gladys Gudgeon

chinson, James Dawson

30th Maud Ethel Halstead, Jennie Ormerod

John Morris lst Albert Schofield, William Mason Coates 2nd 3rd Rose Hilda McNair, Margaret Booth Kathleen Martin OBE 4th 7th John Parker John Stuart Lockwood I0th Joan Eglin llth Ben Lund I2th Mavis Ryan Emily Helena Tomlinson John Thomas Dodd 17th Mary Bestwick Mary Ann Clegg, Pierce Astin 18th 19th Norman Barritt Christine Ryan 21st 23rd George Arthur G Senior Maggie Williams, William Edward Barritt 27th Dr John Baldwin, Shoesmith, Ethel Louisa Shoesmith 31st Sarah Hannah Sagar, Ellen Ann Whittaker, Marjorie 27th Kenneth Howker, Casey-Jack Broxup, Peter Pike Batley, Peter West , Elizabeth Craig Lavery, 28th Arthur Todd, Frank Stansfield, Thomas Henry Hut-Edward Fildes 29th Ernest Joseph Parkinson, John Edward Lockwood

**RIP** 



Mary Kessi Catton, Elsie Walton, Marjorie Seller,

John Jobling

### Gifting

by Christine Harbour

Well, it's nearly time isn't it? The time when we shop for Christmas gifts, paper tinsel baubles and Christmas cards. Sometimes it seems we rush around in a frenzy wondering what on earth we can give our friends and relatives.



Someone I know used to buy all her Christmas gifts at the last minute when she would rush to the shops on Christmas Eve purchasing random items that had been reduced in price!

When God gave us the most precious gift of all, Jesus, he didn't rush around at the last minute, but he spent years preparing it. He gave clues in the Psalms and the inspired words through the prophets. As in creation and in everything, God prepared his family tree with care . The story of Ruth was about 1,000 years before the birth of Jesus and she became the great grandmother of Jesus when she a Moabite , married Boaz who was a practising Jew. The book of Ruth is one of the most beautiful love stories ever written. A story of deaths, devotion, redemption love and procreation. As a small child in Sunday school there was a beautiful picture of Ruth in a pink dress gleaning in the fields, and I loved it! When we studied the Bible at Linda Pounder's house group I discovered the true meaning and depth of the book of Ruth. She was a far cry from just a lady in a pretty dress! We are beginning our Advent studies with this marvellous Bible book and I urge any of you who only know the bare bones of the story to come along and find the fascinating background of Ruth as we lead up to Christmas and the wonderful Nativity story.

As we prepare our gifts this Christmas let us think about how we can give. Instead of buying meaningless 'tat' (that might well end up at the Mother's Union Auction which we hold at St. Stephen's every year!) Let's think about how we can gift with love. Maybe we can baby sit for a single Mum while she shops for her Christmas or buy toys for children who have little, maybe we can buy seeds or chickens through a charity or buy a clothes pack for a refugee. Maybe we could make a meal for someone or donate to a food bank. We could be creative this Christmas!

As God prepared his gift for us with such care and detail surely we can think about our gifting too. When we give to others with our heart we are giving

a little of ourselves to God himself. Christmas is coming, let's celebrate it with joy, singing and devotion and give a little of ourselves.

What can I give Him poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part. Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9,v6)

Joy to the world! The prophecies came true! Your Saviour is born,

Be blessed.

Happy Christmas. Christine H



## Friends, Food and Fun ...

... More tea Vicar!!

Our Friends Food and Fun has become quite an event. Sharing our jokes and hospitality is what we are about. The clue is in the title: Friends Food and Fun.

Our singing vicar has had our crowd on their feet singing New York New York at the end of each afternoon tea.

This event is open to all. Please do join us for a fun afternoon. Everyone is welcome.

Keith





### **School News**



On Monday 13th November, our Year 6 pupils led us in a short Remembrance NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN. Service at St Peter's Church cenotaph. As the IIth of November fell on a Saturday this year, this was our opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

> Our Remembrance Service this year was a little different. We started by reading aloud the poem, In Flanders Field, as we

deeply affected by it during Picture News. After reading the poem, two children read out the Exhortation. Then the Last Post sounded and we respected a two minutes silence to remember the people who have died in wars around the world. Tasneem

The children were very respectful throughout the service, showing real empathy and compassion. Father Andrew closed the service by leading us in prayer.

