

St Peter's Church, Burnley

Walking with Jesus to The Cross

*A Maundy Thursday
Workshop*

**Thursday 6th April
10.00 am - 12 noon**

Stories

Prayers

Singing

Crafts

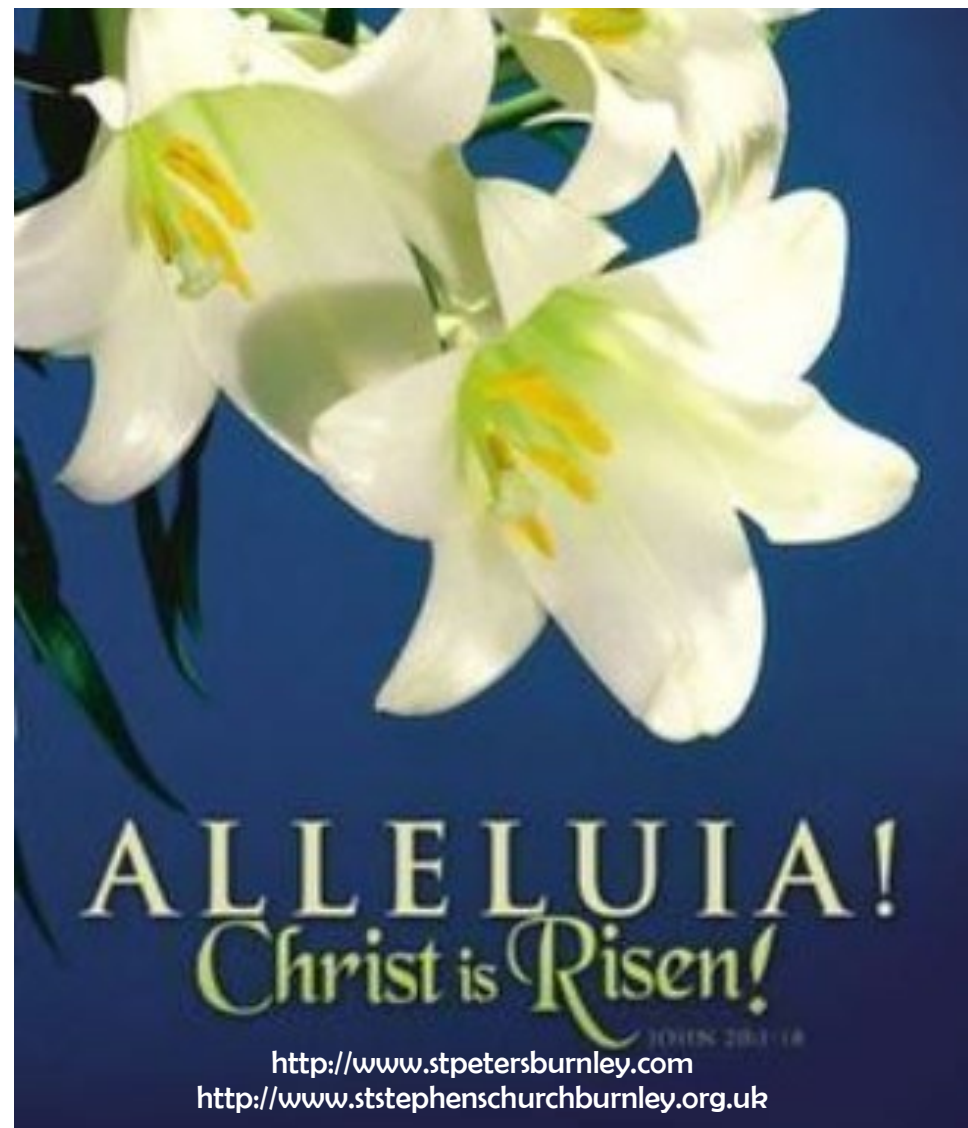
& Lunch



the link

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

APRIL 2023





Services for Holy Week & Easter

ST STEPHEN'S

ST PETER'S

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| PALM SUNDAY | 9.45 am | Procession of the Palms & Eucharist | 11.00 am | Procession of the Palms & Eucharist |
| | | | 6.00 pm | Choral Evensong |
| MONDAY IN HOLY WK 3rd April | 10.30 am | Stations of the Cross & Eucharist | | |
| TUESDAY IN HOLY WK 4th April | 7.00 pm | Stations of the Cross & Eucharist | | |
| WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WK 5th April | | | 10.30 am | Stations of the Cross & Eucharist |
| MAUNDY THURSDAY 6th April | | | 7.00 pm | The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday |
| | | | 8.00 - 9.00 pm | The Watch & Vigil |
| GOOD FRIDAY 7th April | 2.00 pm | The Liturgy of Good Friday | 10.30 am | All-Age Service, Readings & Music for Good Friday followed by Hot Cross Buns |
| SATURDAY IN HOLY WK 8th April | 9.00 am | Morning Prayer & Live-streamed on Facebook | | |
| EASTER DAY 9th April | 9.45 am | Festal Eucharist | 11.00 am | Festal Eucharist |

There will be NO midweek services in Easter week.
Sunday 16th April Services will be at the usual times.



Please come
and worship with us.
All are invited and welcome here!



