



# the link

The Parish Magazine of The United Benefice of St Peter & St Stephen, Burnley  
JULY/AUGUST 2025

“We have seen his glory,  
the glory of the  
one and only Son,  
who came from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.  
*(John 1.14)*”



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

# Confirmation 8th June 2025



*Congratulations to the candidates confirmed by Bishop Joe, Bishop of Burnley, at a wonderful service in St Peter's.*



# WHO'S WHO IN THE BENEFICE?



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<b>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:</b> Mr Philip Tomlinson	☎777132	<b>ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER</b> Pam McGrath	☎07738 412998
<b>VISION TEAM:</b> Mrs Joan Ainsworth (Making Disciples) Mrs Meena Tomlinson Inspiring Children & Young People) Mr Alan Roadley (Growing Leaders)	☎07971 711250 ☎07806 623466 ☎07588 556640	<b>VISION CHAMPION:</b> Mrs Linda Pounder	☎414390
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<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL (DJs):</b> Mrs Meena Tomlinson	☎777132	<b>HEADTEACHER:</b> Mrs Jo Roberts	☎427848
<b>HEADTEACHER:</b> Mrs Law	☎426873	<b>SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:</b> Mrs Barbara Hasty	☎07783006284
<b>FLOWER GUILD:</b> Mrs Alice Binns	☎789632	<b>VERGER</b> Mrs Edith Meek	☎456170
<b>BELFRY</b> Dr Andrew Sibson		<b>CHURCH FLOWERS:</b> Vacant	
<b>Kitchen/Catering Manager</b> Mrs Cynthia Bramley	☎ 07903 341700		

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The next Magazine will be joint  
**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER** edition.  
All items to be with the Editor by  
15th August  
pamelamcgrath1@hotmail.com

## **Fellowship in the Benefice**

Every Monday at St Stephen's  
KNIT & KNATTER  
1.00 –3.00 pm

Every Thursday at St Peter's  
THURSDAY CHAT  
10.00 am (coffee at 9.30)

First Tuesday at St Stephen's  
FIRST TUESDAY HUB  
11.30—1.30 pm  
with lunch

1st Wednesday at St Peter's  
WELCOME ON WEDNESDAY  
1.30—3.00 pm

1st & 3rd Wednesday  
at St Stephen's  
FRIENDS, FOOD & FUN  
2.00—4.00 pm

2nd & 4th Wednesday at  
St Stephen's  
LET'S DO LUNCH  
12.30—2.00 pm

1st & 3rd Thursdays at  
St Peter's  
LUNCH CLUB - 11.30 am

*Please check the notices for  
what is happening in August as  
some activities are on a BREAK*





# From the Rectory

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the summer months of July and August. This is a time when the sun rises the highest, and we behold the beauty of warmth and sunshine, hopefully in Burnley and beyond. C S Lewis said, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." And it is true, by means of the sunlight, we witness the wonders of God's creation.

When sunshine moves into our hearts, it helps us to navigate the crosswinds of life in order to be effectively guided with the right behaviors and responses. How challenging but reassuring!

We grow through the resistance we meet in our families, communities, work, and wider environment. It is not so much what happens to us but what we do with it which determines the result and outcome. It is a fact of human nature that learning,

growth, development, and change require a process. So often, the most important changes take place within the framework of struggle or wrestling with difficult circumstances.

St Francis of Assisi said, "A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows." Doubt, fear, anxious, worry, and resentment are examples of shadows that disrupt our outlook.

Although there are many ways of winning over these negative emotions, the most important point to remember is that we are God's children, and we are loved completely. Nothing that happens to us can overcome God's loving provision.

I am inclined to agree with an unknown author who said: "We delight in the beauty of the butterfly but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty." And who knows what life challenges

we have experienced of late, yet our inner beauty remains intact and strengthened. We become a "sunbeam" to others. We are driven to do good all around us, starting with family and community supporting each other. The internal rays of sunshine become infectious, spreading from person to person until sunshine flourishes in the heart of our Church and community.

