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The Parish Magazine of The United Benefice of St Peter & St Stephen, Burnley
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025



*And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

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

A Poem for Remembrance Sunday

A Candle Of Peace

Light a candle of peace for all nations
And watch as it steadily burns.
Remember the brave fallen heroes –
Those who will never return.
In the quietness, pray for all families,
Wherever they are in the world,
Whose lives have been scarred by violence and pain,
As the banners of battle unfurled.
Light a candle of peace for all races,
All cultures and creeds of mankind,
Ask God to touch every heart with his love
So, in days to come, we will find
Peace for the whole world over,
No longer a dream or a prayer,
But something to last to the end of all time,
For the great heart of God will be there.

— Marian Cleworth

Remembrance Sunday is on 9th November.
There will be a service at BOTH churches
commencing at 10.30 am



WHO'S WHO IN THE BENEFICE?



Rector of the United Benefice & Area Dean of Burnley: Fr Andrew Holmes

Tel: 07460 899451

Email: andrewinburnley@gmail.com

ST PETER'S		ST STEPHEN'S	
CHURCH WARDENS:		CHURCH WARDEN:	
Mrs Sandra Davies	☎ 545818	Mrs Jean Beeston	☎ 432986
Mr Jason Walsh	☎ 07554 154240		
ASSISTANT WARDEN		ASSISTANT WARDENS	
Mrs Meena Tomlinson	☎ 07806 623466	Mr Paul Hannah	☎ 07967 644709
		Mrs Edith Meek	☎ 456170
		Mrs Anita Foseey	
PCC SECRETARY		PCC SECRETARY:	
Mr Andrew Buchanan	☎ 07565 347524	Mrs Anita Fossey	☎ 07939 486712
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER		BUILDING OFFICER	
Mrs Joan Ainsworth	☎ 07971 711250	Mr Keith Pounder	☎ 07812 941801
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:		ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER	
Mr Philip Tomlinson	☎ 777132	Mrs Pam McGrath	☎ 07738 412998
VISION TEAM:		VISION CHAMPION:	
Mrs Joan Ainsworth	☎ 07971 711250	Mrs Linda Pounder	☎ 414390
(Making Disciples)			
Mrs Meena Tomlinson	☎ 07806 623466		
Inspiring Children & Young People)		MOTHERS' UNION:	
Mr Alan Roadley	☎ 07588 556640	Mrs Beverley Laycock	☎ 543766
(Growing Leaders)		(Branch Leader)	
		Mrs Jackie Cosway	☎ 411967
MOTHERS' UNION:		(Secretary)	
Mrs Carol Waddington	☎ 07846 139241	SUNDAY SCHOOL:	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:		Mrs Emma Hopley	☎ 07968 782210
Mrs Cynthia Bramley	☎ 07903 341700	HEADTEACHER:	
SUNDAY SCHOOL (DJs):		Mrs Jo Roberts	☎ 427848
Mrs Meena Tomlinson	☎ 777132	SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:	
HEADTEACHER:		Mrs Barbara Hasty	☎ 07783006284
Mrs Law	☎ 426873	VERGER	
FLOWER GUILD:		Mrs Edith Meek	☎ 456170
Mrs Alice Binns	☎ 789632	CHURCH FLOWERS:	
BELFRY		Mrs Jennifer Pollard	
Dr Andrew Sibson			
Kitchen/Catering Manager			
Mrs Cynthia Bramley	☎ 07903 341700		
CHURCH MAGAZINE EDITOR: :			
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The next Magazine will be joint
JANUARY/FEBRUARY edition.
All items to be with the Editor by
15th December
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)

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 other events, or visit
the Websites



From the Rectory

Dear Friends,

As we approach the close of another year and enter the season of Advent, our thoughts naturally turn to the themes of waiting, hope, and preparation. The shortening days and crisp air remind us that, as creation rests, we too are invited to pause and reflect on the year gone by and the promise of what is to come.

November is a month marked by remembrance. We recall the saints who have gone before us on All Saints' Day, and we remember with gratitude those loved ones who now rest in God's eternal care. In our services and prayers, we give thanks for their lives, their witness, and the comfort that the hope of resurrection brings to us all.



As we move into December, Advent calls us into a time of preparation—not only for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas, but also for Christ's coming again. It is a season full of expectation. In the midst of all the busyness and preparations—writing cards, choosing presents, planning meals—let us not lose sight of the quiet miracle at the heart of Christmas: God with us, Emmanuel. In the birth of Jesus, we see God's love breaking into our world in the most unexpected and humble of ways.

This year, our church will once again be filled with candlelight and carols, laughter and fellowship. I encourage you to join us for our Advent and Christmas services, to share in the warmth of community and the joy of worship. Details of all our events can be found within this magazine. Whether you are a regular member of our congregation or someone who only visits occasionally, you are most warmly welcomed.

For many, this season can also bring feelings of sadness or loneliness. If you are struggling, please know you are not alone. Our church is here for you,

/continued ...

and I or a member of our pastoral team would be glad to talk or pray with you at any time.

May the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ fill your hearts and homes this Advent and Christmas. And as we look forward to a new year, may we do so with renewed faith and courage, trusting in God's unending goodness.

With every blessing,

In Andrew



Saturday Morning Concerts at St Peter's

Our next Saturday morning concert is on 1st November when we welcome the return of John Mark Rose. The programme includes music by Scarlatti, Schubert, Chopin, Shostakovich, and Sir Lennox Berkeley. We are fortunate that this concert is supported by the Lennox Berkeley Society, who also kindly supported last year's concert. St Peter's Church received some good publicity, with a mention and photograph on their website. You can find out more about Lennox Berkeley, one of Britain's foremost 20th Century composers, by visiting lennoxberkeley.org.uk

Our December concert, on the 6th, features the Young Singers and Choir Church members in a performance of music for the festive season with fundraising activities for the homeless pastors.

