

St Peter's Church, Burnley

Christingle

**Sunday, 4th February
at 11.00 am**

All are invited!
All are welcome!



The
Children's
Society

No child
should feel
alone



the link

The Parish Magazine of The United Benefice of St Peter & St Stephen, Burnley
FEBRUARY 2024

*"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)*



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 14th February

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

You're invited to a post-Christmas
Lunch at Christine's
Sunday 18th February

What's on the Menu?

Home-made Meat & Potato Pie
 with Mushy Peas & Beetroot Relish
 Peach Cobbler with Custard/Ice Cream
 Tea or Coffee

Places are limited so book your place now with Christine
Tel: 07725 033257

All DONATIONS will support our Ambassadors' Charities
Christians Against Poverty (CAP) & Pendleside Hospice



Congratulations

to Ethel who recently celebrated her 90th Birthday. Our picture shows Ethel being presented with flowers from all her friends at St Peter's.

Many Happy Returns



WHO'S WHO IN THE BENEFICE?	
Rector of the United Benefice: Fr Andrew Holmes Tel: 07460 899451 Email: andrewinburnley@gmail.com	
ST PETER'S	ST STEPHEN'S
CHURCH WARDENS: Mrs Sandra Davies ☎ 434763 Mr Jason Walsh ☎ 07554 154240	CHURCH WARDENS: Mr Keith Pounder ☎414390 Mrs Jean Beeston ☎432986
VERGER Mr Stewart Hacking ☎ 438224	ASSISTANT WARDENS Mr Paul Hannah ☎07967 644709
PCC SECRETARY Mr Andrew Buchanan ☎07565 347524	PCC SECRETARY: Mrs Maureen Hanson ☎434865
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER Mrs Joan Ainsworth ☎07971 711250	VISION CHAMPION: Mrs Linda Pounder ☎414390
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Mr Philip Tomlinson ☎777132	MOTHERS' UNION: Mrs Beverley Laycock (Branch Leader) ☎543766 Mrs Jackie Cosway (Secretary) ☎411967
VISION TEAM: Mrs Joan Ainsworth (Making Disciples) ☎07971 711250 Mrs Meena Tomlinson (Inspiring Children & Young People) ☎07806 623466 Mrs Alan Roadley (Growing Leaders) ☎07588 556640	SUNDAY SCHOOL: Emma Hopley ☎07968 782210 Emma Barker ☎07789 952470
MOTHERS' UNION: Mrs Carol Waddington ☎ 07846 139241	HEADTEACHER: Mrs Jo Roberts ☎427848
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Mrs Cynthia Bramley ☎ 07903 341700	SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Mrs Barbara Hasty ☎07783006284
SUNDAY SCHOOL (DJS): Mrs Meena Tomlinson ☎777132	VERGER Mrs Edith Meek ☎456170
HEADTEACHER: Mrs Crowther ☎426873	CHURCH FLOWERS: Vacant
FLOWER GUILD: Mrs Alice Binns ☎789632	
BELFRY Mr Richard Parker ☎619906	
Kitchen/Catering Manager Mrs Cynthia Bramley	
CHURCH MAGAZINE EDITOR: : Mrs Pam McGrath: Email: pamelamcgrath1@hotmail.com	

**Don't forget - if you need anything,
 don't hesitate to contact us**

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Useful Information

Mechanics Theatre. Tuesday - Friday 11 -3.30 and Saturday 11 - 2.30. Cafe and first floor bar will be open for hot and cold drinks, snacks and meals.

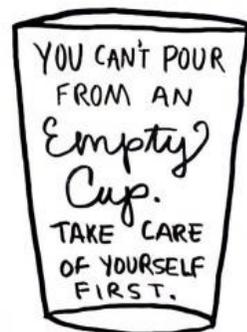
Saint Matthews Church, Harriet Street is open on Saturdays for free breakfast club, and on Wednesdays for for soup and sandwiches.

Gannow Community Centre provides free drinks and snacks Mondays and Thursdays 9-30 and Tuesday Wednesday and Fridays 1-3pm

The Hub in Padiham is open Monday -Friday 10-2pm for hot drinks, toast and daily activities.

Burnley Central Library is open Monday-Saturday 9-5 for reading, crafts and cultural events.

