



# the link

The Parish Magazine of The United Benefice of St Peter & St Stephen, Burnley  
MAY/JUNE 2026



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



St Peter's Church Burnley

# Holiday Club

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May

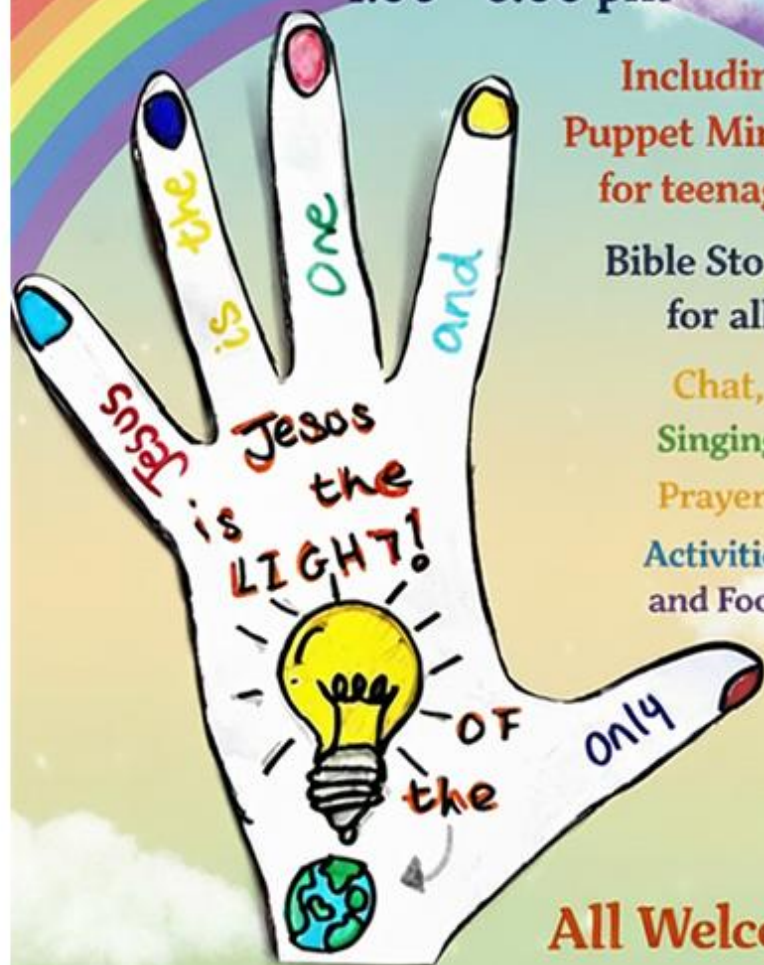
4.00 - 6.00 pm

Including  
Puppet Ministry  
for teenagers

Bible Stories  
for all

Chat,  
Singing  
Prayers

Activities  
and Food



All 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

### CHURCH WARDENS:

Mrs Sandra Davies

Mr Jason Walsh

☎ 545818

☎ 07554 154240

### ASSISTANT WARDEN

Mrs Meena Tomlinson

☎ 07806 623466

### PCC SECRETARY

Mr Andrew Buchanan

☎ 07565 347524

### ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Mrs Joan Ainsworth

☎ 07971 711250

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

Mr Philip Tomlinson

☎ 777132

### VISION TEAM:

Mrs Joan Ainsworth

(Making Disciples)

Mrs Meena Tomlinson

Inspiring Children & Young People)

Mr Alan Roadley

(Growing Leaders)

☎ 07971 711250

☎ 07806 623466

☎ 07588 556640

### MOTHERS' UNION:

Mrs Carol Waddington

☎ 07846 139241

### INTERIM SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

Mrs Barbara Hasty

☎ 07783006284

### SUNDAY SCHOOL (DJs):

Mrs Meena Tomlinson

☎ 777132

### HEADTEACHER:

Mrs Law

☎ 426873

### FLOWER GUILD:

Mrs Alice Binns

☎ 789632

### BELFRY

Dr Andrew Sibson

### Kitchen/Catering Manager

Mrs Cynthia Bramley

☎ 07903 341700

## ST STEPHEN'S

### CHURCH WARDEN:

Mrs Jean Beeston

☎ 432986

### ASSISTANT WARDENS

Mr Paul Hannah

☎ 07967 644709

Mrs Edith Meek

☎ 456170

Mrs Anita Fossey

### PCC SECRETARY:

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### BUILDING OFFICER

Mr Keith Pounder

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### ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Mrs Pam McGrath

