

St Stephen's Church, Burnley Celebrate



2023

AFTERNOON TEA
& ENTERTAINMENT
from Students of Burnley
performing Arts College

Sunday 7th May at 3.00 pm

Tickets: Adults: £5.00 Children (U16) FREE



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

MAY 2023



KING CHARLES III

CORONATION

6TH MAY 2023

A PRAYER FOR OUR NEW KING

Our Father in heaven, We pray for our new King Charles III

Grant him your peace as he commits himself to your service.

Give him strength and perseverance as he promises to serve us all as King.

May he know you are walking with him day by day.

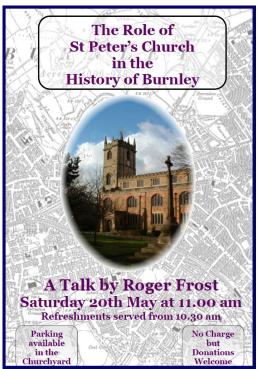
Help him to fulfil his vows and promises.

May he follow the example of Jesus - the ultimate King of Kings.

God bless the King.

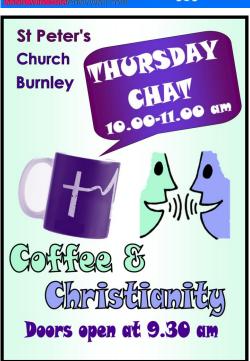
Amen.

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









WHO'S WHO IN THE BENEFICE?

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Tel: 07460 899451 Email: andrewinburnley@gmail.com

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FLOWER GUILD:				
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Don't forget - if you need anything, don't hesitate to contact us

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Coronation

St Stephen's Coronation Afternoon Tea

Please ensure that all articles for inclusion in the JUNE edition of the magazine are submitted no later than I 5th May pamelamcgrath I @hotmail.com

Thank You

Edna Saul

A big sincere 'Thank You' for the lovely service by Father Andrew and Keith for the burial of my dear mum's ashes. The hard work involved in creating the memorial garden is so appreciated.

Thank you for the warm welcome and Mum's dear friends being there and meeting them once again.

The beautiful Easter floral displays for mum looked wonderful, thank you so much.

I feel now Mum is at peace, back home in the church she loved all her life, surrounded by love.

Best wishes always

Linda

(Edna's daughter)



Dear friends

You may have often thought, 'What is the Church for' You might have thought that as a priest, I should know! Well, perhaps precisely because I am a priest, I find myself pulled in many

different directions, relating to many different people, all of whom have different ideas about what the church is or should be.

At this time of year at church (there you go!), we hear the stories about Jesus after his death, gathering his group of disciples back together, empowering them with the gift of his Spirit, and sending them out to preach the gospel and make disciples of all the nations. They were a community of believers with a message—a movement that spread throughout the Roman Empire and beyond within an astonishingly short time.

Thomas Cullinan, a Benedictine monk, wrote of the church using these words:

"Some have only just set out; others are way ahead;

Some are walking, others running;

Some are fascinated by the scenery. others have eyes only for the road ahead;

Some have a single problem, how to cope with excess baggage, others are relatively free of baggage.

There are the mad, the bad, and the sad

But they all make up the church, and all need a place."

Perhaps the last line is the most important, 'But they all make up the church and all need a place.'

We have two incredibly busy parishes, and together we are seeking a way to welcome and love our community. Over the next few months, we are starting some new initiatives to help us do just that. On Tuesday morning, our new TTT (tea, toast, and tots) group welcomes new mums and toddlers into St Stephen's, followed by a soup and a roll lunch. Our new Soup & Sandwich at St Peter's on alternative Wednesdays and our

new FFF (Food, Friends & Fun) Starting in May, an afternoon tea with entertainment, Keith's prize bingo, and Rector's Karaoke. These new initiatives sit alongside our regular activities such as 'The Lunch Club' and 'Let's do Lunch.' PGI Friday, our choirs, and so much more.

So what is the church for? I believe the church is where we welcome without question and where we show the love of Jesus to all we meet, irrespective of race, gender, sexuality, or social status. A place where all experience love and inclusion. A place where we offer help and justice to the fearful and broken-hearted. Being church should be where we seek God's way, not simply the way we like it or have always had it, where we enter into God's mission and ask how we can join in.



As we continue in Eastertide and look forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, may God fill us with the gifts of the Spirit and enable us to use them.

We often hear talk of the decline in the church. We are not taking any notice of that here in Burnley. Let us continue to pray for growth, growth in numbers, growth in faith, and growth in love with the same vigour as those first disciples.

