



Churches Together in Burnley
invite you to observe a

DAY OF PRAYER

for Israel and Gaza
on Thursday 2nd November



Our Churches will be open
on that day as follows

St Peter's: 9.30 am - 11.00 am

St Stephen's: 11.00 am - 12 noon

You are invited to drop in for quiet prayer and to light a candle
as we pray for peace in that region and in the whole world



the link

The Parish Magazine of The United Benefice of St Peter & St Stephen, Burnley

NOVEMBER 2023

PRAY
for
PEACE



*They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against
nation, nor will they train for war anymore.
(Isaiah 2:4)*

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



For those being confirmed



Confirmation

is at 10.30 am, Sunday 26th November 2023

come along to our

CONFIRMATION WORKSHOPS

At St Stephen's:

SATURDAY 4th NOVEMBER: 12-4 pm

Lunch provided - Family Fireworks
for Church members from 4.00 pm

At St Peter's:

SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER: 12-4 pm

Lunch provided

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT FR ANDREW, MEENA OR EMMA



WHO'S WHO IN THE BENEFICE?



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

ST PETER'S	ST STEPHEN'S
CHURCH WARDENS: Mrs Sandra Davies ☎ 434763 Mr Jason Walsh ☎ 07554 154240 VERGER Mr Stewart Hacking ☎ 438224 PCC SECRETARY Mr Andrew Buchanan ☎ 07565 347524 ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER Mrs Joan Ainsworth ☎ 07971 711250 DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Mr Philip Tomlinson ☎ 777132 VISION TEAM: Mrs Joan Ainsworth ☎ 07971 711250 (Making Disciples) Mrs Meena Tomlinson ☎ 07806 623466 (Inspiring Children & Young People) Mrs Alan Roadley ☎ 07588 556640 (Growing Leaders) MOTHERS' UNION: Mrs Carol Waddington ☎ 07846 139241 SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Mrs Cynthia Bramley ☎ 07903 341700 SUNDAY SCHOOL (DJs): Mrs Meena Tomlinson ☎ 777132 HEADTEACHER: Mrs Crowther ☎ 426873 FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S: Mrs Heather Slater ☎ 432775 FLOWER GUILD: Mrs Alice Binns ☎ 789632 BELFRY Mr Richard Parker ☎ 619906 Kitchen/Catering Manager Mrs Cynthia Bramley	CHURCH WARDENS: Mr Keith Pounder ☎ 414390 Mrs Jean Beeston ☎ 432986 ASSISTANT WARDENS Mr Paul Hannah ☎ 07967 644709 PCC SECRETARY: Mrs Maureen Hanson ☎ 434865 VISION CHAMPION: Mrs Linda Pounder ☎ 414390 MOTHERS' UNION: Mrs Beverley Laycock (Branch Leader) ☎ 543766 Mrs Jackie Cosway (Secretary) ☎ 411967 SUNDAY SCHOOL: Emma Hopley ☎ 07968 782210 Emma Barker ☎ 07789 952470 HEADTEACHER: Mrs Jo Roberts ☎ 427848 SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Mrs Barbara Hasty ☎ 07783006284 VERGER Mrs Edith Meek ☎ 456170 CHURCH FLOWERS: Vacant
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 November Magazine are submitted no later than
15th November
 pamelamcgrath1@hotmail.com

Useful Information

Many thanks to Burnley F.C. in the Community for their kind offer of a meeting room for the local Parkinson's Support Group. It is held at the Leisure Box in Brierfield. Every Monday from 11am - 12 midday. There is exercise tailored to meet the needs of each Parkinson's patient.

On the second Monday of the month we have our Parkinson's Group meeting from 11 until 1pm. We may have a speaker or a short film, have time for a chat and some refreshment. Family and friends are welcome.

Barbara Marshall

St Stephen's Church
REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY
12TH NOVEMBER



10.30 am
Holy Communion with
Act of Remembrance



Dear Friends,

As a family, we have done a fair bit of reminiscing over the past month as we laid to rest my father-in-law, Stewart. There was much to celebrate. I had known him for over thirty-five years and shared many holidays and good times. Some of the best times we had were reminiscing on our holidays, perhaps with a drink in hand, laughing, and wondering how much and yet how little life has changed.

Something is comforting and transforming about looking back at the past: what might have been a stressful predicament has now become hilarious. We somehow made it through. What was once an embarrassing moment has now become a prized anecdote. Remembering casts a light on our past and helps us understand who we are in the present.

November is a month for remembering. It begins with All Saints' Day, when we remember past heroes of our faith, and All Souls', where we remember the lives of all who have died. We 'remember, remember the fifth of November' with fireworks and toffee apples. Then comes Remembrance Sunday, when we remember the lives lost in war and the horrors of conflict.