☎ 07738 412998

### VISION CHAMPION:

Mrs Linda Pounder

☎ 414390

### MOTHERS' UNION:

Mrs Beverley Laycock

(Branch Leader)

Mrs Jackie Cosway

(Secretary)

☎ 543766

☎ 411967

### SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Mrs Emma Hopley

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### HEADTEACHER:

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## **Fellowship in the Benefice**

Every Monday at St Stephen's

ST STEPHEN'S CRAFT GROUP

1.00 –3.00 pm

Every Thursday at St Peter's

THURSDAY CHAT

10.00 am (coffee at 9.30)

1st Wednesday at St Peter's

WELCOME ON WEDNESDAY

1.30—3.00 pm

1st & 3rd Wednesday

at St Stephen's

FRIENDS, FOOD & FUN

2.00—4.00 pm

2nd & 4th Wednesday at

St Stephen's

LET'S DO LUNCH

12.30—2.00 pm

1st & 3rd Thursdays at

St Peter's

LUNCH CLUB - 11.30 am

The next Magazine will be joint **JULY/AUGUST** edition. Please send any items for inclusion to the Editor by 15th JUNE  
[pamelamcgrath1@hotmail.com](mailto:pamelamcgrath1@hotmail.com)





# From the Rectory

Dear friends,

As we step into May and June, the world around us awakens with fresh colour and life. Spring's promise unfurls in gardens bursting into bloom, each sunrise stretching a little longer than the last. These moments renew our spirits and remind us of God's faithfulness, visible in the rhythms of creation and the quiet transformation that comes with each new day.



This spring, we also look forward to the special occasion of Confirmation at St Stephen's on May 3<sup>rd</sup> with Bishop Joe. It is a joyful milestone for Elena, Freyja, and Malcom as they prepare to affirm their faith, and I invite the whole benefice to join in prayer and celebration for our candidates as they take this important step.

For our church community, this season brings us to the celebration of Pentecost—a time when we recall the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, as described in Acts 2: "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." Pentecost marks the birth of the church and the fulfillment of Jesus' promise: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8).

Pentecost reminds us that the Spirit is God's gift to empower, comfort, and guide us all. Just as the first disciples were transformed from uncertainty to boldness, so each one of us—no matter our background, story, or circumstance—is invited to open our hearts to the renewing breath of God. In these months, may we seek to be attentive to the Spirit's gentle leading—whether in worship, in

*/continued*

moments of quiet prayer, or in our acts of service and love within our parish and beyond.

Let us use this time for reflection and gratitude, returning thanks for the blessings we have received. As we look ahead to new opportunities for fellowship and ministry, let us encourage and support one another to be channels of God's grace, sharing the hope and light of Christ with all our neighbours.

May God's Spirit rest upon you, filling your lives with peace and purpose. May you know the joy of Christ's presence and the courage the Holy Spirit brings, now and always.

With love and good wishes

*Fr Andrew*



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## Churchwardens' News from St Peter's

Welcome everyone,

We are thinking of you all this month and sending our prayers and best wishes your way. May you feel surrounded by peace, love, and the support of our parish family.

We wish all the candidates being confirmed at St Stephen's on Sunday 3rd May every blessing as we approach this joyful and significant occasion. We look forward to Bishop Joe joining us to confirm and commission them as they make their commitment to Christ. We pray that it will be a meaningful and uplifting service for everyone involved, and a memorable step in their journey of faith.

Work has been carried out by the Council in the churchyard to improve the condition of the driveway. Potholes have been filled with stone chippings, and the loose flags have been straightened and cemented in place. This will make the paths safer for pedestrians and vehicles, though it is only a temporary repair until more extensive work to remodel the churchyard and driveway is undertaken.

We would like to wish two much-loved members of our congregation, Carol and Janice, a very happy 80th and 90th birthday respectively. We are looking forward to celebrating these wonderful milestones with them in May.

