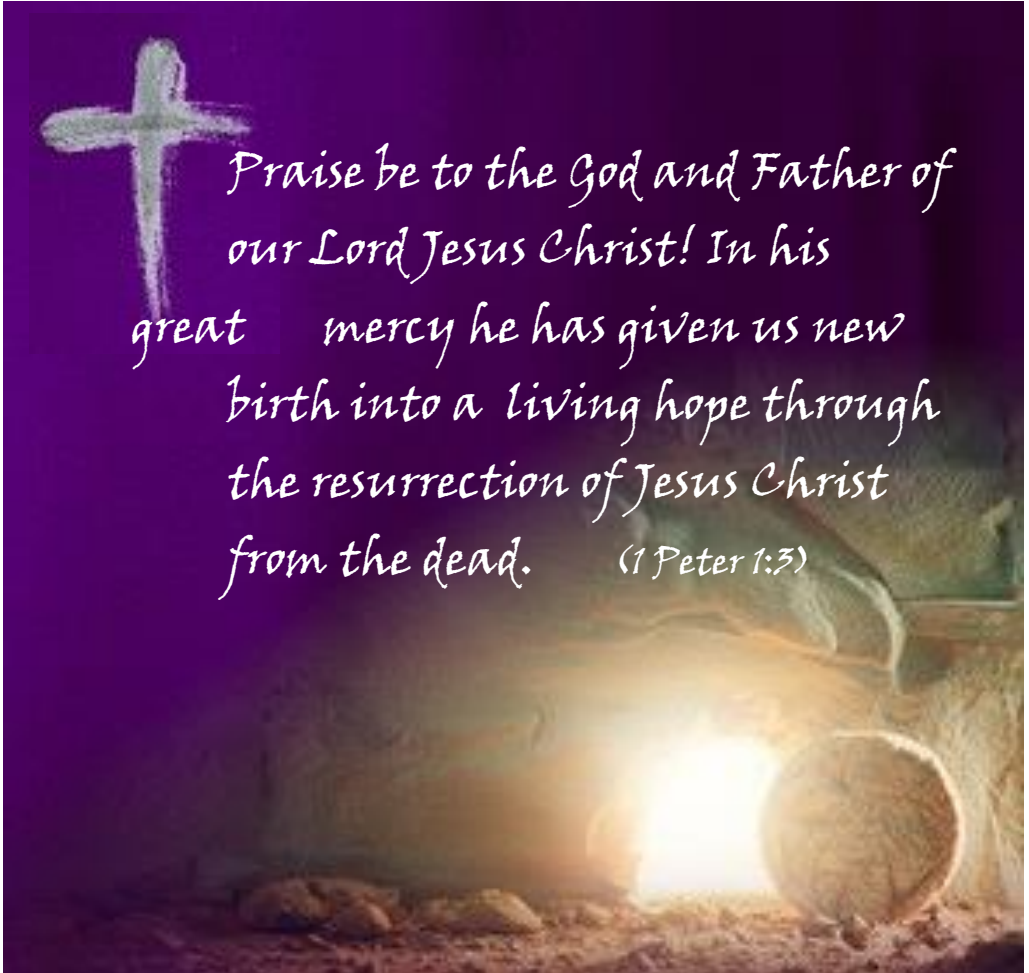




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The Parish Magazine of The United Benefice of St Peter & St Stephen, Burnley
MARCH/APRIL 2025



*Praise be to the God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ! In his
great mercy he has given us new
birth into a living hope through
the resurrection of Jesus Christ
from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)*

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

LENT COURSE 2025



HEAR OUR PRAYER



Session One	Personal Prayer
Session Two	Ambitious Prayer
Session Three	Hopeful Prayer
Session Four	Communal Prayer
Session Five	Constant Prayer

At St Peter's: Thursdays at 10.00 am

March	6th / 13th / 20th / 27th
April	3rd

At St Stephen's: Wednesdays at 7.00 pm

March	12th / 19th / 26th
April	2nd / 9th

All Welcome



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

Quiet Day

With Sisters Judith & Sue, OCMM

The Order of the Companions of Martha & Mary

MONDAY 14th April

9.30 am - 3.30 pm

9.30 am

Welcome

10.00 am

Stations of the Cross & Eucharist



A LIGHT LUNCH will be provided

(FREE of charge - donations welcome)

To Register book online at <https://bit.ly/4hCawsK>

Or Email Joan at: joanainsworth@me.com

Speak to Fr Andrew for more information - Tel: 07460 899451

ALL WELCOME



St Stephen's Church

Oxford Road, Burnley BB11 3JA

invite you to a



Service for Healing & Wholeness Tuesday, 4th March at 11.00 am

Followed by lunch of Soup & Sandwiches
'On the House'
(Donations Welcome)



1st Tuesday Hub

From 11.30 am – 1.00 pm
every
FIRST Tuesday of the month

Bring a Hobby - Find a Hobby
Bring a Friend - Find a Friend

St Stephen's Church

Oxford Road
Burnley
BB11 3JA

For more information Email Joan:
joanainsworth@me.com

soup sandwich

on the House
(Donations, welcome!)