Admission is £7 (U18s free) and includes refreshments, served from 10:30 am. Concerts begin at 11 am and finish around 12 noon. Free parking is available in the schoolyard on Rawcliffe Street, with disabled parking in the church grounds.

Philip.



Churchwardens' News from St Peter's

Hello everyone,

The church was open for Heritage Open Day on Saturday 20th September, giving members of the public the opportunity to look round this historic building. Local historian Roger Frost gave a talk about the history of the church and there was an organ recital performed by David Thornton. There were interesting displays about the church's recent 900th anniversary year and material from the church archives. Some wedding dresses were also on display to advertise St Peter's as a wedding venue.

A day to tidy up the fallen leaves in the churchyard in preparation for the many events taking place in December has been organised for Tuesday 18th November. A list has been left at the back of church for those who would like to sign up to help. Please bring along your brushes, rakes and shovels and some sturdy footwear.

We are looking for a yardperson to help pick up litter in the churchyard. If you would like to contribute to the upkeep of the church in a practical way and are able to volunteer for around an hour a week, please speak to one of us. The work can be done at a time that suits you, and litter pickers and bags are available.

Christmas is fast approaching and as usual there is much to look forward to. A highlight of the season is our traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols which takes place this year on Sunday 21st December at 5pm. Our family-friendly Nativity service takes place on Christmas Eve at 4pm. For music lovers there is a Saturday Morning Concert on 6th December featuring music for the festive season performed by St Peter's Church Choir and Young Singers. Burnley Municipal Choir and Burnley Orchestra hold concerts in church in November, with the choir's performance of Handel's Messiah a particular treat. We look forward to seeing you at some of these events and at our regular services throughout the Advent and Christmas period.

We wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Sandra and Jason

Merry
Christmas

How the weather has changed It's definitely autumnal. I'm never quite sure which season is my favourite. At the end of a long winter I'm convinced it's Spring, then later in the year I'm amazed at the riot of autumn colours on display as nature prepares for its annual sleep. God's world is wonderful indeed.

LOOKING BACK

The welcome back meeting, with songs, sayings and Edith's tasty scones was very much enjoyed by those who attended.

We are hearing about artificial intelligence, AI, more frequently these days. Tech expert Rob Scott joined us to talk about the subject that is beginning to impact on all of our lives. He answered our questions and recommended an app that we might benefit from, ChatGPT.

LOOKING FORWARD

A venue for the Christmas meal is still to be decided upon. As soon as we know, it will be confirmed and we will be asking for your payment.

All meetings are held at St. Stephen's on a Tuesday, unless otherwise stated.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

11th Nov at 2pm: Community Room - Relax-U with Lynne Ward.

Lynn is making a welcome return to give a brief talk and to show off her wares. It will be a good time to buy her handmade products in time for Christmas.

DECEMBER EVENTS

9th Dec: 12 noon for 12.30 pm: Mothers' Union Christmas Lunch
Cost and venue soon to be confirmed

LET'S CELEBRATE NOVEMBER



Betty Galloway will be celebrating her 85th birthday on the 4th. Happy Birthday to you, Betty.

LET'S CELEBRATE DECEMBER



Jean Beeston celebrates a special '5' on the 2nd, Linda Hannah's birthday is on the 11th and Linda Walton's birthday is on the 14th. Many Happy Returns to you all.

/continued ...

Looking forward to seeing you all on January 13th,
2pm, in the new year, and ...

... wishing you a peaceful and joyful Christmas,



A & B MILLIGAN

COAL MERCHANTS

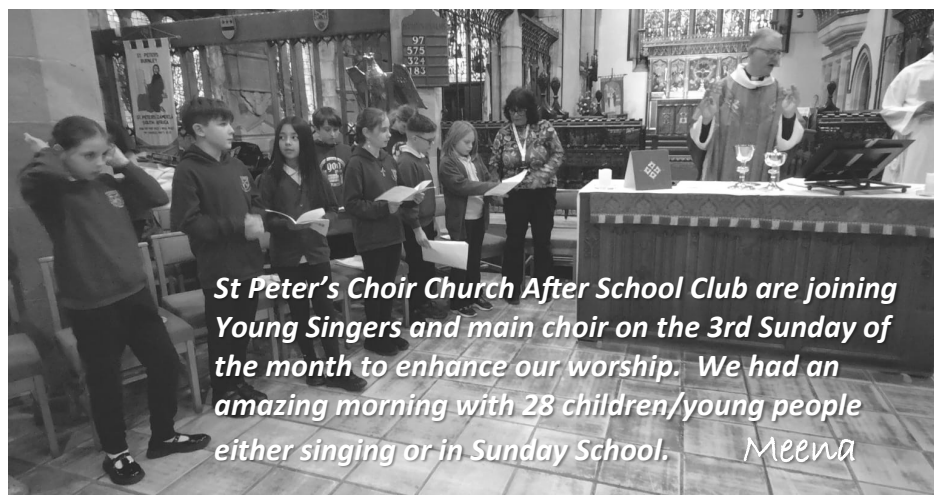


Dean Mill, Plumbe Street, Burnley, BB11 3AG

☎ 01282 450013

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A Massive range of all Spare Parts, Grates and
Door Glass Liners and Bunkers and Accessories.**

**Fantastic Cash and Carry Coal Yard,
stocking an Extensive Range of
coals, logs, kindling, firelighters, catering charcoal**



*St Peter's Choir Church After School Club are joining
Young Singers and main choir on the 3rd Sunday of
the month to enhance our worship. We had an
amazing morning with 28 children/young people
either singing or in Sunday School. Meena*

In The Loop

... With Jean, Paul, Edith & Anita



Hello everyone – we hope you are keeping well! The ground is covered with the beautiful colours of autumn as the leaves fall ... And at the end of October, we shall have turned our clocks back and darker nights are setting in, but don't despair, as there are lots of things to look forward to over the coming weeks. Firstly, just a quick recap of recent times:

AFTERNOON TEA WITH CONTEMPO:

This was a huge success, raising over £500 towards our church funds! We extend our grateful thanks to all those who helped in any way – setting up the tables, preparing the food and serving it with a smile to over 80 people. The choir were excellent, giving a variety of songs. All in all, a wonderful afternoon was enjoyed by all.