A silver baptismal shell has been donated to the church by Mary in celebration of her 90th birthday, which took place in January. This thoughtful gift will be used for the first time at Reuben's baptism on Sunday 17th May and at future baptism services, adding a special sense of tradition and continuity to this important sacrament. We are very grateful for this donation, which will be a lasting part of the church's ministry and a reminder of the significance of baptism in welcoming new members into the Christian family.

With warmest wishes,

*Sandra and Jason*

# In The Loop

... With Jean, Paul, Edith & Anita



Hello everyone! We hope that you and your families are all keeping well. As we fast approach summer, there will be many events taking place, culminating in September with a visit by the Archbishop of York, The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, for the Diocese's centenary year celebrations – very much something to look forward to! Changes will also be taking place following our APCM on Sunday 10th May (in church 12 noon) with Anita moving into the role of Churchwarden as Jean steps down. We are, however, looking to appoint a second Churchwarden to work alongside Anita; we are grateful that Edith and Paul have agreed to stay on as assistant wardens.

Looking back over recent weeks, Palm Sunday, Holy Week Stations of the Cross and Easter Sunday were all wonderful, and at times, moving services. Unfortunately, Good Friday was a wet day preventing the congregation proceeding outside to the place the cross amongst the daffodils in the Remembrance Garden; however, it was placed there later in the day. On Easter Day the church was once again filled with flowers (thank you Jennifer) and the Sunday Club children handed out little bags of mini Easter eggs (a

wonderful treat, thank you to Liz) together with beautiful Easter cards that Y2 children from school had made! Thank you too to Keith who helped the Sunday Club to decorate our beautiful Easter garden – lights and all!

In early in May, we shall welcome The Rt Revd Dr Joseph Kennedy, the Bishop of Burnley, to preside at our Benefice Confirmation Service with Eucharist, when three candidates will be confirmed – we hope that many of you will join us to support our candidates on this important milestone in their lives.

Our Auction Night held in mid-April was a huge success with well over £500 being raised! Thank you to all who helped in any way – having either brought, or bought – it was a super night. A big round of applause and grateful thanks especially to Keith, our auctioneer on the night, who kept us thoroughly entertained with his own brand of 'banter', and to Barry who modelled or paraded the lots!

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welcome The Rt Revd Dr Joseph Kennedy, the Bishop of Burnley, to preside at our Benefice Confirmation Service with Eucharist, when three candidates will be confirmed – we hope that many of you will join us to support our candidates on this important milestone in their lives.

Ahead of us - on Friday 1st May, Mrs Hyacinth Bucket is holding her candlelit supper in church! All tickets have been sold and a very pleasant, gastronomic evening is in the offing! On Saturday 9th May, we have our bi-monthly Prayer Breakfast 'Refuel & Reconnect'; on Saturday 23rd May is our parish trip to Blackpool Zoo – final details nearer the time, and at the end of the month on Friday 29th May our bi-monthly Film Night 'Operation Mincemeat' takes place. Otherwise, all our usual 'community' events will continue over the next few months – Craft Group (Monday afternoons), Drop In with Fr Andrew (on Tuesday mornings), Let's do Lunch and Friends Food & Fun (alternate Wednesdays). Further ahead on Saturday 27th June we shall be holding our annual Summer Fair, in church 11:00am until 1:00 pm (further details nearer the time), so do keep looking at our notice boards for the dates and times of events.

We know that it's been said so many times before, but we wardens are really grateful to everyone who helps out in any way to keep the church running as smoothly as possible. We hope that there are people out there with hidden talents! If you feel you can offer any kind of help, ie cleaning, post-service brewing up, gardening, doing odd jobs etc., please have a word with Fr Andrew, Anita, Paul or Edith for further information.

Finally, it's fingers crossed for some pleasant weather ahead, and we hope to see you all coming along to enjoy what we have to offer at St Stephen's – not forgetting the services of course! Take care everyone and stay safe.



*Jean, Paul, Edith and Anita*

*"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."  
(Philippians 4:13)*

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## Puppet Ministry

In the past we have had a group performing puppet shows at our children's workshops and a few years ago we were given several large puppets and a puppet theatre. These have resided in the tower room ever since.