Fr Andrew



10.30 AM SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

Don't forget, if you or someone you know would like to be confirmed, have a word with Fr Andrew or one of the Wardens.



Churchwardens' News from St Peter's

Hello everyone,

We hope you are all enjoying the brighter days now the clocks have changed. The garden is starting to come to life and the sunflowers we all received at the Family Service are hopefully sprouting (ours took their time!).

Holy Week was very special this year with a moving vigil on Maundy Thursday and an All-Age service on Good Friday followed by delicious Hot Cross Buns. Easter Day was a great celebration of colour with everyone bringing their own instruments along to make some noise. The church choir did a wonderful job and really enhanced the service with their music.

It was a pleasure to welcome Bishop Joseph Aba of the Diocese of Liwolo in South Sudan, along with Bishop Philip, to St Peter's in March. He is currently leading his church in exile in Uganda and spoke movingly about his ministry in refugee camps. In 2022 he confirmed 2000 people into the Anglican church, quite a difference from Burnley!

The churchyard looks very different at the moment as the church gates have been removed and taken to Clitheroe for refurbishment. For some time they have been difficult to open and the paint has been flaking. Two new trees have also been planted in the churchyard to replace the ones that were recently felled.

The Mothers' Union ladies enjoyed a fantastic demonstration of flower arranging by Mrs Christine Hacking last month. The spring flower arrangements were beautiful and members were able to each take one home with them.

We are grateful to Mrs Carol Waddington who has kindly agreed to join the sidespersons team.

The Coronation of King Charles III is approaching and there will be a Civic Service at St Peter's on the morning of Sunday 7th May at which the cadets will make their promises to the King, with a Tea Party taking place at St Stephen's in the afternoon. There will also be an early Communion service at St Peter's at 9.30am. We hope it will be a wonderful celebration and a day to look forward to.

Take care.

Sandra and Jason





HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Just to take you back in time a little ... on the Thursday before Palm Sunday and Holy Week, we welcomed into church Springfield School in the morning and in the afternoon the children from St Stephen's School for their Easter services. Although the services were very different from each other in content, they were both most enjoyable and it was lovely to see them all in church.

Holy Week was certainly a busy week in the Benefice. Our thanks go to Fr Andrew for arranging a programme of devotional services during this holiest of seasons – there was something for everyone and the services were well attended.

Following the distribution of the Palm Crosses on Palm Sunday, at St Stephen's, on the Monday through to Wednesday we held the 'Stations of the Cross' – a journey along the 14 stations in Jerusalem following Jesus' last day up to his being crucified and lastly being placed in the tomb; artwork images of the stations were displayed on screen and a said Eucharist followed. An evening Maundy Thursday service took place at St Peter's, culminating in the stripping of the altars and vigil, and on the following morning. Good Friday,

their joint 'all age' service was followed by hot cross buns. At St Stephen's on Good Friday, we held a more formal service in the afternoon, including processing outside to place the large wooden cross in the Remembrance Garden and to sing 'There is a green hill far away', (the weather was very kind to us!). Afterwards, we too enjoyed hot cross buns and fellowship.

It was wonderful to see so many adults and children in church on Easter Day morning! We had one of our highest attendances since Christmas. We were invited to renew our Baptism promises and Fr Andrew and Rev Frances took great delight in blessing everyone with holy water! The church was ablaze with colour as many beautiful displays of flowers were positioned all around the church, and we also had bunting and paper chains hung up between the pillars – the paper chains had prayers written on them and were mostly made by our Sunday Club children and also by those attending the previous PGi Friday's event. Our grateful thanks go to Jennifer (Pollard) and Linda (Sharples) who spent several hours on the Saturday making up the flower displays; and thank you too, to those people who had given generously towards the cost of the flowers – it was much appreciated.

GET READY FOR FR ANDREW'S NEW INITIATIVES:

- ORDER OF SERVICE BOOKLETS::

 After many years of using the 'long'
 A4 size booklets, which were
 printed so as to fit on the shelves of
 the old pews, you will have noticed
 our new A5 booklets that Fr
 Andrew has produced. Grateful
 thanks go to Pam, our 'Editor-inChief' of all printed matter —
 magazine, posters, tickets, etc. she
 has been quite a busy lady!
- TEA, TOAST & TOTS: This is for those mums, who, after taking their children to school and who have younger tots and babies, can drop into the Community Room for a cuppa and toast and the little ones can play and interact. It takes place every Tuesday morning during term time only, starting at 8:45 am until 10:30 am.
- DROP-IN: This is at 10:30 am and follows Tea, Toast and Tots, giving anyone who wishes a chance to talk with Fr Andrew about (say) baptism, wedding or other matters. Then, from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm, soup and roll will be available.
- FRIENDS, FOOD & FUN: This starts on Wednesday 10 May, 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm and will continue fortnightly on the alternative Wednesday to 'Let's do Lunch'. As the title suggests it's an opportunity to meet up for a chat, refreshments and a game or two or some other form of light entertainment and all for a donation of £5.