HARVEST: Thank you to all those who brought donations of food, or gave monetary donations towards Bishop Philip's Harvest Appeal, at our recent harvest service. All the food was taken across to school for distribution to needy local families. During the following week, children from both St Stephen's and Springfield schools came into church to celebrate their harvest services. Many parents came too and were wonderfully entertained by the children, and a definite highlight was St Stephen's Reception class singing 'Big Red Combine Harvester'. To say that those children have had only a few

weeks in school, they were so enthusiastic and sang beautifully for their audience. Well done children!

ON-GOING EVENTS: 'Knit and Natter' on Monday afternoons continues to go from strength to strength, as does 'Friends, Food & Fun' and 'Let's do Lunch' held on Wednesdays. We are very grateful for all those who offer their time to help with the smooth running of these events, giving the opportunity for people from outside our church community to come into church and enjoy what we have to offer them.

Of note, the month of October has five Wednesdays, so there will be a well-earned rest for the teams on Wednesday 29 October.

Secondly, looking ahead:

YELLOW WHEELIE BIN: This has been a huge success with all donated items forwarded on to school for distribution to needy families. Please continue to bring dried/tinned foods or items of warm clothing for school-age children.

ALL SOULS' SERVICE This annual service will take place on

/continued ...

Saturday 1st November at 10:00 am. It commemorates, through prayer, those whom we love, but see no longer. If you have a loved one who you would like mentioned at the service, please add their name to the list pinned on the notice board at the back of church.

ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: Sunday 9th November at 10:30 am.

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING ~ 'Ding Dong Dell, Kitty's in the Well' This will take place in church at **7:00 pm on Friday 21st November.** Tickets (£8.00) are on sale and include your supper (choice of meat and potato pie or cheese and onion pie). Please bring your own drink and glass. There will be some new faces making their debut in the acting fraternity! Come along to support them and see if you can solve the murder ...!

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Advent and Christmas are on the horizon starting with our 'best selling' fund raising event, which will take place on **Saturday 29th November, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm** in church. Admission will be free. We look forward to welcoming our school choir to open the event with carols – always a delight to listen to. We shall have all the usual stalls, raffle, refreshments etc, and hopefully Father Christmas will be in his grotto!

We would greatly appreciate donated items towards our raffle and tombola etc, but please, NO bric-a-brac – nothing that you wouldn't consider buying yourself! Thank you very much – please place items in the boxes at the front of church.

And finally:

Our dear friend, Keith, would like to extend his heartfelt thanks to everyone who sent cards, messages, and well wishes following his recent surgery. Each thoughtful note and kind word of support has reminded him of how lucky he is to have such caring people in his life. He is making very good progress and feeling stronger every day – he'll soon be back in the fold! Thank you all once again. Keith x

(Be sure to read Keith's amusing letter about the church clock!)

Take a look at the list of services taking place in December, and keep an eye on our notice board at the back of church for further information about our future events and what's going on from week to week! That's all for now everyone. We wish you all a very blessed and peaceful Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year and 2026.

Jean, Paul, Edith and Anita

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

HERITAGE DAY

The day was a great success! Our advertising paid off.

I estimated about 25 new people walked through the Church doors at 10.00am. Some folk will have come for Roger Frost's tour of the building's history but some will have come to see what St Peter's Church offers today! They may have visited us for a nosey-parker around a very old dull looking stone structure shoved in the corner of town but they would have left knowing that we are certainly not a museum dedicated to the past. In fact, they would have quickly realised as they walked through the glass doors that the Church of St Peter consists of a thriving community ready to serve in the heart of Burnley. All the evidence was there waiting for them as they entered.

Meena had put on a splendid display of the Sunday School's artwork. What also shone through was the variety of Clubs we have for children of all ages from The Young Singers to the Holiday club. The Church's recent history was showcased on a stall run by Joanne and Jason. They had photos of the time the BBC came to record Songs of Praise at the Church and of course, proudly pinned to the board and on display was memorabilia from the Church's 900th Birthday. Who could forget not 2022! Bev and Alice manned the merchandise stall selling all-sorts of stuff ranging from booklets on the history of St Peter's to raffle tickets, pens and candles.

The Book of St Peter came next. Visitors could peruse the Book at their leisure and marvel at the many Events we held in our 900th year. They could also pick out friends and relatives who made up our congregation in 2022 from the many photographs. This is a new concept. In the past only the Rectors of the Parish were recorded for history. There was even free book-marks to pick up to remind visitors of the day they came to our Church.

The last stall was entitled 'Why Marry in Church?' but before I go into detail I need to say a big Thank You to the many ladies who had contributed to this display: Maureen and Sharmaine for bringing their stunning Wedding gowns; June for her exquisite Wedding flower arrangements (and those around the font) and to Pam for her up-to date poster graphics.