At the Children's Ministry Conference in February this year one of the workshops was on Puppet Ministry, which I attended. I learned the basics of using the puppets with the theatre and have since been practising. I would now like to form a small group to learn how to use the puppets so that we can use these in the holiday workshops and possibly the occasional all-age service.

At the Holiday Workshop on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May from 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm I will have a session for older teenagers and any adults who would like to learn. If you can't make it on the 28<sup>th</sup> please have a word with me and I will try to arrange an alternative session in addition.

The use of Puppet Ministry to tell stories will be a useful addition to our children's ministry as it adds variety and helps to hold their interest.

***Carol Waddington***

St Peter's Church



## *Confirmation*

Bishop Joe will lead a service of Confirmation at

***ST STEPHEN'S ON SUNDAY 3RD MAY AT 10.30 AM.***

Please pray for those to be confirmed and do come along to support them at the service.

## Saturday Morning Concerts at St Peter's



Our 2026 series of concerts continued in fine fashion with a brilliant harp recital by Eira Lynn Jones in March. This was followed by a homegrown concert in April, featuring the St. Peter's Young Singers, Pendle Ladies' Choir and Sebastian Bernabe performing superbly on the violin.

Alan summed it up with the comment...I think the age and diversity of the singers AND audience made today's concert a bit special.

In addition to a fabulous concert, a raffle and donations raised £198.70 in aid of the women's refuge.

We were saddened to hear that Jill Crossland is unable to perform on 2nd May due to illness. However, we are delighted that local pianist Paul Greenhalgh has agreed to step in at short notice. Paul is well-known to many of our concert goers, having been the accompanist for Burnley Municipal Choir.

On 23rd May Grace O'Malley (soprano) and Samantha Oxborough (mezzo-soprano) make a return visit to St Peter's.

In June, we look forward to hearing Duncan Reid (violin) with Jonathan Ellis (piano) on the 6th and brilliant young pianist Jay Carroll on the 20th.

Saturday 4th July sees the return of local opera star Seán Ruane, who will share the stage with some of his pupils and the St Peter's Young Singers.

As always, admission is £7, free for U 18s, with concerts starting at 11 am and refreshments served from 10:30 am. Free parking is available in the school yard and disabled parking in the church yard.

Philip.

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

## QUIET MORNING – WOMEN OF THE CROSS

This was the third Quiet Morning we have had. A small group met for coffee followed by the Stations of the Cross and Eucharist. We were joined by the Lady Claudia granddaughter of the Emperor Augustus and wife of Pontius Pilate, Cyborea the mother of Judas Iscariot and Mary of Nazareth, the mother of Jesus who told us how they were involved in the life and crucifixion of Jesus. We spent time reflecting on the stories and sitting quietly in the presence of Father God.



We enjoyed soup and sandwiches and chatted about what we had learned. The next Quiet Morning will be in Advent, all are welcome. It is a lovely quiet time – if you haven't been to a Quiet Morning please think about joining us for the next one.

The following reflections are from someone who came to the morning.

### ***Lady Claudia:***

I watch the events of the cross from a distance  
A distance of location, a distance of years  
I cannot bridge them....but, I watch.....

I watch the events of the cross with uncertain vision  
Clouded by conflicting reports, clouded by a way of life that is not mine!  
Still.....I watch

I watch the events of the cross with conflicting attitudes.  
My heart longs to engage. My mind is horrified!  
I try to make myself watch

I watch the events of the cross with mixed emotions.  
I weep for the pain and suffering – I rejoice at my redemption  
Yet – I watch and weep.

### ***A reflection on broken hearted mothers after hearing the Mother of Judas***

*/continued ...*

Lord have mercy on all mothers who weep for their children  
Because they died first.  
Because they left without a word.  
Because they committed horrendous acts and betrayed love offered.  
Because they broke the law

Lord have mercy on all mothers who weep for their children  
Because of sickness and suffering of disease and disability,  
Because they died too young and never fulfilled their amazing potential.

Lord have mercy on all mothers weep for their children  
Because they never drew breath, because they died in the womb  
Because they never were

Lord, comfort those who can never be consoled.