In Picture News, we looked at how the poppies had changed over the decades. We were very interested why the poppy from the 1920's had a falling petal, but then realised that it represented the soldiers that had fallen/died during the war. All the different poppies were interesting, but the one from the 1940's was made of cardboard, which we think was because of the Depression after World War II. Today's poppy is plastic free and has been made from the offcuts of cardboard coffee cups. Summayah

Whilst looking at Picture News, we started talking about where Flanders Field was. We looked it up on a map and our teacher found the poem - In Flanders Field. We read the poem and were really affected by the words and meanings of the poem. Fatimah

20

On Friday the 17th November, we were lucky enough to have Bishop Philip come and visit us in school. Our School Council interviewed him and learnt so much about his life and work, and the inspiration behind his vision.



Bishop Philip then led us in Worship, with the help of the newly appointed 'Bishop Scarlett'! Bishop Scarlett helped us see the significance behind some of the items Bishop Philip wears in his role.

Then, he told the story of Blind Bartimaeus, to help us think about the Fruits of the Spirit, which has been a theme in our worship in school. He blessed our new Fruits



of the Spirit award, which Father Andrew then presented to Hamzah, our first recipient. Hamzah shows such dedication to making our school the best it can be, in his roles on the School Council, Eco Committee and as a Mental Health Champion. Each time Father Andrew visits for worship, he will present the award to someone, who has lived out the fruits of the spirit and our school Mrs Crowther core values of respect, love, forgiveness, service and trust.





### Sunday School News from St Peter's

'We pray for the sparkle that children bring to our churches and how they show us the kingdom of God'

The above prayer closed the latest meeting of the Diocesan Children's Committee . I thought this was very beautiful and apt.

We've had fantastic extra sessions this month with our children/young people: a half term ' Jesus - Light of the World ' workshop which was very busy , filled with fun and excellent listening .

The first of our Confirmation Workshops was an inspiration for the adults to listen and encourage the growing faith and interest of our Young People .

Our Young Singers brought joy and smiles when they sang for an hour at Bank Hall nursing home.

It is a joy to watch our children pray openly in our services and see our young people gain confidence reading and singing .









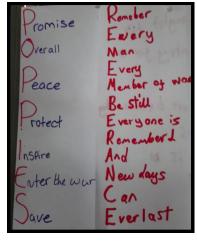
December is a busy month with several concerts for the Young Singers , our beautiful Nativity service , all enriched by our build up in Sunday School during Advent using the inspired resources in Roots .

Many thanks for the monetary gifts towards the advent gifts for our children . And many thanks to the inspired helpers for our Confirmation Workshops.

Love from

Meena XX

### More of what we did last month















### St Stephen's **School News**

### KIK (https://kidsinkailahun.org/)

I would like to thank St Stephen's Church on behalf of everyone at St Stephen's Primary School for donating the money to continue to sponsor the children in Kailahun. Sierra Leone. This donation ensures that our sponsored children 'Prince and Princess' have access to an education.



### **CHARITY EVENTS**

Every class at St Stephen's has a chosen charity and they are responsible for organising a fundraising event. In September our Macmillan coffee morning organised by Year 6 was even more successful than in previous years. The year 6 children did a great job by taking orders, selling raffle tickets, running games and serving. We were overwhelmed with the number of donations and cakes that were made for this. The generosity of our community was incredible. The event managed to raise a whopping £530.00 for Macmillan Cancer support. This is a charity that is very close to our heart at the moment



because sadly, one of our Year 5 boys lack has been diagnosed with Cancer and is undergoing a range of intensive treatment. Some of the Year 5 parents have arranged a gofund.me account so people can donate to this. Some of his friends are going to 'brave the shave' in support of lack losing his hair in the week before Christmas. School will be holding a 'wear yellow' non-uniform day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December and all donations can be made on the gofund.me link. Alternatively, people can donate cash, and this will be collected and banked by Sarah Boyden. If you would like to donate to the cause then this is the link: https://gofund.me/467ecffe Please keep Jack and his family in your hearts and prayers.

### LET'S GO SING

The children in the school choir have started their rehearsals for the concert at St George's Hall in March next year. The children have some tutoring from

Rose a coach from the organisation which they really enjoy. Tickets will go on sale nearer the time.