You may ask how our Benefice is responding to God's mission in Bumley. One Sunshine Ray is focused on the introduction of an enquirer's course in September (see Alan for more details). Another sunshine ray supports the existing weekly services. Other sunshine rays include Welcome on Wednesday, Friends Food & Fun, The Prayer Breakfast, and Let's Do Lunch. Is that enough for our Benefice? The short answer is no because, by virtue of the sunbeam, we see other local needs and respond to them. So, the C S Lewis quote is perhaps even more relevant today: C S Lewis said, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." As we live out our new vision action plans, may we see ALL of our community and respond to its needs, bringing in a ray of sunshine

Love and best wishes for the summer.

*Fr Andrew*

*O Lord, you have given us your word  
for a beam of sunshine to light our path.  
Grant us so to meditate on that word,  
and to follow its teaching,  
that we may find in it the beam of sunshine  
that shines more and more through your ministries and me  
to help others and respond to needs seen  
until the perfect day;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



If you are aware of anyone needing home communions from the pastoral team, please let Fr Andrew or Carol Pike know.



## Churchwardens' News from St Peter's

Hello everyone,

We hope you are all staying safe and well and for our friends on the prayer list please remember we are thinking of you and praying for you.

Congratulations to all the candidates who were confirmed by Bishop Joe on Pentecost Sunday at our joint benefice service. The Bishop spoke very powerfully in his sermon about the meaning of the important vows being taken as the candidates declared their commitment to Christ. It was great to see such a large number of people in church to support them as they continue their journey of faith. Everyone enjoyed tea, coffee and cake after the service, which was contributed by members of the congregation.

You may have noticed the church is now equipped with a brand new 85 inch display screen, the cost of which has been generously donated by Mr Eric Massie M.A. We thank Eric for his donation, which will be of great benefit to the church for use in meetings, presentations, concerts and services. The screen has already been used for some church activities and will be an attractive feature for groups wishing to hire the church for private events.

The sidespeople were sworn in during the Sunday morning service on 15th June. Our welcoming team is vital to the smooth running of services, performing duties including greeting people, distributing service sheets, guiding the congregation and helping with the collection. Thank you to all the volunteers for their efforts to create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for our church family and for newcomers.

We are honoured to host the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment at St Peter's on Tuesday 8th July when they will be holding a regimental service at St Peter's prior to the Freedom Parade through the town from church to Turf Moor. The occasion marks the Regiment's Freedom of the Borough, which was granted in 2013 to reflect the town's historic relationship with the Regiment and recognise their service both at home and abroad.

We hope everyone has a great summer and takes the opportunity to have a well-earned break.

Take care,

*Sandra and Jason*

# In The Loop

... With Jean, Paul, Edith & Anita



Hello everyone – we hope that you're all keeping well. As we head towards mid-year and the hope for some longer spells of warm weather, let's start with a quick recap of a few things:

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING:

This was held back in the middle of May, when, on the retirement of Keith (Pounder) as churchwarden, Jean (Beeston) was appointed to continue in the role, along with Paul (Hannah) and Edith (Meek) as assistant wardens, and the new appointment of Anita Fossey as a third assistant warden was made; Anita is also our church secretary. The church accounts were presented by Philip Walmsley and accepted by those members present at the meeting. The current Electoral Roll stands at 69

## CONFIRMATION SERVICE

It was wonderful to be at St Peter's for our joint service of Confirmation with Eucharist at the beginning of the month. Our two candidates looked beautiful in their white confirmation dresses as the Bishop of Burnley, the Rt Revd Joe Kennedy, led the service and confirmed Taylor and Luka, prior to them receiving their first communion. Fellowship was

enjoyed following the service with tasty cakes, tea and coffee.