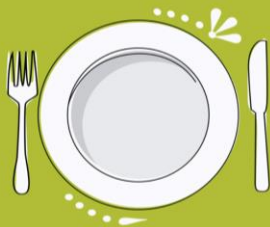


Commencing 4th March



WARM
HEARTS
WARM
SPACES

LET'S DO LUNCH



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

Wednesdays
12th & 26th March
9th & 23rd April
at 12.30 pm

It's 'On the House' ...
but donations Welcome!

Everyone Welcome



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 WARDENS:	
Mrs Sandra Davies	☎ 545818	Mr Keith Pounder	☎414390
Mr Jason Walsh	☎ 07554 154240	Mrs Jean Beeston	☎432986
ASSISTANT WARDEN		ASSISTANT WARDENS	
Mrs Meena Tomlinson	☎ 07806 623466	Mr Paul Hannah	☎07967 644709
PCC SECRETARY		Mrs Edith Meek	☎456170
Mr Andrew Buchanan	☎07565 347524	PCC SECRETARY:	
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER		Mrs Anita Fossey	westwell55@yahoo.co.uk
Mrs Joan Ainsworth	☎07971 711250	ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER	
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:		Pam McGrath	☎07738 412998
Mr Philip Tomlinson	☎777132	VISION CHAMPION:	
VISION TEAM:		Mrs Linda Pounder	☎414390
Mrs Joan Ainsworth	☎07971 711250	MOTHERS' UNION:	
(Making Disciples)		Mrs Beverley Laycock	☎543766
Mrs Meena Tomlinson	☎07806 623466	(Branch Leader)	
Inspiring Children & Young People)		Mrs Jackie Cosway	☎411967
Mr Alan Roadley	☎07588 556640	(Secretary)	
(Growing Leaders)		SUNDAY SCHOOL:	
MOTHERS' UNION:		Emma Hopley	☎07968 782210
Mrs Carol Waddington	☎ 07846 139241	HEADTEACHER:	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:		Mrs Jo Roberts	☎427848
Mrs Cynthia Bramley	☎ 07903 341700	SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:	
SUNDAY SCHOOL (DJs):		Mrs Barbara Hasty	☎07783006284
Mrs Meena Tomlinson	☎777132	VERGER	
HEADTEACHER:		Mrs Edith Meek	☎456170
Mrs Crowther	☎426873	CHURCH FLOWERS:	
FLOWER GUILD:		Vacant	
Mrs Alice Binns	☎789632		
BELFRY			
Dr Andrew Sibson			
Kitchen/Catering Manager			
Mrs Cynthia Bramley	☎ 07903 341700		

CHURCH MAGAZINE EDITOR: :

Mrs Pam McGrath: Email: pamelamcgrath1@hotmail.com

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The next Magazine will be joint
MAY/JUNE edition. All items
to be with the Editor by
15th April
pamelamcgrath1@hotmail.com



From the Rectory

Dear friends,

Ash Wednesday, the 5th of March, starts the season of Lent with a celebration of the Eucharist and the imposition of ashes. This year, the service will be at 10.30 am at St Peter's. I will say these words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust, you shall return." Lent is, in a sense, a metaphor for our lives. We are born out of the smallest of particles. We make our way from our mother's womb into the wonder of the world through a multitude of various experiences toward the inevitability of death, where we again become the minutest of particles. But, for a person of faith, death leads to another birth from the womb of this world to a new experience of living.

We embark upon Lent as we embark upon life, starting no doubt with good intentions and aspirations, soon to be challenged by temptations, not unlike Jesus' time in the wilderness for forty days and

/cont ...

forty nights. But because He endured such an experience, we know that He is with us every step of our journey, even into the darkness of death and to what is beyond.

As with any journey, when we pack, we only take what is necessary for the journey. Anything that is not needed can be shed. In this sense, we are all called in Lent to be stripped of those burdens that prevent our progress, be they possessions, distracting habits, or unhelpful relationships.

When we consider what to give up during Lent, we may well wish to express this in some material form: biscuits, cake, plastic packaging, or even by giving up wine! It is also good to discipline our bodies, as they indulge for so much of the time. But essentially, what we are invited to do is to consider afresh what is of real and lasting importance in our lives and allow ourselves to be stripped of all except those things that assist us on our journey. A journey that embraces the pleasures and privilege of living, a journey during which we can make strong and sustaining relationships with others, a journey where hopefully we will improve the lives of others on our way, and a journey that will take us deeper into the heart of God where we will know that we are truly loved and cared for.

I give thanks that we are on this journey together: to encourage and support one another, to help prompt each other through the hard times and cravings, and to remind each other that Jesus is drawing us ever closer to Himself and each other, through all the experiences, challenges and opportunities of this life, even through the darkness of death, into the wonders of what He has in store for us in His Resurrection Kingdom.