Diary Dates

- King Charles III Coronation:
- Arrangements are now well in hand as we look forward to celebrating this auspicious occasion in church on Sunday, 7th May at 3:00 pm. Tickets are going fast! (£5 adults, children aged 16 and under free.) Your ticket includes afternoon tea and entertainment provided by students from our local college, who are taught by our very own Ruth Davies, and Fr Andrew will be on the organ providing a sing-a-long of rousing, patriotic music.
- Spring Fair: This will take place in the 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. We would be most grateful for any items which you might like to donate towards the tombola, raffle and stalls etc., and these should be brought over the next couple of weeks and placed in the baskets signposted in church. Thank you.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

By the time you are **reading** this article, our annual meeting will have taken place, but at the time of **writing** our article, we can't give you very much information! However, we would like to express a huge thank you to all those who help, in any way, with the smooth running of our church: all the

/continued ...

members of our PCC, the sacristan (person who sets out the communion elements on the altar), the sidespersons, the servers, the readers, those in Sunday Club, the cleaners, the flower lady(ies), those who serve tea, etc etc. The list isn't exclusive and apologies to anyone we might have missed off, but essentially, it is thanks to *all* of you who come along to St Stephen's, as it is our congregation that is the *church* and without you we couldn't survive. It goes without saying, that we are of course most grateful to, and blessed for, our 'leader', Fr Andrew. Although having only been with us a short time – along with his wife, Liz – both of them have been so enthusiastic and totally involved in the day-to-day running of the Benefice.

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

As with faith we move forward, **Psalm 32:8** says: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you" and **Proverbs 16:3 says,** "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."

Jean, Keith & Paul



St Stephen's Branch

LOOKING BACK

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE NEWS

Marjorie and Alan Dunderdale had agreed to be our speakers for April and they didn't disappoint when they gave their presentation about Talking Newspapers for Burnley and District.

They, along with their teams of readers, provide an invaluable service for the blind and partially sighted by making weekly recordings of news and current affairs from the Burnley Express in its entirety, Lancashire Life and Yours Magazine.

The recording is put onto a memory stick and is delivered free of charge by Royal Mail as Articles for the Blind. Each memory stick is then played on a black brick shaped and sized device known as a Boombox.

Although our attendance was lower than usual the Dunderdales didn't mind at all. Alan and Marjorie both said that if through their presentation they were able to add just one new recipient to their membership they would be thrilled. Amazingly now, their service is available through Alexa. Thanks Alan and Marjorie. Your presentation really was inspiring.

The annual Deanery Festival, this year from All Saints, Habergham, was a lovely service. It was good to come together to praise and sing under the Deanery umbrella.

LOOKING FORWARD

Katie Oehring will speak about Christians Against Poverty (CAP) on 09/05/23 at 2pm in the Community Room.

Our 7pm meeting on 23rd May is still to be confirmed.

Calling all Bake Off fans! We would love you to put your own skills to the test and bake something for the MU cake stall for the Spring Fair (Saturday 13th May). If you can spare any time to help on our MU stalls please let Beverley or myself know.

MAY, 2023 EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 9th, 2pm; Christians against Poverty.

Tuesday 23rd, 7pm; TBC

Saturday 13th May: 11.00 - 1.00 pm Spring Fair in School

MAY 2023 CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to you, Margaret Booth on the 13th and Jean Gidley on the 24th.