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 CHAMPION: Miss Roxanne Kern ☎ 07455 622445 MOTHERS' UNION: Mrs Carol Waddington ☎ 07846 139241 SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Mrs Cynthia Bramley ☎ 07903341700. 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 | 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 MAY edition of the magazine are submitted no later than
15th May
pamelamcgrath1@hotmail.com

Useful Information

Burnley Borough Council has an extensive list of Warm Places on its website. Check to see days and times.

Burnley.gov.uk.



Burnley Together still have various food hubs for collecting food parcels. Tel: 686402 between 9.00 am & 5.00 pm Monday - Friday to book - you need to book 24 hours in advance to arrange to collect. In certain circumstances, they will deliver a food parcel, but can only manage to deliver up to 5 a day, so it is strictly for those who are housebound and have no means of collection.



Debt advice is also available at Valley Street Community Centre on Thursday - drop in between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm

Barbara marshall



Dear Friends,

Firstly thank you to all of you. Liz and I are incredibly grateful for our fantastic welcome in Burnley. I am here as your parish priest to serve you, so do be in touch and let me know where you need me to be.

It is hard to write of Easter hope with the long Passiontide of Ukraine and so many others filling our news. But the bitterness of war now so close to people we feel are so like us is all too familiar. In these and too many other places in our world, bad things are happening to people not so very different from us. We may be insulated from them because they are not so close or no longer newsworthy, or their agony has gone on too long to feature anymore in our news stories.

Paul speaks of the resurrection like this. In 1 Corinthians 15. "I handed on to you as of first importance what I, in turn, had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures."

We may wonder exactly what that means, and John explains it in this way, "Jesus Christ the righteous ... the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

There is a long tradition in Christian devotion that the burden Christ bore on the first Good Friday was not just the weight of the wooden cross and the brutality of crucifixion but also the weight and pain of the world. Yet as the prayers in the funeral service put it, God's "mighty power brings joy out of grief and life out of death." As God's people, we are not just a Good Friday people but also an Easter people in whom the power of God is at work.

Our churches should be places where all are welcomed and loved. We cannot take on the whole world's pain single-handedly, but we can pray and be the hands and feet of Jesus in our communities today. We can respond with love to the needs of others. We can share their pain by listening and action. We can speak truth to power, seeking justice and equality for all.

/continued ...

As we journey with Jesus through Holy week to the joy of the resurrection and our Easter celebration, may we be reminded again of God's power at work in Christ when he raised him from the dead. "With God, all things are possible.

The challenge for us is how to make God's life and power a reality in our world today. How can we be Easter people in a Good Friday world?

I wish you all a joy-filled and blessed Easter!

Fr Andrew



Confirmation

10.30 AM SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

Bishop Philip will be coming for a Benefice confirmation service at St Peter's on the 26th November at 10.30am. This is good news as we celebrate Christ the King on that Sunday. On that day therefore there will be one service at St Peter's.

There are a number of candidates already and we would like to include any Yr6 children from our schools who wish to be confirmed, and of course any adults who wish to make for themselves the promises made at their baptism to follow Jesus.

We will be running two preparation days in late summer/early autumn. These will be interactive and fun!

If you or your child is thinking of being confirmed, do have a word with Fr Andrew and watch this space for further details.



Churchwardens' News from St Peter's

Hello everyone,

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

The last month has been a very busy one. We had our last service of the vacancy with Rev Frances on 19th February, and Fr Andrew popped in for a visit after the service so that people could meet him for the first time before his induction. We are very grateful to Rev Frances Guite and all the visiting clergy who led services following Fr Paul's departure, including Rev Paul Benfield, Rev Nigel Kroukamp and Rev Kat Gregory-Witham, and we thank them for their assistance.

The induction service at St Stephen's on Monday 20th February went very well, as Fr Andrew took possession of the benefice and he and his family were welcomed by the congregation. It is great to finally have our new Rector with us and he has certainly been busy getting involved and meeting people across the benefice over the last few weeks.

The Wednesday morning Communion Service at St Peter's will now take place every week rather than once a fortnight as previously. We hope as many as possible will be able to come to this more regular service, so please do come along weekly at 10.30am.

As we approach Easter, the Thursday Lent Groups have proven very popular, providing a useful opportunity to think and chat with others during this time of reflection.

During Holy Week there will be a number of services across the benefice. At St Peter's, as well as morning services on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, and the Wednesday communion service, there is a Maundy Thursday Eucharist at 7pm including the stripping of the altar and a vigil, and an all-age service on Good Friday at 10.30am followed by Hot Cross Buns. St Stephen's will have Eucharists on Monday and Tuesday and a more formal service for adults on Good Friday at 2pm. We hope this will enable everyone to find an opportunity to worship and reflect during this most important time.

Take care,

Sandra and Jason



MOTHERING SUNDAY

It was wonderful to see so many adults and children in church on Mothering Sunday. Our grateful thanks go to Jennifer (Pollard) for providing the beautiful posies that were handed out on the day.

CLERGY STUDY DAY

This successful, annual conference took place in church on Wednesday 22nd March and was attended by over 60 clergy from around the Diocese. Once again our catering team put on a wonderful lunch and tea/coffee etc to keep the delegates well fed and watered! It's always a great pleasure to welcome them all, and we were blessed to receive many compliments about our church and the service we provide for them.

THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

The ashes of our dear friend, the late Edna Saul, were buried within the Memorial Garden at the end of last month. Her son and daughter and their families travelled from different parts of the country to be with us at our morning service

prior to the burial. At the meeting of the PCC in March a resolution was passed for a memorial plaque to be displayed within church giving the names of those whose ashes have been buried in the Garden.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Just to remind you that the A.P.C.M. will take place in church on Sunday 23rd April following the morning service at 11.00 am. This is your opportunity to air any views that you might have in the running of our church. Please do consider if you would you like to be a churchwarden, or if you would like to join the team of sides -persons, tea rota, readers' rota, server/Crucifer (carrying the cross) rota etc. If you would like to take on one of these roles, please see Keith or Jean, we'll be more than happy to welcome you to 'the team'.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

These are listed on the inside front cover of the magazine.

MAINTENANCE

We are in the process of arranging the re-pointing the stonework at the south-west window in the Community Room, where over time damp has been a particular problem.

That's all for now folks – if anyone has any ideas about anything – please let us know!

Jean, Keith & Paul

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." (Romans 5:3-5)

Diary Dates

Spring Social Night Out:

Thursday 20th April: As you know, this night out at '197 The Bistro' is fast approaching. If you're interested, the menu/booking form is available – please ask Jean for a copy for you to complete and **return to her (together with your payment) by Sunday 9 April.**

King Charles III Coronation:

We had hoped to celebrate this by holding afternoon tea in church on Bank Holiday Monday, 8th May; however, Burnley (Clarets) have their final home match on this afternoon with the likelihood of being awarded the Championship Trophy. We're still having a rethink and will announce the new date of our celebration as soon as we can - watch this space!

Spring Fair: This will take place at School on **Saturday, 13th May** – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. There will be all the usual stalls, plus bouncy castle, barbecue etc and, the school choir will be present to sing to us. Further details to follow.

Christian Aid Week: 14-20 May 2023

Give, act and pray this Christian Aid Week.

Soaring costs are affecting people here and around the world. Families in Malawi are paying the price of this global crisis. Food, fuel, fertiliser and school fees have doubled in price in the last 12 months. And hard-working farmers are seeing their harvests fail as the climate crisis brings increasingly erratic weather.

During Christian Aid Week we come together to stand against inequality and global poverty. Just £10 could pay for a 2kg bag of seeds to plant pigeon peas, which is a hardy, drought-resistant crop.

Please support the collection at St Peter's by donating as generously as you can. You can do so via the card payment machine at the rear of church or envelopes which will be available during Christian Aid Week.

Joanne

LOOKING BACK

We were very pleased when Father Andrew stepped up to lead our meeting in March. It was a meditation from a different viewpoint in that Andrew took five of his favourite hymns to present to us. Each hymn came with a brief history and a personal reason given for its choice. It is more challenging than you think to choose just five hymns, theological or spiritual reasoning aside. Father Andrew's choices were Abide with Me, Jerusalem, Make Me a Channel of Your Peace, There is a Green Hill Far Away and The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, is Ended.

LOOKING FORWARD

This month Alan and Marjorie Dunderdale are coming along to tell us about their involvement with Talking Newspapers for the Blind. If, like me, you're not too knowledgeable on this subject I'm sure you'll find it an interesting meeting. Some of you may remember Marjorie as St. Stephen's School secretary Marjorie Taylor.

An apology for a mistake I have made in our MU programme. And thank you Joan Ainsworth for drawing my attention to this (very tactfully, I might add).

The name of the speaker we have booked for 09/05/23 at 2pm is NOT Katie Delaney but Katy Oehring.

APRIL 2023 EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 11 April, 2pm: Talking Newspapers

Tuesday 25 April, 7.30pm: Deanery Festival, All Saints, Habergham

APRIL 2023 CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Marilyn Walsh on the 12th.

Jackie

Are you over 65 and living alone?

Would you like a private en-suite flat in a secure building with company when required?

The cost of living here is just a little over £200 per week and includes all running costs, 2 meals a day and use of a well equipped laundry room.

WHY NOT VISIT TO LOOK AROUND?

St Stephen Street: ☎ 422434
Harriet Street: ☎ 832225

Thank you

Pauline Lockwood would like to say a sincere thank you for all the love, and condolences received on the loss of her dear brother, Harry.

Your thoughts and prayers were so much appreciated.