With love and blessings for
your journey through Lent this year,

Fr Andrew

Fr Andrew



St Stephen's Electoral Roll Revision

A reminder that the Electoral Roll for each parish needs to be renewed every six years. 2025 is the year when all parishes will need to update their roll before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. From the beginning of March, you will see a notice asking all those who wish to be included on the Electoral Roll of their parish church to complete a new Electoral Roll form. If you wish to be added to St Stephen's Electoral Roll, you must fill in a form. The best way is by going to the Electoral Roll page of St Stephen's Church Website (<http://www.ststephenschurchburnley.org.uk>) and clicking on the link. You can also scan the QR code and complete it that way. Alternatively, you can pick up a form in church - these will be available from **2nd March** - and hand it to me, or to either of the Churchwardens before the **22nd April**. Please note that ALL those presently on the Electoral Roll of St Stephen's will need to complete a form in order to be added to the new Roll.



Pam McGrath

St Stephen's Electoral Roll Officer

St Peter's Church Electoral Roll Revision

Every six years we carry out a major revision of our electoral roll, and this is the year. Everyone will come off the roll and to be included in the new roll will be asked to fill in a new form. The forms will be at the back of the church **from 2 March**, or available from me. If you are having difficulty coming to church I will send you a form. **The forms should be returned to me by 20 April.**

Joan Ainsworth

St Peter's Electoral Roll Officer



Churchwardens' News from St Peter's

Hello everyone,

We hope you are all well and having a good 2025 so far. For our friends on the prayer list, please remember we are thinking of you and praying for you.

The church was very busy over the Christmas and Advent period with very good attendance at all the services we held. We were pleased to welcome the Mayor and MP to read at Nine Lessons and Carols and enjoyed hearing the music performed by our talented Choir and Young Singers. The Nativity on Christmas Eve was a wonderful family occasion led by the Sunday School.

Congratulations to Fr Andrew on his appointment as Burnley's Area Dean. He has done a fantastic job in the Assistant position and he is in our prayers as he begins his leadership of the Deanery and its constituent parishes.

We are holding another churchyard tidy-up on Tuesday 1st April between the hours of 9am and 2pm to get everything looking smart for Easter. Our last one in November was very successful with huge mountains of leaves gathered up by the volunteers and taken away by council workers. It does make a huge difference, so please put this date in your diary and come along for some time with your brushes and rakes.



We appreciate the hard work of everyone listed on our rotas, be it cleaners, sidespeople or those who participate in services. The church depends on the contributions of so many people to keep it running smoothly and in good order.

Easter is just around the corner now, with Easter Day this year falling on 20th April. We hope that you will be able to join us at our services during Holy Week, including the Maundy Thursday vigil and Good Friday family service, and on Easter Day itself as we celebrate the Risen Lord. Don't forget to bring along something to make some noise with!

Take care,

Sandra and Jason

In The Loop

... with Keith, Jean, Paul & Edith



We know it's late, but Happy New Year everyone! Just to recap on the events over the Advent and Christmas period. Our Advent Carol Service 'Darkness to Light' began in darkness with atmospheric candle light followed by the slow lighting up of the church as the service continued. The service was very well attended and it was lovely to see some new faces. The music was especially heart-warming with Fr Andrew in charge on the organ console. Moving on, Christmas at St Stephen's was a very special time; the church looked beautiful in all its glory with our Christmas grotto which looked wonderful – thank you Keith. All the children, and adults alike, loved this very special display and it was splendid to see the look of awe on their faces. Our midnight service is one of the very few services in Burnley to which people can attend, so we were again delighted to see many new faces.

Our New Year's Eve party was really good. It was held in the Community Room and was very well attended. We played games such as pass the parcel as each

guest had brought a 'party piece'. It was great to see Revd Frances taking part in a game which entailed her being blindfold and attempting to recognise someone by just feeling their facial features – guess who it was? None other than our very own KP!! The night ended with us tuning in to a live broadcast of Big Ben ringing in the New Year. A great night was had by all!

Our annual Christingle service was again very well attended. It started early with people making their own Christingles, adding the fruits and candles to their oranges. All proceeds made went towards The Children's Society – a very worthy cause.

During the past few weeks it has been a pleasure to host the Burnley Municipal Choir as they held a couple of their rehearsals in church. Refreshments were provided for approximately 90 persons and we hope to see them again very soon.

/continued ...

More recently, we were very pleased to welcome representatives from Pendleside Hospice and Christians Against Poverty to our Sunday morning Eucharist. Cheques were presented to them both - £1100 to CAP and £1100 to the Hospice. They spoke of their experiences and expressed their gratitude for our donations.

Warmest congratulations to our Parish Ambassadors, Elena and Naveyah, who have worked very hard over the past year and have raised the magnificent sum of over £700.00. £350 has been donated to CAP and £350 to the Hospice. Well done girls – we are very proud of you!

Our recent Coffee Morning was a huge success due to there being so many people who came for not only a cuppa, but for a good natter and rummage through our 'mobile' bric-a-brac stall. It raised the phenomenal sum of over £322, although it wasn't about how much money we could make, but the opportunity for fellowship.