### **GRANDAD WHEELS**

The children thoroughly enjoyed a visit from our special author 'Grandad Wheels'. Unfortunately, Brian had a bad cycling accident some years ago and was found in a river unconscious. Two walkers discovered him and fortunately saved his life however the accident left him paralysed and having to use a wheelchair for the rest of his life. He decided to write some funny stories about his life in the wheelchair for his grandson and has gone on to publish many of these books and visit schools to



talk about disabilities. If you would like to purchase any of these books, then the link is: <a href="https://www.grandadwheels.com/">https://www.grandadwheels.com/</a>

#### HARVEST

The children really enjoyed the lovely service in Church for Harvest and also the fundraising that we did. This year we managed to raise £299.26 which was split between the Bishop's Harvest Appeal and the Ripple Effect. These are the gifts that we bought for families in rural African Countries from the Ripple Effect:

Big Splash Watering Can £5; Cool Cockerel £6; Feed a child £10; Tip Top Tip Tap £14; Cookery Class £20; Gardening Kit £26; Super Stove £30; Glorious Goat £35

#### **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

We will focus on the advent period in our collective worships on a weekly basis and follow the Christmas story.

We are very excited for our school Choir to be singing Christmas carols at Burnley Hospital on 19th December. We hope that the beautiful sound of our children's voices can bring joy to those people who ae not in the best of health at this special time of the year. They are also looking forward to opening the St Stephen's Church fair on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.

The children are looking forward to the school being transformed into a magical, sparkly, wintery festive learning environment on 29th November and for our lovely new nativity scene to be displayed in the library.

All children are already starting their rehearsals for the concerts which will be held in school on Wednesday 13th December 2023. In addition to this they will be enjoying parties on the 14<sup>th</sup> December and a carol service in St Stephen's Church on 21<sup>st</sup> December at 9:30am. The highlight of the last day in school is a visit from Santa who often walks round school visiting all the KS2 children in their classrooms and he meets all the younger children in the library. To conclude the school year the children will pray for people less fortunate than us and hold other people in their hearts.

### YOUNG DISCIPLES

The young disciples are very proud of their role and will continue to make St Stephen's even more distinctive as a Church school. They went through a recruitment process whereby they had to write a letter of application and have an interview (it wasn't too scary). The



successful candidates were awarded a badge in Collective Worship by Fr Andrew and they meet with me each Tuesday lunchtime. We are all hoping to plan a spirituality day in school where parents and carers will be invited in for part of this.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and as always if you have any questions then just email me at <a href="head@st-stephens-pri.lancs.sch.uk">head@st-stephens-pri.lancs.sch.uk</a>



#### **PRAYER**

We will be keeping Jack and his family in our prayers at all times.

We would also like to pray for those affected by the conflicts around the world at this time.

### Dear God,

We pray for all persons suffering from war.

May they be held in your loving care and protection and given the strength to endure great suffering and hardship.

Amen

Best wishes

Jo Roberts Headteacher





### EXPLORING PRAYER Part VI

by Joan Ainsworth

### **BLESSING PRAYER**

God wants to bless us! The meaning of blessing can be to bring to completion, to give gifts, to fill us with good things, even protection. God is a giving, generous Father to His children. Somehow we can sometimes have an impression of a God as a schoolteacher, or a harsh Father pointing out our faults. Yet, all through the Bible we see examples of God providing for His Children, gently leading us by still waters surrounding us with love.

When we come to bless people we are asking our Father to make them whole and perfect, to be healthy and strong, to enrich their relationships, enjoy their work, family and friends, to bring joy into every part of their lives.

When I bless people I get excited about what God will do for them and in them, it brings the one who prays, peace and happiness. What a way to pray. One of the first examples of blessing someone is Abraham in Genesis 12.

I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

This is God's plan for Abraham even to this day it is still working out. Blessings are powerful, potent and long lasting. One way of blessing people is to pray the psalms, for example if some is in a difficult place Psalm 20. I-5 is helpful

In times of trouble, may the LORD answer your cry.

May the name of the God of Jacob keep you safe from all harm.

May he send you help from his sanctuary

and strengthen you from Jerusalem.

May he remember all your gifts and look favourably on your burnt offerings.

May he grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed.

We will shout for joy when we hear of your victory and raise a victory banner in the name of our God.

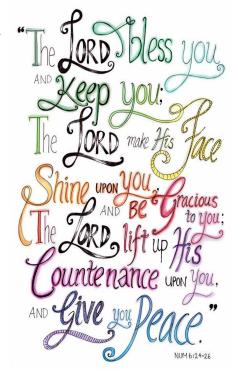
May the LORD answer all your prayers.

/continued ...