Barbara Marshall



Dear Friends,

Despite the cold, wet, and windy weather we have had lately, it is lovely to see that signs of spring are beginning to emerge. There are signs in the garden of new growth: early snowdrops and crocuses are appearing, and daffodil shoots are rising boldly up into the cold air, hopefully about to add a splash of colour to the ground. I'm sure they will be a welcome sight for many as they bring hope of the spring to come, of new beginnings, rebirth, and better, warmer weather.

On February 2nd (or the nearest Sunday, January 28th), the Church celebrates the festival of Candlemas, considered one of the oldest Christian festivals. It marks the light that comes to banish the darkness. Candlemas is halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox (so hopefully, lighter nights are not far away)!! Some people also believe it can predict the weather for the rest of winter.

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will have another fight.
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,
Winter won't come again.*

Candlemas is the day when people bring all the candles to be used throughout the year to church to be blessed. They ask for God's protection of their homes and families for the coming year. The lights of Candlemas are a reminder of the light of Christ shining in the darkness, bringing hope amid uncertain times.

At the beginning of John's Gospel, we are reminded that Jesus came to be a light in the darkness of this world and shine out as a sign of God's presence among us. 'The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.'

At Candlemas, we reflect upon the presentation of Christ in the Temple in Jerusalem and the recognition of Jesus by the elderly Simeon and Anna as Christ, the Messiah. When Simeon encounters Jesus, he declares:

'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.' (Luke 2:29-32)

/continued ...

Please ensure that all articles for inclusion in the March Magazine are submitted no later than
15th February
pamelamcgrath1@hotmail.com

Candlemas offers us the opportunity to look back over these past weeks of Christmastide, giving thanks to God for the gift of his son. Simeon sees that the child is the light to enlighten the nations. His words reveal that Jesus is the Messiah of all of God's people.

Later in February, on Racial Justice Sunday, February 11th, at 10.30 am at St Peter's, we have a special guest, Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, to preside and preach at our joint benefice Eucharist. I am sure we will be challenged to engage in the righteous struggle for racial justice for all. The Bible has much to say about justice because, as God's Word, it reflects God's heart for justice. It can be argued that we should love justice because God does! Racism and racial discrimination are justice issues because they deny basic human dignity to women and men who are made in the image of God. They assume all are not equal before God and are not part of God's family. As we strive to be an inclusive church where **All** are invited and welcome, let us say No to any prejudice of any kind and love as Christ loves us.

The coming of spring brings hope and the promise of new opportunities. So, in February, think about your hopes for the future, the new life, and the joys that may come.

Love and Blessings,

Fr Andrew

let's do
lunch
... and it's
'On the House!'
Every 2nd & 4th
Wednesday
14th & 28th
February
at
12.30 pm
at **St Stephen's Church**
Oxford Road
Burnley Wood
BB11 3JA
*just come along
at 12.30 pm!*



Churchwardens' News from St Peter's

Hello everyone,

Happy New Year to you all! On 20th February it will be a year since Fr Andrew was inducted as our new Rector. He has done a fine job since taking charge and it has been a pleasure to work with him over the last year. We look forward to many more years of continued growth and flourishing under his leadership.

We have been very busy over the Christmas period with a number of well-attended services and events taking place. The Nativity service on Christmas Eve was very popular, with the children, Young Singers and Meena doing an excellent job. Fr Andrew led our annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols in his first Christmas with us. It was good to see so many families here for the All Age service on Epiphany Sunday. All in all it has been a joyous few weeks with so many people working together to make all these things and more happen.

We are pleased to say the sound system in church has been upgraded with new lapel, hand and fixed microphones, and the ability to play music via Bluetooth. Our first service using the new system was a vast improvement, so hopefully the days of crackly, uneven sound are now behind us.

A water leak has occurred somewhere in the churchyard with a large volume of water being lost. It is covered by the insurance and we were advised that it should be dealt with promptly to avoid any charge for the water. Work is currently underway to locate and fix the leak.

We look forward to the visit of the Archbishop of York to St Peter's on 11th February when he will preside at our Benefice Eucharist service. It will be a privilege to welcome him, with guests and dignitaries invited to the service.

Many happy returns to Ethel on her 90th birthday. Ethel was presented with a basket of flowers and a card at the end of the service on 14th January, birthday cake was served afterwards and all the hymns in the service were chosen by her. A very fine selection if we may say so!