The more Weddings we have at St Peter's the less we have to pay to the Diocese. Weddings also mean children and a future. I don't think couples realise how affordable a Church Wedding is compared to the glitz of a



modern Wedding venue. Fancy corporate Weddings take a very large chunk of money for that one day and then leave the couple to find their own way on life's great highway. We however, at St Peter's do something different. We care what happens to our newly weds the next day and the next..... We are always there for people come rain or shine, year in, year out. Now that's good value!!

At 11.15am organ music filled the air as David Thornton gave us an excellent recital through the history of Church music. We don't want Church music to fall into decline so it was lovely to let people hear the great range of our fabulous Church organ. This may encourage more people to take up the organ or sing in a choir. Who knows!



Two more huge 'Thank You's' need delivering. One to Maureen and Marjorie, the Catering team, they did a sterling job, serving tea/coffee and cake to so many people. Our hospitality at St Peter's would not have gone unnoticed. Thank you for all your hard work in the kitchen. The other major Thank You goes to Carol Waddington for getting us all together once again.

The day was very successful in many ways. I just hope this Event lets people know in Burnley that the Church is flourishing but we could always do with some new faces and ideas to help us grow into the future. What can you do to make this Event bigger and better next year?

Annette

You're invited to



Burnley Prayer Breakfast at St Stephen's

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

SATURDAY 8th November
at 9.00 am

this month ...

**November,
November,
... a month to**

Remember

All welcome!



The Burnley Garrick
Theatre Group



SPONSORED SING-A-THON

3pm - 8pm
Friday 7th November
St Stephen's Church, BB11 3JA

Five hours of Golden Oldies from the tonsils of our Chair, Beverly McKiernan, to raise funds for a very special - but very expensive - production in Burnley Garrick Theatre Group's season next year.

Refreshments will be available for anybody brave enough to join us on the night but you'll need to supply your own earplugs.

To sign up, please email
bevnmac@gmail.com - or text 07974
010504 - and simply confirm your name,
a mobile number or email address, and
the amount you wish to sponsor!



More details available on
our facebook page:



St Stephen's Church

Light Party!

Friday 31st October
3.30 - 5.00 pm

£2
per child

Hot Dogs
Bouncy Castle
Disco
FUN

St Stephen's Church presents

Ding Dong Bell, Kitty's in the Well

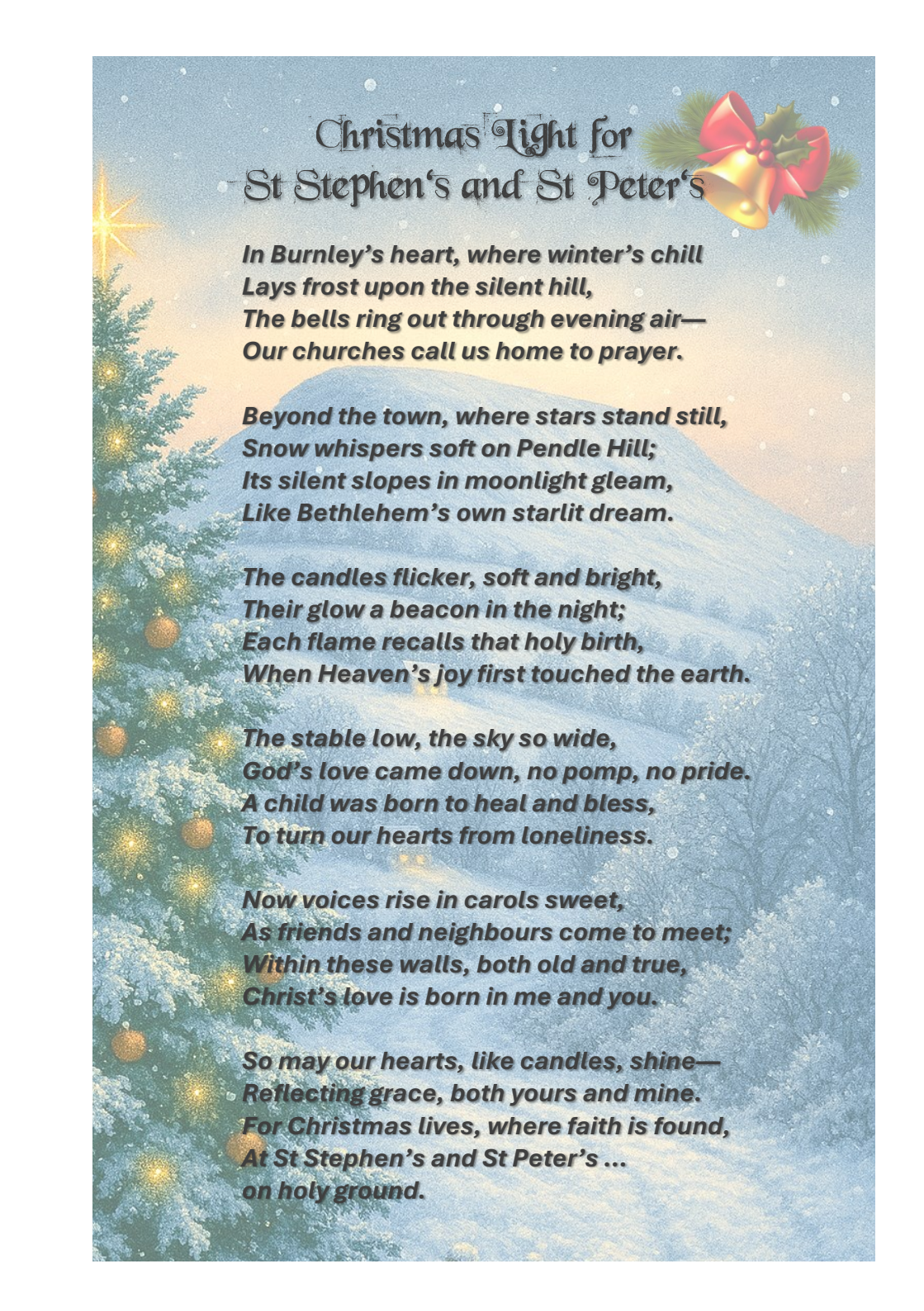
MURDER
MYSTERY
EVENING

Friday 21st November
at 7 pm

Tickets
£8.00
(includes pie and pea supper)