Jesus continually blessed people with peace, freeing people from suffering, Mark 5.34, when forgiving sins, Luke 7.50, when calming storms Mark 4.39, to his disciples to carry on his work John 14.27.

The Hebrew word for peace is Shalom and includes: peace, harmony, wholeness completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquility. When we bless people we are blessing every area of their lives in line with how God blesses us.

Father God, I ask that you bless all who read this with your shalom completeness in every area of their lives. I bless all to know you and enjoy your presence every day. I bless all to experience your love and protection in the name of Jesus the Prince of Peace. Amen





### Thank You

Pauline Lockwood would like to express her sincere thanks to everyone for their cards, flowers, prayers and best wishes during her recent illness.

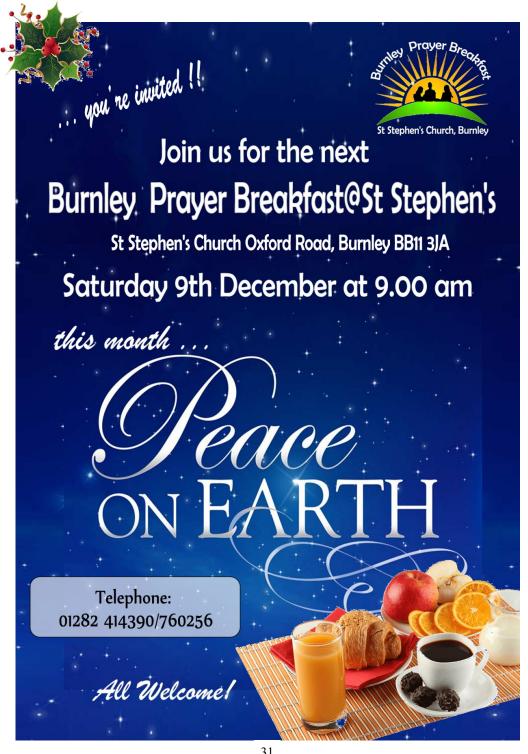
They were so much appreciated. Thank you!



From Walter Bennett's

**'History of Burnley: 1650 - 1850** 

In 1740 a "three decker pulpit" was installed inside St.Peter's. It was made of oak, brought from Manchester. The wood cost £3.35, and the carriage to Burnley 20p. No Burnley artisans were apparently up to the task of actually making and fitting the pulpit, so men were brought from Manchester and lodged at the Sparrowhawk. A stone pillar in the Church had to be cut to make it fit.





After a long break, three years in fact, our group met on the first Tuesday of November. It was great to see ALL our folk gathering together not only for our famous bacon butties, but for fellowship too, which is an important part of our mission and vision. It's a good way to assist us wardens in carrying out small jobs within the church and the grounds. This event is open to everyone including our brothers and sisters at St Peter's church. We hope to meet on the first Tuesday in December when I'm sure there'll be lots of Christmas church 'dressing' to be done.

It was with great sadness when we received the news that our friend Roy Smith had died at home in mid-November. Roy was a lovely chap and a good friend to many. He was involved in the concert party at St Stephen's for many years – they were happy days, which gave rise to love and commitment within the church family. Roy was only too pleased to climb up a ladder and get the job done - fun times! Roy will be sadly missed. Our love and prayers go out to all his family.

It just leaves me to say a very, very merry and happy Christmas, and a happy new year to one and all.

Please do join us this Christmas at all the activities and services that are taking place within the Benefice.

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Love and best,





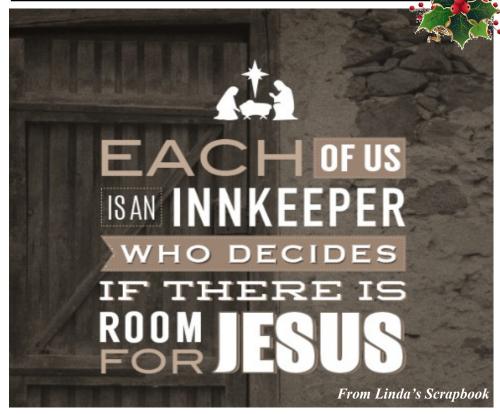


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# ...From our Vision Champions VISION 2026 Making Disciples, Being Witnesses, Growing Leaders, Inspiring the Young

Linda writes ..

