



# the link

The Parish Magazine of The United Benefice of St Peter & St Stephen, Burnley  
JULY/AUGUST 2026

And they're off!

A Benefice Trip to  
Blackpool Zoo, 2026



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



*You're invited to*



# Burnley Prayer Breakfast @St Stephen's

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

**SATURDAY 11th JULY at 9.00 am**

*this month ...*

# Goal!!!



*All Welcome!*

Telephone:  
07896 036542  
07738 412998



# 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	
<b>CHURCH WARDENS:</b> Mrs Sandra Davies Mr Jason Walsh	☎ 545818 ☎ 07554 154240	<b>CHURCH WARDEN:</b> Mrs Jean Beeston	☎432986
<b>ASSISTANT WARDEN</b> Mrs Meena Tomlinson	☎ 07806 623466	<b>ASSISTANT WARDENS</b> Mr Paul Hannah Mrs Edith Meek Mrs Anita Fossey	☎07967 644709 ☎456170
<b>PCC SECRETARY</b> Mr Andrew Buchanan	☎07565 347524	<b>PCC SECRETARY:</b> Mrs Anita Fossey	☎07939 486712
<b>ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER</b> Mrs Joan Ainsworth	☎07971 711250	<b>BUILDING OFFICER</b> Mr Keith Pounder	☎07812 941801
<b>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:</b> Mr Philip Tomlinson	☎777132	<b>ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER</b> Mrs Pam McGrath	☎07738 412998
<b>VISION TEAM:</b> Mrs Joan Ainsworth (Making Disciples) Mrs Meena Tomlinson (Inspiring Children & Young People) Mr Alan Roadley (Growing Leaders)	☎07971 711250 ☎07806 623466 ☎07588 556640	<b>VISION CHAMPION:</b> Mrs Linda Pounder	☎414390
<b>MOTHERS' UNION:</b> Mrs Carol Waddington	☎ 07846 139241	<b>MOTHERS' UNION:</b> Mrs Beverley Laycock (Branch Leader) Mrs Jackie Cosway (Secretary)	☎543766 ☎411967
<b>INTERIM SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:</b> Mrs Barbara Hasty	☎ 07783006284	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL:</b> Mrs Emma Hopley	☎07968 782210
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL (DJs):</b> Mrs Meena Tomlinson	☎777132	<b>HEADTEACHER:</b> Ms Laura Rostron	☎427848
<b>HEADTEACHER:</b> Mrs Law	☎426873	<b>SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:</b> Mrs Barbara Hasty	☎07783006284
<b>FLOWER GUILD:</b> Mrs Alice Binns	☎789632	<b>VERGER</b> Mrs Edith Meek	☎456170
<b>BELFRY</b> Dr Andrew Sibson		<b>CHURCH FLOWERS:</b> Mrs Jennifer Pollard	
<b>Kitchen/Catering Manager</b> Mrs Cynthia Bramley	☎ 07903 341700		

**CHURCH MAGAZINE EDITOR: :**

Mrs Pam McGrath: Email: pamelamcgrath1@hotmail.com

## *In this issue*

### Page

- 2 Burnley Prayer Breakfast
- 3 Who's Who
- 4 Fellowship in the Benefice
- 5 From The Rectory
- 7 St Peter's Churchwardens
- 8 In the Loop - St Stephen's Wardens
- 11 Puppet Ministry
- 12 Saturday Morning Concerts
- 14 St Stephen's Mothers' Union
- 16 An Outing to Blackpool Zoo
- 18 St Peter's Sunday School
- 20 Making Room for God
- 22 St Peter's Holiday Club
- 24 Let's Talk Corsets!
- 26 Churches Together in Burnley
- 27 Pastoral Home Visits Team  
A Prayer for our Children & Teachers
- 28 A Special Baptism at St Stephen's
- 29 Save the Date! Parish Mission Weekend
- 30 Children's Page
- 31 Caring for God's Acre
- 32 Messy Holiday Club at ST Stephen's
- 33 Messy Science
- 34 St Stephen's Sunday School
- 36 Take Your Kids to Church

## **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

**PLEASE CHECK WHATSAPP  
AND FACEBOOK DURING  
AUGUST AS SOME EVENTS  
MAY NOT BE HAPPENING!**

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





# From the Rectory



Dear Friends,

As we move into the summer months, I'm struck again by how deeply the rhythm of the Church year mirrors the rhythm of our own lives. After the intensity of Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost, the long stretch of "Ordinary Time" can feel quieter—yet it is often in these gentler weeks that God does some of the most patient and transformative work.