### ***Mary of Nazareth***

Lord you chose Mary to be the mother of your son.  
She must have been special – but I am ordinary.  
I have hurt people by my words and actions  
Yet You love me

Lord, you chose Mary to witness the adoration of shepherds and kings.  
She must have been special- but I am not.  
I have failed to recognise you in the kindness offered to me by strangers.  
Yet – you seek me.

Lord, you chose Mary to stand by the cross and weep.  
She must have been special- but not me.  
I have watched the suffering of others and failed to help.  
Yet – you hold me.

Lord you chose Mary – you choose every Mary even the Magdalene.  
You choose all of us – including me  
Thank you for reaching out- help me to reach back.

***Joan A***

## **LOOKING BACK**

We were treated to a really interesting talk from Carol Pike on her Girl Guiding experience. Carol has been in Guiding since the age of 7 when she was taken along to Brownies by her Dad. At the age of 16 she took over the running of her unit and has been involved ever since. When I say involved, she is presently involved with 17 various aspects of the Guide movement as well as being a Guider. She told us of how her guiding had taken her all over the world, from New Zealand to Canada, to South Africa as well as to various places in Europe. She brought along a display of badges she'd collected along the way as well as various enrolment badges from across the years. (See photos opposite) As archivist, she also has an example of every Brownie and Guide uniform going back years! For quite a few of us, it was a real trip down Memory Lane. So thank you, Carol—and keep up the good work! It won't be long now until your 50th Anniversary!

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

### **MAY**

12th May: 2.00 pm On Being a Teacher - Anita Fossey

### **JUNE**

8th June: 2.00 pm Senior Members' tea and service at All Saints, Habergham

### **DIARY DATE**

14th July A Summer Outing  
Still TBA, more information to follow.-

### **MAY CELEBRATIONS**



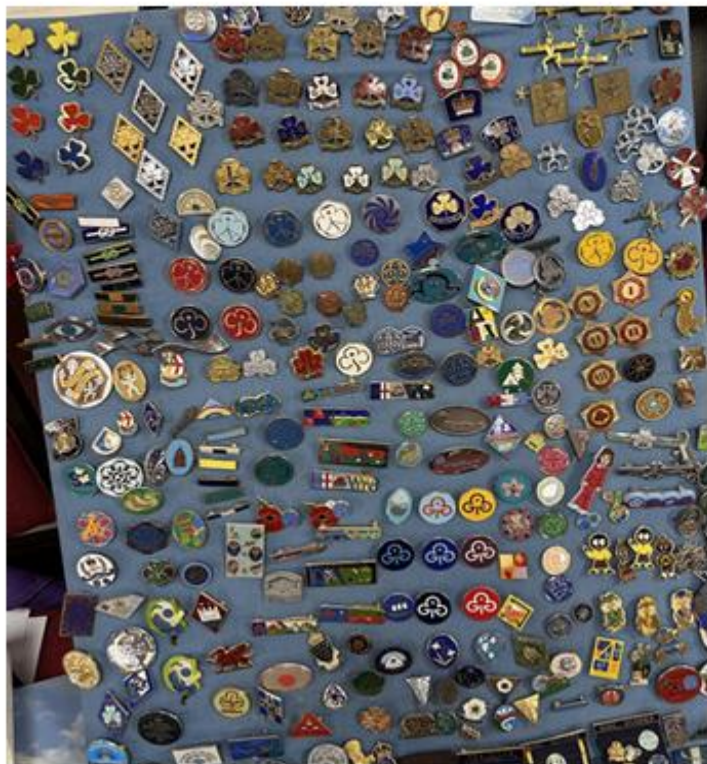
Wishing Jean Gidley a very Happy Birthday on 24th, 98 years young

Pam and John McGrath celebrate their wedding anniversary on the 23rd and Nancy and Howard Mitchell celebrate theirs on the 30th. Congratulations to you all.

## JUNE

Happy  
Birthday wishes  
to Beverly  
Laycock for the  
13th.

*Jackie*



*Just a few of Carol's  
Guiding Badges*





## Sunday School News from St Peter's

Alleluia. He is Risen !!!!