People of faith are incredibly accustomed to remembering. Each Sunday, we call to mind Jesus' death and resurrection, breaking bread and sharing wine in fulfilment of Jesus' commandment to 'do this in remembrance of me.' This practice of recollecting God's actions is rooted in the Jewish tradition. When, in the book of Exodus, God institutes the festival of Passover, it is given as a 'day of remembrance' for the people of Israel, forever reminding them of their liberation from Egypt. To this day, when Jews gather for the Passover Seder, the story is recounted again and passed down to the next generation. By holding onto our history, the people of God find our identity.

Our acts of Remembrance – All Saints' Day, Remembrance Sunday, the Eucharist – are not simply times to recall past events in the way we might remember what the weather was like last week. Such occasions can, at their best, allow us not only to enter into the experiences of the past but to see how they can speak to us in the present and beckon us toward a better future. How do the lives of the saints inspire us to lead faithful lives in the

modern world?

How should our recollection of past conflicts on Remembrance Sunday inform our response to the war in Ukraine or the Holy Land? How does our memorial of God's generosity through Jesus, who shares himself in bread and wine, call us to show generosity to those suffering in the cost-of-living crisis?

If people of faith are especially accustomed to remembering, we are also especially vulnerable to its dangers. It is all too easy to become nostalgic and 'stuck in the past.' This happens whenever the Church imagines we can look back to a (mythical) golden age before we faced any challenges. It happens whenever we construct an image of 'how things have always been done' and allow this to limit our imagination. Our past should guide us, but we cannot let it control us.

When we take time to remember all that God has done, we are reminded that the God who has been 'our help in ages past' is also 'our hope for years to come.' The Spirit is alive and speaks afresh in every age. May this November, with all of its mixed emotions – a time of both sorrow and thankfulness – be a time of healing and transformation as we look into the future with hope.

Love & best wishes,

Fr Andrew

let's do
lunch
... and it's
'On the House'!

Every 2nd & 4th
Wednesday
8th & 22nd
November

at
12.30 pm

at **St Stephen's Church**

Oxford Road
Burnley Wood
BB11 3JA

*just come along
at 12.30 pm!*



PRAYER FOR THE SITUATION IN ISRAEL & GAZA

Lord, You said "Peace, be still," and the storm was stilled.

We confess that at times, we feel overwhelmed by the storm. But today, we lift our eyes to you — the Maker of heaven and earth. And we ask for a miracle ... let your peace fill Israel and Gaza. We lift our prayer to you, Lord, hear us.

God, let violence cease in the region. Let there be no more bloodshed. We know your heart breaks for those killed and those left behind — for the orphaned child, the injured elderly, those abducted and families desperate for safety. Lord, speak into this crisis. We lift our prayer to you, Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have lost loved ones. Let your peace and love wash over them. Please protect and provide for those who have been abducted and bring them home safely. Let them be reunited with their loved ones — let them feel the comfort of their embrace. We lift our prayer to you, Lord, hear us.

God, we pray that you open doors that allow food, essentials and medical supplies to reach those in need. May first responders be able to rescue the injured, comfort the grieving and help rebuild many lives. We lift our prayer to you, Lord, hear us.

God, we pray for your peace and reconciliation to overcome conflict. We ask that you give wisdom and discernment to our global leaders and those in positions of power who have the ability to impact the course of this war. Help us to be bold advocates and agents of peace in our own communities. We lift our prayer to you, Lord, hear us.

We pray for people scattered around the globe whose friends and family members have been caught in the crisis. We know you are with them. Help us to express your love to those affected in our communities, churches and workplaces. We lift our prayer to you, Lord, hear us.

Lord, we raise Israel and Gaza to you, and pray for those suffering. We ask that you provide peace in this crisis, and protection and comfort for all those who have been impacted. We lift our prayer to you, Lord, hear us.
Amen.

Worldrelief.org



Churchwardens' News from St Peter's

Hello everyone,

The world seems to be heading in a troubling direction at the moment following the recent terrorist attacks in Israel. We can all pray for those suffering in the region, but it often feels like there's not much we can practically do to help. Perhaps the best thing is to keep busy making a difference in our own community and keeping the church running well each week.

We held our Heritage Open Day again in September with the Mayor, Councillor Raja Arif Khan, officially opening proceedings. The various historical displays and the church tours by local historian Roger Frost attracted a large number of visitors and over £300 was raised from the sale of food, merchandise and donations. Thank you to everyone on the Heritage Committee and in the kitchen who worked so hard to make it such a successful day.

Two new memorial plaques have been installed in the churchyard by Burnley Civic Trust next to the newly planted oak and lime trees in memory of Her Majesty The Queen and David Smith. The plaques are a fitting tribute to two much missed people and were installed prior to the David Smith Memorial Concert on 7th October. The concert was extremely well attended with beautiful musical performances given by Tom and Kate Daggett.

We received a generous amount of donated food during our Harvest services which has been taken to the food bank at St Catherine's, as well as monetary donations towards Bishop Philip's Harvest appeal. The All Age service was a lot of fun as we sang harvest hymns and planted our own bulbs to take home and grow.