So thank you all. xx

APRIL IN THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF ST STEPHEN'S

| | |
|------|--|
| 1st | Harry Newman, June Knight, Laura Catton, Alice Duckworth |
| 2nd | Clifford Hough, Ada Smith |
| 3rd | Ada Stuttard, Sarah Horne |
| 4th | Raymond O'Brien, Florence Hindle, Doreen Dugdale |
| 5th | Joan Audrey Dwyer |
| 6th | Herbert Smith |
| 7th | Walker Emmott, Ann Hewes, William Heslop |
| 8th | Alice Mitchell |
| 9th | Alan Hindle, Kenneth Preston Dewhurst |
| 10th | Ann Jane Astin, Elsie Hargreaves JP. |
| 12th | Hubert Parkinson, John William Medforth, Ada Simpson |
| 14th | Harold Crossley, Reginald Dugdale |
| 15th | Jessie Edith Thornton, Hilda Devine |
| 16th | Mary Ann Wilson |
| 17th | Susannah Redman, William Tomlinson |
| 18th | Thomas Peter Foxcroft King, Susan Melanie Scholes, Jessie Thornton, Walter Henry Waterworth Osborne, Joan Hopwood, Nancy Atkinson Dowthwaite Alston. |
| 19th | Sara Tegerdine, Edward Simpson, William Pattinson |
| 20th | William Tomlinson, Marjorie Baker |
| 21st | Elizabeth Alice Whittam, Deryn Marjorie Taylor |
| 22nd | Elizabeth Turner, John Eddison, William Hartley, James Stott, Tom Hopwood, Carolyn Anne Kull |
| 23rd | Clarence Edward Rogerson (Priest) |
| 24th | Tamah Harrison, Edith Foster, Harry Clark, Matilda (Tilly) Greenwood |
| 25th | Marjorie Whittaker |
| 26th | Ellen Hacking, Harry Pollard, Frank Beck |
| 27th | John Willie Kneeshaw, Mary Ann Hudson, Robert Pearson |
| 28th | Annie Keating, Florence Topper, Kenneth Gordon Hopwood |
| 29th | Mary Cawley, Fred Studholme, Dorothy Howarth, Joan Ashworth |



R.I.P.

APRIL IN THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF ST PETER'S

| | |
|------|--|
| 1st | John Hewitt Ormerod |
| 2nd | Henry Wood |
| 4th | Fred Trotter, Martha Alice Gent |
| 5th | William A Fletcher |
| 7th | Arthur Baker |
| 9th | James Jackson |
| 10th | Eric Shaw, Rhoda German, Irene Fleming Mitchell, Elsie Hargreaves |
| 11th | Benjamin Booth |
| 12th | Edith Annie Smith |
| 13th | Ian Alastair Derham |
| 14th | Beatrice Loder, Arthur Eglin, Dady Falik |
| 16th | Phyllis Margaret Ashworth, Anne Kathleen Walker, Mabel Constance Lee Carole Ross |
| 18th | Joan Cresswell |
| 19th | Ryunosuke Iizuka |
| 21st | Edward William Buist Flood |
| 23rd | Annie Jessop |
| 24th | Molly Braddock, Mary Lavinia Harwood |
| 25th | Annie Smith, Evelyn Heap, Margaret Newbold Ashbridge |
| 26th | Sarah Ann Layfield |
| 27th | Alice Bridge, Jennifer Hutchinson |
| 29th | Ethel Partington |
| 30th | Tom Lund |



Jesus said to her,
 "I am the resurrection and the life.
 The one who believes in me will live,
 even though they die; and whoever lives by
 believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
John 11:25-26

St Peter's Branch

Our meeting for March takes place on Wednesday 29th at 2.00pm in Church. Christine Hacking will be demonstrating spring flower arrangements. We have always enjoyed this in the past and we welcome anyone who would like to come along. You don't have to be a member of the Mothers' Union.

On 26th April we have Brenda Rochester talking to us about the Foresters. I don't know anything about the organisation so am personally looking forward to learning something about it. Again, everyone welcome.

Carol

| St Peter's Flower Guild | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| ROTA FOR APRIL | | |
| | Sanctuary | Towneley Chapel |
| 2nd | Palm Sunday | Palm Sunday |
| 9th | Easter Flowers | Easter Flowers |
| 16th | Vacant | Vacant |
| 23rd | Vacant | Mrs E Jessop |
| Arrangements for decorating the church for Easter will take place on Friday 7th April after the morning service. Greenery, any shape or variety will be greatly accepted on Wednesday morning, 5th April. <i>Alice & Maureen</i> | | |

Cake My Day



by Emma

Cupcakes
Brownies
Birthday Cakes
Christening Cakes
Cakes for most occasions

☎ 07968 782210

Email:
emmahopley70@gmail.com



The Role of St Peters Church in the History of Burnley

by ROGER FROST

As part of our 900th Anniversary Celebrations, Roger Frost had asked if he could do a talk on The Role of St Peter's Church in the History of Burnley. This had been arranged for October 2022, but unfortunately had to be cancelled at short notice due to Roger's illness. It has now been rebooked to take place on:

Saturday 20th May at 11.00am, preceded by tea/coffee from 10.30am.

Roger, as you know, is a well-known local historian and a very interesting speaker, many of you having enjoyed his tours of the church at last years' Heritage Day. We hope you will come along to listen to what should be a very enjoyable talk.



ST PETER'S CHURCH HERITAGE OPEN DAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2023

The 900th Anniversary Committee (now the Heritage Open Day Committee) have agreed to hold another Open Day on Saturday 16th September 2023 from 11.00am to 4.00pm.

Although we don't intend to make a Heritage Day an annual event, we feel that, building on the experience gained last year, we can make this bigger and better. There will be tours of the Churchyard by Roger Frost, exhibits by the Civic Trust, Briercliffe Society and others, together with displays from the archives as per last year.