Summer invites us to slow down, to notice, to breathe. It gives us space to look back with gratitude and look forward with hope. And it reminds us that faith is not only found in the big moments, but in the steady, faithful, everyday walk with Christ.

## **A Season of Growth**

In our gardens, everything is growing—sometimes faster than we can keep up with. The same is true in the life of our churches. Over the past months, we've seen new faces, new energy, and new possibilities at both St Stephen's and St Peter's. I'm grateful for every person who has offered time, prayer, creativity, or simply a willingness to show up. Growth in the Kingdom of God rarely looks dramatic; more often, it looks like small, faithful acts that quietly bear fruit.

## **Rest, Renewal, and Reconnection**

Many of us will take holidays or short breaks over July and August. Whether you travel far or stay close to home, I pray that this summer brings you rest for your body, refreshment for your spirit, and opportunities to reconnect—with God, with loved ones, and with yourself.

If this season is difficult for you—if you are carrying grief, loneliness, or worry—please know that you are not forgotten. The quieter months can sometimes make our struggles feel louder. You are held in prayer, and you are always welcome to reach out.

## **Looking Ahead**

As we enjoy the slower pace of summer, we also look ahead to the autumn, when our shared life will gather momentum again. Plans are already forming

*/continued*

for the new school year, harvest celebrations, community events, and opportunities for worship and learning. I'm excited for what God is preparing among us. On Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, we are having a Benefice Ceilidh at St Peter's starting at 6 pm, a chance to celebrate the season of Harvest and have some fun. Tickets will be on sale soon.

But for now, let's receive the gift of these weeks. Let's allow God to speak in the stillness, to surprise us in the ordinary, and to renew us for the work ahead.

### **A Prayer for Summer**

*Lord of all seasons, Bless us with rest where we are weary, Hope where we feel uncertain, Joy where life has grown heavy, And peace in the days ahead. May we grow in faith, love, and trust, and walk closely with you this summer and always. Amen.*

*Fr Andrew*



## **A & B MILLIGAN COAL MERCHANTS**



**Dean Mill, Plumbe Street, Burnley, BB11 3AG**

**☎ 01282 450013**

**Stocking all Multi-fuel Stoves, Wood Burners, Rayburn  
A Massive range of all Spare Parts, Grates and  
Door Glass Liners and Bunkers and Accessories.**

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



## Churchwardens' News from St Peter's

Hello everyone,

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held in May and provided an opportunity for members of the congregation to review the life and work of the parish over the past year. Reports were received from across the church community, and elections were held for the Parochial Church Council and other roles, ensuring continued lay leadership and support for the parish's mission.

On Trinity Sunday, our sidespersons were formally sworn in during the parish service. This annual commissioning marks the beginning of their ministry for the coming year and provides an opportunity to recognise and thank them for their important role in welcoming worshippers and assisting with the smooth running of services. We are grateful for their commitment and service to our church community.

It was interesting to meet with our newly appointed church architect, Zoe Hooton, at the beginning of June, whose appointment was confirmed at the last PCC meeting. During an initial discussion, a number of ideas were explored for the future development of the church, including potential improvements to the churchyard and driveway, the rear of the church, and a major overhaul of the organ. While these plans are still at an early stage, the conversation was encouraging and highlighted opportunities to enhance both the fabric of the church and the facilities available to the wider community.

As we move into the summer months, many of our regular church activities take a well-earned break. While the pace of parish life may be a little quieter, our worship continues as usual, and all are warmly welcome to join us. We wish everyone a happy and restful summer holiday, whether you are travelling away or enjoying time closer to home, and we look forward to the return of our full programme of activities in the autumn.

Take care,

With warmest wishes,

*Sandra and Jason*

# In The Loop

... with Anita, Emma, Paul & Edith



Hello everyone, we hope that you are all keeping well despite the weather not being very summery yet! We will soon be at the Summer Solstice (21<sup>st</sup> June) and as you know after that things start to turn back towards autumn! Best not to dwell and speculate on the weather, which is of course a great British tradition!

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING/ COMING UP ...

Jean Beeston has stood down as Church Warden after many years of service. She will still be around undertaking all the many jobs she has been doing for many years – including sitting on her tuffet on Sundays playing the organ beautifully. Thank you so much Jean! The retirement of both Jean and Keith as Church Wardens has left big shoes to fill not just because of all the work they have done around church for many years, but also because of the knowledge they both have of the church and congregation. This leads me to announce that we- Anita Fossey and Emma Hopley have been elected as Church Wardens. We have been very grateful for all the help and support that has already been offered from both Jean, Keith, Fr Andrew and Pam and many other friends at St Stephen's – it is much appreciated. Please pray for us as we embark upon this journey

together.