The benefice Confirmation service with Bishop Philip will take place at St Peter's on 26th November and preparatory workshops will be held at both churches on the 4th and 18th. Our prayers are with all the candidates as they prepare for this important moment in their spiritual lives.

Take care,

Sandra and Jason

In The Loop

... with Keith, Jean & Paul

St Stephen's Churchwardens



We hope you are all keeping well as we enter the last couple of months of the year. So many folk over the past weeks have unfortunately succumbed to various ailments, but hopefully all will make a timely recovery to enjoy what's in store over the next few weeks.

FIRST OF ALL - A LITTLE RE-CAP ...

Thank you for your generous gifts, both food and monetary, given at our Harvest Festival early in October. A total of £230 was collected for Bishop Philip's Harvest Appeal, which is in support of CRESS, helping Bishop Joseph of Liwolo in South Sudan. The food was handed over to Sion Baptist Church for their Food Bank, for which they were most grateful.

We were sorry that due to an unforeseen hitch we had to cancel the RACE NIGHT, but we shall be rescheduling this event, so watch out for further details.

SUNDAY CLUB PRIZEGIVING

The Sunday Club is going from strength to strength and it was wonderful to see so many children in church at last month's All Age Worship, which included our prize-giving ceremony. The children were presented with a suitably-aged book at the service, and hopefully this will encourage them to continue their journey in learning about Jesus. We

were introduced to our Parish Ambassadors – Elena and Navayah, who will be looking to raise funds for church over the coming months. We also welcomed Joan (Ainsworth) from St Peter's who gave an interesting talk on CAP (Christians Against Poverty). Joan highlighted numerous important facts about the good work that this organisation in doing in our local area. During the last hymn there was such a racket with the children (and some adults) blowing on their kazoos and trying to drown out the sound of the organ! (Of note, there were over 50 adults in church too, which is the most we've had for some time.)

MOTHERS' UNION AUCTION

Oh what a night was had by all! There was much laughter and fellowship as we all enjoyed Keith's banter as auctioneer. A goodly sum was raised and this was split between Church and Mothers' Union funds, so grateful thanks to all those who bid (and won) their magnificent 'lots'. Thank you too, for the many donations of items which ranged from the quite hilariously useless to the most splendid of articles.

VISIT BY ARCHDEACON MARK

By the time you have read this, we will have welcomed Archdeacon Mark Ireland on Bible Sunday, 29th October, and enjoyed fellowship with

our friends from St Peter's. It's always a pleasure to speak with Archdeacon Mark and he has always shown a great interest in what's going on in our Benefice. Grateful thanks to all those who provided the variety of cakes etc., for the refreshments following the service. Bible Sunday is a day set aside in the church calendar to celebrate the gift of God's word, and this leads us on to ...

THE BIBLE COURSE

Many of us have met together in church over the last eight Wednesday evenings to explore the "Big Story" ~ the BIBLE. The course provided a birds-eye view of the world's bestselling book! It has been a fascinating journey and we have all enjoyed learning about the Bible through video teaching, group discussion, personal reflection and daily readings with Fr Andrew's expert leadership. We enjoyed the fellowship and refreshments too!

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

This will take place at 10:30am on Sunday 26th November at St Peter's, with Bishop Philip presiding. Please come to the service to support our Benefice candidates; it's an important milestone in their lives of receiving the Holy Spirit and coming to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Prior to the date of the service, there will be two preparation sessions for the candidates. The first on Saturday November 4th, here at St Stephen's, and on the 18th at St Peter's - both taking place between 12 noon and

4pm, and starting with lunch. The session at St Stephen's will end with hot dogs and fireworks, to which church families are welcome to join us at 4pm!

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

A service of readings, well-known Advent hymns, carols and music will take place in church on Sunday 3rd December at 3:30pm. We'll be looking for a number of readers, so if you're interested, please let one of the wardens know and we can let you have a copy of one of the readings in advance. Also, if you feel you could help with singing with the choir on this occasion, (we know there are some of you out there.....!) again, let either a warden or Fr Andrew know and we can give you further details.

CHRIS POWELL ORGAN CONCERT

Many of you will remember Chris entertaining us a couple of years ago. We're very happy that he has agreed to return on Friday, 15th December at 7:00pm (in church) when there will be an obvious Christmas theme to his repertoire. It's always a great night with plenty of toe-tapping, clapping and singing, and there'll be refreshments too. Please come along and support this event to raise ever much needed funds for our Church. Tickets, £8.00, will be available shortly.

OTHER NEWS:

- ♦ We have received many positive comments from local residents about how lovely the Memorial Garden looks and the improvement

to the windows following their poly-carbonate coverings. We are very grateful to Jim (Taberner) who looks after the Garden and keeps it in pristine condition; Jim also cuts the grass and keeps tidy the car park's Remembrance Garden – thank you Jim!

- ♦ Plans are afoot for a one-man show by a West End star, Andrew Wadsworth. There are some of us who will remember Andrew from long ago when he was a member of our Op & Dram Society. (The Wadsworth family lived in Woodgrove Road and were involved in church activities for a long number of years.) Andrew has played leading roles on the West End stage and is very keen to come and entertain us with songs from the shows, and he's happy to do 'Questions & Answers' about his experiences in the West End. More details will follow in the New Year.