Jackie



A caring house not a care home

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: \$\frac{1}{2} 422434\$

Harriet Street: \$\frac{1}{2} 832225\$

MAY IN THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF ST STEPHEN'S

lst	Albert Edward Mosely, Alice Mortimore, Madge Robinson	
2nd	Winifred Hopwood, Ron Seller, Thomas Marsden	
4th	Ina Taylor	
5th	Joseph Ogden Heap, Beatrice Pike, Ellen Walton	
6th	Joseph Jackson, Arthur S Driver, John Farrow, Rose Ellen Smith, Nora Smith, Alan Alston, Anne Pearson	,
7th	Eliza Bell, Annie Marsden, Arthur Garnett	
8th	Constance Mary Race, Nellie Halton, Alfred Hibbert, Dorothy Booth	
9th	Fred Shaw, Edith Jackson, Gladys Singleton, Ethel Chadwick, May Johnson	
I 0th	Gladys Ingham	
llth	Mary A. Brennand, Bertha A Baker, Harry Sharratt, Jean Kippax	
I2th	Albert Schofield, Laura Jennings, Martha Lizzie Archer, Charles Percy Whitehead, Levi Broxton	
I3th	Mary Ann Spencer, Alice Farrow, Albert Henry Haile, Herbert Simpson, Arthur Haywood, Olga Parker Craven	
I4th	Sarah Ann Hartley, Annie T Halsted, Elizabeth Whittard, Thomas Jennings	
I5th	Edgar Skirrow, Martha Mary Horne	
l 6th	Maud Howarth, Eleanor Bulcock, Mona Mason	
I7th	Fanny Ellen Jackson, Paula Yvette Booth	
I9th	Roy Galloway	
20th	Dorothy Rawson Walmsley, Ernest Raymond Inman	
21st	George Lee, Muriel Baker, Donald Moat	
22nd	Beatrice Ludbrook, Thomas Howard, Maurice C Jephson, Jeffrey Thomas Halton	
23rd	Joseph Thornton, Ivy Mills	
24th	Emily McKnight, George William Hawes, Clifford Brogden	
25th	Joseph Henry Westwell	
26th	Abraham Melbourne Turner, Emma Thornber, Nellie Bond	
28th	Jennie Morris	
29th	Joan Hargreaves, Margaret Mahoney, Mary Louisa Jackson	
30th	John Kenneth Hoyle, John Howarth	
31st	John Clegg, Ben Crawshaw, Percy Lister, Jennie Harrison	ΙP

MAY IN THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF ST PETER'S

lst	Margaret Sephton Francis
2nd	Vera Whitehead
6th	Nellie Stansfield, Gilbert Byrom Lamberty
8th	Herbert Trotter, Charlotte Maud Hargreaves
9th	Ethel Warnock, Gladys Smith
I 0th	Florence Altham
I3th	John Shallcross Goulding, Mary Eleanor Genevieve Goulding, Phoebe Elizabeth Mellors, Isabel Smith
l 4th	Mary Hannah Newbold
l 6th	Michael Paul Beet MA, Ll.B.
17th	George Hector Kirby, Victor Stansfield
18th	Vernon Bowker
I9th	Beatrice Muriel Law, Elsie Layfield, Hubert Loder
21st	Daisy Lilian Riley, Rachel Annie Barritt
22nd	William Arthur Jessop
25th	John Joseph Ganley
27th	Pearl Mary Redman
28th	Madonna Maria Lund
29th	Agnes Jenkins, Margaret Whitaker
30th	Ian Geoffrey Beal
31st	Philip Henry Allen, Maurice Porter

"I am the resurrection and the life.
The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

(John 11:25)

Later Life Ministry - Some Thoughts and Reflections

We're all ageing. Even if you're only a few days old (and presumably not reading this), the ageing process has started. It's a fact. Part of God's great plan is that our bodies and minds evolve and change from the day we are born until the day we break free of the earthly form we are confined to, and hopefully as believers go to a better place. What we also know of course is that if we are fortunate enough to live a long while then we can begin to experience issues with our bodies and our minds. On the plus side, we can often get the benefit of accumulated wisdom, good judgement and plenty of chances to have learned from our mistakes. The other side of the coin, and plenty of you reading this will need no reminder, is that lots of body parts and organs don't function as well as they once did, and pain can begin to become a feature of ones life.

As an existing Authorised Lay Minister (ALM), I like to keep adding to the list of things I can become knowledgeable about, so when I saw the option of "Later Life Ministry", I thought "that looks interesting, let's do it!" And so I found myself on a six week course, led by a retired Doctor (also a Lay Reader) and a retired Nurse, and as a result very quickly changed my mindset from being worried, frustrated and almost angry at the fact that I was beginning to show signs of ageing (just look at my hair - in short supply and grey on my head, but prolific everywhere I don't want it) to accepting that it is the way of things, that not everything about it is bad, that one can adapt up to a point, and that God designed things that way.