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

This was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> May and was well attended. The accounts were presented by Philip Walmsley and various other items of church life discussed on the agenda including the electoral role which now stands at 69.

## CONFIRMATION SERVICE

It was lovely to be part of the service of Confirmation with Eucharist of three people in our church – Elena, Freya and Malcom. The Bishop of Burnley, the Rt Revd Joe Kennedy, led the service and once again remarked on how wonderfully welcoming our church always is! We enjoyed fellowship together after the service by serving tea and coffee and delicious cakes – always a winner!

## SUMMER FAIR

The Summer Fair will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> June and this year will be held in church. There will be the usual barbecue, tombola, raffle, games, craft stall and much more.

*/continued*

Everyone is welcome and hopefully a good time will be had by all!

## **FABRIC OF THE CHURCH**

The church clock is about to be fixed thanks to kind donations from the congregation and the PCC. This work will be carried out on the 15<sup>th</sup> June.

## **QI REPORT**

This has now been received and the Buildings Committee will be meeting very soon to discuss the outcome of this and any works that will need to be addressed.

## **CLEANING TEAMS**

Additional help is need on our cleaning team so if you feel you can help in any way, (only an hour every three weeks), please see a warden for further information.



Just to remind you that the notice board at the back of church holds lots of information of upcoming events (as does this magazine so please take a copy home with you and one for a friend)!

Finally, we extend our thanks to Fr Andrew for all he does not just for our Benefice but for continuing to cover services, baptisms, funerals etc. in other churches in the Burnley Deanery – not forgetting he is also Area Dean! We pray that God will continue to bless, guide and sustain him in his ministry.

That's all for now, we hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, when it



finally arrives. Take care of yourself and each other!

*Anita, Emma, Paul, and Edith*

## *Cake My Day*



*by Emma*

Cupcakes  
Brownies  
Birthday Cakes  
Christening Cakes  
Cakes for most occasions

☎ 07968 782210

Email:  
emmahopley70@gmail.com

*Happy*  
  
*Cleaning*

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

**Contact:** Helen Laycock

**Tel:** 07971 788 781

**Email:** happycleaning@mail.com

## **Puppet Ministry**

“Wow”

“Aren’t they good”

Just a couple of comments made about the puppet show at the Pentecost Children’s Workshop at St Peter’s.

They were excellent, especially considering that 2 of the 4 girls had never seen the puppets before that day.



They told the story of the Day of Pentecost, mostly narrated but with some input from Peter and other disciples. We had rushing wind, dancing flames and we even had one girl speaking in Arabic, Spanish and Serbian as the disciples spoke in different languages. I was really pleased and proud of all four.

Isabel particularly is really keen and excellent at teaching the younger girls how to use the puppets so she is now taking on the task of rehearsing them and it’s great to see someone young taking responsibility.


The puppets also sang and danced to the last hymn at the June All-age Service and will be performing at all the summer school holiday workshops.

Meena took a video of the performance and sent it to Sarah Earnshaw, the Diocesan Children’s Work head. She was pleased to hear that I had followed up on the puppet workshop and that we were now using them and would pass it on to the man who ran the workshop."

It’s good to see them being used at last.

***Carol Waddington***

St Peter’s Church

 **Saturday Morning  
Concerts at St Peter's**



**Saturday morning concerts - music worth getting up for!**

On 4th July we welcome the return of Seán Ruane and pupils, who will be performing a variety of popular songs. They will be joined by the St Peter's Young Singers, directed by Meena Tomlinson.

On 25th July, classical guitarist, Richard Haslam will be entertaining us with a programme which includes the popular Variations on a theme of Handel by Mauro Giuliani, Bagatelles by Sir William Walton, and to put us in a summer holiday mood, works by Spanish composer, Francisco Tarrega.

There are no concerts in August, with the autumn season commencing on 5th September with a recital by the brilliant young pianist, Dominic Downs.

Concerts begin at 11am with admission of £7 (free for U18s) which includes refreshments, served from 10.30am. Free parking is available in the school yard on Rawcliffe Street, BB11 2DL, with disabled parking in the church grounds.

We are grateful for the support of the Stocks Massey Bequest.

*Philip.*



Springwood Road, Burnley, BB10 4HR  
Tel: 01282 832271

**EXPERIENCE A TRUE PLANT-BASED GARDEN CENTRE**  
Offering a huge variety of plants and gardening products at great prices.