That's all for now folks! Heartfelt thanks to all those who help IN ANY WAY with the smooth running of our Church. And don't forget, if you've anything that you wish to talk about with Fr Andrew, he's happy to see you (in confidence, on a one-to-one basis) on a Tuesday at 10:30 am, in church.

Keith, Jean & Paul

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." (Romans 8:28)



As many may know, the community room is being used more than usual these days for community events as well as church events. However, the fluorescent lighting in there is causing some issues as the fluorescent tubes are frequently failing and in some cases flashing because of the unit failing. This costs the church each time an electrician is called to fix the faults.

Enquiries have been made into installing LED lighting units in place of the old fluorescent tubing. Each unit would cost £25 each there are 14 units in all.

Here is an opportunity for anyone who wishes to donate the cost of each unit at £25.00. This will of course help to relieve church finances. We already have had five offers of £25 leaving only 9 units to finance.

Please contact Keith
or Fr Andrew
if you would like to donate.
Thank you.

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WHY NOT VISIT TO LOOK AROUND?

St Stephen Street: ☎ 422434
Harriet Street: ☎ 832225

St Peter's Flower Guild

ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

	Sanctuary	Towneley Chapel
5th	Vacant	Vacant
12th	Vacant	Mr & Mrs S Barritt
19th	Mrs S Boardwell	Mrs S Boardwell
26th	Vacant	Vacant

Thank you to all who donated greenery and helped with Harvest arrangements.

Alice and Maureen

From Walter Bennett's

'History of Burnley

"A sacred Communion Flagon presented to St.Peter's in 1714 found it's way to the Sparrowhawk where it was used for many years as an ale jug."



"In 1732 it cost £2 12s 6d (£2.62) to buy and erect new Church gates. This year (2023) it cost £4,692.60 to have the existing gates repaired and rehung."



"To control vermin, the Churchwardens would pay one shilling for a fox's head and 2d for a hedgehog!"



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

St Peter's Branch

Those of us who went to Queen Street Mill in September thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We had a guided tour and our Guide was excellent. All of us had mothers or grandmothers who had worked in cotton mills and we saw the original machines working and experienced the noise of the mills. We also learnt a little about working conditions in the early 20th century.

For our November meeting on Wednesday 29th November, we will be going for our usual meal at Towneley Garden Centre at 12.30pm. Everyone welcome, whether you are a member of the Mothers' Union or not, just let me know, not later than Wednesday 22nd November, if you wish to join us.

Carol

LOOKING BACK

Our October afternoon meeting was quite thinly attended due to a combination of illness and holiday leave amongst our members. All sorts of germs are doing the rounds including coughs, colds and Covid. If you're suffering right now we wish you a speedy recovery. Nevertheless, Beverley had prepared a quiz based around women in the Bible and had laid out the literature for us to browse.

CHRISTMAS MEAL

Just to repeat, our Christmas lunch (Tuesday, 12th December) will be a buffet and will be held in church this year. I've just about finished collecting names. Please tell me if I've missed you out. The cost is £12 per head and I'm collecting money now.

There will be just one monthly meeting now until next Spring and this will be the 2pm one.

NOVEMBER 2023 EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 14th 2pm: Christmas fair present wrapping with mince pies and music. Please bring along your bought gifts ready to wrap.

NOVEMBER 2023 CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to You ...
Betty Galloway on the 4th and
Barbara Howarth on the 17th



Happy Anniversary to Christine
and Terry Naughton for the 18th.



Congratulations to all!

Jackie

The Road Through Walsingham

by Paul Hannah

Walsingham. For those who have travelled there, a place of reverence, a holy sanctuary, for those yet to make the journey, a mystical place. In fact it is all that and more. The Shrine of Our Lady in the picture postcard village of Walsingham in Norfolk is built on the site where Lady Richeldis saw a vision of the Virgin Mary in 1061 and has been a place of pilgrimage for Monarchs and their court since then. Dissolved under Henry VIII and restored in the 1920's it once again became a centre of prayer and devotion.

Upon arriving at the Shrine you step through a gate into a walled garden where an overwhelming sense of peace envelops you. Within those walls are Mary's House, a small chapel built over the spring where the vision was seen, a church for services and another smaller chapel as well as the buildings which comfortably house the pilgrims.

During any visit you will experience beautiful moments of quiet prayer, be part of an inspiring candlelit procession singing its way through the meandering pathways within the Shrine walls, incredibly moving prayers at the Stations of the Cross situated throughout the peaceful gardens, a gentle service of Night Prayer and sprinkling of the Holy Water from the very spring where Lady Richeldis saw Our Lady.