Take care,

Sandra and Jason

In The Loop

... with Keith, Jean & Paul

St Stephen's Churchwardens

We hope that you all enjoyed a peaceful Christmas and will have a healthy, happy and prosperous 2024. As we look forward to the coming months, here's just a short look back to what we achieved at the end of last year:

CHRISTMAS FAIR:

Well done everyone! Once again we raised a magnificent sum to boost our church funds! Our grateful thanks to all those who provided items for the stalls and tombola, and of course thank you to all those of you who came and spent your pennies! Philip and his kitchen team kept us all suitably fed and watered with tasty sandwiches, hot dogs, tea, coffee etc. Thank you to all those who helped to clear away at the end in readiness for the Sunday morning service – it is always a big help and very much appreciated. Our Christmas tree was a joy to behold – grateful thanks to Linda and Paul for the giving of their time to set it up and take it down – a super job! AND, Keith did his usual artistic flair with the crib, which is always a delight to see and offers a wonderful talking point for young and old alike. Thank you Keith!

Chris Powell Organ Concert:

We had a good turn out – so thank you to all who came to support this



event. Chris was, as usual, exceptionally entertaining giving us a wide variety of music, including Christmas carols and a glimpse of 'the proms'.

COMMUNITY ROOM LIGHTS

All has now been completed and, as many of you will have noticed, the new lighting in the Community Room has definitely made a huge difference – it's very bright in there!

MEMORIAL BOARD

Plans have been discussed at PCC and submitted to the Diocese; it is hoped that the board will be erected in the near future.

Our usual Wednesday events of Let's do Lunch and Friends, Food & Fun are now back up and running. On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays we have Friends, Food & Fun starting at 2:00 pm; there is a £5 donation, or whatever you feel you can donate.

Let's do Lunch is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 12:30 pm followed by a service of Holy Communion at 2:00 pm, when we are usually joined by a class of children from school.

The Bacon Butty Brigade is back at 10:00 am on the first Tuesday of each

/continued ...

month – an opportunity to keep on top of little maintenance jobs around the church. All are welcome, whether you've a particular skill or not!

SPRING IS ON ITS WAY

Yes, the days are getting longer, and have you noticed how the daffodils are shooting up through the soil in our Memorial Garden? We have our very own 'Alan Titchmarsh' – Jim (Taberner) – who keeps both the Memorial Garden and the Remembrance Garden (lower end of the car park) in tip top condition. Jim works very hard throughout the year doing all sorts of odd jobs, (not just the gardening) and so we extend our grateful thanks to him.



That's all for now....except to say a big thank you to ALL of you who help in any way to keep our church looking so good – it doesn't go unnoticed, as many recent visitors have expressed what a beautiful church we have!

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world."
(John 16:33)

Keith, Jean & Paul

Diary Dates

QUIZ NIGHT: Saturday 24 February in church - tickets (available from Pam or Linda) are £6.00, which includes a pie and peas supper (vegetarian option available).

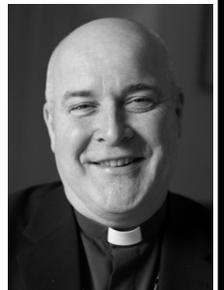
Please come along and support this event and enjoy a great night out – who knows, you might learn a thing or two!

SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

Bishop Philip has been busy plotting and scheming! On this date, our Benefice will be looking forward to welcoming the Archbishop of York, The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, to a joint Eucharist at St Peter's at 10:30 am.

The Archbishop particularly wanted to come to Burnley, and those who have been fortunate to hear him speak when he visited Blackburn Cathedral a couple of years ago, will tell you what an inspirational preacher he is, so we hope that as many of you as possible will come and meet the Church of England's '2nd-in-command'!

(NB: There will be no service at St Stephen's on this day.)



LOOKING BACK

I am beginning with a copy of the MU annual review of 2023 from this year's AGM.

"As I pause to order my thoughts before reviewing 2023 it is with a sad heart that I remember on your behalf the recent passing of Renie Pearson and of Christine Naughton's husband Terry. I am also pausing to think of members who are unwell and housebound. You and your families are in our thoughts and prayers.

To our annual review. It wasn't always easy to book speakers and I apologise for any resulting last minute changes. These things do happen.