**We have something for every season**  
**Relax and browse our extensive site.**



**Our friendly team are always on hand to help and advise you on all your gardening needs.**



70A LYNDHURST ROAD, BURNLEY, BB10 4DE, TEL 458936

THE HOME OF CREATIVE BUTCHERY

SERVING YOUR FAMILY FOR OVER 40 YEARS

Browse our products and meat hampers: [www.hevsfamilybutchers.co.uk](http://www.hevsfamilybutchers.co.uk)

Like our Facebook page for ideas to inspire you: [www.facebook.com/hevsfamilybutchers](http://www.facebook.com/hevsfamilybutchers)

Prime, locally sourced beef, pork & lamb, home cooked meats and a vast selection of multi award winning sausages, plus much more to inspire all the family. We are noted for our friendly reliable service.

Start saving early for Christmas with our savings cards that can be topped up and used anytime throughout the year, or give that special someone a [Hevs gift card](#).



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

### **LOOKING BACK**

Thank you Anita for being our speaker for May. Anita shared with us her journey into teaching. We found it very interesting and it was a real insight into the demanding and challenging world of being an educator. Anita had had her first child when she decided to train for teaching. It wasn't easy, by the sound of it, as it involved studying for her degree and post graduate certificate to enable her to teach whilst bringing up a young family.

Reverend Frances Guite was due to speak to us in June. However, is now scheduled to speak at our November meeting.

### **LOOKING FORWARD**

July is our Summer Outing month.—For our visit to **Gordon Riggs** in July it has been decided to have lunch over the road from the main garden centre in Bottoms' Mill upstairs in the Cotton Weavers' Cafe. We can choose and pay for our meals on the day. Lifts to the garden centre will be arranged for those of us who require them.

### **UP AND COMING DATES**

**Saturday 18th July: 10am to 12 noon - Coffee Morning in Church** in aid of the new MU caravan. A £2 ticket buys you a hot drink and a biscuit. There will be a raffle and cake sale. Please bake or buy a cake and don't forget to come along!

**Saturday 8th August :150th Mothers' Union Anniversary at Blackburn Cathedral.** - The service is at 2pm. However, if you could come along in the morning to help with the children's activities that would be great.

**Sunday 9th August, 4pm in church** - We would like MU members to meet together for a short while to light a candle and say a prayer for Mary Sumner Day. Karen Foreman, our Deanery rep, has organised the putting together of the candle and prayer cards.

### **LET'S CELEBRATE** 🎂👩🏻

Happy Birthday for the month of July to Helen Laycock on the 4th, Janet Barritt on the 8th and Pauline Lockwood on the 22nd,

/continued ...

Many happy returns to our August birthday ladies, Barbara Baldwin on the 5th, Judith Kershaw on the 8th Linda Pounder on the 16th and Lillian Stanton on the 28th.

Happy anniversary to Elaine and Jim Taberner for when they celebrate on the 12th July and to Barbara Baldwin as she celebrates with her husband on the 17th August.

*Jackie*

**St Stephen's Church** 

**coffee morning**

**Saturday 18th July**

**10.00 am – 12 noon**  
In St Stephen's Community Room  
Smalley Street

**Tickets £2.00**  
(Includes first cuppa)

**Tea Coffee Cake**

**... Raffle prizes**



## An Outing to Blackpool Zoo

Our annual parish outing this year took us to Blackpool Zoo, and what a wonderful day it proved to be.

Despite a rather inclement start to the morning, spirits remained high as we set off together. Thankfully, the weather soon improved and by the afternoon the sun

was shining, allowing everyone to enjoy the zoo and its many attractions in comfort.

The trip was enjoyed by all, but perhaps especially by the children, who were delighted to see the wide variety of animals and wildlife. From the majestic lions and playful primates to the elephants and giraffes, there was plenty to capture the imagination and create lasting memories.



As I stood gazing at the lion enclosure, I could not help but be reminded of the famous Stanley Holloway monologue *Albert and the Lion*.

Many of us will remember the tale of young Albert Ramsbottom and his encounter with the lion at the zoo. Thankfully, our visit was rather less dramatic! There was no sign of Albert, and certainly no need for a stick with a horse's-head handle, but the memory brought a smile and added a touch of Lancashire nostalgia to the day.



One of the greatest joys of these parish outings is the opportunity they provide for fellowship and friendship. Throughout the day there was much laughter, conversation and the enjoyment of spending time together as a church family.

A special word of thanks must go to Linda and Father Andrew, who kindly prepared sandwiches and an abundance of treats for our return journey. Their thoughtfulness ensured that nobody went hungry on the journey home and their generosity was very much appreciated by everyone. It was a lovely gesture and a fitting end to a thoroughly enjoyable day.