Outside the Shrine the one mile walk to the Catholic Slipper Chapel which we did passing fields of grapes, exquisite wild flowers and a solitary Nun as we meditated on the Rosary together, preparing ourselves for the walk back (barefoot for the hardy). The village of Walsingham is like stepping back into a Constable painting and also contains a Farm Shop guaranteed to add inches to your waistline simply by stepping through its doors.

Our visit there created memories and feelings for a lifetime but the real lasting memories are of the fun we had on the quiz night, sharing stories as we walked together with people I had previously only said "hello" to and hearing their inspiring journeys through adversity to become true healers, the fun of finding a fellow poetry aficionado who appreciated "The Lion and Albert" and introducing me to "Bessie's Boil", discussing faith as well as doubt, shared ice cream in Cromer where children passed the hours crabbing off the pier and shared astonishment of the Norfolk services frozen in 1965 where wood chip, formica and orange plastic reigned supreme, and here lies the truth of all Pilgrimages; the experience is not in the destination, but the journey because in each of those personal exchanges where we share our deepest thoughts and feelings we encounter God and His guidance and support.

Let's embrace those conversations and make our life a Pilgrimage.

NOVEMBER IN THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF ST STEPHEN'S

1st	Richard Clee, Lilian Walsh
2nd	William Jackson, Kenneth Lord Healey
3rd	Helen Chadwick, Elizabeth MacDonald
4th	George Henry Hughes, John Carter, Mary Ingham, Norman Victor Boardman
5th	William Francis Whitham, James Gillesie, Harry Briggs
6th	Samuel Edward Clements, Margaret Walton, Violet Holt
7th	Hannah Green, Janice Cant, John Hindle
8th	Florence Ann Whittaker, Edna Horne
9th	Lily Skirrow, Hartley Greenwood, Wilfred Hanns, Margaret Chorley
10th	Mary Ann Whitham, Caroline Taylor, Roy Anthony Hinds
14th	Garnett Mitchell
15th	Ethel Maud Gallagher, Albert Farrow, Barbara Tate
16th	Joseph Suthers, Edna Brown Harrison, Ellen Heywood
17th	Nellie Seddon
18th	Hubert Taylor, Sarah Elizabeth Walmsley, Phoebe Sutcliffe, William Herbert Allcock, Geoffrey Farrow
19th	Margaret Ann Watson, Alice Blythe
20th	Ellen Smith, Harold Hargreaves
21st	Private Albert Topper
22nd	Thomas Rushton, Jophia Cruikshanks
23rd	Nora Vina Threlfall, Thomas Johnson, Brian Marsden
24th	Peter Cranidge
25th	Ruth Wareing, William Sagar, Joseph Holt, Norman Harris
26th	Mary Howarth, Glynn David Casson
27th	Elizabeth Nicholls, Edith Jane Isabel Wilson, Jane Varley Jobling, Thomas Henry Riding, Ronald Mills
28th	Dora Chadwick, Ronald Mark Baldwin
30th	Lottie Bird



R.I.P.

NOVEMBER IN THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE AT ST PETER'S

1st	Jessie Hutchinson
5th	Mary Smith
6th	Samuel King
8th	Arthur Cable and Norah Cable
9th	Eileen Kate Pick
10th	Dr Karol Lozinski
11th	Wilfred Pugh, Ida Louisa Holt
13th	Rosamond Dyke
14th	Mary Eastwood, Sheila Lillian Pike
16th	Elizabeth Law, James Alexander Mitchell
18th	Abraham Sagar, Harold Eastwood
20th	Ada Chapman, Frank Eccles, Margaret Stockdale, John Holden
23rd	Hilda Smith, Yvonne Watson, Frank Shoesmith and Sarah Shoesmith
24th	Sam Lacey
26th	Nellie Rowson, Barry Dilworth Derham
27th	Louisa Schofield
29th	Sonia Andre Trotter, Doris Dodd
30th	John William Coates, Ronald Ellis Marshall



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This half term we have been looking at the Christian Value of Compassion. We have been thinking about the words of wisdom

'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.' (Colossians 3.12)

We thought about noticing a need, being a good neighbour, putting on the right attitude, having the courage to care and coming to the rescue.

When we think about compassion, we think about standing in someone else's shoes when they are having a hard time. In other words, trying to understand how they might be feeling and doing our best to try and help.

We have talked about how we can show compassion and kindness to one another at home, recognise when friends at school need us to listen and act with compassion.

Here is the acrostic we are using:

Compassion is...

Costly caring

Offering help

Making a difference

Putting others first

Always listening

Sensitive to suffering

Service in action

Interested in others

Offering care and concern

Noticing a need



We had a wonderful time in the first half term

celebrating Harvest and sharing our gifts and all that we had learnt in church with our families. We then enjoyed the Harvest Workshop after school.

We are very excited for the arrival of the Bishop in school in November. Our Worship Group and School Council will be interviewing him before he leads our whole school worship! We cannot wait!

Mrs Crowther

St Stephen's Church,
Oxford Road, Burnley BB11 3JA

Friday night is ...