A busy Easter period with services, holiday workshop, concert for Young Singers, Choir Church services, movie night for teenagers and helping decorating church along with the Flower Guild. A meaningful time for everyone .

Our children and young people continue to amaze and inspire us with their engagement and responses. Their knowledge is good and thoughtful.

I enjoyed working with our young people the other Sunday as we reflected on a Risen Jesus and belief without seeing and being there at the time. We talked about ' What God looks like?', 'Can you hear or feel him?', 'Will you continue to go to church if you go away to university?' Their responses were moving and heartfelt, understanding the welcome was warm at St Peter's to all people. Being judged elsewhere was a concern. I loved the response of one young lady who said: 'I haven't heard God speak but I can feel his presence, a warm feeling that sometimes bubbles up and is massive ' ♥

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Ian Read to St Peter's. Ian is considering ordination and came for a month to 'follow Father Andrew around' and experience a church away from his own. After further reflection Ian has decided to come and work with our young people each week. They absolutely love having him around and it means we can effectively work with all ages in Sunday School. Ian says ' I have always enjoyed working with children/ young people, helping to grow and develop their knowledge and skills. They have such a passion for learning and at St Peter's they such inspiring young people that in teaching them you might learn something about yourself as well. '

A busy exam period is upon us now. We pray for Imogen, Sara, Indy and Emma as they sit GCSEs, to Jessica and Rayyan for SATS and to Lexina, Kainen and Sam as they are baptised .

Love from

Meena & all in the Sunday School





*St Stephen's flag was loose and 'flappy', so Neil and Paul braved the elements to 'tension it'.*

*Here it is, tensioned to perfection just in time for St George's Day.*

*Thank you, both!*





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# All Part of the One Body

Hi everyone,

One thing I've come to really appreciate is that Church isn't something we do alone. It's not just about showing up on a Sunday—it's about being part of something bigger, something shared. When we actually work together, support each other, and pull in the same direction, that's when the Church feels alive.

We all bring something different to the table. Some people are great at organizing, some are always ready to lend a hand, others just know how to encourage people at the right time. Not everyone is up front, and that's okay. A lot of the most important work happens quietly, behind the scenes. But when all those efforts come together, it makes a real difference.

Of course, working together isn't always easy. We all have different ideas, different ways of doing things. But that's part of it. If we're willing to listen, be patient, and keep the bigger picture in mind, those differences can actually make us stronger instead of pulling us apart. For me, one of the best parts of serving together is the relationships that grow out of it. When you spend time working alongside people, you get to know them in a real way. It builds trust, friendship, and a sense that you're not doing life or faith on your own.

So I think the challenge for all of us is simple: don't just sit on the sidelines. Get involved, however you can. Support one another. Be willing to serve. Because when we work together, our Church grows stronger—and our community feels the impact.

**Linda P**

*There is one body, but it has many parts.  
But all its many parts make up one body.*

(1 Corinthians 12:12)



## School Governor Receives County Award

On Saturday 21st March Philip Walmsley received a County Award in recognition of his outstanding service to St. Stephen's School.

Philip was only one of the handful of governors recognised for his outstanding service to the school.

His citation read:

*'Philip has a 40+ years connection to the school, spanning pupil, governor, and community leader. As Finance Governor he dedicates time to interviewing prospective staff and is described as a "constant source of encouragement and stability for staff and students." His sustained presence, humility, and commitment to others are consistent themes in his nomination'*

Well done Philip! Fully deserved recognition for your outstanding service to St. Stephen's School.



## A Message in the Rubble by Christine Harbour

I always try and wait for divine inspiration before I write an article. God seems to always keep me waiting till the 11th hour. I guess he is just testing me and teaching me to trust in his timing! He sure knows I like things done in plenty of time.



I always try and watch the News on TV, once a day keeping up to date with world events. The News at the moment is far from edifying and is actually very frightening. Huge billows of smoke fiery red blazes in cities and mounds of grey rubble is now the norm. This particular News clip was very moving. A man was searching frantically amongst the pile of dust and stones. He was visibly moved as he checked under each stone. His elder daughter was seriously wounded and in hospital. His younger daughter was missing and he needed to know. He didn't want to visit the hospital mortuary to check through the piles of limbs and body parts. Even finding a small whole body would be better than that. There were toys all over, but not Tara's. School books and pencils, a drawing of a mother and a graduation cap. "Why, why oh why" he seemed to be saying.