Available from church or
Tel: 07738 412998
07896 036542

Bring your own
drinks & a glass



Christmas Light for St Stephen's and St Peter's

*In Burnley's heart, where winter's chill
Lays frost upon the silent hill,
The bells ring out through evening air—
Our churches call us home to prayer.*

*Beyond the town, where stars stand still,
Snow whispers soft on Pendle Hill;
Its silent slopes in moonlight gleam,
Like Bethlehem's own starlit dream.*

*The candles flicker, soft and bright,
Their glow a beacon in the night;
Each flame recalls that holy birth,
When Heaven's joy first touched the earth.*

*The stable low, the sky so wide,
God's love came down, no pomp, no pride.
A child was born to heal and bless,
To turn our hearts from loneliness.*

*Now voices rise in carols sweet,
As friends and neighbours come to meet;
Within these walls, both old and true,
Christ's love is born in me and you.*

*So may our hearts, like candles, shine—
Reflecting grace, both yours and mine.
For Christmas lives, where faith is found,
At St Stephen's and St Peter's ...
on holy ground.*



Sunday School News

Remembrance, Advent, Christmas - a roller coaster of events in the next two months!!!!

The significance and importance of all will be reflected and worked upon with all our toddlers, children and young people. Remembrance, Advent and Christmas are all tangible for families as we see signs in society, shops and schools. This helps us to discuss and celebrate with our wider community. Nativity and Carol services are special and meaningful. Our Young People in particular will be involved with raising money for our links with the 'Homeless Pastors'.

It is exciting and a real joy to be with all our groups: an expanding monthly Welcome on Wednesday, Sunday School, Young Singers and our links for Choir Church to be involved in our services.

With love from us all for peace and happiness,

Meena



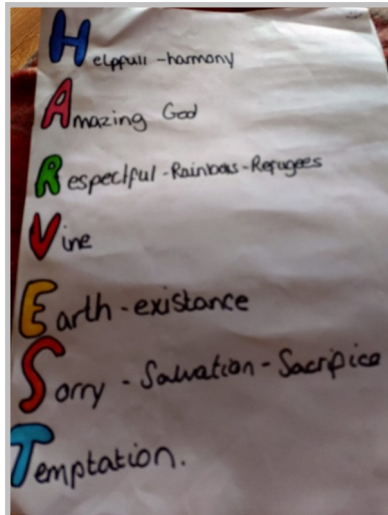
Bishop Joe was an unexpected and very welcome visitor to church on 12th October. He stayed in our Sunday School and took part in our Gospel reading of the Ten Lepers. He listened to our prayers and enjoyed birthday cake!



Our Young Singers at Higham for Harvest Evensong



Welcome on Wednesday is expanding and welcoming families from school



A Harvest
Acrostic

St Stephen's Church, Burnley
invite you to a Service



in remembrance of
♦ ALL SOULS ♦

Saturday 1st November
at 10.00 am

*As the leaves begin to fall, we pause and
remember those we love but see no more*



The United Benefice of St Peter & St Stephen

Advent Carol Service

From Darkness to Light
Music and Readings for Advent

SUNDAY

30TH NOVEMBER

AT 3.30 PM

St Stephen's
Church
Burnley

All
Welcome

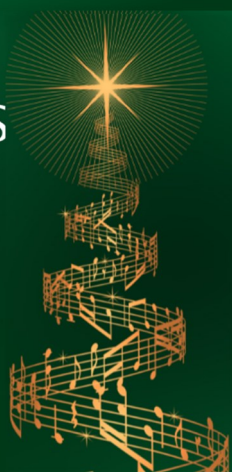


St Peter's Church, Burnley
invites you to a
Service of

LESSONS
&
CAROLS

Sunday
21st December
at 5.00 pm

ALL WELCOME!



St Stephen's Church, Burnley

Everyone is invited to join us for ...

St Stephen's Sings
Christmas

Sunday 14th
December
at 3.30 pm

Christmas starts here!

... with mulled wine
and mince pies!



Advent heralds the beginning of the Church's Year and so what better time could there be to explain the ...

LITURGICAL COLOURS AND SEASONS

Throughout the Church's year, the colours of the priest's vestments change. These colours are not chosen at random — each carries a deep and beautiful meaning, helping us to enter more fully into the mystery of the season or feast being celebrated.

The Church draws these colours from the beauty of creation itself, reminders of God's goodness, grace, and the many blessings we receive through His Son, Jesus Christ. The principal colours used are white (or gold), purple (or violet), green, red, and rose pink.

WHITE/GOLD

White (or gold) is a colour of joy, purity, and celebration. It is used during the great seasons of Christmas and Easter, and on major feast days — such as the celebrations of the Lord (other than His Passion), of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of the Holy Angels, and of Saints who were not martyrs.

White reminds us of Christ's victory over sin and death, and because it symbolises the Resurrection, it is also the colour often worn at funerals, expressing our Christian hope in eternal life.

PURPLE

Purple (or violet) is the colour of repentance, penance, and preparation. It is worn during the reflective seasons of Advent and Lent. In Lent, it calls us to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving — a time of quiet reflection and renewal.