Christmas Music Night

with Burnley's own

CHRIS POWELL

playing the fantastic Roland Atelier organ

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER
7.00 PM

Tickets: £8.00
Available from Church

☎
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07896 036542
or speak to Keith Pounder
07812 941801





Sunday School News from St Peter's

Our new pattern of services has given our children/young people the opportunities to be more involved in services twice a month and to hear a more interactive retelling of the Gospel story. It has been particularly exciting to welcome new families from school. The enthusiasm of all our youngsters is infectious.

November allows us to explore Saints, reflect on the effects of war and end the month with Christ the King and the Confirmation of eight young people from St Peter's, some from St Stephen's and Cliviger. What a celebration.

Our Young Singers were fabulous singing at Higherford Methodist Church and sharing their gifts with the residents at Bank Hall nursing home.



We keep in our prayers Amelia-Rose, Ami, Isabelle, Imogen, Matilda, James, Kye and Reece as they prepare for confirmation .

Meena xx



*Ameillia, sweeping up
after bulb planting*



Sunday School fun



*Stunning Harvest pictures
from Alisha*





EXPLORING PRAYER

Part V

Joan Ainsworth

THANKSGIVING

'Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!' (Psalm 107:1 ESV)

How often do we come to God with a list of all the things we want Him to do for us or to help us with? We know He is a loving Father, and He wants us to come to Him and ask Him for what we want or need. But that isn't the whole story. I remember, as a child, after my birthday and Christmas, I sent a letter of thanks to everyone who had sent me a present. When I asked Why? I was told because people have looked for a lovely present for you and you should let them know you appreciate it.

God loves us, looks after us, gives us all we need, guides us, protects us and is our constant companion. To acknowledge that and show our appreciation and thanks deepens our relationship with Him.

How often do we just step into His presence for the sole purpose of telling Him we appreciate what he has done for us? Do we come into His presence with thankful hearts and praise for who He is and who He created us to be?

Our list of reasons to thank God are endless, but sometimes we have difficulty thinking of reasons to thank Him because the challenges in life seem so big that we can't see past them to the amazing things God has done for us. It doesn't matter what we are facing, or what we are going through, even in the middle of heartbreak God is still with us and if we can't find anything else to be thankful for, we can say – thank you, even in this You are with me, You are my rock. When we try to express our thanks, God becomes very close to us, we feel His presence, love and peace and He lifts us above our problems whilst He answers our prayers, which sometimes seems to take a long time. But God's timing is always perfect.

Here are five reasons to be thankful to God:

1. God gave us His greatest gift, salvation through relationship with His son (John 3:16)
2. He will answer our prayers (John 11:41).
3. He provides for our every need (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).
4. He showers us with blessings (Philippians 4:6).
5. He protects and keeps (Psalm 91).

Medical studies show that being thankful lessens stress and soothes anxiety. It stops us grumbling and thinking about what we haven't got, or how badly we have been treated. Being thankful fills us with joy, undergirds all our prayers and brings us closer to Father God.

Dear Father, please help us to be a thankful people, we do appreciate all you do for us. Be our companion on our journey, that we may be blessed and be a blessing to all we meet. Amen



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Remembering the Journey?

by Christine Harbour

Life is all about our personal journey, as we discovered at our wonderful Prayer Breakfast, which took place yesterday. (This a bi-monthly event.) All are welcome! Pam spoke about how we journey through life in good times and difficult times. It's not always about the journey it is about how we learn to live through that journey.

Psalm 139 tells us we are fearfully and wonderfully made. When I read the Bible I always replace the word fearfully with awesomely, as it seems to make more sense. One of the most awesome things God did was designing part of the brain that forms the capacity to remember! The miracle of our own unique memory, was an act of His creative love. At the end of September our family made some wonderful memories. Katie, my second granddaughter got married. For our families the 30th September 2023 was etched in our memories forever. The day and the venue were perfect and the bride looked beautiful as expected! Her bridegroom, Neil was ecstatic! Now as we know it is the job of the groom's best friend is to embarrass him and this Joe did very well! Joe recounted that on a visit from Paris, where he lived, he had met the usually reserved Neil in a pub. To his surprise Neil had hardly touched his drink, and grinning like a Cheshire cat, he started blabbering about a girl he had met the night before, who he was going to marry. Mind you, having said that, this was no whirlwind romance as Neil took five years to propose! However from the day they met Neil and Katie have continued to enjoy every moment that they could spend together. As we know something wonderful happens when love comes along.

Not surprisingly the most famous verse in the bible says:

*'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son
that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'
God is unstinting in His love for us. (John 3 v 16)*

Sadly, the word *love* is often misused in our culture. We claim to love, wine, pasta or, God forbid, McDonalds! In Greek they have more than one word for love. In this context the word would be *storge*. So we storge our burgers and chips!

The second word *philia* means brotherly love. The love we feel for our family and friends. The warm feeling we feel when we meet those we cherish in our hearts.



Now *Eros* as we know was the Greek god of carnal love. The love which is found in human beings. Romantic love and intimacy. The sort of love between a man a wife. The closeness of people in a deep relationship who wish to journey through life together.