So here's a bit more detail of what we as a group did and learned. We looked at factors which might help or hinder older people participating in Church life. We tried to experience first hand what some might experience in an actual service context. We joined in a service and deliberately disadvantaged ourselves, by doing such things as removing spectacles, turning off hearing aids, simulating injuries, being given service sheets written in small, awkward to read fonts and so on. How easy is it to go up for Communion and accept wine and wafer when you rely on a walking stick? And what's it like when more than one person at a time is

speaking at meetings or discussions - an issue I'm beginning to suffer from.

We spent a lot of time looking at the issues of Memory and Cognitive Impairment. There are so many forms of this, it affects many in their daily lives, and it can also make participation in worship or Church activities difficult. Yet whilst not every sufferer can be reached or is able to join worship, if we choose to cater for this, in our Churches or in other settings, there are forms of service and styles of delivery that work really well.

St. Catherine's Hospice near Preston was our base for a day spent discussing end of life care. We were joined by a number of guest speakers, including a hospital chaplain, as well as seeing first hand what the hospice does, and talking honestly about lives coming to an end. Do we talk about that enough? Personally I think we don't.

We finished the course by looking in detail at the Care and Nursing home sector and the practicalities of working within and/or alongside them. We had some guidance, and do's and don'ts, pertaining to leading worship in such settings.

Apart from greatly adding to my knowledge, it did change my attitude towards the cycle of life; what may be called the "Seven Ages of Man". I know fortune and circumstance features greatly, but I'm still more comfortable about moving on in years than I was before. And although I see my Ministry as broad based rather than catering to a particular age or type of person, I now have a most useful addition to my Ministry tool box.

If you're inspired to look into what this course might offer for you, I'm sure it will be on offer again next year. And you don't have to be an ALM or intend to study for ALM to do it. Like all ALM "Electives", it can be done as a stand alone course with no further commitment. I'll be happy to talk to you about it or anything else that the Diocese offers to enrich our knowledge and abilities.

Alan Roadley
Authorised Lay Minister



St Peter's Branch

We thoroughly enjoyed our April meeting, when Christine Hacking demonstrated spring flower arrangements. She has such enthusiasm for flowers and flower arranging, which added to our enjoyment. Meena will be leading us in a musical afternoon on Wednesday 31st May. We all enjoy these sessions, singing favourite hymns. Everyone is welcome to join us at 2.00pm in church.

St Peter's Flower Guild

ROTA FOR APRIL			
	Sanctuary	Towneley Chapel	
7th	Vacant (Coronation)	Vacant (Coronation)	
I4th	Mrs A P Binns	Mrs A P Binns	
21st	Mrs E Jessop[Vacant	
28th	Vacant	Vacant	

A very big thank you to everyone who donated money, greenery and help to decorate the church for Easter.

Alice & Maureen

Carol

16

The Role of St Peters Church in the History of Burnley

by ROGER FROST

Roger Frost will be giving a talk on the role of St Peter's of St Peter's church in the history of Burnley on Saturday 20th May at 11.00am. This is the talk cancelled from last October because of Roger's illness, and will, I am sure, be extremely interesting.

Tea/coffee will be served from 10.30am and there will be parking available in the school yard.

Carol

Useful Information

A number of "Warm Places " are still open to visitors. Look on the **Burnley**

Together web site for more details.

Christians Against Poverty are not doing any open surgeries in Burnley at present but they welcome phone calls and are happy to do home visits on request. Financial worries have caused a lot of distress during Covid time. Speaking to an expert to see how things can be sorted out can really help, so make the most of the service offered by CAP.

The last couple of years have been worrying for parents and children alike, voices have been raised, tears have been shed and, sometimes, fights break out and people get threatened and even hurt when frustrations overflow. Children can talk about their concerns on **Childline** or to the nominated School teacher, or Church member for Safeguarding. For parents it's difficult to know who to confide in if they become afraid of their children. Speaking to the Police I found that they can help in these situations. The concerned parent should phone 101 and ask for help and advice on how to cope in difficult situations within the family. If you are the friend or neighbour of a family and are worried about them you can phone Crimestoppers, phone 0800555111 for advice, and know that whatever you have said will not be shared with the family or any one else without your permission.

Let's not forget about neglected or even spoilt pets who can rule the roost if not given their own way. As a nurse/midwife I was always worried to see a dog stretched out on the sofa when there was a new baby in the house and several children playing on the floor. Then my gentle talk on priorities and safety was given, quickly followed by keeping the home smoke free forever not just six weeks!

17

Barbara Marshall

Cake My Day



Cupcakes
Brownies
Birthday Cakes
Christening Cakes
Cakes for most occasions

207968 782210

by Emma

Email: emmahopley70@gmail.com



St Stephen's were pleased to welcome a representative from Pendleside Hospice to receive a donation of £1,000 from St Stephen's to support their invaluable work.