WHAT'S GOING ON:

We look forward now to the seasons of Lent and Easter. You'll note from the magazine that there's lots of information on what will be taking place over the coming weeks, so take time to thoroughly read through the magazine.

We will report back in a later edition on our trip to Blackpool Opera House in April to see 'Joseph & The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'.

And finally, although it has been a long, hard winter, we are now seeing signs of Spring with crocus and snowdrops appearing in our gardens, parks and along the lanes.

With much love,

-
Keith, Jean, Paul & Edith

*"Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the¹¹ desires of your heart."*

(Psalm 37:4)

MARCH/APRIL IN THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF ST STEPHEN'S

1st	John Margerison Balderstone, Muriel Ward
2nd	Rose MacGowan
3rd	James Wood
4th	John Whittle, Mary Alice Cocker, John Muir Davies
5th	Alice Lawson
6th	Alfred Wilkinson, Rev Peter Charles William Walker (Priest)
7th	Derrick Tate
8th	Margery Corless
9th	Lucy May Marshall, Elsie Unsworth
10th	Robert Haworth, Harry Burton
11th	Anyon Webster, Florence Taylor, Marjorie Coolican
12th	Richard Kazy
13th	John Walmsley, Nan Barnes, Ellen Miller, Edna Mellor, Muriel Jobling
14th	Elizabeth Berry, Mary Leyland, Jack Hindle, Harold Cox Charlotte Astwood, Alfred E Brown, Elsie H Bartram
15th	Sarah Whitehead, Arthur Kevin McGuigan
16th	John Thomas Seddon
17th	Mary Elizabeth Baldwin, Dorothy Skirrow, Harry Barnes, Muriel Gibson, Malcolm Kay
18th	Fannie Elizabeth Sagar, Simon John Spencer
19th	Margaret Alice Whitaker, Gladys Evelyn Corner, Rose E Shaw, Lawrence W Wilkins, William John Baker
20th	John R Mills, William L Smith, Gertrude Waldman, Albert Lawless, Lilian Hartley, Albert Healey, Evelyn Tighe
21st	William Comer, Jacqueline A Lord, James Edward Bates
22nd	John Taylor Whitaker, Geoffrey Booth, Annie Lord
23rd	Annie Thornton, Herbert Dawson, Marjorie Pickup, Irene Proger
24th	Thomas Hargreaves, Alice Ann Lord, Henrietta Healey, Martha Dewhirst
25th	Harold Leyland, Thomas Campbell, Nora Leighton, Mary Watson, George William Jobling, Frederick Harrison Nellie Heaton, Geoffrey Cummings (Priest), Winifred Dand, Reginald Middleton
26th	William George Astwood, Parker Chadwick
27th	Haworth Lord, Lily Meredith, Mildred Pickles, Percy Singleton, Arthur Landles
28th	Harold Bartram, John Atkinson, Ann Smith
29th	Hilda Mary Boden

30th	Hilda Draper, Kathleen Blott
31st	Ada Chadwick, Bertha Greenwood, Nellie Garnett

APRIL

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 Schole 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, Jai 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, Ashworth

MARCH/APRIL IN THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE OF ST PETER'S

1st	Shirley Lacy, Matthew C Rochester
2nd	Jenny Jackson
3rd	Alice Senior, Walter Bernard Smith, Sarah Ann Mitchell
4th	Daniel Middleton Partington
5th	Roy Travis
6th	Fred Dodd, Wilfred Smith, Dorothy M Cox
7th	Polly Wells, Ellen Ann Harling
9th	William Pixton, Alan Billington
10th	Doris Foulds
11th	Lily Walker
12th	Robinson Batey
13th	Muriel Alice Lovgreen
14th	Bertha Barlow Hadfield, Ethel M Tomblin
15th	Reginald Edomondson, Susannah Duerden
18th	George Altham, Kai L Lovgreen
19th	Herbert Holt
20th	John Gent, Edna Murtagh
22nd	David Lavery
24th	Frank Dodd, Rhoda Dodd
28th	Mabel Annie Bellinger
29th	Fanny Leaver, Horace Walker
30th	Ada Nellie Forsyth

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, Brenda M Rochester
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. He who
 believes in me will live,
 even though he dies; and
whoever lives and believes
in me will never die.

- John 11:25-26

Saturday Morning Concerts at St Peter's



We had an excellent start to our new series of concerts on 1st February, with a very well supported recital given by Dimitra Ananiadou (violin) and Richard Whalley (piano). Their virtuoso performance of Beethoven's *Kreutzer* Sonata met with rapturous applause and we hope that they will return to St Peter's in the near future.

On Saturday 1st March we welcome Dominic Downs, a hugely talented composer, classical and jazz pianist, who has composed music for the Royal Family and has been described on BBC1 as, 'an extraordinary talent with a bright future ahead of him'. He is a former student of Chetham's School of Music and is currently studying at the Royal Northern College of Music under Dr Murray McLachlan. He began his musical career as a chorister at Lancaster Priory and has recently been appointed as Director of the Lancaster Millennium Choir.