During Advent, a softer, rose-tinted purple reminds us of the sky before sunrise — the world waiting in joyful hope for the coming of Christ, the Light of the world.

Purple also recalls humility. The violet flower bows its head, a symbol of the humble heart that turns to God. In the early Church, purple dye was rare and costly — we remember Lydia, the seller of purple cloth, who supported St Paul in his missionary work (Acts 16:14–15).

GREEN

Green is the colour of life, growth, and hope. It is worn most often during the weeks of Ordinary Time, representing the steady and faithful journey of the Christian life.

Just as nature grows quietly and steadily, so too does our faith as we walk daily with the Lord. Green symbolises the grace of God continually drawing us closer to His life and love.

RED

Red symbolises blood and fire — signs of sacrifice and the Holy Spirit. It is worn on Passion (Palm) Sunday, Pentecost, and for the celebration of Confirmation, reminding us of the Spirit's power and presence.

Red is also the colour of martyrdom, worn on the feast days of those who gave their lives for their faith, witnesses to the love of Christ even unto death.

ROSE PINK

Rose pink is a gentle and joyful colour, used only twice a year — on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) and the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday). Both days begin with a call to rejoice, even in the midst of a penitential season. The rose vestments remind us that joy and hope are never far away, even in times of waiting or repentance.

A Reflection

In every season, the Church's colours speak silently but beautifully of the mystery of our faith. They guide us through the rhythm of the liturgical year — from repentance to joy, from death to new life — as we walk together in the light of Christ.





St Stephen's Church

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

Christmas Fair

Saturday 29th November

Father
Christmas
will be in his
Grotto

**11 am
to 1 pm**

The
School Choir
will be
Singing

Festive Fun for All

*** Father Christmas * Raffle ***
*** Tombola * Games ***
*** Refreshments ***

Re-kindling by Christine Harbour

Most of us love a wedding . It's after all a love story. ♡ My grandson waited a long time to find his true love. One summer evening in London he boarded the tube train for home. Sitting across from him was a beautiful girl . He couldn't take his eyes off her, and happily she seemed to be smiling back.? He missed his home stop and alighted the tube when she herself got off, then either boldly or shyly, asked for her phone number! In

September this year the pair were married in Caiscais, Portugal. The service was quite moving and at one stage in the ceremony they were given a wooden box containing a bottle of wine. In it they had to put in a love letter which they had



written to each other. They were then instructed to open it and read the letters to each other on every wedding anniversary. If they drank the wine, they must replace it till their next anniversary. I am sure this was to remind them of their first meeting , and their special wedding . Hopefully this simple reminder would help them to put any problems to right and re-kindle their love for each other.

We often need reminders to be grateful for all we have. To re-stock ourself with precious memories when our minds are often clogged with anxiety and worries.

There couldn't be a better time than Christmas to re-kindle our love for family and friends. A time when we reach out to the unloved and displaced, to feed them, clothe them and befriend them. A time to remember that God the Father became God incarnate in the form of a tiny baby, born in a smelly cattle shed. A time when we gasp at the sacrifice of a God of Divinity who came down to tread this earth to experience life alongside of us. Christmas is the time when we can we re-kindle our love for him as we celebrate the enormity of the gift of Jesus.

I remember in my early married life when we had a coal fire. Every morning there was no clicking on the central heating. Instead we screwed up newspaper, laid tiny strips of wood on the paper (kindle wood) then the coal. We lit the paper which in turn touched the wood which burst into flames and finally heated the coal!



As we light our candles this Christmas I pray that Christ's love will re-kindle our love for him and I especially pray that this kindling will set our world on fire with the knowledge and love of Jesus.

'Oh thou who camest from above,
thy pure celestial love to impart.
Kindle a flame of burning love
on the mean altar of my heart'

We as Christians are commanded to spread love in a broken world. We are challenged to fight for justice and to love others . Not just friends and families, but our neighbours and to those who are socially displaced and to those who have never known the Amazing unconditional love of Jesus.

May you set your kindling on fire
and feel the joy and blessings of
Love this Christmas

Christine H xx





... From our Vision Champions

Hi everyone,

Prayer Breakfast: Nourishing the Body and Spirit

During the year we have met together with churches across the deanery. A time of fellowship, reflection and prayer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have prepared and delivered the reflections and prayers. Often the theme for the prayer breakfast doesn't seem to give much in the way of inspiration, but I am always amazed how they take up the challenge and how much their words teach and inspire us on our spiritual journey.

Let's do Lunch and Friends, Food and Fun and Knit and Natter also continue to thrive. A heartfelt word of thanks goes to our dedicated teams from whose generosity and hard work make these events a true success. Their delicious food and welcoming spirit create an atmosphere of warmth and joy that reflects the love of Christ in action. These events serve not only as a moment of togetherness, but also as a living expression of our mission—to care for one another and to extend God's love beyond our church walls.

There are lots of events and services happening in the run up to Christmas.

Christmas Fair! Stalls, treats and seasonal cheer for all ages. Bring friends and family and get into the Christmas spirit!

Advent Carol Service :Begin the season with reflection and hope at our Advent Carol Service. Beautiful music, readings and quiet anticipation as we look toward Christmas.

St Stephen's Sings Christmas: Come and enjoy an hour of music and celebration! St Stephen's Sings Christmas is full of favourite carols and joyful performance followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Sunday Club Nativity: One of the highlights of the season! Our Sunday Club present the Nativity in their own special way. Come along and support the children as they tell the Christmas story.

Midnight Mass: A peaceful, beautiful service as we welcome the birth of Christ together.

All the dates and times are in the magazine. Why not take this opportunity

to encourage a friend, or a neighbour to come along, so we can all share in the joy of Christmas.