SEVEN WONDERS ...

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders of the World". Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes.

Egypt's Great Pyramids; Taj Mahal' Grand Canyon; Panama Canal Empire State Building; St Peters Basilica; Great Wall of China

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there are so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

To see; To hear; To touch' To taste; To feel; To laugh; To love.

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous! A gentle reminder – that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.









We enjoyed a wonderful Easter Service in the Church. We always love the support from the parishioners. We look forward to our Easter Workshop, organised by Meena and Carol W. The events are well attended and thoroughly enjoyable! We cannot believe it is the summer term already! This half term we will be thinking about the Christian

Value of Service. 'Serve One Another in Love' Galatians 5.13

We will be thinking about using our talents to serve, receiving gifts as well as giving, giving with no strings attached, looking at the heart, living for others as well as celebrating Pentecost, the birthday of the Church.

Jesus was called the Servant King; his mission was to serve God and to serve those people he met, through his teaching, his example and the way he led his life. In the upcoming Coronation, the rarest and most sacred of all the royal crowns will take centre stage during the service. Following royal tradition dating back to the 17th Century, Charles will wear the St Edward's Crown at the moment of crowning - the only time it is ever used. In tribute to His Majesty The King's public service, The Big Help Out, on Monday 8th May will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas.

The children's task this half term is to design and make a crown fit for a coronation! They must think about the unsung heroes who serve us at school, at home and in the community and what kind of crown might they like?

Living a life of service is all about keeping your eyes open and looking out for ways to make other smile. How do you serve others at home, at school and in the community?

Service is....

Spending time on others

Enjoying giving help

Responsibility in action

Volunteering willingly

I second, you first

Committing to a task

Everyone offering his or her talents and gifts

Mrs Crowther

In any situation that challenges you, the best decision you can make is the right decision.

The second-best decision is the wrong decision.

The worst decision is deciding not to make any decision at all.





Sunday School News from St Peter's

An exciting month as we continue, as the disciples did, following the glorious Resurrection, to join together the dots and really understand through his teachings that Jesus was the Messiah. This month will also bring the Ascension of Jesus and the wonderful day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came among the followers of Jesus.

We hope to return to visits to the park after the morning service, a time for fellowship and time out for those children who start the stressful exam period.

Our Young Singers continue to have a very busy, packed programme of events singing not only at St Peter's but in Oswaldtwistle and Colne .

As always we are extremely grateful for the generous gifts and help provided for Sunday School and workshops. The growing confidence and help of our young people makes such a difference as they step up in many ways. We are delighted and grateful to have been given a large puppet theatre and puppets from the Diocese.

Caring God,

We place all the children, young people and families who begin the stressful exam period in your loving care.

Help them to know that they are special and valued just as they are.

Amen

Love, Meena

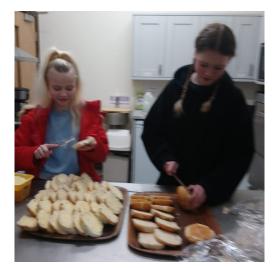


Holy Week Workshop 'In the footsteps of Jesus'





Palm Sunday - decorating biscuits



Getting ready for the 'Hot Cross Buns' Good Friday Service



Easter relay race with 'He Is Risen!' batons

Stumbling Along

by Christine Harbour

As a child I always seemed to have scabby knees. Climbing trees or playing games often meant a fall and bloodied knees. A scab was a badge of honour!

In Luke 23 we hear that Jesus stumbled and fell under the weight of his crucifixion cross. A cross that would weigh around 165lbs. Simon from Cyrene, a city in North Africa, was pressed into service to shoulder that heavy burden. This was no kind gesture by the Roman soldiers! Jesus was to be made into a spectacle, a crowd pleaser, and the soldiers certainly did not want him to die before he reached Golgotha!

We know that Simon was a Jew or possibly a pagan who had converted to Judaism. He was in the crowd of spectators with his two sons, Alexander and Rufus. We are not exactly sure if at that time Simon was a follower of Jesus or not. Even so, I myself am convinced he was meant to be there and that those Roman soldiers were mere puppets in God's plan.

What was Simon feeling as he carried that cumbersome cross? Did he see those sons scared and crying as their father was unwillingly forced into unwilling submission? Imagine it! Jeering crowds shouting at a frail

Jesus stumbling along to a mocking crowd with blood streaming from his crown of thorns and angry red stripes decorating his stooping back? Did Simon not realise that this cross was his badge of honour? Many believe now that this same man eventually went on to preach the gospel as far as Egypt andwas martyred in a cruel and violent death.