Hi everyone,

Recently we have been reminded that we should be reading our bibles regularly. Archdeacon Mark came to preach at a joint service on Bible Sunday and give us lots of advice on apps that can aid us in reading the bible. Our recent bible course also encouraged us to pick up our bibles and not to let them gather dust on the shelf. The other day I came across a good idea to both aid us in our bible reading and to prepare us for Christmas. It referred to Luke's gospel.

Luke was a man of science and a man of detail. He was a close friend and travelling companion of Paul, so he could interview the other disciples, had access to other historical accounts and was an eye-witness to the birth and growth of the early church.

Luke has 24 chapters and if you start on the first of December and read a chapter a day you will have a count down to Christmas. Probably the best Advent Calendar. As Keith said when we were in the supermarket and looking at the chocolate Advent Calendars, "What have they got to do with Christmas?". They featured Peppa Pig, Marvel superheroes and you could even buy one for your dog!

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Well this one has everything to do with Christmas and the life of Jesus. If you use Luke's gospel as a count down to Christmas you will read about the birth of Jesus, his life and ministry and his perfect sacrifice for our sins.

I hope to see you at the many events and services throughout December at both Churches.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

### Linda

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11





Joan writes ...

### ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY, BEING WITNESSES

I have been sitting for some time pondering the above title! I have reported on what we are doing in our community, which is fine and good. However, a saying attributed to Francis of Assisi keeps going round in my head: "Preach the gospel at all times; when necessary, use words."

Where have my musings led? Sometimes in our eagerness to follow Jesus we get totally involved in the work going on, the people we are meeting and their needs, keeping the church running and the buildings in good order. Some of us jump into training and networking to help with our Christian work, all of which are right and good. The first part of Francis' words is fulfilled by what we are doing, it only gets complicated when we look at the second part: when necessary use words.

What does it mean, especially to those of use who use words excessively! My musings led me to thinking it is not what we do - it is who we are and how we live. If we are constantly busy, constantly running from one good thing to another we can lose out, our lives become hard and full of stress, we lose the joy and peace God intends us to have.

### SOMETIMES WE NEED TO STOP AND LOOK AFTER OURSELVES!

We need regular periods of rest and relaxation, time to be with family and friends, time to do things that interest us. We need to have time to spend with God, time to pray, time to listen, time to read the Bible. We need time to unwind.

When we look after our own needs we will be calmer, more centred in God, happier with our lives. Our joy, peace and contentment will be evident to all

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we meet. We will have more time to listen to the people we are serving. We will have more patience and we will be filled with the goodness and wisdom of God and we will 'preach the gospel at all times' and only 'when necessary use words'.

May God bless us with wisdom in our lives as we seek to serve Him so that we are effective in how we carry out his commandment to love God and our neighbour.





Alan writes ...

Last month I introduced myself as the person taking on the role at St. Peter's of

developing the "Growing Leaders" strand of our Vision. This month I want to explore some of the positive aspects of leadership at St. Peter's, and outline some of the challenges to be faced.

What do we mean by "Leaders"? Well the strict definition, which you can read on the Diocesan website, majors on Vocations and the like, in other words people who might ultimately become clergy or lay ministry. I've always thought that too narrow a definition. Wardens, Treasurers, Secretaries, Childrens' Leaders, Music Leaders and a host of other people who organise things and make things happen are in my book "Leaders".

In fact I'd take the concept further. Rather than talk about Growing Leaders, I prefer to think in terms of Doers, Helpers, Volunteers and so on. A person generally starts out as a Volunteer, maybe in quite a small way, taking on small tasks, before embarking on organising and leading. So that's my starting point too. There's an overlap with "Making Disciples" here, but that's not a problem. I see my task as bringing as many people as possible from a place where they basically just "attend" Church to a state where they are "active" in Church life, in whatever

way their time and ability permits.

At St.Peter's we already have many people who fulfil that criteria. There are many senior officials who put a lot of hours in along with a lot of knowledge and experience to keep us functioning as a Church. There are also many others who do bits here and there as time and commitments allow. And we are most thankful for that.

But it wouldn't be right if I didn't mention some negatives that we can work on. We have a somewhat unusual age profile at St. Peter's; a large elderly cohort, many of who are still working very hard for the Church, and some who through age or infirmity have "done their bit" and are fully entitled to a rest. We also have very healthy numbers of younger members; children, teenagers and parents. Some of these are now also becoming more active in Church life. But many are at a stage in their lives where family responsibilities, work, financial pressures and so on make volunteering difficult. What we don't have, is a large number of people in the "middle", which is often fertile ground for finding budding leaders.