The greatest love of all is *Agape*. The love of God which is beyond our human understanding. It is the unconditional grace of God who in spite of man's sin and waywardness, continues to give himself to us all, in the gift of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

As we journey through life, making our memories, let us learn the gift of love in all it's forms. The love of creation, animals, eating, walking, our homes etc. The *storge* love in our lives.

Let us especially in our churches have the *philia* love and the deep caring for each other. The respect for each other and the commitment to work as one entity.

Let us work hard in our marriages and relationships, honouring each other and remembering the good times, cherishing the closeness. Forgetting the irritations and the 'small stuff'.

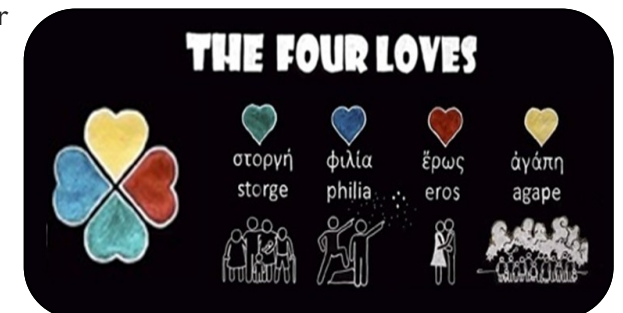
Most of all let us recognise the Love of Jesus as we break the bread and share the cup remembering the journey that Jesus took to Calvary. This was the *Agape* love that allowed us, by his death, into the holiest of all places, that inner sanctuary where we can delight in the perfect gift of all, Jesus.

Let God lead you on your journey.

Christine H

I fell, battered and
bruised
Alone and afraid,
But I had blankets,
A warm bed,
My phone
Friends ,family
There are those
Who live with hatred
Inflicted by revenge
Hounded by terror
Cowering in fear,
Wounded, thirsty
Their tears watering
the parched earth
They are emptied!
Bereft of hope.
May we who have hands
May we who have hearts,
Lift them to God
As we plead ,
For His justice
and mercy
To rule again.
AMEN.

Christine





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

...From our Vision Champions

Making Disciples, Being Witnesses, Growing Leaders, Inspiring the Young



Linda writes ..

Hi everyone,

Now that the clocks have gone back an hour, the daylight hours grow shorter and the dark nights begin. The natural world begins to slow down. The trees lose their leaves, the grass no longer needs to be cut, the flowers begin to fade. The animals begin to store food and go into hibernation. It is a time for slowing down, saving their resources and resting to be ready for the spring.

Unlike nature which slows down for the winter season. We are bombarded with lots of events both historical and pure commercialism. Hallowe'en which nowadays borrows how we celebrate from the USA. Bonfire night which have become big public events. Finally Christmas which if we are not careful we can get so caught up in the hype of what we need to spend and buy to have a perfect Christmas, that we can forget the real meaning of Christmas.

So like nature how can we prepare ourselves for the different seasons of the church's year. Although Advent begins on the first Sunday in December we need to be thinking

ahead to what Advent means.

The first day of Advent is the first day of a new Liturgical (or Church) calendar and begins a four week period of preparation for the nativity of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. To help with this we will be running an Advent course in church. Also, on the first Sunday in December there will be an Advent service of darkness to light which will see our church slowly lit by candles and atmospheric lighting.

Let's take a little time out this winter season and begin to restore ourselves and our understanding of Advent and the true meaning of Christmas.

Please hold in your prayers all those who are preparing for confirmation. Which this year will be at St Peter's November 26th at 10.30 am.

Linda

'For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.'
Ecclesiastes 3:1



Joan writes ...

ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY, BEING WITNESSES

WEDNESDAY SOUP & SANDWICH

Soup & Sandwich continues with the support of our great team. We have been out in the town centre talking to people and giving out leaflets. But through the summer we haven't seen many people attending. However, we have talked to shoppers, shop owners, security staff and police. We went into Church on the Streets and chatted with Pastor Mick and some of their clients. We also drop in to Downtown Grocery for coffee and cake.

As the weather cools down we hope to see more people coming in. Please join us in prayer to reach out to people who need a helping hand.

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

Last Sunday was a time for us to think about our involvement with this organisation. After speaking at both churches people were extremely supportive and generous I was able to give the CAP Treasurer £150 from our churches – thank you for your help in this vital work.

There was a service and commissioning at Life Church where Bishop Phillip spoke with great compassion and love. He also commissioned Marie, the new Debt Coach and Chris who is going to be running a Life Skills Course at the Downtown Grocery. This course is to help people manage their money and prevent them getting into debt. The work of CAP keeps getting bigger. There were many churches represented from Burnley, Nelson, Colne and even further away.

A big announcement was made at this service that John Graver, the centre Manager and CAP worker for 25 years is stepping down at Christmas at the age of 83. What an example to us all. He has seen over 500 clients become debt free during his time with CAP, set up centres, run Money Courses and helped many people to a relationship with Jesus. The Management Committee have appointed Katie Oehring as the new Centre Manager and we are advertising for another Debt Coach.