The names of his two sons are also mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles and it is more than likely that these two boys also became disciples of Jesus.

We will never know for certain, but this event must have changed their lives forever and God made sure that the name of Simon of Cyrene and his sons went down in history.

We too can never know from day to day what will happen in our own lives. How one day everything can seem rosy and going according to plan, and

then in the next moment a life-changing event can disrupt all that to an unimaginable degree.

We as followers of Christ are not insured against disasters illness or accidents. However we do have the assurance that God will be us. He will intercede for us by asking Jesus to help us carry our cross . He will meet us in our need and walk beside us till the storm passes.

Here is a poem which I wrote several years ago.

Love and blessings Christine H St Stephen's

Jesus sees you when you fall He knows when you are hurting When you feel betrayed and unloved.

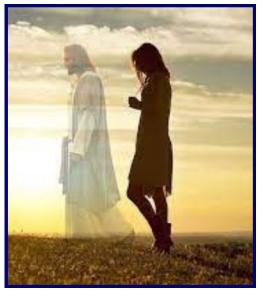
He watches those who are degraded, robbed of dignity

Cut down by mockery and cruel words.

He sees those who are beaten and imprisoned

Shrunken and bent by suffering in daily pain.

He will lift you when you fall
Steady you as you stumble
Hold you as you tremble in fear.
Jesus stumbled carrying your cross
And He died alone to live again in you.





...From our Vision Champion

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



Linda w^arites ...

Hi everyone,

Easter was a very busy time at St Stephens and

St Peters. There were various services throughout Holy Week and Good Friday, culminating with a glorious Easter Sunday celebration.

The next few weeks are known as Eastertide during this time we will celebrate Ascension Day and 50 days from Easter Sunday on May 28th we will celebrate Pentecost. This is when we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles following the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ and it marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world.

Like the Apostles and disciples who received the Holy Spirit and then went out to explain who Jesus was and the significance of what had happened to him. We to need to spread the word beyond the walls of the church building and welcome people from our parish.

During Eastertide we will see the start of new events at St Stephens. Fr Andrew has lots of great ideas for welcoming people into the church building which will build on Vision 2026. Teas Tots and Toast hopefully

will attract the young mums and carers from school. Also for us older folk there will be Friends, Food and Fun with afternoon tea. Please spread the word and come along yourselves. I for one can't wait for Keith's Bingo and the Rectors Karaoke!

PGI Friday just before Easter was a success. We welcomed children from both St Stephens and Springfield schools and everyone had a great time. You will have seen some of their handiwork from that event as we used it to decorate the church for Easter. Our next PGI Friday will be on Friday 26th May and we will celebrating Pentecost. I suspect there will be lots of wind and fire themed crafts!

Please check all the dates in the magazine as there is lots more happening during the month of May.

Linda

Vision Champion, St Stephen's

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

(1 Peter 4:8-10)







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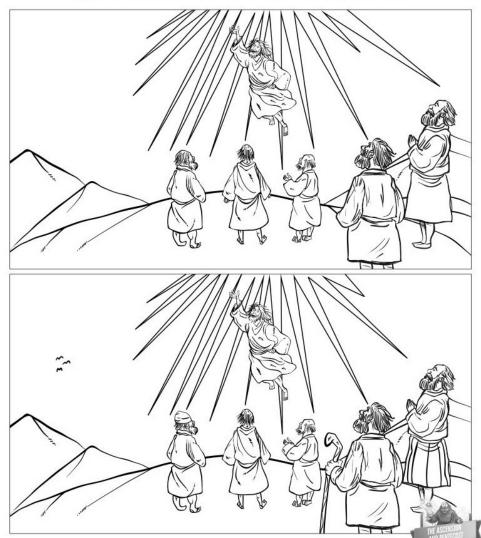
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Children's Page

THE ASCENSION AND PENTECOST

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.