The love of a father or mother for a child is absolutely inexplicable. Jesus himself spoke about a shepherd losing a sheep and how any one of them would go out to any length to find one of his flock that was lost. We guess that Jesus was speaking figuratively to explain how deep and wide is the love of God the Father for each one of us. No doubt that father in the Lebanon would seek until some vestige of Tara was found.

One part of the decimated building had a balcony that remained intact. A table set for a meal with plates and glasses that seemed unbroken. The table was covered with a red velvet cloth with a gold fringe. It stood out amongst the charred remains of the dusty remnant of a building. I stared for a moment. It seemed ludicrous that it had survived. A table set and prepared . Maybe a feast prepared but never eaten!

*Psalm 23. 'You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. you anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever'*

In these troubling and dangerous times. How tightly we must hold on to God's promises. God is the God of the Old Testament. He saw Moses through abandonment, murder, the wilderness; Joseph left to die, to be taken into slavery and imprisonment. He saw wars, lies adultery of Kings and yet he saw the fulfilment of the prophecies, when he himself became human and lived himself in subservience to the Romans, He suffered the harshness of Roman punishment when he, an innocent man, was crucified, He then triumphantly and victoriously turned Calvary into Resurrection!

We as Christians are anointed with God's blessing. Although the world is in turmoil. God will be with us . There is a message in the rubble. There is hope. We have the promise that Jesus said (John 16 v33) *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart I have overcome the world"*

I found a message in the table on the balcony. To me it was a symbol of a table set before an enemy. The enemy is set before us now. The enemy of war and destruction. The enemy of greed and power. The intoxication of winning without caring for the devastation of others. As the slave song says 'We will overcome one day'. Determination defeated the devil. Our God reigns in the midst of the rubble. ' He is not dead. He is Risen !'

Love and blessings.

Christine H.



St Peter's  
Church  
Burnley

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at 12.30 pm

*ALL WELCOME!*

*A donation of £5 is suggested,  
but please give what you can.*



FRIENDSHIP, CHAT, CRAFTS & A CUPPA

WE MEET  
EVERY  
MONDAY  
1.00-3.00 PM

IN ST STEPHEN'S  
COMMUNITY ROOM  
SMALLEY STREET  
BURNLEY

*Everyone Welcome!*

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

invite you every 1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly for



2.00 -  
4.00 PM

**FRIENDS,  
FOOD & FUN**

A donation of  
£5  
is suggested, but  
please just give  
what you can.

**AFTERNOON TEA**  
with sandwiches & cake,  
activities, entertainment  
Keith's Bingo & The Rector's Karaoke

*All Welcome*



GOD'S ACRE

## Brimstone, the original Butterfly

May is a lovely month to look for butterflies, several of our native species are on the wing at this time of year including the striking yellow Brimstone. It is thought that the name butterfly comes from this large, yellow beauty, literally Butter Fly! When you see one flying it is highly visible but actually it can be well camouflaged too; have a look at the shape of the brimstone's wing and you will see that it closely resembles a leaf. When at rest they can disappear amongst foliage.

Brimstones can be seen early in the year as they overwinter as adults, emerging from hibernation to lay eggs in April or May, ready to hatch as green caterpillars in July. Following pupation in August, adults are back in early autumn, feeding and finding sites to overwinter. The other spring butterflies that you see will have either overwintered as adults, such as the red admiral or small tortoiseshells, or as a chrysalis or pupa – orange tips do this as do holly blues. Some butterflies overwinter as caterpillars, the meadow brown for example.

Brimstone caterpillars feed on buckthorn and alder buckthorn so if you are planting a hedge try and include these, buckthorn favours calcareous soil and alder buckthorn more acidic conditions. Churchyards are great for butterflies as they contain such a rich array of plants. If you have an area which is managed as a meadow you may have many species of caterpillar chomping away at the plants within it. Look out for orange tips laying eggs on cuckoo flower, garlic and hedge mustard, or the Speckled Wood, also flying in May, which lays eggs on native grasses such as Yorkshire fog and couch grass. This butterfly prefers long grass so may use a tussocky area at the back of your churchyard, perhaps near to shade trees.