Happy Christmas!

Linda. (St Stephen's Vision Champion)

*"So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing".
(Thessalonians 5:11)*



by Joan Ainsworth

On occasion I have felt a bit isolated as a Christian. I know there are many other churches and Christians in Burnley, but we don't often meet. However, over the last two years good things have been happening.

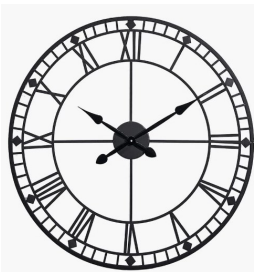
From a small beginning of three people meeting, Churches Together in Burnley has gone from strength to strength. At the last meeting in September there were over 30 people enjoying lunch and chatting. In addition to many churches there were GPs, Homeless Pastors, Christians Against Poverty, Safe Families, Social Prescribers and others represented. The atmosphere was exiting as we discussed how we could work together to help people in Burnley. It was reiterated several times that organisations wanted to work with the Faith Sector. The meeting opened up many opportunities to explore.

Churches Together in Burnley provides several opportunities during the year: there is the Blessing of the Crib in the Market Hall with Coffee & Mince Pies which is well attended.; we had a joint Ascension Service at St Mary's; a very successful week with the Canal Ministries Team, and Hymns and Pimm's at Cliviger. All bringing people together to form friendships and work together.

On 12 November there is Gather Together Part II, which will be advertised nearer the time. The good news is - next year's events are already in the planning stages. Please look out for the dates. I hope you can attend some of these exciting events.

As a Benefice we are working with Safe Families, Christians Against Poverty and Homeless Pastors and, of course, Burnley Churches Together.

Joan



St Stephen's Parish Clock Appeal

Dear Friends,

You may have noticed — or perhaps not, which somehow would be worse — that the clock on St Stephen's has stopped. Its hands are fixed stubbornly in place, pointing to a time of no great importance, like a reluctant schoolboy told to answer a question in class. It has given up, and it has done so without so much as a by-your-leave. Now, our clock has never been one of the grand affairs. It doesn't chime on the hour like some, reminding the whole neighbourhood when it's time to turn the sausages. It has always been a quieter sort of companion, content to mark the passing of the day without drawing too much attention to itself. But if you live in Burnley Wood you'll know it's always been there — a dependable face keeping watch over the streets, the mills, the rooftops. What it has done particularly well, especially in more recent years, is glow. In days gone by, when the illumination came from ordinary bulbs, the clock face had a kind of warm, buttery light about it — gentle, forgiving, like lamplight falling on a familiar armchair. These days, of course, we have LEDs: sharp, efficient, a little less forgiving, but doing the job nonetheless. And that job is important. It's surprising how comforting it is, turning the corner on a dark winter's night and seeing the clock shining above, pointing you homeward.

Unfortunately, getting it going again won't come cheap. £4,000 is the estimate, which makes you wonder how such a small space can hold quite so much expense. It's not a sum the church can manage alone, and so we're appealing for your help. A pound, a note, the cost of a bag of chips or a couple of pints — whatever you can spare. Each contribution will bring us closer to seeing the hands move once again and the face of the clock glow across Burnley Wood. After all, a church without its clock is like a vicar without his bicycle — it can be managed, but really, it isn't quite the same.

It would be a fine thing, wouldn't it, to put the clock on our list of jobs for 2026? To begin the new year not only with fresh resolutions but with a warm glow — quite literally — on the tower of St Stephen's.

The clock has been part of our lives for longer than most of us can

remember. It deserves, I think, to be coaxed gently back into life, to go on keeping its silent vigil for another generation. And of course, Christmas will soon be upon us — holding, as it does, the spirit of the season in that peculiar mixture of tinsel and truth. The church will smell faintly of polish and orange peel, the choir will be muffled in scarves, and someone will always forget the last verse of “Once in Royal.” Still, that’s half the charm.

May I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmastide, and indeed a peaceful and contented New Year, 2026 — one perhaps a little brighter, and with the St Stephen’s clock ticking gently along beside us.

With gratitude,

Keith

on behalf of St Stephen’s PCC

Footnote:

For the avoidance of doubt, donations can be made directly to the church — preferably not left in an envelope under the church door, as has been tried in the past. The draught tends to blow them away, and the PCC is not responsible for chasing fivers down the church path

HYMNS & PIMMS – A Harvest Celebration

The 28th September saw a gathering of friends from across many denominations come together for a wonderful evening of harvest hymns at St John’s Cliviger.

It was certainly a work out for the vocal chords and everyone must have had at least 2 or 3 of their favourites on the list.

Kathleen Wilkinson also entertained with 2 beautiful solos.

After so much singing, refreshments were certainly called for and vast quantities of Pimms (soft drinks available for those who wanted) and shortbread revived everyone as they socialised.

From my perspective, however, I have to say having Cosima’s two dogs for company throughout was a pet lovers paradise.

Our next event will be the blessing of the town crib on 6th December and we hope lots of you will come to join us for this and to sing some Carols.

Carol Pike



Stephen
Alderson

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Help! We're running out of ideas!



The Fundraising and Events Team at St Stephen's need people with new ideas!

The team was originally set up to facilitate any ideas which came from members of the congregation - they were there to offer help to anyone who wanted their idea to happen - and that's still the case! If you have an idea for an interesting event - it doesn't necessarily have to be a fundraiser, it could simply be a social event - then we're here to help you run it. It's about time we had some new blood with some new vision - we're all getting a bit stale!

You don't have to take it all on yourself - we're here to help in any and every way. Just have a word with one of us - no toes are being trodden here - they're really not!!