## SUMMER FAIR

On a day when the weather didn't seem to know what it was doing, with the help of many men and women we ferried everything necessary from church to the school for our annual summer fair. It started to rain as we transferred tables, a great number of bags of items, the gas barbecue etc from our cars and trailer into school, and then there was an absolute down-pour at the end of the fair as we carted everything back to church after the event. However, in between we were blessed with glorious sunshine. Well, we are in Lancashire! The unpredictable weather didn't dampen the day and we were pleased to welcome lots of friends and family to enjoy the school choir, the variety of stalls, the barbecue and refreshments! It's a great pleasure to say a big thank you to each and everyone of you who helped in any way to make the day a huge success, raising the wonderful sum of £1,400 towards our church funds. This figure may yet, of course,

continued/

increase which will be very welcome!

#### FABRIC OF THE CHURCH UPDATES:

**CLOCK:** Unfortunately, at present, the clock is now totally defunct. A second opinion regarding the necessary work to put it right has been sought and a report is awaited - it could involve a tidy sum of money to rectify the problem. Watch this space ...

**QI REPORT:** We have not yet received this report.

**BURSE & VEIL:** These two items, which are used during a service of Eucharist, have been lovingly and beautifully made by our assistant warden, Edith. They match the "All Seasons" altar frontal on our movable nave altar, and were blessed and dedicated by Fr Andrew on Trinity Sunday. Thank you Edith – they show your exceptional talent and are of professional quality; they were very much admired following the service that day.

**GARDENS:** At the last Bacon Butty Brigade (first Tuesday of June) several green-fingered men worked hard to rid the outside of the south wall of an assortment of weeds that had been growing for some time. Later that week, Jim worked his magic to do the same on Oxford Road. It has made such a difference to the appearance of our church – so thank you gentlemen! We must try to keep on top of the weeds - in the warm, wet weather they'll be popping up again very soon!

**NEW OVEN:** The new oven was finally delivered and installed at the end of May. It has been used several times since and is proving to be 'fast and hot', so a great improvement on the previous range. Many thanks to St Stephen's Players for donating the funds to purchase the oven.

That's all for now everyone – enjoy a wonderful summer; if you've holiday plans, take care and stay safe, if you're staying at home, relax-ay-yoo!

Love and best wishes to all.

*Jean, Paul, Edith and Anita*

*"Taste and see that the LORD is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."  
(Psalm 34:8)*





## UPCOMING EVENTS at St Stephen's



♦ **Sunday 29th June 10:30am**

**ST PETER'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL**  
- This will be a joint Benefice Eucharist to celebrate the Festival of St Peter – there will be **NO SERVICE at St Stephen's** on this day.

♦ **Sunday, 6th July at 6.00 pm**

**CHORAL EVENSONG** at St Stephen's

♦ **Saturday 12th July at 9.00 am**

**BURNLEY PRAYER BREAKFAST**  
Breakfast will be served at 9:00 am followed by Prayer and Reflection at 9:30 am. All welcome!

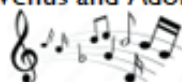
♦ **Sunday 13th July at 11.00 am**

**SUNDAY CLUB SPONSORED WALK** – Sponsor forms are available at the back of church.

**AUGUST BREAK** – During the month of August there will not be 'Let's do Lunch' or 'Friends, Food & Fun' taking place on Wednesdays as the teams take a well-earned rest. This does not affect the 2:00 pm Midweek Eucharist, which will still take place. 'Friends, Food & Fun' will resume on Wednesday 3rd September and 'Let's do Lunch' on Wednesday 10th September.

## *Bid Me Discourse, I Will Enchant Thine Ear"*

William Shakespeares poem  
"Venus and Adonis"



We are delighted to announce that the new Organ speakers have now been successfully installed in the organ chamber at St Stephen's. This wonderful addition has been made possible through the generosity of many — the new organ was funded entirely by donations, and we are deeply grateful for the kindness and support of all who contributed.

In the spirit of Shakespeare's words, "Bid me discourse, I will enchant thine ear," Father Andrew recently put the Organ through its paces — and enchant, it did. The sound is nothing short of magnificent. The rich tones and clarity brought by the new speakers have breathed enhanced fresh life into the organ's voice, filling the church with renewed warmth and resonance.