Saturday 5th April sees the welcome return visit of Kate Daggett (soprano) and Tom Daggett (piano and organ). Kate has sung with a number of operatic societies in Harrogate. Since moving to Burnley, she joined the Burnley Light Opera Society and performed in shows ranging from *Anything Goes*, *Me and My Girl*, *Carousel*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and the *Pirates of Penzance*. She broadened her singing repertoire by joining the highly-acclaimed Renaissance Singers at Blackburn Cathedral. Tom is a conductor and organist and is regarded as one of the leading musical educators in the UK. He has recently returned to his birth county of Yorkshire after spending nine years at St Paul's Cathedral in London (where he pioneered an inspirational music partnership programme for thousands of children) to become the new Director of Music and Schools Singing Programme at Sheffield Cathedral.

Concerts start at 11.00 a.m. with refreshments served from 10.30 a.m. Admission is £7 (free for U18s) and includes refreshments. Disabled parking is available in the church grounds with additional free parking in the nearby school yard on Rawcliffe Street, BB11 2DL.

Philip.



Stephen
Alderson

ALDERSON & HORAN FUNERAL SERVICES

'Our family taking care of your family'

INDEPENDENT
FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
OFFERING
24 HOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION

- Prepaid funerals available -

Office and Funeral Parlour
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☎ 01282 427483

www.aldersonandhoran.co.uk

Mothers' UNION St Stephen's Branch

Christian care for families

LOOKING BACK

We began the year with our AGM, preceded by a Eucharist

What a great auction we had in February. The weather may have been cold and gloomy but inside the business of getting the auction under way warmed everyone up. As extra chairs were hurriedly arranged Keith got to work on shifting an eclectic range of lots. Keith and his glamorous assistant, Barry did the MU proud, helping to raise a grand total of £442.45. The real thanks of course goes to you, the audience for raising the money by bringing and buying the lots. I hope you were all pleased with your bargains.



LOOKING FORWARD

The date for our next meeting is at **7pm on Monday 10th, March**, instead of the usual Tuesday, in the community room. Our speaker is to be Lorraine Whalley. The subject will be Domestic Abuse and the Women's Refuge. See below for all March and April meetings.

MARCH & APRIL EVENTS

Monday, March 10th, 7pm, community room - Lorraine Whalley
Tuesday April 8th, 2pm, community room - Lenten meditation led by Reverend Francis Guite.
Tuesday April 22nd, 7pm, community room - Speaker, Paul Hannah

LET'S CELEBRATE MARCH & APRIL

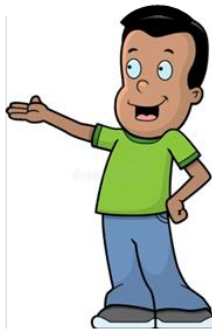
Happy birthday to Brenda Burton 2nd March, Marie Cullen 21st March.
For April Many Happy Returns to Marilyn Walsh on the 12th.

Join me in wishing Linda and Keith Pounder congratulations on their golden Wedding Anniversary on March 22nd.

Jackie



Introducing ...



our NEW

foodbank
Collection
Bin

Hopefully, by the time you read this, our new Foodbank collection bin will be installed in St Stephen's Church. Our school already has one, and the PCC have agreed that it will be good to have one in church so that we can have the facility for members of our congregation and visitors to church, to be able to donate non-perishable food to help the growing number of families of children in our school who can benefit. The idea is that the School caretaker will call in every Wednesday to empty the bin and transfer all items collected during the week, to school.

There is also a need for clothing for both children and adults. If you have any good, unwanted items you think would be useful, please do bring them along to church, and the caretaker will collect them, along with the food donations.

We hope you'll feel able to support our school in this way - times are hard for many at the moment, and it's good to know there's a way we can help, so please offer what you can.

If you would like to find out more, do please have a word with Fr Andrew.



... And don't forget to keep an eye
out for The Yellow Bin





Sunday School News from St Peter's

Over the next couple of months we will see Winter turn to Spring and Lent to Easter. A time of new life outside and a time of learning through Lent awaiting the joy of Easter Sunday .

As always we will have different activities for our different ages to help engage with this important time .

Our teenagers have been following up ideas from Imogen and Alisha as they attended national safeguarding. We have made new safeguarding posters which are multi- lingual and are bright and colourful so all can access them easily.

I am delighted that Father Andrew has invited some of our Young people to be part of our Mission Action planning. Alisha, Imogen and Alistair will be full of ideas.

We are praying for Ameillia, Rayyan, Platon, Alistair, David and Taylor as they prepare for Confirmation. We look forward to meeting with candidates from other churches. We will be thinking about 'Journeys' in our Confirmation sessions. New life, new hope, please pray for our children, young people and families as we pray for you all.