Our programme for 2023 reflected a varied list of events. Back in February members enjoyed watching a walking day video from years gone by. Speakers have included Katie Delaney talking about Christians against Poverty. An interesting talk by Frank Bartram, Gordon Birtwistle's brother in law, enlightened us about the history and day to day running of The Palace of Westminster.

Wendy Delaney delivered an eye opening talk about Scams on behalf of Age UK. We had a chilling insight into the involvement of organised criminal gangs behind most scans. Other highlights included another chapter along Mitch's pilgrimage journey, a very well attended meeting where Gordon Birtwistle was our speaker and an interesting talk delivered by Reverend Francis.

We are fortunate to have such high calibre speakers, the majority of whom give their time and expertise for free.

Sharing fellowship and being with friends seems to be at the heart of our meetings and get togethers.

Finally, a big thank you to all our members for attending meetings and for

all your help and ideas."

LOOKING FORWARD

February 2024

Shrove Tuesday Traditions around the World. Please save room after your tea for some pancakes. This is a do it ourselves session so if you have the time, it would be great if you could unearth a tradition to share.

FEBRUARY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Tuesday 13th at 2.00 pm in the community room - Shrove Tuesday Traditions around the World - with pancakes!

FEBRUARY 2024 CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthday wishes go out to Gwen Sharratt on the 3rd.



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

FEBRUARY IN THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF ST PETER'S

- 2nd John Swinnerton, Albert Edward Potts
- 5th Daisy Matthews, William Henry Matthews, Brian Jessop
- 7th Benjamin Yates, Amelia Smith, Peter Charles Kaltobert
Keith Rodney Clegg
- 8th Every Holt Parker
- 9th Harold Green, James Greenwood
- 10th Amy Rae, Alice Boothman, Emily Smith, James Saul,
Francis Gordon Shoesmith
- 12th John Edward Chapman, Edwin Baker, Norman George Altham,
John Alfred Smith
- 13th Martin Patrick Macdonald
- 14th Edith Ann Baker, Fred Hargreaves
- 16th Louisa Jobling, Sandra Lawson
- 17th Leonard Thomas Perry
- 18th Annie Pollard, Elspeth Parker Grant
- 19th Mary Wright
- 20th Caroline Pollard, John Barritt
- 21st Pauline Mabel West, Margaret Noel Payne, Margery Law
- 22nd Annie Tomlinson, Douglas Frederick Clavell-Bate,
Gwendoline Doris Baker
- 23rd Muriel Foulds
- 24th John Sagar, Ann Jobling
- 26th Jennie Beet
- 27th Jane Layfield, Arthur Fielden
- 28th George Edward Caton



*"I am the resurrection and the life
The one who believes in me will live,
even though they die." (John 11:25)*

FEBRUARY IN THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF ST STEPHEN'S

- 1st John Hargreaves, Willie Brown
- 2nd Nellie Riding
- 3rd Oswald Henry Healey, Elizabeth Ann Gowers
- 4th Benjamin Joshua Fielding, Alice Towler, Winifred S. Stone
- 5th Ben Herbert Richmond, Martha Thompson, George Jacques, Hazel Phethean
- 6th Margaret Agnes Whittaker
- 7th Edward Alexander Mackay, Florence Ackroyd, John Scholes, Mary Brown
- 8th Alfred Arthur Allen
- 9th Ernest Stanley White (priest), Leslie Coolican, Alfred Thorburn
- 10th James Saul, John Henry Greenwood, Agnes Sellers, Tommy Smith,
Joseph Singleton, Ellen Holdsworth
- 11th Edward Collinge, Robert Gerald Clayton, Ada Blaylock
- 12th Joyce Fox, Alison Mary Wilson
- 13th Emma Hargreaves, Joseph Charles Barker
- 14th Philip Robinson, Tom Proger, Norah Kathleen Atkinson, Margaret Brown
- 15th Ellen Howarth, Andrew William Jobling
- 16th Vincent Cook, Margaret Howarth, Albert Victor Williams
- 17th Frederick Oldham, Lucy Eveline Guthrie, Kathleen Haworth
- 18th Ida Grace Grimshaw
- 19th Lilian Harrison, Karen Julie Meek, Audrey Walton
- 21st Henry (Harry) Baden Bulcock, Charles Albert Green, James Briggs Ackroyd,
Mabel Tomlinson
- 22nd Alfred Henry Holland, Frances Briggs
- 23rd John Pendlebury, Allan Hartley Edmondson, Elizabeth Bailey
- 24th Egbert William Roberts, Sydney Grice, Herbert Mills, Harry Barrow,
William James Hall, Kathryn Nixon
- 25th George Arthur Arnold Whitfield, Dorothy Hughes
- 26th Tracey Scott, Rose Wearden, Stephanie Ann Wilson
- 27th James Briggs
- 28th Fred Mitchell, William Hindle, Edward Ernest Pickles, Audrey Cotterill,
Walter Fitton, Joseph Spencer



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by Emma

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emmahopley70@gmail.com

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WHY NOT VISIT TO LOOK AROUND?