We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Jeff Kay and the Rotary Club for their kind donation towards the cost of the trip. Their generosity helped make the outing possible and enabled many people to enjoy a memorable day together. Such support from our local community is greatly appreciated and reflects the wonderful spirit of partnership and goodwill that exists within Burnley.

We are grateful to all who helped organise the outing and to everyone who came along and made it such a success. Days such as

these remind us of the importance of community, friendship and sharing time together outside our regular worship and parish activities.

We look forward to next year's parish outing and to creating many more happy memories together.

*Keith Pounder*

*St Stephen's Church*





## Sunday School News from St Peter's

As the academic year comes to an end it's good to reflect on significant events . Several of our teenagers and their friends who are part of our wider group have sat GCSEs. Two of our Sunday School leave St Peter's school moving on to Clitheroe Grammar and St Christopher's. Two children have moved mid term to new schools. We've had nursery starters, new babies on the way and siblings finishing university. Life continues to move on and with it comes excitement, eager anticipation and some nervousness. Last Sunday's reading showed us that Jesus sent his disciples out with a reminder that things may not be easy. We discussed being outside our comfort zone and how that feels and who supports us at these times. Jessica's beautiful shield perfectly shows us that God always walks alongside us.



I've been thinking about Jeremiah and God's inspirational words *'I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you , plans to give you hope and a future'* . This is my prayer for all our youngsters whatever their age .

We are looking forward to the Mission weekend in September as the Diocese celebrates 100 years. Their slogan 'All for Jesus' is simple and a mantra that is exactly right. Our holiday club will be basing itself on three stories all about Jesus. This will lead into the mission weekend where we begin on Friday September 11<sup>th</sup> with St Peter's School celebrating in church. In the evening we will be having a Youth event, hopefully outside, before our celebrations on Saturday and Sunday.

Many thanks for the generous gifts given to our Sunday School. Gifts of food and money to buy treats, and all the support from those who help each week and in our holiday clubs. I am extremely grateful.

We look forward to a summer of sunshine and lots of happiness .

Love from

Meena & all in the Sunday School



*Our Sunday All-Age Service in June*



*Young Singers' practice*



*Our Holiday Club was lively and busy with stories sending messages of Good News out with paper aeroplanes, making wind chimes, singing, eating, blowing bubbles for the Holy Spirit outside, and our puppet team read us a story.*

*Our Sunday morning Service*





## Making Room for God

Last month at the Burnley Prayer Breakfast I spoke about how busy our lives can be. When we retire, it can sometimes feel as though we are even busier than when we were working.

We need to know when to say no, but not to time with God. Where does God fit into our busy lives? Do we come to church on a Sunday and think, “That’s me done for the week”? Or do we include God in each day and intentionally make time for Him?

Whether we think of making time for God through prayer, reflection, silence, or reading His Word, it is not just another task to squeeze into an already crowded schedule. If it becomes that, it loses its purpose. Time with God is meant to re-centre us, not compete with our to-do list.

Someone once said: “No matter how busy life gets, we must make space for God. When we give Him our time—whether through prayer, worship, or reading His Word—we gain clarity and peace. God doesn’t want to be squeezed into the leftover corners of our day. He wants to be part of our routine. Even a few intentional minutes spent with Him can ground us and remind us of who we are and what really matters.”

After the Prayer Breakfast, a few people told me that what I had said, resonated with them. Sue shared that she carried a reading with her wherever she went. It was something she could turn to in a quiet moment, a reminder of God’s presence in the middle of a busy day. I thought that was a wonderful example. We often imagine that spending time with God requires a special place or a large amount of time. But sometimes it can be as simple as carrying a verse, a prayer, or a short reading that brings our attention back to Him.

The challenge is not finding more hours in the day. The challenge is inviting God into the hours we already have. Whether we are at home, travelling, meeting friends, looking after grandchildren, or simply getting on with everyday life, God is there.

Perhaps we might ask ourselves: what would help us remember God’s presence during the day? A favourite Bible verse? A daily prayer? A few moments of silence? Whatever form it takes, the important thing is that we make room for Him, not just on Sunday, but every day. For when we make

time for God, we often discover that He has been making time for us.