Love from
Meena





*Our Young Singers
preparing the Christingles*

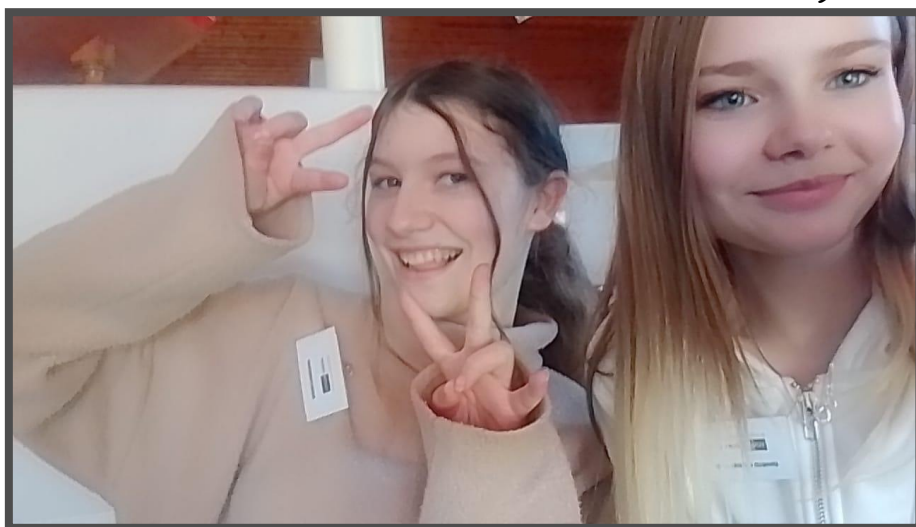
YOUTH FORUM

Our Youth forum took place on Saturday the 25th of January. We came together and discussed what had been changed since the last Youth Forum, and what could be improved. We discussed other ways in which we can ensure Church is a safe place for everyone, not just the youth, and how God would want Church to look in 2033.

We discovered that there may not be many youth going to churches, as in a lot of churches they aren't involved and don't have a voice. However, this should be changed as the youth today are the future of the churches and without the youth, there may not be any churches in the future. We discussed different ways in which we can ensure that youth are still going to churches and how to make them more involved.

Then on Tuesday 4th February, we went to a safeguarding meeting to discuss with a member of INEQE Safeguarding Group about how safe churches are, how often the Youth Forum meet, how good Bishop Philip is, and how we could improve to make Church safer. We discovered that the posters in churches are not eye-catching for a child, meaning that no child is going to read the posters as they do not find it appealing, and we discussed how we can aim them towards children and more vibrant to stand out to children.

Imogen



WELCOME on WEDNESDAY

St Peter's Church

Every **FIRST** Wednesday - 1.30 - 3.00 pm
Refreshments

Time to chat

Toys & Activities for
pre-school children.

Open to
EVERYONE

but young families
and parents of children
in school especially welcome.



St Stephen's Church, Burnley
present

Singalong a

MAMMA MIA!

— HERE WE GO AGAIN —



Friday 28th March
at **7.00 pm**

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

YOU CAN DANCE - YOU CAN JIVE
HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE!

Tickets: £5.00

Available from Church
or Tel: 07738 412998

Bring your own
drinks/ouzo and a glass
Nibbles provided



First Signs of Spring on the Wing

You can listen as well as look for the first signs of spring and the call of the Chiffchaff never fails to delight. This small buff and brown bird, sometimes described by bird watchers as one of the Small Brown Jobs or SBJs, is for many the sound of early spring. Chiffchaffs are not true migrants, but they do move south in response to cold weather, often wintering in southern Europe. They have always been one of the first birds to return in spring and now, in response to climate change, more Chiffchaffs are remaining in the UK over winter, moving to warmer places and waiting for spring before starting to sing

The Chiffchaff is a leaf warbler, restlessly searching for small insects on the undersides of leaves, sometimes hovering and reaching to pick them off or darting out to catch them on the wing when, if you listen carefully, you may hear its bill snap shut on the insect. Its fine, needle-like bill is perfect for picking up its prey.

The Chiffchaff calls its name, an example of onomatopoeia like the Cuckoo. It has a loud, two-tone song and can sing for hours on end. March is a great time to spot as well as hear Chiffchaffs as many of the taller trees that they favour are still without leaves. British warblers tend to have subtle, camouflaged plumage and many look very similar, particularly if you are peering into a tree or shrub catching a glimpse of part of a moving bird! The Chiffchaff is nearly identical to the Willow Warbler for example but has a completely different song and this is the easiest way to identify these birds.



So listen out for your first Chiffchaff and if you hear one in your local churchyard or cemetery then you can record it using iNaturalist by visiting

<https://uk.inaturalist.org/projects/beautiful-burial-grounds>

You can use this to upload a recording of the song, much easier than trying to get a photograph!

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From Our Vision Champions



PRAYER FOR
GROWTH AND RENEWAL

Hi everyone,

Following on from the busy run up to Christmas, January felt a lot quieter, especially as it was a five week month so no Wednesday Lets do Lunch or Friends, Food and Fun. We did have our New Year/Christmas lunch on the first Wednesday. We enjoyed a Turkey dinner and Christmas Pudding. We even had crackers! We received a donation to cover the cost of the meal and a big thank you to our donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Once again we held our Christingle service in support of The Children's Society. This took the form of a messy Christingle where you could come and make a Christingle and join in other crafts. I think the adults who came along enjoyed making the Christingles as much as the children. This was followed by a lovely service lead by Fr Andrew. Holding our candles in the dark, singing together and praying together was very special.