In addition, we will hopefully be using more recent material for displays and would ask that people search out photographs of Christmas and Summer Fairs, Christmas Tree Festivals, Walking Days and any other events for which they may have photos. Any lent will be returned and if you have photographs, but don't want to lend the actual print we would make photocopies to display. If you do have anything that we can use, please let one of the committee members know as soon as possible.

There will also be a display of photographs from the events of the 900th Anniversary, information about the organ and bells, displays by Sunday school and other church organisations and by St Peter's school.

Carol

For Fun, Food & Friends
it's
PGI Friday

Don't Miss it!

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

Friday 31st March
5.00 - 6.30 pm

FOR ALL SCHOOL-AGE
CHILDREN FROM 4 - 11

CHILDREN
NEED TO BE
ACCOMPANIED
BY AN ADULT

EASTER

St Stephen's Church, Burnley Wood

Film Friday

Friday 31st March at 7.00 pm

SCHINDLER'S LIST

Refreshments on sale!

Free Admission, but all donations gratefully received

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

fortnightly on
Wednesdays

Lunches in April

5th & 19th April
at
12.30 pm

at St Stephen's Church
Oxford Road
Burnley Wood
BB11 3JA

just come along
at 12.30 pm!



Burnley St Peter's
C of E Primary School



This half term we took a group of children to King George's Hall for the annual Sing Together Concert. The children gave us an amazing performance! Behaviour was outstanding and they made us incredibly proud!

This half term we will be thinking about the Christian Value of Justice.

'Learn to do right. Seek justice'
Isaiah 1.17

We will be thinking about treating people fairly, making wise decisions, seeing God's love in action, seeing the whole picture and keeping God's rules. Justice is .

Judging what is right

Understanding what is fair

Standing up for those who need help

Trying to listen to both sides

Informed and wise decisions

Caring enough to take action

Equal opportunities for all



It was with great pleasure that we welcomed Father Andrew into school. His first job was leading our Ash Wednesday Worship and meeting all the children. Lent is a time of waiting, anticipation and preparing before we celebrate the festival of Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus. The imposition of ashes is a traditional ritual that takes place on Ash Wednesday. Father Andrew used some ash to make the

sign of the cross on the children's forehead; we were then still for a moment and ask God for his forgiveness.

/continued ...



Father Andrew led us in our worship, he told us the story of the wise man and the foolish man, linked to our Christian value of Justice. He talked about making wise choices.

How do you ensure you make wise choices? Deciding the right thing to do can be difficult. Sometimes life is complicated and there can be two sides to an argument; that is when we need 'wisdom'.

Mrs Crowther



St Stephen's School News

FR ANDREW ...

We have enjoyed getting to know Fr Andrew and it was lovely when he came into school to enjoy his lunch with governors and staff. The staff and children have really enjoyed his collective worship and are looking forward to learning 'The Gloria' with him in the near future. We have put together some plans for the upcoming term these include the Easter celebrations and services, a staff and governor Eucharist and further strengthening links between St Peter's and ourselves. The Easter service will be held in Church on 30th March at 2:00pm.

CHARITY ...

We are holding an Easter sponsored bunny hop to raise money for Pendleside Hospice and we are also wearing red to raise money for comic relief. Each class is continuing to plan events that can support their chosen charity.

EASTER ...

The children have made various Easter creations over the years including buns, gardens and bonnets/hats. This year we would like the children to decorate a cross and enter this into the competition. There will be Easter eggs for the winners. The crosses can be large, small, 3D or 2D. We are encouraging the children and their families to be as creative as possible.



LAUNCH DAY...

This theme for Spring 2 is 'Before out Time' so we focussed on different bible stories. Mrs Roberts delivered a Collective Worship and then the children in each class studied a different bible story. They have produced a large piece of art work from this and some wonderful writing which we can display in school. We are hoping to have a timeline of these printed so we can share this with the local community at the front of school.



WORLD BOOK DAY ...

This was great fun and Mr Gane delivered a fun and exciting assembly for the whole school and our School Adviser. Each class focussed on a fairy tale and read many different fairy tales throughout the day. Everyone dressed up and it was great fun.



WORSHIP CLUB ...

Mrs Roberts is very proud of the worship children for delivering a whole school worship on 13th March about putting your trust in Jesus. They taught the children some sign language to the song 'Welcome Everybody' and read the story about Jesus casting his net to catch fish and the importance of having trust. They read scripture from Matthew Ch4 V18-22 'come follow me and I will make you fish for people' The children discussed what this meant. They have made a display with some fish on a net to display in our entrance hall.



We would like to say a big thank you to the Church community for helping to feed our children in breakfast club with your generous donations –

THANK YOU

Jo Roberts



Sunday School News from St Peter's

We have had very exciting, busy times, experimenting with beginning in the Sunday School room immediately at 11am and more services fully in church. Father Andrew has made himself a friend of the children and they love talking to him and are really comfortable in his company.

This month is very busy as not only have we Sunday School each week but a workshop on Maundy Thursday, special 'Hot Cross Buns' service on Good Friday and the excitement of Palm Sunday and Easter Day. We have an 'Easter Praise Party' with school.