We also may be lacking in "Succession Planning"; we aren't necessarily looking far enough ahead to ascertain future requirements for Leaders, actively mentoring potential future post holders, or even having conversations with people about what role they might play in the future to keep our wonderful Church viable and relevant

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in the long term. Here's how I'd sum up the situation. A Church relies heavily on Volunteers and Leaders to function and stay in business. There will always

be those who for a host of valid reasons are unable to contribute in either time, talent or money to the running of the Church. Just like society in general. That's the way things have always been, and that's fine. But there comes a critical point when if there are simply too few active members, a Church becomes unable to function and sustain itself. To have a viable future,



we need to be aware of that and proactively guard against it.

Let's therefore start praying for a healthy and active body of Christians within our Churches. Let's look around us and see who might be able to play a part in the life of St. Peter's. And think of the less obvious leaders. Remember some of the people God and Jesus called to lead? From Moses and David to Peter and Paul, God has called on some very unlikely leaders! So have a think and surprise us!

I've always believed that Vision 2026 is more than anything about changing the culture within Church life. I want to see, and I pray for, a culture where being active within Church life is regarded as an essential Christian calling for all who are able. Will YOU think about and pray for that too?

### Alan Roadley - Vision Team Member. St.Peter's



### Silink Your Magazine...

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We hope that you have enjoyed receiving your magazine over the past year. As you know, there is no charge for each edition (except for postage) as it is seen as a form of outreach to the wider community. However, if you are able to, we would very much appreciate a one-off donation at the beginning of the year to enable us to continue to meet the rising cost of its production.

Donations can be made to either Treasurer or to the

Churchwardens. Thank you for your continuing support.





Stephen Alderson

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### Services & Rotas for December/January at St Stephen's

`Date	Services	Sidespeople	Reader	Tea/Coffee	Cleaning
3/12	9.30 am HC	Philip & Shirley	Jackie	Linda & Jennifer	Team I
10/12	9.30 am HC	Christine & Christine	Pam	Pauline & Shirley	Team 2
17/12	8.45 am WUAW 9.30 am HC	Betty & Ralph	Paul	WUAW	Team 3
24/12	9.30 am HC	Pauline & Margaret	Beverley	Christine & Christine	Team I
31/12	10.30 am HC Feast of St Stephen	Anita & Steve	St Peter's	Pam & Margaret	Team 2
7/01	9.30 am HC	Geoff & Judith K	Jean	Barbara & Paul	Team 3
14/01	9.30 am HC	Neil	Anne	Linda & Jennifer	Team I
21/01	8.45 am WUAW 9.30 am HC	Judith & John H	John C	WUAW	Team 2
28/01	9.30 am HC	Philip & Shirley	Maureen	Christine & Christine	Team 3

### Services & Rotas for December/January at St Peter's

Date	Services	Reader	Intercessor	Sidespeople	
3/12	10.00: am Choral Mass	Stephen Dixon	-	H Slater J Ainsworth	
	I I.00 am All-Age Eucharist	Child	Eric Massie		
10/12	11.00 am: Parish Eucharist	Carol Pike	Stephen Dixon	S Dixon & S Hacking	
17/12	I I.00 am All-Age Eucharist	Child	Adrian Norris	S & C Hacking	
	4.00 pm: Nine Lessons & Carols	Various	-	-	
24/12	11.00 am: Parish Eucharist	Jason Walsh	Carol Pike	M Eckersley & E Massie	
	4.00 pm: Parish Nativity	-	-	-	
25/12	10.00 am: Parish Eucharist	-	-	-	
31/12	10.30 am Benefice Eucharist at St Stephen's	Adrian Norris	St Stephens	-	
07/01	10.00 am: Choral Matins	Eric Massie	-	H Slater & J Ainsworth	
	11.00 am: All Age Eucharist	Child	Joan Ainsworth		
14/01	11.00 am: Parish Eucharist	Carol Waddington	Eric Massie	S Dixon & S Hacking	
21/01	11.00 am: All Age Eucharist	Child	Alan Roadley	S & C Hacking	
	6.00 pm: Choral Evensong	-	-	-	
28/01	11.00 am: Parish Eucharist	Joan Ainsworth	Adrian Norris	M Eckersley & E Massie	

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St Stephen's Sunday Club have been very busy in the Community Room during our Sunday morning services as they get ready for Christmas. As well as practising for the Nativity (24th December), they've been making some wonderful things for the Christmas Fair (2nd December)