Linda P

**'But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be added to you.'**

*I got up early one morning  
And rushed right into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I didn't have time to pray.*

*Problems just tumbled about me,  
And heavier came each task.  
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.  
He answered, "You didn't ask"*

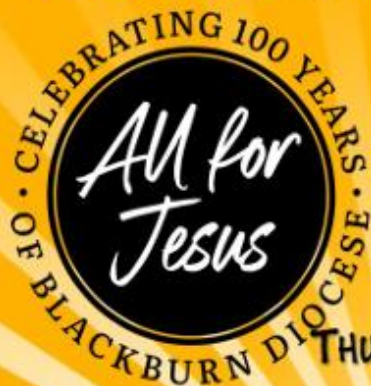
*I wanted to see joy and beauty,  
But the day toiled on grey and bleak,  
I wondered why God didn't show me.  
He said "But you didn't seek".*

*I tried to come into his presence;  
I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
"My child, you didn't knock".*

*I woke up early this morning,  
And paused before entering the day.  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I had to take time to pray.*

(Author Unknown)

St Peter's Church, Burnley invite you to



# holiday club

THURSDAYS 10.00 am - 1.00 pm  
13th, 20th, 27th AUGUST

13th August:	The Calling of the Disciples
20th August:	Martha and Mary
27th August:	Zacchaeus



*All Welcome!*

PUPPET MINISTRY - CRAFTS - GAMES - PRAYERS

SINGING ... & LUNCH



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  
128 Rossendale Road, Burnley, BB11 5DH  
☎ 01282 427483

[www.aldersonandhoran.co.uk](http://www.aldersonandhoran.co.uk)

## Let's Talk Corsets! by Christine Harbour

I expect that anyone of a certain age may not remember those salmon pink corsets hanging on washing lines with their suspenders flapping in the breeze. However most people know about the Victorian corset era where those tiny waists were pulled in as any spare flesh was nipped in till the wearer could hardly breathe. I remember when I was young that a lady in our church became an agent for Spirella undergarments. A lot of eager women patronised her, whilst she carefully measured their ample bosoms and rounded tums.. Even my 8 stone Mum eagerly awaited her custom made new foundation garment!



Jesus talked about firm foundations in his parables. I think we all know about the house that was built on sand and the one that was built on rock (Matthew 7) Only the house with the strong foundation withstood the winds and storms of time. Do you remember the Lord saying to Peter "you are the Rock on which you shall build my church?" (Matthew 16). Foundations are very important. A family foundation of Christian love and values is a firm base. However many families do not have this ,and often lean towards the distractions and temporary fixes that lead them to a downward spiral of depression and anxiety. They have never known real love.

Last week I couldn't go to church through ill health. Instead I watched TBN Uk which is a Christian channel (available on Freeview 66). I was very inspired. Gregg Donaldson spoke about the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. In the last century of the Old Testament, Jerusalem had been destroyed and the Jews were exiled to Babylon.(Now Iraq) Can you imagine how they felt? Their beautiful city and temple just a heap of rubble. It was more than 50 years later when Babylon fell into the hands of the Persians



(as predicted in the scriptures) that Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to their homeland. The first thing they built was an altar to God so that worship and sacrifice could begin The pattern for this was laid down by Moses in Leviticus. Only then did they carefully lay down a firm foundation which was roughly on the same spot as the original temple. We hear that

the Jews sang and rejoiced and old men wept as the altar and foundations were laid to the glory of God. It was many years before the temple was finally completed, but the temple had a solid base on which to build!

God created us. Jesus saved us. The Holy Spirit infills us, and we have a church built on a Rock. For that we must sing and dance like those Jews. We as Christians need to place our lives on a firm footing. Standing firm on the rock of Gods promises. Laying our hearts on God's altar. He will strengthen us in our weakness. Make us bold in our witness. Only then will God's light shine into a world of darkness. Destruction is all around us. Gaza, Ukraine, Syria, Jordan, The Yemen and many more. Subjugation violence and suppression is rife. But the God of the Old Testament is alive here and now In the form of the Living God ,Jesus. He can infill us with Holy Spirit through times of sickness, anxiety, uncertainty, wars and climate change .His flowers still bloom through our rain and winds. His birds still sing. The mornings bring the daylight and the darkness gives us rest. He stands on His promise that he will never leave us or forsake us.

May God's spirit fill you with love and joy in these troubled times. My prayer is that our Christian churches may unite in the love of Jesus to form an impenetrable shield against the darkness of these uncertain times. Love and blessings.

Christine H.





The work of Churches Together in Burnley continues to grow and at the last meeting, held at St Stephen's, much focus was on the upcoming Canal Week event, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August.

Following the success of last year, a similar format will follow with prayer and breakfast at St Stephen's each morning (where Tammy will once again undertake canine vacuuming duties). Look out for your opportunities to enjoy a pie & peas evening on the Monday, a canal trip on the Tuesday (following Messy Church) and make sure you come to enjoy the Fun Day (complete with Bishop Philip) on the Saturday! Get the dates booked in your diary.