PRAYER FOR BURNLEY

This is held monthly, usually the third Sunday of the month, at St Cuthberts Church at 7.00. It has now been running for 12 months. The churches involved

/continued ...

have a real sense that God is moving in Burnley and recently held a half night of prayer for the town, the churches and all the good work being done in Burnley. We have a prayer meeting at St Peter's Church at 9.30am on 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month to pray for our churches and our town. There is Morning Prayer Monday – Saturday on St Stephens Facebook page at 9.00am, please come and join us.

It is a great privilege for us to be involved in all that is happening in our town, if you would like any more information or a chat about any of the above, please contact me.



Alan writes ...

You may remember that I took on the role of Vision Champion at St Peter's back in 2016, having been inspired by the plans Bishop Julian outlined at Diocesan Synod. In 2022, during the Vacancy, I concluded that it was time to move on, and indeed, when Fr. Andrew arrived, it was obvious that the Vision delivery at St. Peter's needed a reboot and different ways of doing things.

Initially, as part of this evolution, Joan Ainsworth took on leadership of the "Growing Disciples and Transforming our Community" strand, and this is now developing, bearing fruit and starting to make a real impact.

Meanwhile, Meena Tomlinson has been growing our work with Children and Young People. As part and parcel of her work with and ministry to those below adult age, she is in parallel fulfilling the Vision brief of "Inspiring Children and Young People to be avid followers of Christ". And you only have to listen to or speak to the children to see the progress there! Now has come the time to look more towards the "Growing Leaders" strand of Vision 2026. Thus far, Fr Andrew has

overseen development in this area, and has quickly built up an effective Ministry Team comprising a range of experience and talents. But there is more to Church leadership than formal ministry, and following prayer and discussion I have been asked to play a part, working alongside others, in identifying, developing and supporting people who can play a part in leading the running of St Peter's and our mission in the community. I'm very happy to have an opportunity to continue to play a part Vision 2026, which I have always supported, and I won't be alone - we are a team!

Next month I'll outline some of the positive things about Leadership at St Peter's and the shoots of growth that I can see, as well as some of the challenges that we might need to overcome.

Please pray for Vision 2026, in our Benefice and across the Diocese; for our Vision Team, and for Growth in every sense of the word. And if you have ideas of your own about Growing Leaders, just speak to me or get in touch, I'd love to hear your insights and ideas.

Alan Roadley
alan@alanroadley.net
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Carrot and Parsnip Soup

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SERVES 6

INGREDIENTS

- ½ tbsp olive oil
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 2 celery sticks, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- ½ small bunch thyme, leaves picked
- 3 large carrots, peeled and roughly chopped
- 2 large parsnips, peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 litre vegetable stock
- 100ml double cream
- ¼ bunch parsley, finely chopped (optional)



METHOD

- Heat the oil in a large saucepan and fry the onion and celery for 10 mins, stirring occasionally until softened. If they start to catch, add a small splash of water. Add the garlic, thyme and ½ tsp black pepper and cook for 2 mins. Add the carrots, parsnips and stock and bring to the boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook for 20 mins until the vegetables are soft, stirring occasionally.
- Blend using a stick blender until smooth. Add the cream and blitz again until combined, then taste for seasoning. To serve, ladle into bowls and scatter over a little chopped parsley, if you like.

Services & Rotas for November at St Stephen's

Date	Services	Sidespeople	Reader	Tea/Coffee	Cleaning
5/11	9.30 am Holy Communion	Geoff K & Judith K	Philip	Pauline & Shirley	Team 3
12/11	Remembrance Sunday 10.30 am Holy Communion	Neil & A N Other	Linda S	Pam & Margaret	Team 1
19/11	8.45 am WUAW 9.30 am Holy Communion	Judith H & John H	John H	WUAW	Team 2
26/11	10.30 am - Service of Confirmation at St Peter's with Bishop Philip				Team 3



Services & Rotas for November at St Peter's

Date	Services	Reader	Intercessor	Sidespeople
5/11	10.00 am Choral Matins	Diana Harris	-	S Dixon C Hacking
	11.00 am All-Age Eucharist	Child	Eric Massie	
12/11	11.00 am Parish Eucharist	Alan Roadley	Adrian Norris	C Hacking S Hacking
19/11	11.00 am All-Age Eucharist	Child	Carol Pike	M Eckersley E Massie
	6.00 pm Choral Evensong	-	-	-
26/11	10.30 am Benefice Confirmation Service	Christine Harbour	Joan Ainsworth	C Waddington A Norris



Children's Page



Remembrance Day

Word Links

Complete the themed words.



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Meet our Sunday Club Ambassadors



At our October Wake Up & Worship Service, Fr Andrew introduced our new Sunday Club Ambassadors, Elena and Navayah. The girls will be organising fundraising events throughout the coming year in aid of their two charities,

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) & Pendleside Hospice.



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