We look forward to many uplifting moments of music and worship, now more beautiful than ever before.

*Keith*

### LOOKING BACK

Lucille Porter told us about life as a bishop's wife, very different to life as a vicar's wife. Lucille's husband, Tony, was a supplicant bishop of Nottingham. Lucille soon realised she didn't have a parish church to attend. A bishop's dwelling is expected to have five bedrooms and hosting and entertaining is expected. As diocesan president of Nottingham she was invited to Africa. Now retired to Leyland, Lucille is involved in helping with prison work and in the Mothers' Union, being overseas section leader.

Carol Pike stepped in to fill a gap in the calendar in June. She talked about being an MP from the perspective of the family. Carol's father, Peter Pike was a long standing labour MP for Burnley. Some of the stand out moments for Carol were attending the State Opening of Parliament, where she viewed at close quarters the late Queen, robed in her full regalia. Another amazing moment was witnessing the visit by Nelson Mandela, even though she was right at the back of the room! Carol appreciates just how fortunate she has been in the things she had seen. She brought along documents, programmes and letters which made for very interesting reading.

### LOOKING FORWARD

Summer Outing—Lunch at The Chocolate Strawberry & mooch around Pendle Village. -Arrive for 12.30 pm

### Let's Celebrate July & August 🎂🌍👶

Happy Birthday to Helen Laycock, 4th, to Janet Barritt, 8th and Pauline Lockwood on the 22nd, all in July.

In August we say Happy Birthday to Barbara Baldwin, 5th, Judith Kershaw, 8th, Linda Pounder for a special 0 on the 16th and Lillian Stanton, 28th.

Join me in offering Elaine and Jim Taberner many congratulations for their Golden Wedding Anniversary on July 12th.

There won't be any meetings in August and we'll meet again on September 9th in the afternoon. Here's hoping we all have a lovely summer.

Jackie

## Play The Organ Year

In association with the Royal College of Organists, we will be opening the doors for anyone interested in 'having a go' on the organ at St Peter's following the concert at 11.00am on Saturday 5th July.



The church will also be open on a number of days during the following week for those wishing to try their hand. Details can be found on the Church website.

This event is not just for those who can already play a keyboard instrument, but for anyone who wishes to try. The grand piano will also be available. Help and advice will be provided by our team of experienced musicians. There is no charge for those wishing to participate .

*Philip.*

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coals, logs, kindling, firelighters, catering charcoal**

## Saturday Morning Concerts at St Peter's

We welcome the return visit of the brilliant Concert Organist, Tom Bell, on 5th July. This event is part of the Royal College of Organists 'Play the Organ Year', and following the concert, we invite anyone interested to play the organ, or grand piano. Tom's programme will show off the tonal colours of the instrument, ranging from the quiet string stops to the very loud trumpet stops. There will also be a presentation on our new big screen charting the history of the organ at St. Peter's.

We round off our summer season of concerts with a performance by internationally acclaimed opera singer, Seán Ruane, who will present a programme of popular and classical songs. Outside of the world of opera, Seán can frequently be heard singing at international sporting events such as rugby World Cup and England cricket matches! On this occasion, he will be joined by the St. Peter's Young Singers, directed by Meena Tomlinson.

Following the summer holidays, Saturday morning concerts resume on the 6th of September when we welcome Hallé Orchestra violinist, Ruth Sanderson.

Saturday morning concerts begin at 11 am with refreshments served from 10:30 am. Admission is £7 (free for U18s). Disabled parking is available in the church grounds with free parking in the schoolyard on Rawcliffe Street

Philip.

## Bible Humour



How did Joseph make his coffee?  
HEBREW—ed it!

Why wouldn't Pharaoh let the people go?  
He was in de-NILE!

Who was the funniest person in the Bible?  
Samson—he brought the house down!

Why didn't Noah go fishing?  
He only had two worms(





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

### **COMMUNITY LINKS**

The St Stephen's Church fair in school was a huge success and the children opened it with 4 of their favourite songs. The school choir led the younger children who really enjoyed performing for an audience.