Each week sees our children developing not only in their faith and understanding but in their friendships.

Ameillia, age 8, is always happy to pray out loud without any preparation.

Last week she said:

'Thank you that we can all be together, whoever we are' Amen.

We are very grateful for generous donations towards Easter Eggs.

Our Young Singers continue to work hard and are a joy to meet every Friday. They have a busy set of engagements running up to the summer holidays. Father Andrew is a very welcome member every week. The girls will sing in a prestigious concert at the end of the month with Samantha Oxborough (the soloist who sang the National Anthem that opened the Commonwealth games in 2022).

The Young Singers also love helping out for church events and helped make the Mothering Sunday bunches of flowers.

Love,
Meena



The paddling pool made a good well for the morning's service



Fun in Sunday School



A Tale of Two Citizens

by Christine Harbour not Charles Dickens!

Citizen 1. Burnley. Lancashire.

As many of you will be aware I have been absent from church looking after Bill who is now receiving palliative care for lung cancer and heart failure. It has been extremely difficult, but whatever we are going through if we release ourselves to the Lord, he will not only help us to get through it. He will teach us many lessons through suffering. As Easter comes we are reminded that the acceptance of Jesus, the forgiveness of our sin by his sacrifice and his glorious resurrection was Almighty God opening to us his gift of everlasting life. The core of our Christian belief is that death is swallowed up in a triumphant new life in His presence.

During the remaining period of Bill's life I pray he will experience peace in his anxiety and a realisation that there is life beyond the human horizon and that he will find rest in the Everlasting Arms.

Citizen 2. Malaga Spain.



When we lived in Spain several years ago I met at delightful couple, Jo and David. He is English and she is of Canadian descent. Our first meeting was in the beginners class at the Lux Mundi Ecumenical centre in Spain. David was quiet and Jo was vibrant funny and everyone loved her. They had such a happy marriage and I suspect David was the wind beneath her feet. We moved to intermediate classes and then David and Jo went on the advanced class and no doubt were able to conjugate every Spanish verb to perfection! There

were lots of money-making events at the centre and Jo used to do the food stall and her cooking and baking skills were amazing. I loved helping her on the stall. Jo was always genuine and had love and compassion for all. When we left Spain over 5 years ago we became Facebook friends. Every week there were photos of Jo and David eating out, going on cultural visits, and their children regularly flying in from different parts of the globe. Jo and David also used to go



all over Europe voluntarily teaching English to foreigners just for board and lodgings. They seemed to have it all!

However when I posted anything vaguely religious on Facebook I used to get some rather scornful remarks like 'pie in the sky, or poppycock.' As Christians we have to get used to that, but I was a little surprised that they seemed so overtly opposed to 'religion'. I wished we had had those talks face to face instead of struggling with those complicated verbs.

The last time they wrote something, I actually wrote back saying that, despite our different views I hoped we could always be friends and I replied with a few sentences about what my faith meant to me. To my surprise I got a word of thanks for the 'lovely explanation'.

A couple of weeks later I opened Facebook and there was Jo smiling looking very chic in a red beret. "What's she been up to now?" I thought smiling. Underneath were written the words "My darling wife Jo died in my arms this morning"

These are the moments that stop us in our tracks! The shock, the pain. The Why's and How's.

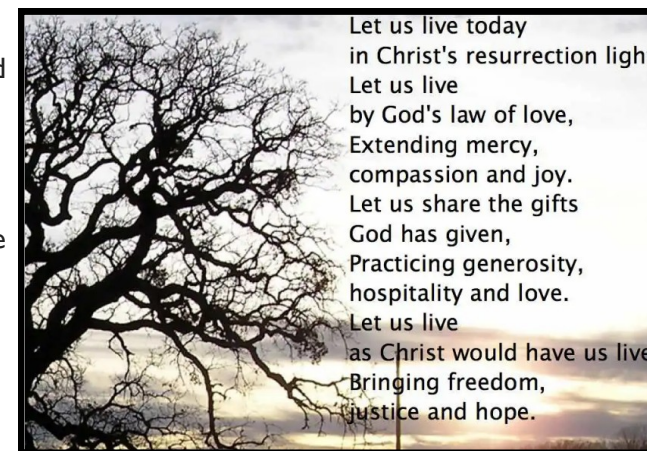
My prayers are for you my unforgettable friend Jo:

I hope in your last hours you found that religion and faith are not the same. I hope that you were drawn to the Light of the Resurrection. Jesus understands beautiful hearts and prefers them to long prayers that lack real love and compassion. I hope you are laughing in heaven and dancing with the angels.

No-one knows when their life path will end. Let us renew ourselves to God so that we may reflect the life and love of Jesus in our lives. May we be bold to share the good news and the hope of Everlasting life.

Happy Easter. Live in the light of the Resurrection.

Christine H
St Stephen's



Let us live today
in Christ's resurrection light
Let us live
by God's law of love,
Extending mercy,
compassion and joy.
Let us share the gifts
God has given,
Practicing generosity,
hospitality and love.
Let us live
as Christ would have us live
Bringing freedom,
justice and hope.

...From our Vision Champion

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



Linda writes ...