St Stephen Street: ☎ 422434
Harriet Street: ☎ 832225



Burnley St Peter's
C of E Primary School



School News

Children from Simonstone and St Peter's C of E Primary School joined forces with our Year 6 children to record a special song for the 'Praise Along' Team in January. We hope the joy shared will extend to all the children in schools across the country who Praise-along in worship. 'The Golden Rule' will help everyone think about an important rule for living in harmony with God and with each other, as they look forward to the year ahead. The children sounded fantastic and we were so proud of them!



We had a wonderful Enterprise Week; each class designed and made a product to sell in our St Peter's Market after school. There was also a tombola and a lucky dip for the children to enjoy! Each class created a stall in the hall to sell their products. EYFS had a visit from the Gingerbread Man asking for help, then they then made some gingerbread men. Year One made 'Elf Yourself' cards. Year 2 made puppets. Year 3 made felt decorations. Year 4 had been learning about pneumatic systems and made a jack-in-the-box toy. Year 5 learnt about spice before they baked and decorated biscuits and Year 6 made a 'fake away' biryani.

Take a look on our website and see what we have been doing <https://www.st-peters-burnley.lancs.sch.uk/enterprise-week-2023-gingerbread-men/>



This half term we are looking at the Christian Value of Courage and will be thinking about stepping out of our comfort zones, doing the right thing – not the easy thing, facing a challenge, overcoming a fear, encouraging others and trusting God's promises.

On the 24th January, we will hold our Christingle Service in church. The children have learnt two beautiful songs, Thank you for Loving Me and Hope of Heaven and will share with the congregation the meaning of the Christingle.

Mrs Crowther



Sunday School News from St Peter's

We've had a really positive and joyful two months. We began with a school workshop with so many children that Father Christmas ran out of gifts !!!! Our Nativity service was really well attended and showcased the talents of our Sunday School and Young Singers.

Our All Age Eucharist at the beginning of the month is popular with people of all ages enjoying worship together. Having accessible worship for families is one strand of the children's/young people's Vision and we look forward to watching its development .

Another strand is developing youth ministry. Following a fantastic confirmation service we are launching a termly youth event beginning with a trip bowling as a celebration. This will be open to all Year 6 and upwards who attend in the Benefice (being confirmed is not a requirement) .

As Easter falls early we quickly move to Lent and we will have a workshop to enjoy pancakes, Bible Study games, prayers and singing on Thursday February 15th, 4- 6 pm.

In Sunday School we continue with Roots which this year will use material from the Old Testament as well as the Gospel readings .

Love from
Meena



*Welcome to Willow, with her sisters
Eliza and Lydia*



Our Christmas Eve Nativity



St Stephen's School News

The children have had a wonderful Christmas and have come back refreshed and ready to learn. We started off the term with our collective worship, we had a procession from our 3 kings bearing gifts for Jesus whilst the children sang 'We Three Kings of Orient Are' to celebrate Epiphany.



The children have been learning about Courage in their class worship, this is the Christian value for this half term.

Reception really enjoyed coming to Church and were very excited about it.

We are really pleased to welcome Jack back into school after a period of absence due to ill health. We have all missed him very much and will continue to support him through this journey. The children in school have shown compassion, maturity and support for Jack from the beginning. We are so proud of them.

We have some exciting things planned in order to enhance our learning experience this half term. The theme is 'Our Precious Planet'. In the past we have focussed on various aspects of God's planet and how we can look after it but this half term we have invited the Creep Crawly Roadshow into school. This will give the children a chance to meet some of God's interesting and magnificent creatures. The creatures that they meet include: Madagascan hissing cockroaches, Giant Train Millipedes, various stick insects, Chilean Rose Spiders, Royal Pythons, Corn Snakes, Giant African Land Snails, Leopard Geckos and many more.