### **YEAR 6**

The children in Year 6 had a busy time in May with their SATs and I want to compliment them on their hard work, determination and excellent behaviour throughout this time. They are now enjoying a few days at Winmarleigh PGL near Preston. They have a fun packed itinerary which includes zip lines, climbing, football, archery, orienteering and many other activities. When I went to visit them they were so excited and told me how lovely the food was. The cooked breakfast was a winner.

The annual board awards will be at 1:30pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025. The children will also be having a leaver's service in Church at 10am on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July and various other celebrations in school including a BBQ.

### **LANCASHIRE EQUALITY AND INCLUSION AWARD**

We are working towards this award. It involves aiming to achieve badges which are linked to all the protected characteristics. We were visited by Afrasiab Anwar who conducted a full assessment for the two badges that we have completed and I am pleased to announce that we passed the Race badge and the Religion and Belief badge.



## **WORSHIP**

This half term the children are focussing on the Christian value of truthfulness, and the British value is Respect and Tolerance. The young disciples have had some discussions around these topics too. The children in their classes on a Tuesday continue to learn about current affairs and have a worship called picture news.

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you so much to the congregation at St Stephen's Church for the very generous donations in the yellow charity bin. These items really do help our families to provide for the children. We are very grateful for this.

## **VISITORS**

Our CCTV has been catching some wonderful creatures at night that visit our school in the early hours of the morning. These include a Badger and we are still trying to work out if the other one is an otter, a mink or a stoat.

*J Roberts*  
Headteacher





## **A Note from the New Building Officer at St Stephen's Church**

I'm pleased to share that I will be taking on the role of Building Officer here at St Stephen's. It's a privilege to step into a role that holds both practical and spiritual significance.

Caring for our church buildings means much more than just keeping up with maintenance—though of course, day-to-day upkeep will be part of it! It's also about honouring the environment and the gift of creation that God has entrusted to us. As we continue to look after our sacred space, I hope to do so with a deep respect for sustainability, seeking ways to reflect God's love for all creation in the way we manage our resources and care for our surroundings.

This role also connects us to the wider vision of the Church of England, which calls on every parish to be mindful stewards of their buildings, contributing to the mission and life of the church both locally and nationally.

As always, everyone is invited and everyone is welcomed—whether it's to worship, to help out, or simply to be part of our community life. I'm grateful for your prayers and support as I begin this new chapter, and I look forward to working together to ensure that St Stephen's remains a welcoming, well-maintained, and environmentally conscious place for worship, community, and witness.

*Keith*



## **The Children's Society**

### **Annual Box Opening**

Could anyone from St Stephen's with a Children's Society box, please pass to  
Linda Pounder

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**



## Late flowering Betony

Depending on the weather, July can be a month full of grassland flowers or one where many of them are now over, having peaked in June. It is certainly the month when you need to start to cut and rake your long grass, particularly if it did not receive a spring cut.

Have a look out for late flowering plants however, do you have Betony present? If so, then consider delaying the cut or cutting around the betony plants allowing them to flower, they are one of our most attractive wildflowers. Betony is a member of the woundwort family, close also to the dead-nettles. It has an angled stem, which if you were to cut it, would be square in cross section, has distinctive toothed leaves and lovely deep pink flowers.

Betony has long been prized for its curative powers, in the Medieval times it was viewed as an 'all-heal' or panacea. The Italians had a saying 'Sell your coat and buy Betony' and the Spaniards used the compliment 'He has as many virtues as Betony'. Antonius Musa, chief physician to the Emperor Augustus, wrote a long treatise, showing it was a certain cure for no less than forty-seven diseases! It is still used by herbalists for a variety of ailments including headaches.



Betony is found in ancient woodland and undisturbed grasslands so its presence may indicate species-rich grassland, please look out for the many other species found in this special habitat. It was also planted in churchyards, in part for its medicinal uses and also because it was believed to be effective against sorcery, warding off ghosts, goblins and any other unwelcome spirits.