Hi everyone,

Last month Keith and I, along with our good friends Jim and Elaine enjoyed a holiday in the Caribbean. Despite the long flights and a walk through the snow with our suitcases on our return, due to the taxi being unable to drop us at our door, we had a wonderful time. A holiday away from all the responsibilities of church and family commitments. Life can sometimes feel busier when you are retired than when we were at work.

When summer comes it can be easy to think that we can miss attending church. Summer arrives and we get so excited for all of the fun things that we have planned. Outdoor activities, holidays and the other things we find to fill our time. It's easy to feel like we're on summer holiday from church.

In Hebrews 10 :24-25 we read : "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching".

The writer says that we should

encourage one another to love and to do good works. The only way we can do that is if we are actually gathering together in the same place which is probably why the sentence continues: "not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some".

Already in the time when this is being written there are people who are taking a holiday from gathering together.

As we celebrate Easter and begin to look forward to summer let us continue to meet together, to worship together and to encourage one another.

Linda

Vision Champion, St Stephen's

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

(Matthew 18:20 ESV)



Easter

by Christine Harbour

Easter a time to remember
Christ's suffering and pain
The road of humility he trod
To give us dignity
With heavy cross he stumbled
Those healing hands
Outstretched with love
Nailed to splintered wood
Blood weeping from his crown
The heavens were darkened
The temple shook. The veil was torn
'It is done, it is done' he cried.

Awake, awake! Jesus has made us whole
By sacrifice we are made worthy
To accept and to believe
So that we can walk forever
In glorious Resurrection Light.





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Join us for the next
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@St Stephen's

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

on Saturday 1st April
at 9.00 am

the theme this month is ...
1 Corinthians 4

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Two Glasses of Wine



When things in your life seem too much to handle, when 24 hours in the day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the two glasses of wine.

A professor of Philosophy stood in front of his class and he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and began to fill it with golf balls. He asked the students if it was full. They agreed that it was. He then picked up a box of pebbles and proceeded to pour them into the jar. He shook the jar slightly and the pebbles rolled into the open spaces between the golf balls. He asked the students again if the jar was full? They agreed it was. He then picked up a box of sand and poured this into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full and the students responded with a unanimous "Yes". He then produced two glasses of wine from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty spaces between the grains of sand. The students laughed. "Now" said the professor, "I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things like your family, children, health, friends and your favourite passions – things that if all else were lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things in life that matter to you such as your job, home and car. The sand is everything else – the small stuff. If you put the sand in first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the important things. Pay attention to things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children, go for that check-up, take your partner out to dinner, play another 18 holes. There will always be time to clean the house or fix the garden. Take care of the golf balls first; set your priorities. The rest is just sand." One of the students raised his hand and asked what the wine represented. The Professor smiled and said: "I'm glad you asked that.... It just goes to show that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of glasses of wine with a friend". 😊

From Linda's Scrapbook



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In your hands ' was the title of the Children's Ministry Conference that Carol Waddington and myself attended . We were asked to reflect on it's title that we have precious children in our hands as we minister to them and we are in the hands of God. We both felt it was the best conference yet with inspiration and so much encouragement and drive to push this vital area in our churches .

The morning sessions discussed the 'Growing Faith Foundation' and 'Transforming Lives for good' - hard hitting sessions that reminded us that it's no longer any use paying lip service to children's work or thinking we can sort everything else out in our churches and then tack on the children afterwards . They need to come first.

The speaker from ' Transforming Lives for good ' showed how their work in schools and community has noticeably changed lives and brought Christianity into the lives of those who haven't had experience of faith and church.

In the afternoon Carol W was inspired by a session on creation and how to teach children about a sustainable future. Carol has the PowerPoint if anyone is interested. Carol also attended a a lively session with Bishop Philip concerned with encouraging children to articulate their faith. I attended a session looking at the emotional rollercoaster of children's lives today and how we can support them.

The day finished with a session reminding us that to move forward our churches must be diverse and represent all in our community - encouraging us to check our resources reflect this .

William Booth (Salvation Army) said:

' I am not waiting for a move of God: I am a move of God '

Meena and Carol W

Services & Rotas for April at St Stephen's

| Date | Services | Sidespeople | Reader | Tea/Coffee | Cleaning |
|-------|---|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|
| 02/04 | 9.45 am Holy Communion | Geoff & Judith | Linda S | Brenda & Margaret | Team 2 |
| 09/04 | 9.45 am Holy Communion | Lynette & Neil | John H | Barbara & Paul | Team 3 |
| 16/04 | Wake Up & Worship 9.00 am Breakfast 9.45 am Eucharist | Judith & John H | Christine | WUAW | Team 1 |
| 23/04 | 9.45 am Holy Communion | Philip & Shirley | Jackie | Pauline A & Pam | Team 2 |
| 30/04 | 10.30 am Joint Eucharist Service at St Stephen's | Christine H & Christine N | Carol Waddington | Pam & Margaret | Team 3 |



Services & Rotas for April at St Peter's

| Date | 11.00am | Reader | Intercessor | Sidespeople | 6.00pm |
|-------|--|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 02/04 | Choral Matins | Carol Pike | Joan Ainsworth | H Slater J Ainsworth | BCP HC |
| 09/04 | Holy Communion | Eric Massi | Alan Roadley | S Dison S Hacking | - |
| 16/04 | Holy Communion | Adrian Norris | Eric Massie | C Hacking S Hacking | Choral Evensong |
| 23/04 | Family Service | Child | Child | M Eckersley E Massie | - |
| 30/04 | JOINT EUCHARIST AT ST STEPHEN'S AT 10.30 AM | | | | |

If you are unable to be in church when you are on the rota, please let the Wardens know.