Linda, Pam, Jean, Paul, Anita, Barbara, Beverley Philip



Time for a Smile

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary"

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" One little boy said, "Verge".

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that from?"

The child said, "Well, you know how they are always talking about 'Verge and Mary'."



*From 'A Bundle of Laughs'
(J John & Mark Stibbe)*



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



IT'S ONLY AN HOUR A WEEK!

That is a line that every leader in Guiding hears frequently and causes a chuckle.

For a start with 2 units, the Tuesday set down at Wellfield and the Wednesday set being St Stephen's that is over 50 girls to entertain each week with a variety of activities.

Straight faces are definitely an asset when you go shopping on occasion. "20 boxes of matches – are you sure?" – if you are doing firelighting, a box approximately per 2 girls is really a must.

One of the biggest adventures we can ever offer is a sleepover – well actually more of a wakeover as it is virtually impossible to get excited Brownies to sleep – and when, on a light, bright June evening, we were asked if we would like to put our units in the draw for places at a sleepover at Blackburn Cathedral in November, Tracy and I thought it sounded really sweet!

We put both in and were lucky to get allocated 6 places per unit! Due to low number of places (only 150 Brownies from the whole of Lancashire East can take part), we had a draw at both units and, needless to say, places were filled quickly!

Now we are at the point where we recognise on the night of 14th November, we are completely committed to taking our aching joints etc to spend a night in a Cathedral, underneath a huge lit up globe of earth (Gaia) with 150 chatterboxes for a whole night.

But remember it is only an hour a week!

By the way, if you want to go and see Gaia for yourself – you can go to the Cathedral, minus Brownies, to have a look before it leaves on 16th November. If it is anything like the moon last year, it does actually promise to be spectacular.

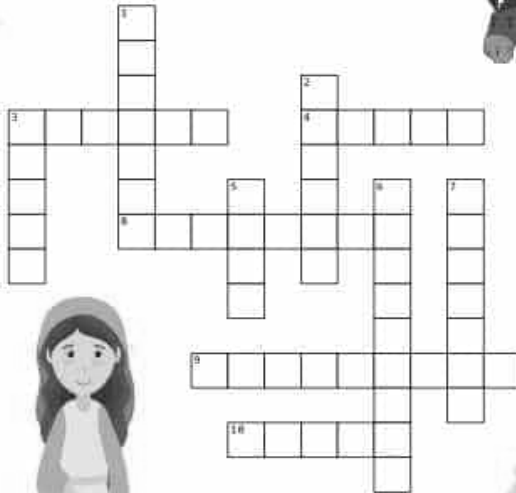
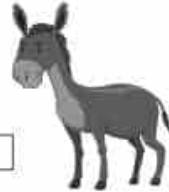
Carol Pike



Children's Page

Crossword Puzzle

Solve the following puzzle based on the clues given!



Across

- [3] The man who married Mary
- [4] One of these appeared to Mary.
- [8] Joseph lived here.
- [9] Mary and Joseph had to travel to this town.
- [10] The name of the King who was jealous of Jesus.

Down

- [1] Followed the star
- [2] Jesus was placed here as a new-born baby.
- [3] Who was born in the manger
- [5] The mother of Jesus.
- [6] These were in the field when the angel appeared
- [7] The Angel who appeared to Mary



Now we have had a few months of working as 2 groups; younger and older, it is great to see how it has really settled. Our younger members are loving learning through the fun activities and silly songs, while our older members enjoy the greater challenges offered

by the Roots activities aimed at them.

Our older group were very interested by all the Homeless Pastor Team had to say and we hope that everyone is remembering to collect the items on the list – sleeping bags, hats, gloves, ladies sanitary products etc. Elena even went over to St Peter's to tell them all about it. As there is a sleepout being held, which would not be safe for under 18s, we have been asked about the possibility of arranging a sponsored sleepover at St Stephen's for the members aged 10 and over. I think my Camp and Pack Holiday Licence for Girlguiding may come in useful there as the requests keep getting aimed my way.

We have now planned until Christmas with our Light Party at the end of October coming up rapidly. Of course, the big event of December will be the Nativity.

Thank you for the encouragement you all give our Sunday School each week when they come back into Church to share what they have been doing. It means a lot to them.

Carol, Emma and Carrie.

Our Sunday Club
Nativity will be on
Sunday 21st
December at 9.30 am



Advent & Christmas

In the United Benefice of St Peter & St Stephen, Burnley

Advent Sunday 30th November

10.30 am: Joint Benefice Eucharist - St Peter's
3.30 pm: Advent Carol Service - St Stephen's

Saturday 6th December

10.30 am: Saturday Morning Concert - St Peter's

Advent 2 - Sunday 7th December

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

Wednesday 10th December

10.30 am: Midweek Communion - St Peter's
2.00 pm: Midweek Eucharist - St Stephen's

Saturday 13th December

11.00 am: Carols For All - Homeless Pastors Fundraiser - St Peter's

Advent 3 - Sunday 14th 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

Wednesday 17th December

10.30 am: Midweek Communion - St Peter's

Advent 4 - Sunday 21st December

8.45 am: Wake Up & Worship - Breakfast - St Stephen's
9.30 pm: Nativity Service - St Stephen's
11.00 am: Parish Eucharist - St Peter's
5.00 pm: Lessons & Carols Service - St Peter's

Christmas Eve - 24th December

4.00 pm: Nativity Service - St Peter's
11.30 pm: Midnight Mass - St Stephen's

Christmas Day - 25th December

10.00 am: Benefice Eucharist - St Peter's

Sunday 28th December

10.30 am: St Stephen's Patronal Festival - Benefice Eucharist - St Stephen's