## Sunday School News from St Peter's

Summer holidays approach and time to relax from routine. Sunday School will continue each week following the Letters of Paul to Galatians and Colossians. On Thursdays in August we will run a holiday workshop from 10am - until noon including a light lunch . This is again in Roots and has a Minecraft/Lego theme and has excellent themes all connected with building: God's perfect Creation, Solomon building a temple, Wise and Foolish builders and Living stones. Activities will be relevant and developed to stimulate ages (toddlers to late teens). Come and join us !!!

Our Young Singers are busy in July singing in an instrumental concert with Helen Parker's pupils and in a Saturday morning concert alongside acclaimed operatic tenor Sean Ruane. It is good to welcome a couple of new singers to our group plus the growing after - school Choir Church group sang Choral Evensong in May .

It has been an exciting couple of months being involved with amazing youngsters for Confirmation, delighting in their excitement in developing their faith, witnessing the baptism and renewal of vows for Platon and Jessica and the full immersion baptism of Alistair .

A blessing for us  
all to have our  
families with us .

Love from  
*Meena*







*Fun at the Confirmation and Ascension Day Workshops*

*Bishop Joe gets to grips with the Confirmation Cake after the Service of Confirmation*



You're invited to



# Burnley Prayer Breakfast

@ St Stephen's

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

SATURDAY 12th July

this month

## GAME, SET & MATCH

Telephone:

07896 036542

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*June 2023, carehome.co.uk*



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# LET'S DO LUNCH



at St Stephen's  
Church

Oxford Road, Burnley, BB11 3JA

**Wednesday  
9th & 23rd July  
at 12.30 pm**

*On the House ...  
but donations gratefully  
received*

## Friends, Food & Fun

Afternoon Tea  
with sandwiches,  
cake, entertainment  
Keith's Bingo  
and Rector's Karaoke!

2nd & 16th July at 2.00 pm

St Stephen's Community Room  
Smalley Street

£5

Suggested donation

PLEASE NOTE, THERE WILL BE **NO**  
LET'S DO LUNCH AND FRIENDS, FOOD & FUN  
IN AUGUST

## Going to Church



I recently moved house and home after quite a lengthy search  
As soon as I was settled in, I joined the local church.  
On Sunday, I went to church where people of God all meet  
to be told by a lady in a royal blue hat,  
"You're sitting in MY seat".

I turned up at the craft class and said,  
"Shall I help with the tables?"  
Someone said, "that's kind of you,  
but the job is Fred and Mabel's"  
Still undeterred I went along to help at the Christmas Fair  
but I quickly got the feeling that they didn't want me there.

They said, "each person has their task, just as everyone knows.  
We just dare not upset folk, or step upon their toes.  
Then at the Christmas pantomime, I hoped to play my part,  
but they said, "no thanks, we'll mangle fine"  
and I left with a heavy heart.

What is it with some churches, that they make you feel rejected.  
You need a long apprenticeship before you are accepted.  
Our Lord was not so fussy, he took folks for what they were.  
Welcoming them with a loving smile and an 'um or "er".

So I'll sit quietly each Sunday and blend in with the crowd  
And when I offer to help in another few years ...  
... MAYBE THEN I'LL BE ALLOWED

We are always ready to receive offers of help from  
volunteers at St Peter's & St Stephen's!  
Please ask how you might help!



... From our Vision Champions



PRAYER FOR  
GROWTH AND RENEWAL

Hi everyone,

Here we are half way through the year already. We have enjoyed some lovely weather but in recent weeks we have reverted to a typical British summer with lots of rain and wind. Let's hope summer is still to come although we have had the longest day and now the nights will start to draw in!! (Joke).

Back in May we held our bi-monthly Prayer Breakfast with the theme of May. The talk focused on whether May was mentioned in the bible. We learnt that although May as we know it is not specifically mentioned, we can associate certain events that probably happened around that time of year. For example the arrival of Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat and the Israelites' arrival at Mount Sinai after their exodus from Egypt. So although the month of May is not directly mentioned in Scripture, we are able to draw connections between several biblical figures and the themes often associated with this time of year, such as growth, renewal, and maternal love. We have a good number of people at the Prayer Breakfast from various churches. There is always room for more. Please come along! It's a lovely way to spend time together.