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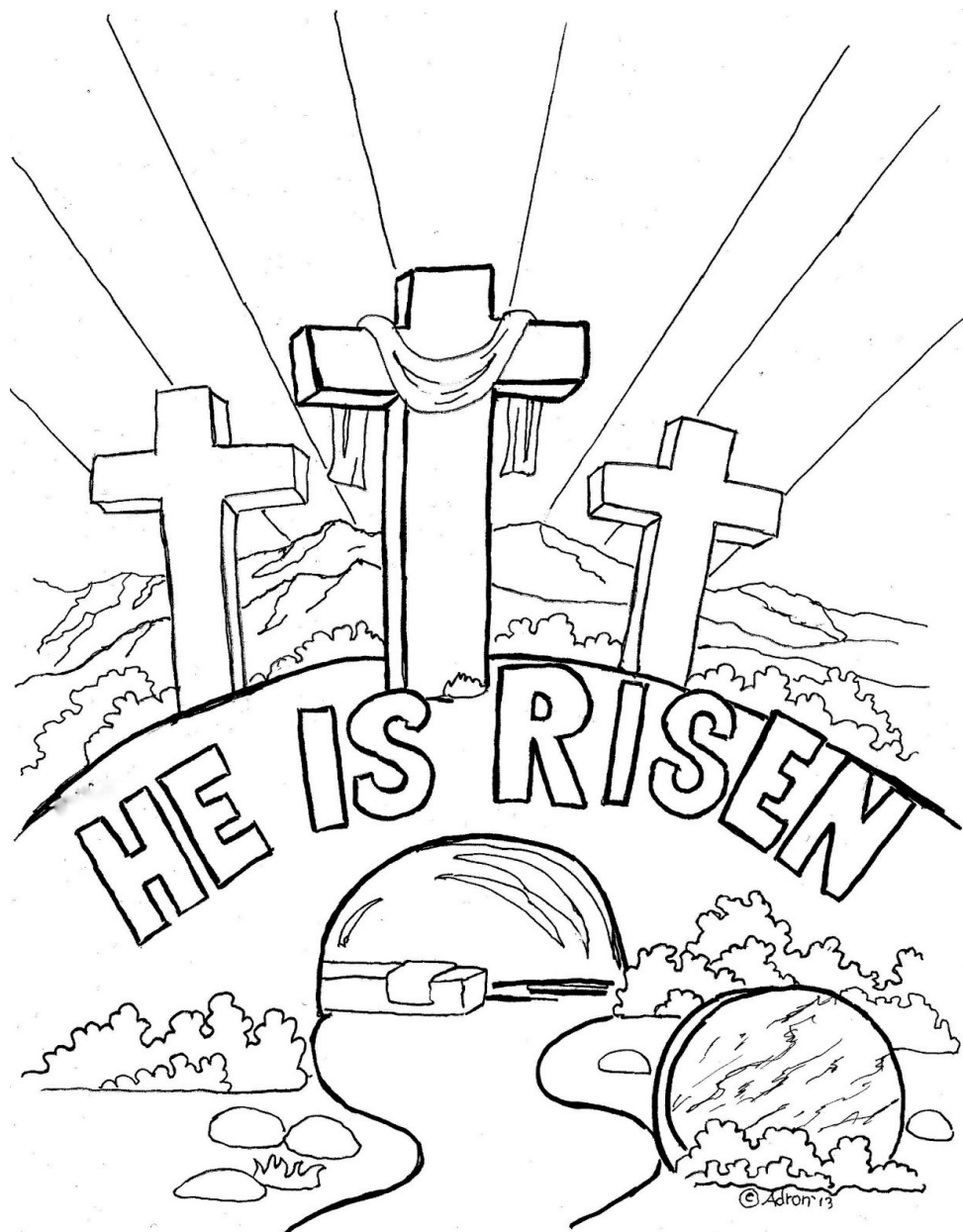



We look forward to welcoming you, come and see us soon!



Children's Page

A picture for you to colour for Easter Day



St Stephen's Sunday Club meet every Sunday for most of the service. We start off in church, then go into the Community Room to have all sorts of fun:

- CRAFTS - STORIES - GAMES -

Then we go back in Church to let everyone see what we've been up to.

We really enjoy being together and we're all ages from 3 upwards to 11, although if you're younger than 3 or older than 11, we'd love you to join us.

It looks as though we're beginning to grow in numbers so we'd love some older children and adults to come to help us. We're going to have a rota, so it won't mean you being committed to Sunday Club EVERY week. Have a word with Fr Andrew, Emma H or one of the wardens if you'd like to help.

As well as Sunday Club we have other really fun events, such as PGi Friday - keep watching this space for details.