The recently advertised Ramble Round Rowley, organised by Carol and Fr David, was a lovely evening. 17 people came to Ramble before enjoying a quiet drink on a warm evening at the Thornton Arms.



Get the date for the annual blessing of the Crib in the town centre in your diary now – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 12.30 – so we can raise the roof of the Market Hall and watch out for details of our Harvest Event.

Carol P

## Pastoral Home Visits Team

Our team continues to be active with visits to our housebound friends around Burnley, both in their own homes or in Nursing Homes.

Our monthly Bank Hall visit took place the day after England's victory in their opening game. Our service is always in the cinema room and it was decorated for the World Cup. Invited, before the service, to get into the spirit, Alan and Carol posed in England headwear to the amusement of the residents. It is always a joy to celebrate communion with our friends and also to enter into the spirit of things that are taking place in the Homes.



Carol P

### *A Prayer for our Children and their Teachers*

*This summer we pray for a  
refreshment of mind and body.*

*We pray for joy, love, and safety.*

*We pray that we count  
our many blessings.*

*We pray that we share our  
blessings with others.*

*We pray that we enjoy and relish  
each moment of sunshine and fun.*



## *A Special Baptism at St Stephen's*

Although all Baptisms are special, it was extra special to be able to join with Julie as she was baptized at St Stephen's recently.

Julie has become a regular member of the congregation at St Stephen's and it's lovely to see her at other activities throughout the week.

## *Congratulations, Julie!*



Save DATE THE  
Date

# PARISH MISSION WEEKEND

FRIDAY 11TH - SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

**Saturday 12th September:**  
**2.00 - 5.00 pm**  
**at St Stephen's**  
**Fun Day**

**Sunday 13th September:**  
**10.30am at St Peter's**  
**Centenary Eucharist**  
**with The Most Reverend &**  
**Right Honourable**  
**Stephen Cottrell,**  
**Archbishop of York.**

THE  
DIOCESE  
OF BLACKBURN  
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN LANCASHIRE

*Spread the Word!!*





# Children's Page

Summer may be a time for fun and relaxing, but we need to exercise the brains God gave us!

Count the objects:



Fill in the missing numbers:



What letter do all of these things start with?



Color the seashells to create a pattern:



Have a grown-up help you read this Bible verse:

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens"  
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Read the verse 3 more times. Check the boxes after you read it:



Pray and thank God for giving us summer!

"Thank-you God for the blessing of summer!"



## Flowers of the meadow - Time to Make Hay

For those of us who love wildflowers, painful decisions are needed in July and August as this is the time to cut our wildflower meadows, whether in the churchyard or elsewhere. Meadows are left to grow long for 3 to 4 months during the spring and summer and then cut with scythe or strimmer and raked up. The difficulty arises in that there are always lovely flowers still there when the cut comes, and it is hard to cut them down.

To help with this dilemma, remember that we are copying traditional hay-making, which takes place when grass is still green, vigorous and full of nutrients for stock to eat, but also when the weather is likely to be dry enough to make hay successfully.

But what about the seeds, dropping to the ground for next year's flowers? If we cut down flowers, maybe there won't be seeds? Actually, most species within a traditional meadow are perennial, so they continue to grow from year to year regardless of seeding. This explains why the wildflowers persist in short mown grass in churchyards, providing the grass cuttings are removed so the soil doesn't become too rich for them.

An exception to this is Yellow Rattle which is an annual so grows each year anew from seed. This flowers early and drops its seed in June or early July so won't be lost from the sward by cutting from mid-July onwards.

If you can't bear to cut down late flowering species such as scabious, then leave these patches for later, but do aim to have other meadow areas cut, raked and ready for the autumn fungi by mid-August if you can.

*Flower-rich churchyard grassland*



# St Stephen's Church

Oxford Road, Burnley BB11 3JA

Invite you to



## THE OLYMPICS

*Run the Race*



**Saturday 25th July**

**10.00 am–12 noon**

**Crafts**

**Games**

**Bible Stories**

**Food!**

*All Welcome!*



# St Stephen's Church

Oxford Road, Burnley, BB11 3JA



invite you to



# DOES SCIENCE!

# holiday club

With  
**Messy Breakfast**

On  
**Tuesdays**  
**9.30 - 11.00 am**

**21st/28th July**

**4th/11th/18th/25th August**



*All Welcome!*



You might have noticed that the Sunday School areas of the community room have all been refreshed with changes to our display boards and nice tidy shelves and cupboards.