Going forward as a church we will be looking at our vision for St Stephen's. What should we be doing to ensure growth in our church? To ensure we remain a presence within Burnley Wood. We will be looking at what we do now. What can we do better. Looking to be much braver in our outlook. Everyone will be included over time and everyone will be able to be part of the process.

*/continued ...*



If you are going away over the summer, safe travels and let's hope the sun shines.

*Linda.* (St Stephen's Vision Champion)

***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and lean not on your own understanding  
In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)***

## **St Stephen's Brownies**

If you wander past the school on a Wednesday evening, you will often find a group of very loud and lively girls in yellow.

Over the last year, Brownies have enjoyed themselves doing a huge range of activities, some shared with my “Tuesday” unit of Wellfield, and we would like to share one or two highlights.

Outside cooking! Bonfire night fun making Smores and dipping fruit in melted chocolate, cooking pancakes by torchlight and exploding popcorn.

Exploration – especially enjoying all that Towneley Park has to offer, both in daylight and by torchlight. The playground at dusk is a firm favourite.

Getting out and about generally – the annual trip to Sion, where Fr Andrew came along, was a fantastic evening. The warm and dry contrasted to towing 38 of them around Gullivers World in the cold and rain!

Of course, for the Brownies the highlight has to be badges! Brownies cannot get enough badges and it is the responsibility of the long suffering leaders to keep the stream of badges coming; cooking, first aid, local history, charities.... The list goes on and on but it is worth it when you get one through to their Gold Award. To see Aubrey shoot a victory fist in the area whilst shouting “yes, yes, yes” makes it all worth while.



If you would like to come along as a volunteer or can offer any activities to fill an evening, please do let me know as we are always open to welcoming visitors along.

*Carol and Tracey.*



## Charity Cycle Ride

I'm giving advance notice that sometime in the late summer (September maybe) I plan to do a charity cycle ride to raise funds for the charity "Young Epilepsy".

My intention is to ride from St Peter's Burnley to St Peter's Heysham - both are Churches with which our Rector, Fr. Andrew, has connections.

The distance is around the 50 mile mark, which at one time would have been a short easy ride for me (I once rode 250 miles in a day ...) However, these days I am not only older and well past my prime, but I haven't ridden further than 10 or 12 miles for a long time. So a bit of training is required and it WILL be a challenge!

So I'm hoping that you will sponsor me in my efforts and help me raise a decent sum for "Young Epilepsy". Check out their website to see what they do.

Look out in the coming weeks for ways you can sponsor me, either online or in person, with cash or electronically.

You might even see my waistline reduce ... For a while!

Alan Roadley -  
ALM St Peter's & St Stephen's





## News from the Deanery

Some wonderful news for our Deanery, and for the churches of St John's, Worsthorne and St James, Briercliffe in particular, as they have a new Vicar. Revd Michael Read will be installed as Vicar by Bishop Philip at St James on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. Please pray for Michael and his family and please hold in your prayers the vacant parishes, of Cliver, Padiham, and Hapton.



*Revd Mike Read*

### CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid are searching for a new representative to co-ordinate their work in Burnley. Scan the QR code to find out more.



### ORDINATION

Congratulations to Revd Tracy Hallows, curate of St Cuthbert & St Luke, who was ordained priest at the Cathedral on Saturday, 28th June by Bishop Joe.

### CAROUSEL AT ST CUTHBERT'S

Tickets are now on sale for St Cuthbert's next production which will be from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> November in St Cuthbert's Community Hall, Sharp Street, Tickets are available on ticketsource or call 01282 451299.



Over the last 12 months, you may have noticed an increase in activity as Father Andrew and I have worked to pull the group together again. It is an exciting time and the last 3 meetings have seen an increased attendance from churches across the town plus a level of energy and enthusiasm to work together in faith.