Together with the collection from St Stephens Sings Christmas and the Christingle candles we have raised just over £340. I think there maybe a few candles to be returned, then I can forward your donations to The Children's Society. Thank you for your generous support.

The first of this year's Prayer Breakfasts was very well attended. We welcomed Joy Rushton to tell us about the diocese invitation to make 2025 a Year of Growth and Renewal. A year to pray for new disciples for Jesus and that we maybe renewed in the power of the Holy Spirit. Part of the prayer for the year of growth says "Give vision to our planning, Wisdom to our Actions, Joy to our worship and power to our witness" and as Rev Frances commented there was no mention of Love and everything that we do should be done with Love.

Well I started by saying January had been a quiet month but perhaps I was mistaken!

I am writing this early February which is the month of Love especially in the commercial world. As we go through 2025 let us continue to be busy but not too busy to remember to put Jesus Christ and Love at the centre of all we do.

Linda. (St Stephen's Vision Champion)

'Do everything in love'
1 Corinthians 16:14



Last October I attended a Healing and Wellbeing Conference at the Cathedral. As a result we are starting, on 4 March, First Tuesday Hub at St Stephen's Church.

What is a Wellbeing Hub and who is it for?

We hope to reach into our community to provide a warm space and a safe space. Somewhere people are listened to, all people treated with respect and love. We will be sharing our hobbies and trying new ones. There will be a free soup and sandwich lunch too.

Sometimes, because of life circumstances such as retirement, sickness or bereavement we lose contact with friends or families. The Hub's purpose is to provide a safe space to find new friends and hobbies. Everyone is welcome, if you want to make friends or share your hobbies, or know someone who is alone come along, bring them along we want your ideas and input.

I hope to see you on 4 March 11.00 am for a Healing & Wholeness Service and/or 11.30 am for First Tuesday Hub and lunch.

Joan

Vision Champion (St Peter's)



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CHRISTIAN RESOURCES FOR ALL!

If you've been into St Peter's recently you might have noticed something that wasn't there before! Because if you look on the North side, near the piano and the Towneley Chapel, you should see a table with some books on it.

For a long time I've been acquiring from various people a variety of Christian reading material suitable for people from those at the beginning of their faith journey to more mature followers. And for almost as long I've been looking for a suitable place to display them! We tried setting aside some space in the bookcase at the back of Church, but they just got mixed up with the Book Exchange items, which are mostly fiction! So I'm delighted that we've at last found a home for them.

Now, as in so many other Churches, visitors can sit down, read and learn, and maybe get a better understanding of our faith. If you want to take a book away to read in your own home that's OK but please bring them back when you've done. Bibles are also available to read in Church - just ask somebody on duty if you wish to read one. And if you want to discuss anything you've read about, there are usually people around who can point you to those who can help.

If you have suitable books and wish to add them to our collection than please bring them. If I'm around I'll happily deal with them.

Every little helps when it comes to spread and growing the kingdom, and whilst read is far from the complete answer to growir faith, it is part of the jigsaw which makes u the whole picture. So go ahead and have a browse!

Alan Roadley
Vision Champion (St Peter's)





ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

We are delighted to announce that our United Benefice has agreed to set up an organ scholarship to promote young organists for the future. The scholarship will provide lessons with Tom Bell, a Director of the Royal College of Organists, and will give the post holder an opportunity to play for some of the services at St Stephen's and St Peter's.

Philip.

Cake My Day



Cupcakes
Brownies
Birthday Cakes
Christening Cakes
Cakes for most occasions

 07968 782210

by Emma

Email:
emmahopley70@gmail.com

Are You Waiting? ... by Christine Harbour

For those of you who read the parish magazine, you will remember that I promised you the epilogue to the wonderful account of Elizabeth and Mary. John the Baptist was the prologue to the Christmas story, Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus being the narrative. So who then is the epilogue to this wonderful story? This is none other than Simeon. He was a devout man of God, the son of Jacob. He had fervently believed that God had promised him that he would not die before he had seen long awaited Messiah. He held this promise in his heart as he grew old. I wonder if he was doubting and weary, as we human beings often are?

Life is often just about holding on to our faith. One happy day however, historians believe about 8 days after his birth, Jesus was brought to the temple by a grateful Mary and God's promise had come true as he held baby Jesus in his arms! We know this, as he uttered his song of joy. *'Lord let now thou servant depart in peace, according to Thy Holy Word ...'* You can read all of this in Luke 2:29-32, or you can listen to the many recordings of it set to music on YouTube. Waiting demands patience, waiting tests our faith, but God's promises never fail!



In the bible we remember the prodigal son. How the father must have despaired and maybe even given up, until that glorious day when he saw his son from afar and ran to meet him. It is thought that he may have lifted his long robe and bared his legs, (which would have been quite disgraceful in those days), as he hurried to meet his long lost son. I am sure they both wept as they embraced each other. The long wait was over!