Our young disciples have been busy collecting sticks from the grounds to make into decorated crosses. This is so that children around school can have a moment of prayer and/or reflection using these crosses which are colourful and use different textures. This is another lovely link to Our Precious Planet.

We are looking forward to Father Andrew blessing our new candle for Candlemas.

Our school council will be planning for the classes to set up their fundraising for each chosen charity which is always a big success.

J Roberts

Resolutions: Do They Really Work?

by Christine Harbour



We are just getting settled into a New Year, which brings a desire for new beginnings. Have we decided we are going to make changes? Maybe a tidier house, perhaps to be more organised or to stop smoking or drinking and more often than not, trying to lose some weight. Those 'pigs in blankets' and those Christmas puddings with brandy sauce are now appearing as 'love handles' and 'mini michelins' round those tight waistbands. The fridge is full of limp lettuce and soft tomatoes as we just felt obliged to finish off the last box of chocolates. Well it was a Christmas present and it would be rude not to open it! (and does anybody really like tofu or kelp?)

Some changes can be made by will power alone, but how much better is it when you ask the Holy Spirit to guide you? A whole lot better! When Jesus had anything to do he was resolute. That is the derivation of the word resolution. In Luke 9:51 it tells us that Jesus 'sets his face to go to Jerusalem'. At this time he was preparing for his last weeks on earth as he accepted his fate, a cruel death - the sacrificial atonement for sin.

We human beings are not often that determined or resolute! We are often tempted and fall by the wayside. If you have fallen off the diet wagon then 'Fitfish' is a Christian fitness and health organisation. The founding director Gaynor van der Burton struggled with food issues for many years. Since 2011 she led over 60 retreats through a healthy whole and free programme, and she does blogs and healthy eating programmes online too. She is passionate about Christians gaining freedom and balance in the area of healthy living in body spirit and soul. She learnt how to do this through her belief that Christ is our guide and counsellor in all things. She lives by his Word. Whatever we struggle with we have Jesus our Saviour, to show us the way as he himself is the Way. 'I am the

way, the truth and the Life. ' John 14.v6

So whatever is our problem in 2024 let us walk in the way, asking God about every twist and turn that we come to. He always knows the best way. We do not fear stumbling because he will either make the rough stones smooth, or he will pick us up when we fall.

Because Jesus was resolute as he walked towards Jerusalem he was able to accomplish the most difficult task of all, being punished by the death as a condemned and guilty man, when he was completely innocent.

In the light of this, let us be resolute in 2024 in our daily walk. Resolving to live our lives in the light of his word.

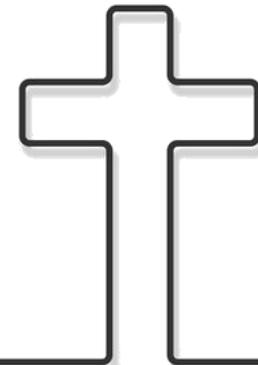
Jesus showed us love mercy and forgiveness. We can ask him to show us how to achieve this in our own lives. We can ask him to make us bold in our desire to seek justice and mercy in the path we walk.

We are God's army. Peace is our weapon. Love is our shield. Jesus is our guide. Let's be resolute as we walk towards our 'Holy city.'

Blessings for 2024.

Christine H.

*'We are marching in the Light,
the Love and the Power of God.'*



Your Magazine - A Reminder

If you are able to, we would very much appreciate a one-off donation at the beginning of the year to enable us to continue to meet the rising cost of the production of our Church magazine. Donations can be made to either Treasurer or to the Churchwardens. Thank you for your continuing support.




Join us for the next

Burnley Prayer Breakfast@St Stephen's

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

Saturday 10th February at 9.00 am

this month .. **DON'T
GIVE UP!**

Telephone:
01282 414390/760256



EXPLORING PRAYER

Part VII

by Joan Ainsworth

PRAYERS OF CONSECRATION, FAITH AND CORPORATE PRAYER.