Stephen Alderson

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Services & Rotas for May at St Stephen's

Date	Services	Sidespeople	Reader	Tea/Coffee	Cleaning
07/05	Civic Service for the Coronation of King Charles III JOINT SERVICE AT ST PETER'S				Team I
14/05	9.45 am Holy Communion	Anita & Steve	Linda P	Shirley & Margaret	Team 2
21/05	Wake Up & Worship 9.00 am Breakfast 9.45 am Eucharist	Geoff & Judith K	Beverley	WUAW	Team 3
28/05	9.45 am Holy Communion	Lynette & Neil	Anne	Barbara & Paul	Team I











Services & Rotas for May at St Peter's

Date	II.00am	Reader	Intercessor	Sidespeople	6.00pm
07/05	Choral Matins	Joan Ainsworth	Adrian Norris	H Slater J Ainsworth	BCP HC
14/05	Holy Communion	Alan Roadley	Stephen Dixon	S Dison S Hacking	-
21/05	Holy Communion	Diana Harris	Carol Pike	C Hacking S Hacking	Choral Evensong
28/05	Family Service	Child	Child	M Eckersley E Massie	-

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



A Cleaning Service offering anything from the 'One-Off' clean, or a regular clean of your house/place of work

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

Stoodley Skyline & 🐷 🍆









The first of Linda's walks of 2023 is a classic moorland walk taking in spectacular views of the Calder Valley, the magnificent Stoodley Pike and parts of the Pennine Way. Starting at the Methodist Church in the tiny hamlet of Mankinholes, we take the road to the Shepherd's Rest pub and then head up onto the moors via Langfield Common. The climb rewards us with views for miles and from there we follow the undulating path along Langfield Edge to the impressive Stoodley Pike Monument standing over 120ft high. (Daring hikers can climb the 39 steps inside to reach the viewing balcony 40ft up). From there it's downhill all the way back to the cars and the decision whether to take a break in the Top Brink or the Shepherd's Rest (Both excellent)

Date: Saturday June 17th

Time: 9:15 am

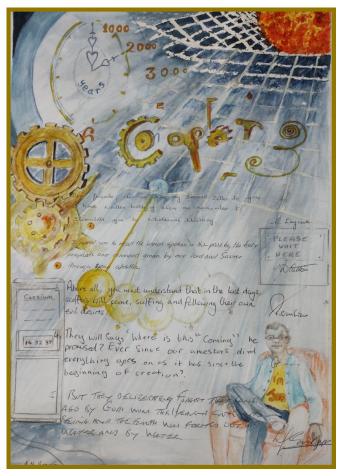
Lumbutts Methodist Church, Mankinholes, Todmorden OL14 6JA

6.5 miles, approx 4 hours, (To allow plenty of time to stop and enjoy the magnificent views and have a drink and snack if you bring any) mainly moorland paths, short road stretch Any questions call Paul on 07967 644 709





Over the past few weeks I've had a few people come up to me asking how the Book is progressing. It's slow but I'm getting there is my answer. I finished illustrating the two Letters of St Peter (eight Chapters altogether) at the end of March and last week I completed the border around Bishop Julian's written contribution. My next jobs are designing the front page of the Book and the front



pages for each of the two Letters. Exciting. They are going to be illuminated with real gold leaf!

There are a few other pieces of artwork I need to do on the Book before I can start book binding but I'm hoping I can get it ready to put on show for the Heritage weekend in September.

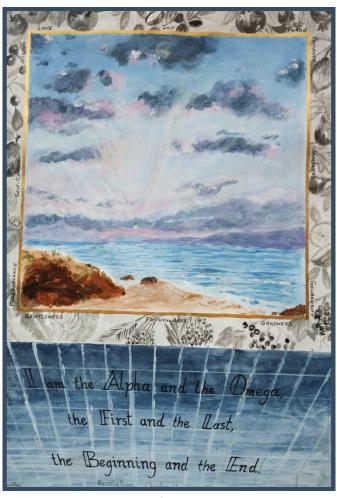
It has been difficult interpreting letters written 2000 years ago but after reading them over and over again I can assure you the message they contain is still relevant for the people of Burnley today. I hope my artwork conveys this to the readers. Most of the illustrations are set in the present day. I have also tried to tie in the good work we do in the

Church and what is happening in the world at large.

This has been a community project. It is a Book on our social and personal history, a time capsule that future generations of Burnley folk can ponder over. They will be able to see our handwriting, discuss our strange taste in clothes from photos and be amazed at our 900th year celebrations. Looking at all the pages I have at the moment I estimate just over 200 people have taken part. Wow, that's a lot of authors in one book!

Exciting times ahead. Let's be part of history.

Annette





Easter Fun





This is our Easter wall with the beatitudes on and palm leaves and lent promises



On Easter Sunday we had an Easter Egg hunt and we shared all the eggs with each other.



We went to St Peter's and joined in with the Good Friday service



We used the Easter decorations we made at PGI Friday to decorate church for Easter Sunday



We made a cross out of the children hand prints and the adults hand prints



We made an Easter Garden