Sometimes a breaking point can be a turning point!

Are some of us beating ourselves up about children or friends who do not have faith, or a promise that has not come to fruition yet. Wait. Pray! Believe. Do not judge those who have not yet seen the light. Pray whilst you wait! God uses our prayers as the blueprint for his plans! He inspires us with His word, and His promises never fail. Even when we have left this mortal coil, he will honour those prayers that we have whispered to Him in faith.

My grandma prayed for me. I hope she knows that I am no longer that 14 year old girl entangled in a web of confused hormonal emotions.

Always keep your hearts and minds open. We can't save our children or our friends from the consequences of their ignorance or their foolishness. We cannot stop our own hearts from aching through it. We can lead ourselves to the Rock '*the Rock that is higher than I*' (Psalm 61). We can sit besides still waters and wait, just as Simeon sat and waited in the temple.

God can and will meet us in our need, but in His time, not ours. There is no time in God's world, but we can look back in our own way of calculating time, and realise through the bible that everything happened in pattern and sequence and that the Light of God always overcame the darkness.

So then as the turmoil of this world happens all around us we can wait and hope in the message of the gospel We can

Depart in peace. For our eyes have seen the salvation and we know that the Light will shine forever into Eternity.

Be blessed in Jesus.

Christine H





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

A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity

Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness. Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger, envy, or self-pity.

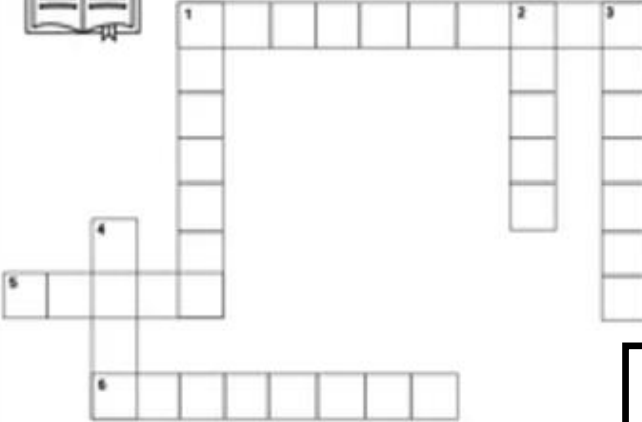
Create space in my life for more kindness and less spitefulness, greater generosity and few self-centered needs, stronger compassion and weakened judgement of others.

Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognize the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me.

*In your sacred name, I pray.
Amen*



Children's Page



Across

1. Jesus' final meal
5. Jesus died on this
6. Judas did this to Jesus

Down

1. Jesus raised him from the dead
2. He denied he knew Jesus
3. This crowed three times
4. Jesus was here for three days.

Help every pencil to find the way to the picture in the middle of the maze and color all the eggs!



Unscramble the letters to reveal the word.

SCRSO

MTOB

VALIE

RYMA

You're invited to



Burnley Prayer Breakfast at St Stephen's

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

SATURDAY 15th March

this month ... at 9.00 am

Spring Cleaning?

All welcome!

Telephone:
07896 036542
07738 412998



St Stephen's Support for Charities



St Stephen's annual Christingle Service was well supported as we drew close to Candlemas. Just over £350 has been raised to support the work of The Children's Society.



St Stephen's Ambassadors have been working hard to raise funds for their chosen Charities, CAP and Pendleside Hospice. Representatives from both charities attended the service in February to tell the congregation more about their work, and said 'Thank You' for the funds raised..



It seems a while since we had our Nativity in Church - the children were wonderful and very ably assisted by Dads and Granddads!



We welcomed Elsie into the Church family at her Baptism in December



Holy Week & Easter

PALM SUNDAY - 13TH APRIL

- 9.30 am: Liturgy of the Palms & Eucharist - St Stephen's
11.00 am: Liturgy of the Palms & Eucharist - St Peter's
6.00 pm: The Cross of Christ, Readings & Music for Holy Week at St Peter's

HOLY WEEK

Monday 14th April

QUIET DAY with Sr Judith & Sr Sue from Hynning with lunch - St Stephen's

- 9.30 am: Arrive
10.00 am: Stations of the Cross with Eucharist

Tuesday 15th April

- 6.30 pm: Stations of the Cross with Eucharist - St Stephen's

Wednesday 16th April

- 10.30 am: Stations of the Cross with Eucharist - St Peter's

Thursday 17th April

- 10 - 12 noon: Workshop Bible Stories & Stations around the events of Holy Week followed by Refreshments
7.00 pm: Liturgy of Maundy Thursday & Eucharist - St Peter's
8.00 pm: The Vigil until 9.00 pm - St Peter's

Good Friday - 18th April

- 10.00 am: All-Age Service - St Peter's
2.00 pm: Liturgy of Good Friday - St Stephen's

EASTER DAY

- 9.30 am: Festal Eucharist at St Stephen's
11.00 am: Festal Eucharist at St Peter's

Please note, there will be NO midweek services in Easter Week