We'd love to know what butterflies you see as well as any other wildlife that you spot. Why not while away a sunny hour or two looking for butterflies in this beautiful place.



Brimstone butterfly credit Roger Wasley

*You're invited to*



# Burnley Prayer Breakfast @St Stephen's

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

**SATURDAY 9th MAY at 9.00 am**



**ReFUEL &  
ReCONNECT**

*All Welcome!*



Telephone:  
07896 036542  
07738 412998

St Stephen's Church, Burnley Wood

# Film Friday

Friday 29th May at 7.00 pm

BASED ON THE EXTRAORDINARY TRUE STORY

## OPERATION MINCEMEAT



DECEPTION. THE GREATEST WEAPON IN WAR.

COLIN FIRTH    MATTHEW MACFADYEN    KELLY MACDONALD    PENELOPE WILTON    JOHNNY FLYNN    AND    JASON ISAACS



# Children's Page

## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



BiblePuzzles.com

Galatians 5:22-23

**FAITHFULNESS**  
**GENTLENESS**  
**GOODNESS**  
**JOY**  
**KINDNESS**  
**LOVE**



**PATIENCE**  
**PEACE**  
**SELF-CONTROL**



## Our Young People!

The last few months have been very busy, in a myriad of ways, for our young members.

We have seen Wake Up and Worship move to an All Age Eucharist with our young people involved. It is lovely to see the Rainbow and Brownie members present their flag (we will have a Guide as well when Elena finishes her stage production) and we are working constantly on encourage more to join us. The children are getting involved in the worship and, crucially, learning what a full service looks and feels like.

Other sessions in Lent looked at signposts which led to wrong and right paths. The team enjoyed discussing all the various signposts with the children and considering how we can all use our faith in every part of our life.

If that is not enough, we also have a small group now attending regularly for the Midweek Worship Session where they get so much more opportunity to find out all about the Eucharist. They know what all the pots and pans are really called which are used on the altar and also what the various cloths are for (we would like to know how big some of these flies really are – don't understand then you will have to join us to find out!). They also serve, read, lead us in prayers. Genuinely please do come along and join us to find out for yourself.

*/continued ...*

We really cannot forget the Messy Easter on the Tuesday of Holy Week.—At 9.20am there was slight panic that there was only one young member present but we needn't have worried as people then starting turning up throughout the event, meaning we had approx. 35 young people participate in a range of activities; temple archway building, fruit palm trees, Judas coins, nail art hearts, prayers, planting and helping to prepare the Easter Garden. Every activity was supported by teaching to explain what it meant but presented with much joy and laughter. The event wrapped up with a short service before hot dogs and drinks and then everybody got busy to get the church cleared up ready for a wedding on the Thursday.

Finally, to wrap up a busy season, we apologise if there was a lot of noise on Easter Sunday but that was a day for fun with an Easter Egg hunt, some games and, of course, a selection of chocolate eggs to take home and enjoy. OK, we recognise that not everything made it home but we did successfully pass them back to their parents before they started eating.

After a break of a week, we have been busy again as Freyja and Elena prepare for confirmation alongside Malcolm Maciver from St Peter's, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May at our church when we will welcome the Bishop. Please do support our candidates in this next stage of their journey.

## *Carol, Carrie, Emma and Nicola!*







*It was lovely to welcome a new member into our church family when Trinity was baptized at St Stephen's on 19th April  
Welcome to the family, Trinity!*



**Messy**  
PENTECOST

# Who is the Holy Spirit?



St Stephen's Church, Burnley

**Tuesday 26th May**

🕒 10:00am – 12:00pm



**Crafts**



**Games**



**Bible Stories**



**Food**

## All Welcome!

Come along for fun, creativity, and learning together!



**SUMMER  
FAIR**



**SATURDAY 27TH JUNE**

**11.00 - 1.00 PM**



**FREE ENTRY**

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

AT

**ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH**

**BURNLEY WOOD**

**STALLS, GAMES, REFRESHMENTS ... AND MUCH MORE**

All Welcome