Pentecost Sunday saw a lovely service at St Mary's RC Church with involvement from every denomination. We prayed together, sang together and (more importantly) enjoyed delicious cake and conversation afterwards.

Over the summer, we are looking forward to working with the Canal Ministries Team from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> August. With opportunities to meet the team, enjoy a boat trip and participate in other activities this promises to be a great week – as long as the weather stays fine! The Bishop of Burnley already has his trip booked on the Thursday!

Then looking ahead to harvest, a Hymns & Pimms service at St John's Cliviger is already being planned for all to come and enjoy.

Other activities to come up will include the annual Crib Blessing Service in the town centre and Eastertide event with the Football Club.

As well as joint ecumenical events, the CTIB team are also involved in supporting and encouraging the work of many other initiatives; a new Homeless Pastor Project, Christians Against Poverty, the work of Downtown and other foodbanks across town.

Please pray for the work of CTIB and do come along to support and enjoy our events.

*Carol Pike*





# Cake My Day



by Emma

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## Life, Love & Learning by Christine Harbour



*we are unique*

Life as we know it, is here and now. We experience it through love and learning. This varies from person to person due to their life experiences, learning experiences and love. That is why we are all unique and different.

Life is a great teacher. In 2022 our new home had a patch of balding grass and was growing copious amounts of dandelions. I have now learnt how to transform that patch into quite a pretty garden, by learning from Google, and life experience. Plants like us, need nurturing (the right soil and food) some thrive in sun and some in shade. Again like ourselves. We all have different needs and preferences to thrive. I believe therefore that church denomination should not divide us, but bind us together in our love of Christ.

We see from historical records that the great Protestant and Roman Catholic divide started in England in the reign of Henry VIII in his pursuit of love, and a desire for a male heir! Other churches broke away for good reasons eg. John Wesley who rode about on horseback preaching the gospel. He was inspired by God and saw the abject poverty of the times and the ruination of society by the vast amounts of cheap gin that were being consumed.



We all have our reasons for being different. The things that should unite us as Christians is our love for God and our desire for Peace and Love. Jesus didn't categorise or use tick boxes! He saw hearts that were ready for change and he chose his motley crew of uniquely different disciples. He loved them, warts and all!

Let then our love for Jesus and the divine Holy Spirit lead us and guide us on our own path.

I have been reading a novel recently. A good novel quite often inspires us too, In this book a wise, but very eccentric man, states

“Love is understanding someone’s faults but loving them in spite of them’. Now doesn’t that just remind you of Jesus!

Let’s not have any misunderstanding about this. God wants us to change, but he understands us and knows why we do things. He is our therapist! The first thing a therapist does is let you unload. He wants you to drop your façade, rip off your mask and reveal yourself. This is what confession means. You didn’t commit a murder (I hope) you just revealed yourself so that God, your therapist, could begin the work of healing you. God hates fakes!

If the body of Christ is to move forward in a dynamic way, it needs to be fit for purpose with soldiers who are strong in body mind and spirit who are wearing the armour of God! We will fight our wars with the Love that Jesus had when He died on the cross. He took his strength from God the Father, because he knew the end story was New Life! The ugliness and pain of death would be gone and Eternal life would be available when the day of Resurrection dawned.

With love.

Christine H xx

Lord when you died on the cross, you revealed your nakedness to all. You only had a tiny loin cloth. Your invisible armour was provided by a God who knew the ending. Read. Ephesians 6:11-18.

Confess daily.

Put on your armour.

Stand against the enemy and let the world see the Resurrection of Love! Amen.



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# Children's Page

## I SPY SUMMER



Colour in, circle, or cross off each item as you find it.

# St Stephen's Sunday Club Ambassadors



*invite you, your friends and families  
to join in and support their*

# SPONSORED WALK

to raise funds for their chosen charities



&



**SUNDAY 13TH JULY AT 11.00 am**  
**FROM CHURCH ... a walk for all ages**



St Peter's Church

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