I think it best that in the last article in the present Prayer Series that we look at the remaining three types of prayer.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION – this prayer usually rises up in response to something God has done for us or a realisation of how much God loves us. In response to this we offer ourselves unreservedly to God's service for a set period of time, or for the rest of our lives. There are many examples of this throughout the Bible. In some churches there is a service on New Year's Day inviting people to consecrate themselves to serving God. Perhaps the most well known prayer is John Wesley's Covenant Prayer:

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF FAITH - Sometimes I feel a bit discouraged that I have been praying for people or situations for years and nothing seems to happen. It is now we pray, believing God will answer our prayers at the right time. Perhaps we should ask God to help us see the answer because God knows the best answer and it may not be what we were expecting. The prayer of faith can be leaving the person or situation in God's hands and to stop worrying about it.

I comfort myself by reading from James Chap 5:

Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well.

/Continued

CORPORATE PRAYER - This is when we come together to services, prayer meetings and prayer partnerships to worship, study the Bible and pray together and is a source of great blessing to all and our communities too.

We have looked a different types of prayer yet it is not a list of 'How to do it right'. Prayer is our intimate relationship with our Abba Father, it is a conversation, it is, in the words of the song 'the air we breathe'. When I talk with a friend, we dip in and out of many subjects, we talk about our worries and fears, our joys and sorrows, our hopes and our future. Sometimes we chatter about not very much at all just enjoying being together! This is what we aim for in prayer a deep, solid relationship with our Father and our God.

Joan



*Happy New Year,
Everyone!*

It's hoped everyone has had a joyous and holy Christmas. We now look forward to 2024 with a fresh look and a happy heart.

Our January meeting was postponed as I thought that everyone would like a rest over the holidays.

We continue to keep up clearing up and cleaning, helping to keep our church in pristine condition. I think we have a good system in place in moving unwanted items to our refuse collection site (The Tip).

As I write it's bitterly cold outside but the sun is shining. The scaffolding team are in church erecting the scaffold over the chancel arch. Ladders and climbing is a thing of the past as health and safety takes its hold on us. All for the good I suppose but the cost in monetary terms is high and very costly. The way of the world I suppose.

We will meet hopefully in February at the usual time and the usual place. All the best parties are held in the kitchen. The kettle is always on as those who know me will understand. Bacon butties will be on the menu. If anyone has any dietary needs please do let me know as we will always try to accommodate you. A warm welcome always awaits.

Love and best wishes

Keith

BBB organiser (St Stephen's)



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† Lent: What to give up

- Give up complaining - focus on gratitude
- Give up pessimism - become an optimist
- Give up harsh judgments - think kindly thoughts
- Give up worry - trust Divine Providence
- Give up discouragement - be full of hope
- Give up bitterness - turn to forgiveness
- Give up hatred - return good for evil
- Give up negativism - be positive
- Give up anger - be more patient
- Give up pettiness - become mature
- Give up gloom - enjoy the beauty that is all around you
- Give up jealousy - pray for trust
- Give up gossiping - control your tongue
- Give up sin - turn to virtue
- Give up giving up - hang in there!

...From our Vision Champions

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



Linda writes ..

Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year!

Although this is the February magazine I am writing this in January and technically it is the early days of 2024. A New Year, a new start. The ups and downs of last year are in the past and hopefully we can look on this New Year as an opportunity to build on what went well last year and move on from the things that didn't go as well as expected.

The proper response to the past year, whether good or bad, is not "We made it through" or "Look what we achieved." It should be "Thank you, Lord!" Purposefully remembering God's goodness instead of our own performance is a great way to begin again.

As we move into February we look forward to our first Prayer Breakfast of the year. The Prayer Breakfast has been running for a few years now. It continues to be a success. There are always good comments about how people enjoy the simple format. The time together sharing breakfast, singing uplifting hymns, watching the beautiful pictures and uplifting words, inspiring

presentations and meaningful prayers makes a wonderful alternative to the normal Sunday Service.

Lent begins mid February. For many Christians, Lent is a time where they make space to pray, read the Bible and reflect on God's love. Here at St Stephens and St Peters we will be running a Lent course. As I write this I do not have any dates or times but please look at the Sunday sheet for more information.

The first week in January saw the house group get back together. It felt like such a long time since we were able to meet due to the Bible and Advent courses which were run at the same time as the house group. We may have to pause again for the Lent course but we will continue to work around the clash of dates.

May God bless us with a safe, healthy, and joyous New Year. May God bless our families with prosperity, good health, and happiness. May God help us strengthen our faith and help us to share the love of Christ with all we meet.

Linda

'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.'

(2 Corinthians 5:17)



Joan writes ...

ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY, BEING WITNESSES

How is Soup and Sandwich doing? I think we came to the conclusion that it wasn't what we expected it to be – sometimes God surprises us with that realisation. We had a Christmas Party and served 25 people from Willow (1 week old) to people who are in their 80's. We had food, a quiz, a craft session making pine cone angels where someone who shall be nameless hid the sticky tape and I entertained the gathering by running round looking for it. We finished with a Christmas Carol.

The team are hoping to build on this in the coming year and we have changed the name to: Food, Fun and Fellowship.

Christians Against Poverty - Both Churches in our Benefice support this organisation by giving and we have three volunteer Befrienders, one from St Stephen's and two from St Peter's. Our CAP Branch arranged Afternoon Tea for all befrienders to say thank you and we all received a present. There were churches from Burnley, Brierfield and Colne represented and the conversations were extremely lively. It was really wonderful to see so many people coming together to serve the Community.

Our Prayer Meeting will start again on the First and Third Wednesday of every month at 9.30am, everyone is welcome. I am sure we will all be praying for all the different activities in both churches, especially that we may see growth in faith and in numbers this year.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are
LOVE in motion

**Those who
can, do.
Those who
can do more,
volunteer!**

Volunteers
do not
necessarily have
the time; they
just have the
heart.

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Friends, Food & Fun!

Happy new year everyone!

Our Christmas party in the Community Room was a huge success. The room was filled as never before. It was amazing. Our team really did do us proud with plenty of good food - just as an afternoon Christmas tea should be. A real Christmas cracker that will keep people talking for a long time indeed.

We had an unexpected visit to the Blackpool tower ballroom with our own Reginald Dixon (Keith) at the organ. Someone said "what's 'I do like to be beside the seaside' to do with Christmas" - one word was the reply: "Tradition"

A few of our friends gave a brilliant rendition of Albert and the Lion - the famous monologue made popular by the great Stanley Holloway. Well done !

We are very grateful to all the team who make this first and third Wednesday of the month (no FFF on the Fifth week!), a real treat for folk who look forward to being amongst good friends. A family atmosphere is always evident.

Is it hard work? The answer to that - no it's not it's an absolute pleasure to see and chat with everyone.

God bless,

The afternoon tea team (FFF)

P.S – Would it be an idea for Fr Andrew to take singing lessons. You should see his Karaoke Spot !!





Stephen
Alderson

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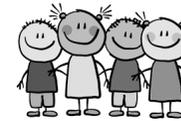
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Children's Page

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (14th February) and last for 40 days, finishing on Easter Sunday. Can you find the hidden words in the Word Search? Ask an adult if you don't know what the words mean!

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



- | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ash | Holy Week | Palm Branch |
| Wednesday | Holy Thursday | Forty Days |
| Sacrifice | Good Friday | Jesus |
| Almsgiving | Holy Saturday | Passover |
| Prayer | Easter | Foot Washing |
| Fasting | Palm Sunday | Resurrection |
| Lent | Purple | Love |



Don't Miss!

**St Stephen's Church
Burnley Wood**

QUIZ NIGHT

**SATURDAY 24th FEBRUARY
at 7.00 pm
Teams of FOUR**

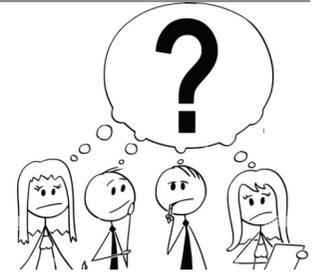
Tickets: £6.00
(includes pie and peas)

Available from Church
☎ **01282 760256/414390**

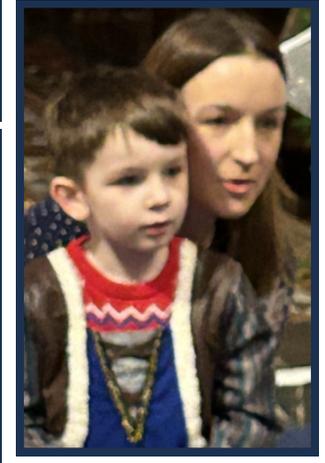
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS & A GLASS



**NB - Please decide on
your team name in
advance**



Our Sunday Club Ambassadors, Navayah and Elena working hard at the Christmas Fair to raise funds for their chosen charities, CAP & Pendleside Hospice



Our fabulous Nativity Service