Carol, Emma and Elena spent a busy morning having a really good sort out and 5½ sacks of rubbish

later, the results are clear to see!

The refreshing of the area is a huge benefit, making it easier to know what resources we already have (and to find them easily) both on Sundays and at our Messy Workshops.

The time for refreshing has also extended to the “business” side of things with a new suite of Risk Assessments to cover all the youth work in Church. These can now be maintained as we continue with our activities.

At the time of writing, we are due to do our Messy Workshop called “Ssshh It’s a Secret” and the team have had fun preparing for this! Messy Church resources are a great set of resources to use alongside Roots, giving us plenty of ideas to use. The overlap with Brownie activities is an added bonus as things can often be borrowed from their equipment for use. We are also planning to hold a weekly event on a Tuesday morning throughout the summer holidays using the Messy Science resources.

As ever, our numbers vary weekly but we always manage to come up with ideas for both our younger and older members at our Sunday Sessions. We hope you are also enjoying seeing their increased presence and involvement in the Wake Up & Worship Services. This will continue to grow as their skills and confidence develops.

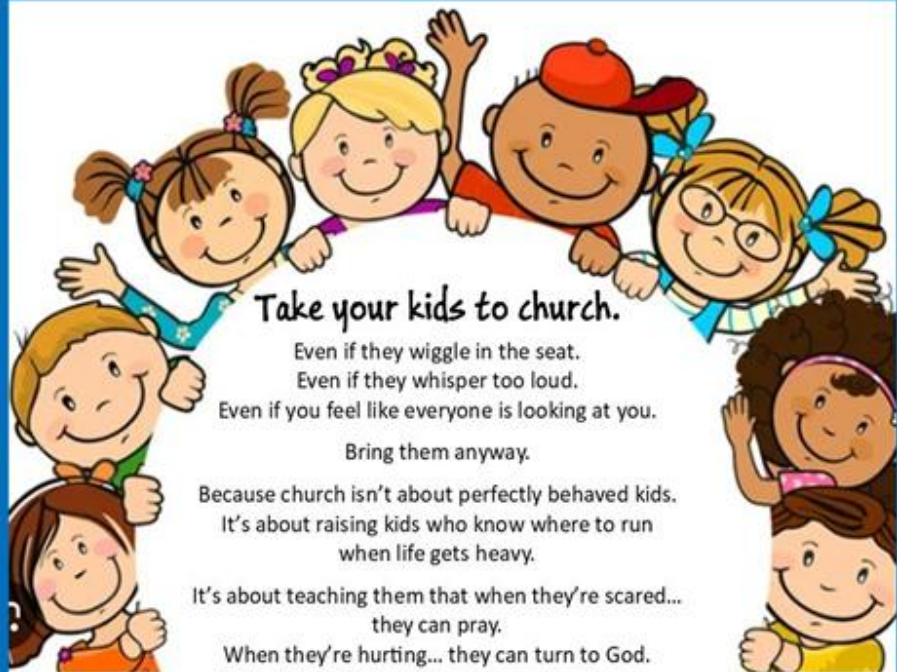
Our midweek communion continues to see our younger members enjoying engaging in all parts of the service. Their knowledge about everything used in the service has grown and grown and the relaxed feel of these services is an absolute joy. If you need an uplifting 30 minutes, please do come and join us.

*Carol, Carrie, Emma and Nicola!*



Fun at our Pentecost  
Sunday service  
and lots of crafty things to  
make at our new monthly  
Messy Church in June ...  
Ssh! It's a Secret.





## Take your kids to church.

Even if they wiggle in the seat.  
Even if they whisper too loud.  
Even if you feel like everyone is looking at you.

Bring them anyway.

Because church isn't about perfectly behaved kids.  
It's about raising kids who know where to run  
when life gets heavy.

It's about teaching them that when they're scared...  
they can pray.

When they're hurting... they can turn to God.  
When they feel lost... they know where to go.

And if you haven't gone in a long time... that's okay.  
If it's been years... that's okay too.  
If you've never taken them before... that's okay.

You can start now.

Your kids don't need a perfect parent leading them.  
They just need a parent who's willing.

Let them see you worship.

Let them see you pray.

Let them see you trust God even when you don't have all the answers.

Because one Sunday can turn into a habit.  
And a habit can turn into a foundation.

And that foundation might be the very thing that carries them through the  
hardest moments of their lives one day.

So if you've been feeling that little tug in your heart lately...  
maybe this is your sign.

Take your kids to church.  
God will meet you there.

